New school a reality for August of 2006

By Kim Lewicki
After about a year of planning, Macon County Schools is putting the finishing touches on its innovative Early College High School set to open August of 2006.

“We believe this school will keep us from losing students either to boredom or disengagement from the traditional high school environment,” said Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell at the Oct. 17 school board meeting. “This school will appeal to a wide cross-section of students. From those who might need a more personal approach and help academically to those who are highly motivated and high-flyers.”

The Early College High School will be located on the Southwestern Community College Macon County campus where students in grades 9-12 will take high school and college core courses side-by-side.

When students at the Early College High School graduate in the 12th grade they will have their high school diploma and up to 44 credits of college core courses completed.
Dear Editor,

I am very upset and disappointed at the idea of ETJ! My dad bought this property on Hwy. 64, loved it, and took good care of it for almost 50 years. After my father bought this land, Highlands Falls Country Club was developed. My childhood memories include walking over the hill to pick wild strawberries. My adult sons have fond memories of being here with their special granddaddy and want to bring their future children here.

After my dad died, I became the owner of Monte Video and the 20+ acres. I love this land; upon my death, I want my ashes scattered here. My family has owned this property for more than 50 years, paid our taxes, and supported Highlands in every way possible. We have owned this before some of you were born, and definitely longer than some of you have lived here.

It is not fair for you to change the land use after we have been the sole owner all of these years!

What are the benefits for the property owners? What services can we expect? How would YOU like it if you lived and loved your land and then someone changed the rules? Judging from public opinion, many of us have observed that big money talks and we little people are ignored.

If the ETJ is inevitable, I feel it is only fair that my property should be exempt under a “grandfather” clause. You could make an exemption for property over 10 acres.

Thank you for all your time and hard work to try and help this heavenly Highlands remain as it used to be.

Nancy Dee Anderson
Highlands
Marvin Merritt Chastain

Marvin Merritt Chastain, age 47, of Highlands, N.C., died Thursday, October 20, 2005 at his residence. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Charles Henry and Winifred Maxine Evitt Chastain. He worked for the Cashiers Plastic Company. He was of the Baptist faith.

He is survived by his wife of 11 years, Pamela Faye Nicholson Chastain; one daughter, Autumn Nicole Chastain and one son, Preston Tyler Chastain, both of the home; two sisters, Winifred “Pee Wee” Billingsley of Scaly Mountain, N.C. and Ellen Henry of Virginia, VA; one brother, Larry Chastain of Highlands, N.C.

Funeral services were held Sunday, October 23, at 2 p.m. at Blue Valley Baptist Church with Rev. Kenneth Carver and Rev. Oliver Rice officiating.

Burial was in the Church Cemetery. Donald Talley, Jimmy Keener, Mike Crisp, Tony Potts, Kenny Talley, Danny Chastain, Alan Chastain, and David Keener served as pallbearers.

The family received friends Saturday, October 22 from 6-8 p.m., at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospice, c/o Susan Hamilton, PO Box 190, Highlands, N.C., 28741.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

... LETTERS continue from page 2

The bears among us

Dear Editor,

The story of the bear in the October 21 issue of Highlands’ Newspaper was very interesting.

We live here in the Cashiers area. Several weeks ago, my wife was up till 3 a.m. finishing up several quilts for the quilting club that she is with. The quilts were destined for Hurricane Katrina victims.

At about 2:30 a.m., the motion sensor turned the lights on in the parking area. Bernice looked out over the sewing machine, down into the yard and there was a 200- to 300-pound black bear meandering through the yard.

Several days ago, friends of ours were traveling to Cashiers from Brevard on US 64, about 9:30 p.m., very dark, traveling about 30 mph, all of a sudden, a motorcycle came up behind them, going at a very high rate of speed. It shot right around them and all of a sudden, the motorcycle driver found himself in a bit of trouble. A black bear was right there, crossing the road. The bear looked up and started to run for the other side of the road and the motorcycle driver had to do some serious defensive driving but managed to pass right behind the bear but only by several close inches.

From that point onward, my friends followed that motorcycle and driver all the way into Cashiers traveling at a moderate 30 mph!

Bernice and Raymond Barringer
Cashiers

... NEW SCHOOL continued from page 1

since the high school is partnering with the college and it will be located on SCC’s Macon County campus. “We need to start and break when the college does,” said Shotwell.

He is also petitioning the state for a “Mastering over Seat Time” waiver and an End of Course Testing waiver. “If a student can complete all the work in advance, why should they have to sit there?” he asked. “This will also accelerate their ability to complete the college classes.” They would still have to test out of the high school classes they just won’t have to wait until the end of the semester to do it, he said.

Director of Curriculum and Support Nancy Cantrell said this will be an “innovative high school.” “It will feature a blending and overlapping of courses and will need teachers and administrators who can think outside the box,” wear many hats and work well with each other as well as the students. Relationship will be a key component,” she said. Courses may blend together, too. “The English Literature course may somehow blend with history,” she said.

Shotwell and Cantrell anticipate needing four core teachers, a principal, a guidance counselor and a maximum of 100 students. The 2006 school year will start with the ninth grade and tenth with 25 students per grade.

“Students interested in this school will be highly motivated, perhaps on the fringe socially or academically, probably not involved in traditional high school activities, like sports,” said Cantrell. Nothing about the school will be traditional. “The school day will be set up more like a college school day than a high school day,” she said. “Some days may...
With Halloween approaching I feel compelled to write a ghost story, even though I know there are no such things, only the stories.

Cops, including retired ones, can be real bores. We have a hard time believing in supernatural beings floating around, going through walls and scaring people.

Fred Wooldridge

As a rookie cop, it was not the possibility of ghosts lurking in a dark alley at two in the morning that sent the hair on the back of my head standing straight up; it was the potential of a real live person in that alley that concerned me. With so many dangerous live people running around a city, cops just don’t have time for ghosts. I have never been harmed or frightened by a dead person, but I do believe ghosts exist for people who need for them to.

So forgive me if this is not the best ghost story you’ve ever read. What do you expect from a non-believer? At least it’s true and only slightly embellished to make it more fun.

The project was to take a large group of tough, underprivileged inner-city children from Miami out of their environment and put them in our very own Blue Valley forest to camp out for a week.

One evening, just before dark, we planned to take these now vulnerable city slicker kids to an old back woods cemetery and scare the heebie-jeebies out of them. Most of the folks buried there died in the late eighteen hundreds and it was a real spooky place, with crooked, hand carved tombstones and above the ground body mounds to mark each grave. It was especially eerie at dusk.

I got there early and with the help of my friend, Dave Jellison, we scraped out a shallow grave in the comer of the cemetery, careful not to infringe on anyone’s turf, not that they would care. Then I lay down in the grave, pulled a large plastic bag

See WOOLDRIDGE page 5
Food pantry to open Nov. 7

By Eddie Ingram
Pastor HUMC

“The Pantry/Bodega de Comida” is a new ministry cooperative between the Highlands United Methodist Church and the International Friendship Center. The Pantry will open each Monday, beginning Nov. 7, from 4-6 pm, and is located at 350 Spring Street behind the United Methodist Church.

The Highlands United Methodist Church, in an effort to respond to the needs of our community, contacted Jill Montana, Director of the International Friendship Center.

Upon discussion, it was discovered that the Friendship Center had already been approved to receive food through the Manna Food Bank in Asheville, but was in need of a location.

The partnership of the Friendship Center and the United Methodist Church is an opportunity to respond to Jesus’ words, “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.”

The Pantry will be open to all persons in the community who are in need of food. Persons will fill out an application upon their first visit to The Pantry. All food and other essentials will be distributed at no cost to qualifying individuals and families. The only eligibility requirement is for your income to meet the federal guidelines, and all information will be kept strictly confidential.

