Officials re-think room tax fees

By Kim Lewicki
Highlands and Franklin chamber of commerce officials will be glad to know the county is going to immediately reimburse them some of the occupancy tax proceeds withheld since January 2005.

The Franklin Chamber will get about $12,000 and the Highlands Chamber a proportionally equal amount based on room tax collections.

But proprietors of Macon County lodging businesses – hotels, motels, tourist homes, tourist camps, people who rent private residences and cottages to transients, including real estate brokers who

See ROOM TAX page 11

Animal control issues looming

By Kim Lewicki
While the county waits for a bill to regulate private and public animal shelters to make its way through the General Assembly, people are getting bitten and residents are being terrorized by dogs considered a nuisance or threat.

Just last week, two people were bitten by a dog in Highlands. “We called the Sheriff’s Department but their hands are tied,” said Mayor Buck Trott.

Last year, county commissioners made all Sheriff deputies animal control officers, but with no place to take animals, there’s really nothing the Sheriff’s department can do.

As of March 7, 2005, the county stopped operating an animal control program and no action can be taken until that restriction is lifted by board action.

“Our hands are tied,” said Sheriff Robbie Holland.

The county stopped “doing business” with the Macon County Humane Society when infighting broke out between animal shelter managers.

See ANIMAL page 3

State budget cuts plague school system

By Kim Lewicki
Macon County Schools is feeling Raleigh’s latest set of discretionary cuts and once again is seeking help from county commissioners.

“I’m embarrassed to have to come to you about this,” said Superintendent of Macon County Schools Dr. Rodney Shoell, “but when the state has $85 million in discretionary cuts and $45 million of that is taken from education, there’s nothing I can do.”

He said he tried not to come to the

See BUDGET page 5

County OKs Sheriff Dept. raises

By Kim Lewicki
About a dozen sheriff deputies turned out to support their sheriff at the Sept. 12 Macon County Commissioners meeting.

“We’re proud of the work we do and it’s an honor to protect and support the community,” said Deputy Chris Hoover.

“Macon County is historically an honor to support our sheriff while he gives his report.”

Through a Powerpoint presentation, Sheriff Robbie Holland outlined the various tasks his department accomplished January 1 through June 30 of 2005. “Our guys are working hard. They are overworked, underpaid, but dedicated to doing their job.”

This was a prelude to a formal request made earlier in the meeting to shift sheriff department funds and to request county funds to increase salaries in the sheriff’s department.

County commissioners voted unanimously to fund the request – with $101,000 coming from the county’s contingency fund for the 2005-2006 budget year. The remaining $18,000 needed for the salary increase including FICA, retirement and 401-K, comes from a building

See RAISES page 18
Letters to the Editor

Dept. of Homeland Security dropped ball

Dear Editor,

Washington's response to the Katrina tragedy has been one of gross incompetence and indifference. People had been left to die in the streets of a major American city without any assistance for days.

Images of suffering that resemble the conditions in Third World countries were broadcast daily with virtually no response from the government. The website for the Department of Homeland Security says, "In the event of a terrorist attack, natural disaster or other large-scale emergency, the Department of Homeland Security will assume primary responsibility on March 1st for ensuring that emergency response professionals are prepared for any situation. This will entail providing a coordinated, comprehensive federal response to any large-scale crisis and mounting a swift and effective recovery effort. The new Department will also prioritize the important issue of citizen preparedness. Educating America's families on how best to prepare their homes for a disaster and tips for citizens on how to respond in a crisis will be given special attention at DHS."

Were the emergency response professionals prepared? Was there a swift recovery effort? Did the agency see to it that the citizens were prepared? The answer to all of these questions is no.