The Pantry will be open on Mondays from 4-6 p.m. each week. It will be located behind Highlands UMC on the Well Spring property. There is adequate parking next to the building that is accessible from Spring Street and the alley that runs behind the church.

The church will also welcome any donations of food from the community. You may drop off non-perishable items, baby formula or diapers at the church. There will be a ribbon cutting at noon on Sunday, October 30.

• Help Highlands Mountain Top Rotary stock the pantry. When you’re out trick-or-treating on Main Street this year, bring along a canned good or non-perishable food item and put it on the porch of the Highlands United Methodist Church. Thank you!

...WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

over me and had Dave cover me with dead leaves, dirt and pine straw. There was a breathing tube for air. My grave looked just like all the others. I am not making this up.

Of course, the plan was for me to rise from my grave right in the middle of a lecture about ghosts being spotted in the cemetery. Freaked out kids would run in every direction and it might take us hours to find them but we didn’t care. It was a great plan.

Dusk came and the kids didn’t arrive. As it turns out, they were running late. I was getting uncomfortable, lying there under the ground, in darkness, with about a hundred dead people around me. It was starting to get real dark in the cemetery when I felt something gently touch my arm. My heart jumped. “Get a grip,” I told myself, knowing it was just my imagination.

Finally, I heard the bus pull up, start unloading the kids and I knew my moment as a great ghost was at hand. Just as the kids gathered in the cemetery and the lecture started, I felt it again, only this time it was not so subtle. Something was in this grave with me. Now, my heart was pounding and my breathing increased. I struggled to get enough air through the tiny straw to the outside world. Panic was about to set in.

I was supposed to wait for a key phrase by the lecturer before I made my move and it took everything in my being to continue to lie there waiting. Something definitely had touched me. Then, next to my right ear, a soft feminine voice whispered, “GET OUT.”

Leaves and pine needles flew in every direction as I prematurely rose from my grave, violently flailing my arms, terrified of my experience. There was lots of screaming as 20 kids fled in every direction. I think I trampled a couple of them making my escape from the cemetery.

Hours later, Dave and I returned to the cemetery to clean up our mess. Shining a flashlight into my grave, I noticed a small gopher hole right next to where my right arm was. Relieved, I turned to him, “Do you think gophers can talk? Nah, that had to have been imagination, right...right?”

A Message from Police Chief Bill Harrell...

As we start into the holiday season, it’s important to remember to be safe while being festive. Remember to be caring, compassionate and mindful of others.

We all need to set the right examples for our youth, especially during the holiday season by not drinking and driving, consuming alcoholic beverages on our town streets and side-walks or carrying open alcoholic containers. These actions are illegal in our beautiful state and town.

I hope by taking the liberty of providing you with this information will help safeguard our quality of life and will help you make informed, responsible decisions this holiday season.

- Chief W.E. Harrell

Ruby Cinemas
Franklin, NC
Adult — $6, Child — $4
Matinee (Before 5 p.m.)
Adult — $5, Child — $4

Oct. 28-Nov. 3

THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
rated PG
Mon- Thurs: (4:20), 7
Friday: (4:20), 7, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20

DREAMER
rated PG
Mon - Thurs: (4:05), 7:05
Friday: (4:05), 7:05, 9:05
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:05), 7:05, 9:05

ELIZABETH TOWN
rated PG-13
Mon- Thurs: (4:20), 7:10
Friday: (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20

THE FOG
rated PG-13
Mon - Thurs: 7
Friday: 9:15
Sat & Sun: 9:15

NORTH COUNTRY
rated R
Mon - Thurs: (4:15)
Friday: (4:15), 7
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:15), 7

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• New Cedar Lodge
• Fireplaces
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• Decks Overlooking streams
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Open Year-round.
School raises $20,000 at annual Fall Festival

THE TRADITION BEGINS...

Join us for an Elegant Thanksgiving.

Three courses including:
appetizer, choice of entree and dessert

Adults $55 per person,
children 12 and under $20

Seatings from 11:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Please call for reservations 828.526.5477

Madison's
RESTAURANT AND WINE GARDEN

THE TRADITION BEGINS...

Join us for an Elegant Thanksgiving.

Three courses including:
appetizer, choice of entree and dessert

Adults $55 per person,
children 12 and under $20

Seatings from 11:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Please call for reservations 828.526.5477

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All Ads Full Color - Full Pg. $249. | 1/2 Pg. $139. | 1/4 Pg. $79.
Deadline Nov. 4th - Reserve Your Spot Today - 828-526-0782

Senior Stephanie Dalton sprays Ali Sackman's hair red at a popular booth.
Above, Little John and friend enjoyed the fixings served in the school cafeteria. Parents and their children jumped in for the hay ride. Below, seniors Franka Dadic and Nicole Barnes manned the pumpkin bean bag toss. Right, senior Garrett Holt poses with Dracula at the Haunted House.

“The PTO Board is thrilled with the fundraising results of the Fall Festival. It was an absolute pleasure to work with the Fall Festival co-chairs Gina Billingsley and Sherry Holt. They were absolutely dedicated to ensuring the event was a success. We are deeply grateful for the generous support of all the school faculty, students, and individuals and businesses in the Highlands community who worked so hard to make the event as profitable as it was fun.”

- Susie deVille Schiffli, PTO President.

Area merchants and businesses help raise funds by sponsoring booths and events.

Highlands - Close to Town
1.5-acre lot with 300’ creek front and long view. Only 2.8 miles from Main Street in Highlands. Lots of large rhodys, 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 @ $300,000.

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 Road, pause to enjoy the waterfall view - continue on paved road to intersection, turn right, take next right - lot sign on property.

Lake Glenville/Cedar Creek
.75-acre lot near Lake Glenville, bold creek front, easy building site, utilities and septic in place. Priced under market for quick sale. $137,000.

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

The Second Time Around
a comedy

October 27 - 30, November 4 - 6
Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center
507 Chestnut Street
For more information
CALL 828-526-8084
Sponsored in part by the Laurel Magazine
HS Volleyball NEWS

The JV volleyball team with Coach Claire Young - #2 Carolyn Hornsby, #7 Jessica Dryman, #8 Allison Winn*, #9 Vicky Smith, #10 Angela Sanchez*, #12 Marisol Ruiz, #14 Danielle Puchacz, #18 Kaylie Buras, #23 Taylor Stinson, #40 Amanda Parmelee. The girls with the asterisks next to their names played on both the JV and varsity volleyball teams.

Varsity and JV volleyball teams win conference championship

By Claire Young

JV Volleyball Coach

The volleyball teams at Highlands School closed out their season with sweet victories Thursday night against Hiwassee Dam in the conference tournament.

The varsity was undefeated this year in the conference, winning a total of 8 matches including Tuesday’s tournament match against Blue Ridge and Thursday’s championship match against Hiwassee Dam.

This is the Varsity’s 3rd and the JV team’s 4th championship in a row. Head Coach Rick Rawlins was thrilled with the outcome.

“I am very proud of all of our volleyball players for the great season they have had this year. The skill level of our JV team has improved tremendously since the beginning of the year. They have hustled in practice and worked very hard all season. Our Varsity team is a team in every sense of the word. They work well together and support each other as teammates should... Over the last 3 years, the Varsity is 23-1 in matches against conference opponents.”

On Tuesday, the Varsity girls finished off the Lady Bobcats in 3 straight games (25-15, 25-14, 25-11). Highlights from the game included 100% serving performances from juniors Allison Winn and Angela Sanchez, 9 service aces from Ramsey Ashburn, 6 digs from Toni Schmitt, 14 kills from Anna Trine, and 16 assists from Callie Rawlins.

Both teams competed against the Hiwassee Dam Lady Eagles on Thursday evening for the conference title. The varsity boasted strong, consistent play and beat their opponents in 3 straight games (25-22, 25-14, 25-14).

Ramsey Ashburn had the strongest serving record serving all 12 of her serves in, including 2 aces. Juniors Rebecca Ashburn, Angela Sanchez, and Allison Winn were also 100 percent from the serving line, and Maggie Dearth and Katie Bryson contributed 4 and 3 aces, respectively.

Ramsey also had a great defensive game with 12 digs, while Rebecca Wyatt had 13 digs and 9 kills. Toni Schmitt and Leslie Wilson also played well defensively. Anna Trine did not disappoint the fans – she led the team at the net with 13 kills.

The Varsity team advanced to the State Tournament, with the 1st round Oct. 24 at home against Rosman.

The Lady Highlanders played a once-in-a-lifetime match against the Rosman Tigers for the first round of the...
HS Volleyball NEWS

State Tournament Tuesday night. This victory was especially sweet considering Rosman had beaten the team in both of the regular season matches earlier in the year.

This is the first time Highlands has beaten Rosman in volleyball (at least in recent memory). The team started out strong in the first game of the match, in large part bolstered by the cheering crowd, and beat the Tigers (25-22).

The second game was equally close with Rosman coming out on top (21-25) and then carrying over the momentum to the third game, winning 15-25. Highlands never once let up during the neck-and-neck fourth game, which they won (25-23).

By the fifth game, the Highlanders had finally settled into a rhythm and easily beat the Tigers (15-9).

Anna Trine was on fire at the net, putting away 20 kills against the Tigers’ tough defense. Rebecca Wyatt was right behind her with 15 kills, and Maggie Dearth had 9. Ramsey was the strongest server, serving 3 aces and missing only one of her 19 serves.

Setters Callie Rawlins and Toni Schmitt both had excellent matches with 20 and 19 assists, respectively. Toni also had the best defensive game with 16 digs. Rebecca Wyatt had 10 digs, and Ramsey and Katie Bryson each had 9.

The girls also had a strong blocking game with Ramsey, Katie, and Callie each contributing 3 blocks.

What undoubtedly made the difference, however, was their heart and determination to never give up. Many thanks to the fans for their support.

The 2nd round is Thursday, October 27 at 6 p.m. in the new gym against Murphy.

The JV had their best match of the season by playing as a team and balancing their technical skills and mental strength. The two teams had played a close match to 3 games the previous week in their match-up at Hiwassee Dam, but the JV secured a victory in 2 straight matches at home (25-14, 25-17). Sophomores Amanda Parmelee and Taylor Stinson and Freshman Marisol Ruiz had 100% serving performances, while Kaylie Buras led the team offensively with 5 serving aces and 4 kills.

The JV team ended their season Thursday, as there is no post-season tournament at the junior varsity level. Amanda Parmelee had the highest serving percentage on the team. Missing only one serve all season, she was 97% from the serving line.

Freshmen Carolyn Hornsby and Marisol Ruiz were right behind her with 94% and 92%, respectively. Co-Captain Allison Winn led the team both offensively and defensively by contributing 32 kills, 4 blocks, and 50 digs this season.

Setter Angela Sanchez had 25 kills for the season, and 82 assists. Co-Captain Danielle Puchacz was a leader at the net with 22 kills and 5 blocks, the most of any player on the team. Marisol and Danielle had 38 and 37 digs, respectively, and Sophomores Vicky Smith and Kaylie Buras contributed 26 and 24 digs, respectively.

Though she only joined the team halfway through the season after evacuating to Highlands from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, Kaylie also had 17 kills, 13 assists, and the team was so glad to have her! Sophomores Jessica Dryman and Taylor Stinson also joined the team late in the season and should be applauded for their hard work and great attitudes.

Carolyn Hornsby and Vicky Smith deserve special accolades. Both girls had never played volleyball before this season, and both girls worked hard to earn their positions as starters by the end of the season! Congratulations to the team for your hard work, your great attitudes, and your championship trophy!
starting Oct. 24. 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 Rd. 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 526-0606 with any questions.

**Fridays in October**
- At SweeTreats, classically trained pianist Anna Dolga, a student from Ukraine performs 7 p.m. until closing.

**Saturdays in October**
- At SweeTreats, Zorki playing acoustic guitar and singing 7 p.m. until closing.

**Ongoing**
- 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-school 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 Paollett’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.
- Live music at Jack’s at Skyline Restaurant every Friday and Saturday nights.
- Cy Timmons at Fressers at Helen’s Barn every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8-12 p.m.
- 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 Alcoholic 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.
- An exhibit of Highlands landscape photography by Mark Hutchison will be showing at Mill Creek Gallery & Framing in Village Square at Oak and Fifth streets Oct. 25-27.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

hold its fall campout at Davidson River campground in the Pisgah Forest near Brevard. Hike Tuesday to Skinny Dip Falls, and the Devil’s Courthouse; hike Wednesday to Raven Cliff Falls. Call Larry Jelley, 524-4200, for more information about the campout.

Oct. 25-29
The Instant Theatre presents “The Turn of the Screw” for five performances at 8 p.m. at the ITC’s Studio on Main, 310 Oak Square, Highlands, NC. The ITC Box Office opens for advance reservations on October 3. Tickets for adults are $20, with reservations, and $25 at the door. Tickets for students ages 13-17 are $7 with reservations, and $10 at the door. Early reservations are strongly suggested as seating for each performance is limited to 65. Call the ITC Box Office at (828) 342-9197 for reservations.

Oct. 27-29
William’s Trunk Show featuring Francesca Romana Fine Jewelry.

Oct. 27-30
Highlands Community Players present “Second Time Around” a comedy at the Performing Arts Center. For tickets call 526-8084, Box Office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Reservations are required for each performance. Call 526-2623.

Oct. 28
Deadline for Highlands Olde Mountain Christmas T-Shirt and Poster Design Contest. Winner receives $100 for the T-Shirt and $50 for the poster. Call 743-2052 or 526-2112.

Oct. 29
At …on the Verandah Restaurant, live music with the Trio Lococo from 8:30 – 12 midnight. Also, live music every other night.

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 3-mile hike with an elevation gain of 180 feet up Albert Mountain, then down to Betty Creek. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 8:45 a.m. Drive 55 miles round trip, returning 3-4 p.m. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes, preferably boots. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader George Gover, 349-1509, for more information.

“Nature by Night” at the Highlands Nature Center. 7 p.m. Bring your flashlight and learn about nocturnal creatures through games, activities, and observations along the Garden trails. Ages 5 to adult, $2 per person. Pre-registration required, call 526-2623.

The Mirror Lake Improvement Association and the USFS are sponsoring the semi-annual Cullasaja Gorge Clean Up at 9 a.m. beginning at Cliffside Lake Picnic Shelter. Safety vests, gloves and bags will be provided. Call Jack at 526-3417 for information.

Oct. 30
A reading of the hit Broadway show Doubt by John Patrick Shanley, will be held at the Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square at 4 p.m. The reading is free to the public and no reservations are necessary. The role of Father Brendan Flynn will be read by Max Vogler, Collin Wilcox will read the role of Sister Aloysius, and the roles of Sister James and Mrs. Muller will be read by Carla Rawlins and Mary Harasins, respectively. A wine and cheese reception will follow the reading. Call the ITC office at 828-526-1687 for further information. For more information about the Instant Theatre Company, please visit our website: www.InstantTheatre.org or call us at (828) 526-1687.

Oct. 31
Highlands Halloween sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Trick or treat on Main and Fourth streets. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Hot dogs, treats and fun!

Nov. 1
The Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (HIARPT) will again sponsor its off-season dialogue on Tuesday morning at 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center beginning Nov. 1 with a discussion of Jared Diamond’s “Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed.” For more information, contact Creighton Peden at 526-4038.