Why didn't the state and federal governments evacuate the people, providing transportation and shelter before Katrina struck, instead of telling them to leave – knowing so many did not have the means to leave on their own? Politicians are always talking about personal responsibility and accountability. It's time to hold them accountable for the poor response to this disaster, and the deaths of hundreds maybe thousands of Americans that couldn't fend for themselves because they are poor, frail, sick, young, or just found themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Why has President Bush not been giving regular updates to the nation on progress being made in the aftermath of "the worst national disaster in the history of the United States"? Ultimately the president must share responsibility for the way this was mishandled. He was after all the one who created the DHS.

Don Twardowski
Franklin

School thanks ‘Bel Canto’

Dear Editor,

The 2005 Bel Canto was a marvelous performance that raised over $13,000 for the benefit of the Highlands School music program. We were honored and gratified to be selected as co-beneficiaries of this year’s event. Special thanks are due to Richard Joel, chair of the Bel Canto board of directors, for his diligent work to raise the quality of music education at the school. On behalf of our new music teacher, Kristina Kirchner, and all of the students of Highlands School, we thank Richard and the Bel Canto board for investing in the education of our children.

Monica Bomengen
Principal

Scholarship fund gets big boost

Dear Editor,

The Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund Committee recently concluded an amazing campaign to raise almost $40,000 in the Golf Classic at the Cullasaja Club. Vice Principal Mr. Thomas and I are humbled by the participants’ generosity and thank all of them for helping our students finance higher education opportunities. Special thanks to Kitty Byers and Helen Simmons, co-chairs of the event, as well as Tim Godwin and David Cull, president and general manager, respectively, of the Cullasaja Club. On behalf of the children of Highlands School, we offer you our gratitude for your wonderful investment in our students’ futures.

Monica Bomengen
Principal

President Bush does care

Dear Editor,

I would appreciate the opportunity to respond to Dr. Alex Redmountain’s screed on our President, George W. Bush in the Sept. 2 edition of Highlands’ Newspaper. To do so, I will have to move in the chopped-up fashion in which his positions were presented. And, by the way, as President, he deserves the loyalty, if not the respect, of all citizens. President Clinton retained my loyalty even after the discovery of the blue dress.

Where to start? On a personal note, as a practicing Roman Catholic, I strongly resent my religion being smeared as some wild-eyed, radical right wing sect. Where does the New York Times get off疣
**Area youth taking tennis seriously**

Shown are: Paul Eager, Hunter Mitchell, Ashley Mitchell, Cody and Mayablue Stauffer-MacDow and Alec Thornton, in a rain delay at Cedar Creek Racquet Club.

Photo by Patce Thornton

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**BIRTH**

Josiah Mitchell Clark

Stacey Meyer Clark of Highlands, is happy to announce the arrival of Josiah Mitchell Clark on September 2, 2005. The baby weighed 8 pounds at birth. Josiah’s father is Stephen Glen Clark. Josiah’s sister is three-year-old Lydia Sage Clark, and brother is 21-month-old Wyatt Alexander Clark. Maternal grandparents are Lydia Sargent Macauley of Highlands and Hal and Gail Meyer of Pensacola, Fla. Paternal grandparents are Herman and Sara Clark of Highlands and Orlando, Fla., and Betty and Jim Whisman of Orlando, Fla.

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**Rotary friends**

On Saturday, Sept. 10, about 17 inbound Rotary Exchange Students from districts 7680 and 7670 met at Pisgah View Farm for an overnight orientation meeting. Pictured from Highlands and Franklin are Allen Chen from Taiwan (Highlands Rotary), Anna Louise Ossart from France (Franklin Rotary) and Franka Dadic from Croatia (MountainTop Rotary).

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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**... ANIMAL continued from page 1**

tween them and Friends of Animals – each of which wants the county’s contract and to be the county’s official animal shelter organization.

To that end, at the Sept. 12 Macon County Commissioners meeting a committee was appointed to do a complete analysis of animal control issues facing Macon County.

“We have to decide how to alleviate this problem in the county,” said Chairman of the Board Alan Bryson.

Members will include representatives from Highlands and Franklin, including Dr. Amy Patterson, a member from the county’s health department, two county commissioners, representatives from each animal advocacy organization and others.

County Manager Sam Greenwood said the county can’t afford to enter into any agreements with any party on animal control issues until the actions of Senate HB 685 are determined as to standards for animal shelters.

But Commissioner Charlie Leatherman suggested a temporary arrangement with the Macon County Humane Society – the only animal control agency with a place to house animals.

“We had a working relationship with the Humane Society once and we need to give the Sheriff’s Department some temporary relief,” he said.

The idea will be considered by the committee which commissioners hope to hear back from by the Monday, October 3 Macon County Commissioners meeting.

 Commissioners don’t expect to hear the final word on the “Animal Shelters/Uniform Regulation” bill until January of 2006.

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**COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES**

**Open House**

Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Take N.C. 106 south 2.3 miles from Main Street. Turn right into Highlands Point and follow signs.

**- FAMILY RETREAT FOR RENT -**

Rustic lodge with Whiteside Mountain View. 8.68 acres surrounded by National Forest with seclusion that includes a tennis court, pool, sauna, streams and trails. 7 bedrooms, 7 baths, with spacious great room with stone fireplace, commercial kitchen, wet bar, large dining area and more. Call Pam Taylor at 526-9027, 342-6988 or 526-2520.

This remarkable new home will allow owners and guests ample space to enjoy the view of Whiteside and a mountain stream. The attention to detail is obvious from the entrance to the lower level living area. Complete with glass elevator, 2 kitchens, oversize 2-car garage, wood, Travertine & tile coloring, 3 fireplaces and more. In Highlands Point. Offered at $3.5 million.

Call Pam Taylor at 526-9027, 342-6988 or 526-2520, anytime.

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**MOTIVATED SELLER!**

Wonderful 3BR/3BA family home on 4.66 ac. Private w/mountain views. Large decks, workshop building, beautiful dahlia gardens, huge glassed FR. $435,000. Cathy Garren 828-743-7999. MLS# 55343/325555.
Realtors rebel: ‘Mad at Fred’ club grows

Are you sitting down? No, well sit down. You’re probably not going to believe this but I swear I speak the truth. A small number of Highlands’ Realtors have their shorts in a wad over my article on spoofing their occupation, some have “suggested” perhaps our tiny newspaper doesn’t need advertising from real estate companies and others are leaving hateful, anonymous messages on my home phone. Things have not been this scary since I left the police department. If they come to my front door, they should bring lots and lots of help. Are Realtors really that insecure?

Fred Wooldridge

The life of a satire writer is sometimes a grim one. If it wasn’t for my huge salary, I would quit. You would think writing fiction would be easy, but it’s not. A writer first picks a target for his satire, gathers a few facts and then commences to trash and exaggerate those facts beyond belief. Hopefully, it’s funny. It’s the “beyond belief” part I love the best.

I know if I exaggerate the article enough, no one will believe it. Every week, for the past two and half years, I have made fun of something or somebody to the delight of many, many Highlanders. There are few occupations or politicians I have not nailed and it’s usually taken good heartedly. That’s the good part. The bad part is that some folks don’t have much of a sense of humor and they elect to join the “Mad at Fred” club. That’s sad.

Poor Buck Trott, our mayor, is a man who would never join my club. He gets pounded by me about six times a year, but ole Buck is a good natured guy and takes it on the chin and smiles. We are still good friends because he knows, as do our readers, there is not a word of truth about my comments and accusations. It is what I do. Laughing it off is what he does. It’s all in fun. Buck is also a wise man who knows there is no such thing as bad publicity. Buck says, “Make fun of me if you want, but spell my name right.” If he ever asked me to stop, I would.