Nov. 5
At …on the Verandah Restaurant, live music with the Trio Lococo from 8:30 – 12 midnight. Also, live music every other night.

Nov. 6
The Instant Theatre presents “The Turn of the Screw” for five performances at 8 p.m. at the ITC’s Studio on Main, 310 Oak Square, Highlands, NC. The ITC Box Office opens for advance reservations on October 3. Tickets for adults are $20, with reservations, and $25 at the door. Tickets for students ages 13-17 are $7 with reservations, and $10 at the door. Early reservations are strongly suggested as seating for each performance is limited to 65. Call the ITC Box Office at (828) 342-9197 for reservations.

Nov. 12
On Saturday, volunteer training for a heli-copter woolly adelgid monitoring project with JMCA and Clemson. Meet at 5 p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center. Call 526-9938 ext. 320 for more info.

Nov. 12 & 13
The all-children’s play, “THE ADVENTURES of TOM SAWYER” will be presented on two consecutive weekends, in the “Dillard Playhouse Theater.” Show times are Friday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 20 at 3 p.m. The theater is located in Dillard, Ga. at 892 Franklin Street, off #411 N. (turn on Henry Dillard Dr. at “The Dillard House” restaurant sign.) Tickets for this show are priced at $10 for Adults and $5 for children under 12 years of age, and can be purchased at most banks in Clayton and the Rabun County Chamber of Commerce. Call (706) 212-2500 for tickets/information.

Nov. 17
Highlands First Baptist Church is hosting its 9th annual ladies holiday banquet for all the ladies in the community. The event will be held on Thursday, Nov. 17 at the Highland’s Civic Center at 6 p.m. Best-selling Christian author Elizabeth George will speak. RSVP to First Baptist Church by Nov. 7. Call 526-4153.

Nov. 18-20
The all-children’s play, “THE ADVENTURES of TOM SAWYER” will be presented on two consecutive weekends, in the “Dillard Playhouse Theater.” Show times are Friday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 20 at 3 p.m. The theater is located in Dillard, Ga. at 892 Franklin Street, off #411 N. (turn on Henry Dillard Dr. at “The Dillard House” restaurant sign.) Tickets for this show are priced at $10 for Adults and $5 for children under 12 years of age, and can be purchased at most banks in Clayton and the Rabun County Chamber of Commerce. Call (706) 212-2500 for tickets/information.

Nov. 25
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. For tickets, call 526-9060.

Nov. 26
Photographer George Humphries will autograph his new “Images of the Blue Ridge Parkway,” Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m. at Curiano’s Book Shop on Main Street.

Dec. 14
Highlands Plateau Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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Needlepoint of Highlands

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Highlands School Soccer News

By Kim Lewicki

The Fighting Highlanders have been competing non-stop and winning.

On Oct. 10, they beat Hayesville 4 - Highlands 5 at home.

Alec Schmitt made two goals and made two assists; David Parrish made one goal and made one assist; Matt Chenoweth made one goal; and Grey Alexander made one goal. Stats as of that game were: Big Smoky Mountain Conference 6-0; overall 8-6-1.

On Oct. 12 the team beat Andrews at their home field, Highlands 14, Andrews 0.

Jordon Johnson made one goal and made one assist; Taylor Parrish made two goals; Matt Chenoweth made two goals and made two assists; Nick Kerhoulas made one goal; Alec Schmitt made two goals and made four assists; Grey Alexander made one assist and Ryan Bears made four goals and one assist.

Stats as of that game were Big Smoky Mountain Conference 7-0; overall 9-6-1.

On Oct. 13 the team played Polk County at their home field. Polk County won 8, Highlands 1.

At half-time the score was 3-1. “Polk County played a great game,” said Highlands Coach David Parrish. “Highlands was off theirs.”

David Parrish scored one goal. Polk County currently ranked 8th in State 1-A. Stats as of that game were Big Smoky Mountain Conference 7-0; overall 9-7-1.

On Oct. 17 the team won its home game against Murphy 0, Highlands 5.

Mickey Lica made one assist; David Parrish made one assist; Matt Chenoweth scored two goals; Alec Schmitt scored one goal; Jake Heffington scored one goal; and Ryan Bears scored one goal. Stats as of that game were Big Smoky Mountain Conference 8-0; overall 10-6-1.

• See SOCCER page 13
... SOCCER from page 12

Highlanders play Smoky Mountain Conference against Blue Ridge

On Oct. 24, Highlands played Blue Ridge in what shaped up as the Big Smoky Mountain Conference Championship. Highlands went in undefeated in conference (8-0) with Blue Ridge’s (8-1 Conference). Blue Ridge’s only loss to Highlands came early in the season in a very close match.

The Big Smoky Mountain Conference Championship game played at Blue Ridge was a tie — Blue Ridge 4; Highlands 4.

Blue Ridge had to win this game to force a playoff game with Highlands to determine the Conference Champs. The half-time score was 1-1 with the gust of 15-20 mph playing a big factor in the game. Alex Schmitt scored the first goal of the game on a beautiful pass from Taylor Parrish. Blue Ridge tied the game minutes before the end of the first half.

Blue Ridge came out motivated at the start of the second half and scored two goals in the opening minutes to take a 3-1 lead. Highlands fought back and tied the game with two earned goals from Ryan Bears.

The game went into overtime with Highlands scoring its fourth goal on a crossing shot by Ryan Bears that beat the Blue Ridge Keeper. With time running down, Blue Ridge had a throw-in deep in Highlands territory and the ball bounced pass several players, touching one of the players and going into the net for the final goal of the match, which ended in a 4-4 tie.

The tie secured the Conference Championship for Highlands keeping them unbeaten in The Big Smoky Mountain Conference with their final match Wednesday, October 26 against Swain County.

Blue Ridge secured the second seed — an automatic to this year’s State Playoffs. Highlands secured the number one seed for the State Playoffs. “I was very impressed with the improvement this year of Blue Ridge,” said Highlands Coach David Parrish. “Blue Ridge played their hearts out and should feel good about their effort. They will represent the conference well and will give their first-round opponent more than they will be bargaining for.”

Highlands hasn’t lost in conference in three straight years extending its conference record to 32-0-1 over this period.

Highlands first-round State Playoff game is Wednesday, November 2 at the Buck Creek Field in Highlands with a 6 p.m. game start against a wildcard opponent to be selected by NCHSA who will be announced over the weekend.

On Oct. 17, Ryan Perkins went airborne against Murphy.

Photo by David Leftier
The race for Town Board nearing end...

By Kim Lewicki

Not much new ground was unearthed at the Oct. 20 Candidate’s Forum at the Conference Center — but patterns continued to emerge.

What is the biggest issue facing Highlandstoday? Growth, ETJ, planning, said the mayoral and commissioner candidates.

"Taking control, rather than reacting to growth," said mayoral candidate Zeke Sossomon. "Channelling and directing to get a firm idea of what we want."

"Planning," said Mayor Buck Trott. "What is the future going to be? That's the issue. To deal with the future we need grassroots participation from the majority of our citizens. But people don't try to become educated on the issues..."

"Maintaining the 'village character' of the town," said mayoral candidate Don Mullen. "If we over grow, we lose our character."

"How many hours will they give to the mayor job?"

"Whatever it takes," said Mullen. "I don't know. I'll see what needs to be done and do it."

Mayor Buck Trott said he gives 35-38 hours a week to the job and said it was the best job in politics. "When you do a problem you can go out and touch it," he said.

Sossomon said he'd commit to whatever it takes to do the job. "By definition and pay it's a part-time job."

Extra Territorial Jurisdiction came up — should the mile outside town limits be taken even though drinking water protection would only involve areas to the north of town? Mullen said to be fair everything within the loop, should be included. "It's good for the community as a whole."

Sossomon said ETJ was a law like any other law, it entitles the bearer to power. "You just have to determine how to exercise it." He said ETJ would protect borders and corridors. "Use it carefully. Use it in some areas but not in all. Clear Creek is probably an overreach."

Trott said ETJ was representation without taxation. He said soil and erosion controls, watershed and subdivision ordinances automatically go into effect in the ETJ'd area but representatives from the areas are required to be on particular boards in town. He said ETJ is about quality of life and standards. "We don't want anymore subdivisions with 10-ft. wide roads."

Candidates were asked if they support annexation of any areas outside the present town limits.

Sossomon said he has no objection to voluntary annexation. "It's easy and cost-effective," he said. "It's voluntary is another question. You have to have reasons other then revenue."

Trott said ETJ and annexation were two completely different things. "ETJ is easy, annexation requires legislation in Raleigh and is not quick or cheap." But he said once a county becomes urbanized, an adjacent corporate town should consider annexation. "Most solvent prosperous towns have an annexation plan every two years," he said.

"People outside of Highlands tell people they live in Highlands. They don't live in Highlands but they use Highlands."

Mullen said the voluntary annexation of Highlands Country Club where he lives was a good thing. "When a community becomes part of a town, it's time for annexation. When people outside the town benefit from what's going on in the town, it's time for annexation. But he was quick to say annexation is not an issue in the Nov. 8 election."

Each mayoral candidate was asked what he would have done differently over the last four years had he been mayor.

Mullen said he would have tried to have more control over Fourth, Church and Spring streets. He said ETJ ordinances as they stand today don't allow the town to penalize for a lack of "end" on construction projects. "Changes are needed when people take advantage of the town."

Sossomon said hindsight is a wonderful thing. "It's easy to look back through the years and say you would do it differently. "In defense of the board, I think we have a good set of ordinances, there are some gaps but the biggest problem is ordinance enforcement. There isn't enough staff to enforce the ordinances we have."

Mayor Buck Trott said people complain of growth and change but the easiest solution to that is "don't sell your land," he said. "A town can control growth, citizens can control growth. Don't sell your land. A town can't stop you from selling your land. You have the right to gain as much use of that land as possible. It's a constitutional right." He said the board has probably made mistakes over the years. "But we're doing everything we can and in many respects the town is being improved."

Candidates were asked how they would change how the town meeting forum could be changed to provide better public access and dissemination of information.

"Trott said meetings are run in an open fashion. The public is always given a chance to talk during the meetings both during the "public time" and during the discussion periods of motions. "I don't know of any other way to allow public discussion when what we do is let discussion come from the floor." He said the minutes are available, as well.

Mullen said he would physically change the way the board is situated in the board room. "Many times people can't hear and members of the board are sitting with their backs to the audience."

He suggested microphones or a sound system.

Sossomon said the meetings are open to the public. But the biggest complaint is people can't hear.

Next week Highlands' Newspaper will feature answers to questions put to the commissioner candidates for the Town Board. There are two seats open—that of Commissioners Amy Patterson and Hank Ross. The election is Nov. 8. Polling booths will be set up at the Highlands Civic Center.
The Car Spa of Highlands officially opened Tuesday, Oct. 25 even though people have been using it for about a week. Its design and color scheme will set the tone for the remodel of Highlands Plaza. Shown are Highlands Chamber of Commerce board members, Bill Bassham, Bill Aaron and Michelle Hubbel with the Bolt family, Al, Rene, Jamie and Ali. Photo by Kim Lewicki

The metal siding on the ends of the buildings will be covered with a fabricated stone material. Brick columns will be added throughout the complex to match what is currently on the Bryson’s Food Store building.

Bolt: plans to begin the project as soon as possible.

The Appearance Commission also approved changes to the facade of the Wildcat Cliffs Country Club employee housing on U.S. 64 west.

Changes involve enclosing two porches along the front of the main building on the hill to be converted into living space, new siding and stairways.

Architect for the project, Rand Soellner will also go to the zoning board on Nov. 9 to request a special use permit to construct the new rooms.

The biggest change will come at Bryson’s Food Store where a covered drive-through will be extended from the store directly across to the current Utility Bill Mail Box Drop-Off area.

“A drive-through will be extended over the street so people can pull up to load their groceries during bad weather,” said Bolt. “Above there will be a wine-tasting room accessed by a staircase inside the store.”

The existing overhang on the old hardware store building that currently ends at High Country Photo will be extended to include the front of the Golden China restaurant.

An overhang will also be added from Bryson’s front door to cover the walk between the main entrance and Highlands Office Supply.

“All this will give the plaza a fresh look,” said Bolt.

The impact on Cullasaja Drive will be great,” said resident Bill Conway. “I hope you get approval to go in and out on U.S. 64 before you start.”

Other Cullasaja Drive residents said the angle at which the road meets U.S. 64 makes it difficult to negotiate under normal circumstances. “The turn is hazardous,” said one resident. “There are curves each way and it’s unsuitable.”

Gantenbein said construction traffic has to come off U.S. 64 because the entrance.

“We’re moving to new offices

~ Effective Oct. 31 ~

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Please note: Our offices will be closed Friday, Oct. 28 while we move.

Reserve space in the upcoming Highlands Map and Guide Winter edition. Call 526-0782 or email highlandseditor@aol.com
Hello again to the beautiful mountains of North Carolina. I have been traveling recently on what would be considered our spring holidays and want to quickly fill you in on some fun new experiences here in South Africa.

On the last day before our break, I went with the “travel and tourism” class for a day’s visit to a native Xhosa tribe just outside of East London. We “enjoyed” the traditional breakfast of “mass and mielie pap” which is very hard to explain due to the fact that mielie does not translate or relate to anything you would recognize back home. “Mass” is sour milk (complete with lumps) and “mielie pap” is similar to a type of corn or oatmeal. As we were sitting around the tribal hut and bonfire, I wished I could record the entire experience in my head and send it home.

It was fascinating to see the way this culture lives. They are very simple and loving and everything in the Xhosa life revolves around family and tradition. We were greeted with their traditional dances and songs, and had our faces painted with small white dots so we that could join the tribe in celebrating our visit.

Needless to say the white dots showed up much better on their dark skin, as our decorations were barely visible! A smaller group of us hope to spend a weekend with the tribe in the future, to further experience their culture.

The next day I traveled up to Kroonstad, which is three hours from Johannesburg and about 10 hours from my home in King William’s Town. This Afrikaan area was the location for the annual Rotary Conference.

All 12 students with the Rotary program had a great time getting together again. While we were not tackling obstacle courses and rafting like the last reunion, we were able to see some very interesting things. We spent a full day at a farm getting up close and personal with lions and tigers… and bears, oh my! Sorry, I just had to say that…. Anyway, we did spend time with huge cats and played with lion cubs!

One of the male leaders of the pride was being relocated for breeding purposes to another farm. While the lion was tranquilized (subdued but still moving around), we were able to pet him and put our faces right next to his huge head. The entire time we were sitting with this lion, the headlines kept flashing through my mind, “Rotary Student Killed by Lion in South Africa.” It was a moment I will never forget.

One of the farm’s tigers took a liking to Kirstine, a Rotary Student from Denmark, and stood on his hind legs to purr and growl at her from the cage. Because these tigers had been raised in a caged environment, we were able to pet them through the fences, but still had to be very careful.

Here are a few pictures of my adventures this past holiday. One picture is of all of the Rotary students dressed up for a Rotary function. The adorable lion cubs were named Simba and Nala and played the “pinned ya” game just like in the movie The Lion King.

Hopefully more fun stories will come soon. I look forward to visiting Cape Town with my next host family over the summer holidays.

There are only six more weeks until the end of the school year in South Africa. We will have a two-month summer break, and then I will begin the new school year again in mid-January.

Thank you to all who have sent letters and e-mails. Thank you for your support and prayers! God bless, and as they say in South Africa…. Cheers!
Center: Sara with members of the Xhosa tribe during a visit with the “travel and tourism” class. Left: Kirstine, a Rotary Exchange Student from Denmark to whom a tiger took a liking. He stood on his hind legs to purr and growl at her from the cage. Far left, a subdued member of the pride and bottom center, lion cubs Simba and Nala. Bottom: Sara with the other 11 students with the Rotary program who had a great time getting together again.
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In the Galax in the middle of Main Street
Highlands’ Newspaper - Friday, October 28, 2005 - Page 19

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www.ChristmasinHighlands.com
Highlands' first 'Antique Show’ a success

“We can only build on this,” said Joana Baumrucker with The Highlands Playhouse. “Considering this was the first year, we feel it was very successful.”

A total of 1,094 people attended the affair at the Highlands new gym Sept. 30 through Oct. 2.

After all expenses were paid proceeds amounted to $7,566.12 – $3,783.06 to each Highlands School and the Highlands Playhouse.

The co-sponsors split the door proceeds – each attendee paid $10 for admittance, 251 people cut the $1-off coupon from Highlands’ Newspaper and got in for $9. “So we know people were reading the newspaper!” said Joana.
Girls' Clubhouse ‘teamwork’ event at The Mountain

On Oct. 14, members of The Girls’ Clubhouse participated in “Building Teamwork” activities put on at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center. Through games and a rope course, the girls enjoyed figuring out problems, and depending on each other for safety and support. Members are Amy Fogle, Stephanie Puchacz, Amanda Barnes, Paige Baty, Jenny Coram, Kimberly Machuca, Shelby Houston, Gabrielle Tilson and Christy Owens. The group meets every Friday afternoon at 3 p.m.

... WERDER continued from page 1

and leveling of the embankment to meet the road surface by cutting back into the property 150 feet.

Five shops with living quarters above will be built on five lots on the B4 portion of the property and three four residential units will be built on the R2 portion.

Since the Town Board did not accept the Planning Board’s recommendation to rezone the property R3 to allow for multi-family units, this is his next plan. “I hate to do it, but it’s all I’m left with,” he said.

He hasn’t technically purchased the property yet, and he said “the sale of the property is not predicated on getting it rezoned R3.”

Though not unanimously, twice the Planning Board has recommended rezoning the property R3 because Simmerson agreed to all its stipulations requested of the Planning Board concerning foliage, setbacks, sidewalks, driveways, and the maintaining of the embankment along N. Fourth Street.

Though not unanimously, the Town Board voted “no” both times.

Planning Board chairman John Cleaveland suggested sending the request to the Town Board again. “If we ask them one more time, we may not have to deal with this plat at all,” he said. “His original plan is considerably better than this scenario. And I sure don’t think Highlands needs any more commercial property at this time.”

He met some opposition.

“That’s not what’s here before us,” said member Clem Patton. “He has come asking us to approve this plat.”

Patton suggested the board deny the request on the grounds that The Village Shoppes is grossly inconsistent with the land use plan. “Let’s take it under advisement and revisit it in 30 days. Maybe something will have changed by then.”

“How much more time do you need?” asked Simmerson. “You’ve been thinking about this for nine months.”

Griffin Bell, who is opposed to more multi-family housing in Highlands, said he doesn’t appreciate that the board is faced with the lesser of two evils.

“I don’t want multi-family and I don’t want more commercial.”

In the end the board agreed to two motions.

To table the plat until the next planning board meeting in November and to send their recommendation to rezone the property R3 to the Town Board.

Planning Board members hope that if the Town Board agrees to rezone, they won’t have to deal with the current request on the table at November’s Planning board meeting.
Barb DeGroot

Peter T. Sarjeant of Highlands, recently traveled to the Cook Islands where he tutored children in reading and soaked up island culture.

One could say he also made quite an impression on the islanders…especially their ears! You see, Sarjeant is a bagpiper and he couldn't pass up this opportunity to share his love for the infamous Scottish instrument with the unsuspecting populace of the Cook Islands.

Several months ago, Sarjeant signed up for a Global Volunteers service program in the Cook Islands of the South Pacific, anticipating an interesting blend of service, sand and cultural immersion. (The Cook Islands is just one of 19 locations around the world where the nonprofit Global Volunteers sends teams to work on community development projects.)

Sarjeant just couldn't face leaving his beloved bagpipes behind in North Carolina, so he packed them snugly in his luggage - along with his kilt, of course - and flew off to the islands.

Once in the Cooks, it wasn't long before Sarjeant was bringing out the bagpipes and putting on concerts for the Rarotonga schoolchildren and even his fellow volunteers. The islanders were, for the most part, enthralled with the instrument's high-pitched melancholy wail, although a few grimaces were detected, as well. During one session, the children got up and danced lively jigs to the music.

It certainly proved to be an effective ice-breaker. “We pipers love taking our instruments to unusual, exotic places,” said Sarjeant, a retired chemical engineer. “Last year, I played it in Lhasa, Tibet, and two years ago in Nairobi, Kenya! They are quite easy to pack and only weigh about 4 or 5 pounds.”

Sarjeant has been playing bagpipes for about 12 years, ever since he retired from his work in the paper industry, and getting better all the time - to the relief of those in earshot. “It’s either an entertainment or a nuisance to the listeners,” he said. “It’s actually rather difficult to play: There are only nine notes that can be played so it requires a lot of fast fingering.”

When he wasn’t piping in Rarotonga, Sarjeant was busy tackling various community projects - he helped out at the island’s Whale Research Center and he also tutored secondary-school students in reading skills.

“It was one-on-one work,” said Sarjeant of the latter. “I learned a lot about the family backgrounds, interests and goals of the students. And I learned that island kids (at least the 13-to 17-year-olds that I worked with) have the same energy, desire to learn and motivation as kids in the United States.”

“Young people in Rarotonga (whose native tongue is Maori) learn English as a ‘gateway’ to learning science, math, social studies and literature unavailable in their native words,” he elaborated.

By working elbow-to-elbow with local people, the volunteers learned that beyond the travel poster images, the Cook Islanders face the same challenges of struggling communities everywhere.

*See BAGPIPER page 27*
... RIVERWALK continued from page 15

Cullasaja entrance can’t be made safe. “So it can’t be used,” he said.

Residents along U.S. 64 said either a deceleration lane, a turning lane or flashing lights will have to be constructed at the intersection for safe traffic flow.

Turrentine tried to dispel fears saying that construction traffic won’t be ongoing. “We’ll only be constructing six buildings at a time probably every six months or so concrete trucks won’t be coming and going all the time.”

Planning Board member Griffin Bell said in addition to concrete trucks there will be asphalt trucks and dump trucks and everything else associated with construction. “The big rocks you encounter aren’t going to be picked up by a helicopter,” he said.

He and member Pat Taylor were also concerned about the setback along the river. Photos of an existing house – presumably 50 feet from the river – showed just how close 50 feet is, they said. But the 50-foot setback remained.

The board approved his preliminary plat with reiterated stipulations: that all construction traffic go in and out on U.S. 64 with an agreement drawn up between the federal government and Turrentine for safe ingress and egress; that Turrentine hire an environmental consultant for the project; that the river remain open to all citizens at all times; no docks be allowed on the river; and that all the deed restrictions and stipulations be recorded with the county’s register of deeds.

The board agreed to recommend the plan to the Town Board but member Griffin Bell said no matter how you look at it the impact on Highlands is not going to be good.

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**Exchange student makes presentation at Rotary**

At the Tuesday, Oct. 25 Highlands Rotary meeting, Rotary President LaDonna Keener presented Megan Lewicki with a hiking stick after her presentation.

Megan was last year’s outbound exchange student. She spent a year in Chambery, France. She is a senior at Highlands School.
I arose at 3:30 a.m. I dressed, splashed water on my face, combed my hair, and walked into a dark abbey. I sat and waited for the Trappist monks to enter and take their places.

In just a few minutes, the Psalms of David filled the abbey. The melodic voices pierced the early morning darkness and welcomed a new day with humility and gratitude. Monastic Monastic Vigils. Vespers. Complines. Silence. Oh, sweet silence! Last weekend I had the privilege of visiting the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia. Several ladies from all walks of life made a conscious choice to meet each other at the monastery and spend a weekend together. In worship. In silence. In fellowship. In prayer.

In 21st century America, a “vacation” to a monastery may seem odd and wacky! Yet, the monastery exists as a type of ministry to the world. It is set apart as a place to seek and be with God without everyday distractions. No television, no radios, and very little noise. The Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers is a place that beckons seekers and believers alike. It is a place that offers solitude, peace and love without strings attached. I just show up, and you’ll be welcomed!

The monastery is a visible reminder of what humans from all walks of life throughout world history have sought. There is a human desire for God. It is a desire that has no cultural or geographical boundaries. Even when we don’t admit it, we often desire something “outside of ourselves.” Something that is greater and mightier and more beautiful than our present world. The monks are living reminders of a spiritual reality that we often suppress or ignore. The monks live and walk in this reality. And they welcome anyone to come and “be still.” They remind us that our faith is not abstract. It is not something relegated to our subconscious. It is not merely an imagination. Their entire day is centered around worshipping and communing with the God of Holy Scripture. If He weren’t real, if He were only an imagination. Their entire day is centered around putting the boundaries. Even when we don’t admit it, we often specialize in that which we don’t do.

The monks are living reminders of our present world. The monks live and walk in this reality. And they welcome anyone to come and “be still.” They remind us that our faith is not abstract. It is not something relegated to our subconscious. It is not merely an imagination. Their entire day is centered around worshipping and communing with the God of Holy Scripture. If He weren’t real, if He were only an imagination. Their entire day is centered around a sweet silence! Last weekend I had the privilege of visiting the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia. Several ladies from all walks of life made a conscious choice to meet each other at the monastery and spend a weekend together. In worship. In silence. In fellowship. In prayer.

In 21st century America, a “vacation” to a monastery may seem odd and wacky! Yet, the monastery exists as a type of ministry to the world. It is set apart as a place to seek and be with God without everyday distractions. No television, no radios, and very little noise. The Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers is a place that beckons seekers and believers alike. It is a place that offers solitude, peace and love without strings attached. I just show up, and you’ll be welcomed!

The monastery is a visible reminder of what humans from all walks of life throughout world history have sought. There is a human desire for God. It is a desire that has no cultural or geographical boundaries. Even when we don’t admit it, we often desire something “outside of ourselves.” Something that is greater and mightier and more beautiful than our present world. The monks are living reminders of a spiritual reality that we often suppress or ignore. The monks live and walk in this reality. And they welcome anyone to come and “be still.” They remind us that our faith is not abstract. It is not something relegated to our subconscious. It is not merely an imagination. Their entire day is centered around worshipping and communing with the God of Holy Scripture. If He weren’t real, if He were only an imagination. Their entire day is centered around putting the boundaries. Even when we don’t admit it, we often specialize in that which we don’t do.
**Police & Fire**

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Oct. 19-26.

Oct. 19
- At 7 a.m., a resident on Harris Drive reported $470 worth of tools missing.
- At 6:50 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 52 mph in a 35 zone at Webbmont and U.S. 64 west.
- At 9 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on N.C. 28 south.

Oct. 20
- At 6:25 a.m., Highlands-Cashiers Realty reported someone passing a bad check.

Oct. 21
- At 10:50 a.m., a motorist at Cobb Road reported two kerosene heaters valued at $400 missing.

Oct. 22
- At 11:45 a.m., a resident on Bowers Road reported two kerosene heaters valued at $400 missing.

Oct. 23
- At 9 a.m., Highlands-Cashiers Realty reported someone passing a bad check.

Oct. 25
- At 10:50 a.m., a motorist at Cobb and N.C. 106 was cited for speeding 51 mph in a 35 zone.

Oct. 26
- At 12:59 p.m., Nancy’s Fancy’s reported someone passing a bad check.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Oct. 19-26.

Oct 19
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS when a man fell off a roof of a residence at the Cullasaja Country Club. He was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.

Oct. 22
- The dept. responded to a call of furnace fumes at a home on Bowers Road.
- The dept. responded to a chimney fire at a residence on Hickory Road. There was no damage.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.

Oct. 24
- The dept. responded to a motorcycle accident on U.S. 64 east. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. responded to a chimney fire at a residence on Hickory Road. There was no damage.

Oct. 26
- The dept. responded to a call of furnace fumes at a home on Bowers Road.
- The dept. responded to a call of smoke at a residence on N.C. 106.

Oct. 27
- At 11:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on N.C. 106.

Oct. 28
- At 1:40 p.m., officers responded to a vehicle accident on U.S. 64 west.

Oct. 29
- At 2:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on N.C. 28 south.

Oct. 30
- At 2:30 p.m., officers responded to a vehicle accident on N.C. 28 south.

Oct. 31
- At 3:15 p.m., officers responded to a vehicle accident on U.S. 64 east.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 24

the need to rid ourselves of distractions and worldliness. We also admitted we were still human. We still had questions and fears. We still had unresolved issues and no immediate answers. Nonetheless, we had one very important thing in common. We all agreed that Christ offered the hope and love we all sought our entire lives.

Did we find what we were looking for in the monastery? Did we become different people? I can only speak for myself. The monastery is important. It is not merely a place where men “escape the world” because they can’t handle the “real world.” It is a special place set apart; it is an oasis in a fast-moving, often chaotic world. It remains a beacon to those who feel alone and confused. It is a beacon to those who simply need to be reminded that a spiritual reality exists. Jesus began his public ministry by fasting 40 days and nights in the desert. He retreated from the world. We, too, may find a need to retreat at certain points in our lives. The monastery is a wonderful gift. Allow yourself to retreat sometime. Allow yourself to be still. Rid yourself of the clutter that comes between you and God. The monastery is a wonderful place to reflect and “be still.”

And once, just once, try arising at 3:30 a.m. to allow the words from heaven to speak to you and call you to remember the one who made you. Sit in silence. Sit and listen. “Be still, and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10

**Highlands Eateries**

**SPORTS PAGE**

Sandwich Shoppe
- Soups • Salads • Loaded Bake Potatoes • Desserts
- Open for its 15th Season
- Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Main Street • 526-3555

**Buck’s Coffee Cafe**
- Sun.-Thurs. 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Fri & Sat. 7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.
- Live music Fri & Sat
- 384 Main Street
- (828) 526-9822

**Brick Oven Pizza**
- Made-to-order pizza, calzones & salads.
- Open for lunch & dinner
- 526-4121

**Sweettreats**
- Now serving light fare (all day)
  - Soup, Salad, Sandwich
  - Full Coffee and Wine Bar
  - Delectible Desserts
  - Custom Made Ice Cream & Yogurt
- Wireless Internet
- Mountain Brook Center
- (one block off Main St. - Hwy 64 E)
- (828) 526-9822
- OPEN: 11:30 - until ??

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Our advanced fiber optic network allows us to offer you extraordinary services like high-speed Internet access. Now you can surf the Net at speeds faster and more reliable than DSL. Experience the future today. Call now or stop in to sign up.

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Easy Access offer valid for new customers only. Installation and modem fees not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. May not be available in all areas. Some restrictions apply.

Max Vogler and Madeleine Davis as they appear in The Instant Theatre Company’s haunting adult ghost story The Turn of the Screw.

Instant Theatre’s ‘The Turn of the Screw’ running through Oct. 29

The Turn of the Screw runs for five performances only, October 25–29 at 8 p.m. at the ITC’s Studio on Main, 310 Oak Square, Highlands, NC. Reservations are strongly suggested as seating for each performance is limited to 65. Tickets for adults are $20, with reservations, and $25 at the door. Tickets for students ages 13–17 are $7 with reservations, and $10 at the door. Call the ITC Box Office at (828) 342-9197 for reservations. Complimentary wine and soft drinks are included. Remember, the curtain goes up at 8 p.m. sharp and no one, ticket or not, will be admitted once the play begins.

The ITC is very grateful to its corporate sponsors: Nellis Communities, Country Club Properties, and Signature Properties for their assistance in making this production possible.

For more information about the Instant Theatre Company, please visit our web site: www.InstantTheatre.org or call us at (828) 526-1687.
Animal Control Committee hammers out priorities

On Oct. 20, the Animal Control Committee met for the first time. Macon County Commissioners charged the group to come up with a list of immediate concerns. The group listed:

- The need to develop local ordinances.
- The need for animal control officers.
- Leash law.
- The need for an animal shelter.
- The need for legal justification to get strays identified as vicious.
- Organization needed to investigate, seize, transport and care for animals.
- The need for a plan for the disposition of animals once they are seized.
- The need for animal identification.
- How to pay for services.
- What to do about animal bites when the owner is not known.
- The need for both an animal shelter and a pound.
- The need to enforce rabies vaccination program.

Committee members are: Macon County Commissioners Charlie Leatherman and Bob Simpson, Willard Barrett, Skip Howells, Dr. Amy Patterson, Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell, Joe Collins, Macon County Sheriff Robbie Holland, Macon County Health Department Director Ken Ring, and Doris Hunter (representing Jan Schultz, FOA).

The next meeting is set for 4 p.m., Oct. 27 in the board room on the fourth floor of the county courthouse.

You can opt out, but form is due by Nov. 11

“No Child Left Behind” guidelines request schools to release information about high school students to the military.

If you do not want your child’s information released, you must sign a form indicating so. The form must be returned to the school by Nov. 11.

Forms are available at the school. Call the school office at 526-2147 for more information.

... BAGPIPER from page 22

unemployment, inadequate healthcare and social services and a serious population drain. Yet they also witnessed longstanding cultural traditions and the strong bonds of community and family that sustain and enrich a complex island lifestyle.

At the invitation of local host organizations, Global Volunteers sends teams of volunteers to sites worldwide to work on projects ranging from teaching English to assisting with healthcare to construction of community buildings. In most cases, no special skills are required.

All projects are initiated and directed by the local communities. Global Volunteers is not subsidized by any government or religious agency.

Volunteers pay a tax-deductible fee - from $1,470 to $2,650 to cover the food, lodging and project expenses. Airfare is extra.

Project sites include: Australia, China, India, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Jamaica, Tanzania, Ghana, Italy, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Greece, Romania, Ireland and the United States.

Contact Global Volunteers at 800-487-1074; www.globalvolunteers.org; email@globalvolunteers.org.

Is your hearing not quite what it used to be?

Do you hear, but have trouble understanding certain words?
Do you have troubles hearing on the telephone?
Do you often ask people to repeat themselves?
Did you know Audibel has hearing aids that are fully-automatic?

Let Us Check Your Ears.

Buy One, Get One FREE Battery Sale Going On Now!

You're not alone. We can help.
HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED MEDICAL OFFICE help needed to check patients in and out, file insurance claims, do billing follow up and perform general office support for Cardiology office in Highlands, NC. Email pbarrett@ngheartcenter.com or fax 770-538-7872 and indicate HIGHLANDS.

HIGH COUNTRY CAFE – All Positions. Call 526-0572. EOE.

CLINIC DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY CARE CLINIC, that provides free health services to medically underserved in High-
lands-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.

UNIT COORDINATOR AT FIDELIA ECKLER LIVING CENTER at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Part-time position for Saturdays and Sundays, 8 hours per day. Answer phones, some filing, opportunity to participate in feeding class. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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.”

REGISTERED DIETITIAN AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL, Must have N.C. license. DCE 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.

COOK – at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. One year experience in institutional or volume cooking necessary. Must have

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The Computer Man!

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.


LPN or RN at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. 12-hour shifts per week, 7pm to 7am. Shift differentials paid to work every other weekend. Salary range based on years of experience. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

LPNs and RNS - Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Now hiring for PRN positions. If you want to join a team whose focus is on excellent elder care with a low staffing ratio, above average wages, and shift differentials, call. Pre-employment substance screening. Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

Items for Sale

Gold Chains & Collectibles - At the Gold Chain Center at the Franklin Flea Market. Selling TK Collectibles at discount prices to make more room. See us Fri-Sun 9-4 p.m. or call 828-369-9299

Furniture — 2 love seats, matching chair, coffee table, rugs, and more Highlands Cove. 526-4000.

Vehicles for Sale

1978 Rolls Royce - Silver Shadow. All white, red, leather interior. Low mileage. Offers over $20,000 considered. Call 706-745-3046.


1998 Chevy Truck - Green, 150,000 miles, 4WD, CD Player $5,500 call 828-371-2669.

Real Estate Sales

By Owner-Sapphire Valley — A unique “Timberpeg” Post & Beam home. Three levels: Upper Level, lofted bedroom, full bath and 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 workshop. All this located on +1.2 acres, on a private cul de sac. The entire property backs onto a green area. By appointment 828-743-2567.


Scenic View Home Sites - Turtle Pond area. Views: private. 828 526 2759. marbago@direcway.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 creeksfront 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, 87 acre-wooded lot. 2 bedrooms, 11/2 baths, study, large workshop/studio, stone fireplace, oak floors, hemlock paneling, Quality construction, mature landscaping, exterior stonework, Asking $425,000 (828) 342-2624. Broker/Owner.

Services

New Day Care – Preschool 8:30 a.m. -12 p.m. Afterschool care 3-6 p.m. Fun and Learning! Call 828-342-5029.


Airport Shuttle Service – Call Dick Friess. Cell: (772) 359-0412 • 24-hr. (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


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.

Moving Out of Storage Sale, October 29 at The Meadows Storage Facility off the Cashiers Road. 9 a.m. to noon.

Friendly faces, in the face of an emergency.

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.

It takes compassion, skill and dedication to provide this level of care every day.

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

A pattern of healing.

Thank you to our neighbors, the men and women who partner with Highlands-Cashiers Hospital to provide the emergency care you need.
Holt Knob. Great location, old Highlands charm with knotty pine paneling and wood floors. Fireplace. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. $459,000.

4 Bedroom, 3 bath home located at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club overlooks the 17th fairway. Offered at $739,000, furnished.

WEBBMONT, ranch style home, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, fireplaces, horse facilities. Lot size 4.7 +/- acres. MLS# 58220 Offered at $850,000.

CASHIERS, Rhody Lane, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 fireplaces. Home on 2.65 +/- acres. Check this one out. MLS# 56921 Offered at $797,000.

WEBBMONT, ranch style home, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, fireplaces, horse facilities, Lot size 4.7 +/- acres. MLS# 58220 Offered at $850,000.

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In Town on Hickory St. - Ranch style home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, single story, 2 car garage. Offered at $395,000. MLS# 56138 Offered at $695,000.

In Town - On Mirror Lake, near the waterfall. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and 2 fireplaces. Bring your canoe! MLS# 52180 Offered at $595,000.

In Town on Hickory St., - Ranch style home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, single story, 2 car garage, .97 +/- acres. MLS# 56138 Offered at $695,000.

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