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The Highlight of Highlands

ELEGANT
Breakfast buffet: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. Mon-Sat; 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Sunday
A Great Place to Stay. A Great Place for Breakfast & Lunch

Cyprus
International Cuisine
Regional Menus & Extensive Wine List
N.C. 106 in Great Things Plaza • 526-4429

Nick’s
Fine Food For Particular People
Prime Rib daily • Fish • Pasta • Handcut Veal & Steaks • Full Wine List
Lunch 11-2:30; Dinner 5:30-10
18 dinner items under $20! CLOSED WEDNESDAY
526-3807

Wolfgang’s Restaurant & Wine Bistro
Open everyday except Tuesday. Bistro opens at 4 p.m.
Music Mon., Wed. & Thurs. - 6-10 p.m.
Wine Spectator’s “Best of Award of Excellence”

Ristorante Paololetti
Open for its 22nd season. Fine Italian dining since 1984, OPEN for dinner 7 nights from 5:30 p.m.
Reservations recommended
Call 526-4906

Jack’s at Skyline Lodge
Flat Mountain Rd. Call 526-2121 for reservations
Highlands Mountain Top Dining with a View
Live Entertainment Friday and Saturday nights
Breakfast & Dinner, Tues-Sat • Sunday Brunch
FRANK LLOYD Lounge - Full Bar available

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**BUDGET continued from page 1**

County for help as promised when he first presented the budget for 2005-2006, but mandated obligations dictated otherwise.

At the Sept. 12 Macon County Commissioners meeting, Shotwell asked for two things:

First to shift $220,000 from the public schools building capital fund to the technology fund to purchase equipment and then for an additional $400,000 from the county for 2005-2006 school budget needs.

The public schools building capital fund is funded by corporate taxes collected in North Carolina. Counties can use the funds to plan, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, improve, repair, and renovate buildings, and to purchase land or equipment for a local school technology plan.

The second request was for monies needed to finalize the 2005-2006 school budget.

“We have the best school system in North Carolina with the best posting of accountability in North Carolina but we have a dysfunctional funding system in Raleigh,” said Shotwell.

Though the number of students in Macon County School has steadily increased since 1990, the money coming the county’s way from Raleigh has steadily decreased.

“We have 1,000 more kids in the system in 2005 than we had in 1990,” said Shotwell. “We need 100 more kids to get one state-funded teacher from Raleigh.” Instead the Raleigh demands cuts, he said.

Meanwhile, for 2005-2006 employee insurance has increased by $27,000; retirement matches have gone up 5.8 to 6.8 percent equaling $17,000; there’s $85,000 in mandatory salary increases, the rise in heating fuel and gasoline, bonus leave costs for unfunded mandates, as well as telephone system increases.

Commissioners didn’t give Shotwell an answer but took the $400,000 request under advisement.

However, Commissioner Jim Davis had a request of Shotwell.

“I’ve told you I will support the schools, and if you get this extra money, I want to get a legislative delegation together to represent the citizens of Macon County in Raleigh,” he said.

“Regardless of which political party is responsible, it’s time to stand up against the state taking our money. When millions is taken away from schools, something is very wrong.”

“More unfunded mandates mean we are getting screwed by Raleigh and I’m sick of it. We are told to just tax the citizens extra and it’s not right,” he said.

Shotwell said not only would he join the legislative delegation, he would ask his entire board to join forces with the county in Raleigh.

**WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4**

When one writes like I do, it occasionally offends someone. Even though I try to make my articles as ridiculous and outrageous as possible, invariably someone will identify with what I said and be offended. Oh, well.

The week before, that offended person was congratulating me on a column I wrote about a building contractor named Dilbert? I don’t appreciate the nature of the vehicle but not sorry for the spoof.

It is unfortunate that some are angry with the paper. I am sad they are willing to help, but encouraged they will not let me to do something outrageous on the occupation. She will remain anonymous as she is petite and can’t defend herself well.

I started my research which included contacting other Highlands’ Realtors who are good friends of mine, just to get some facts. Not only were they willing to help, but encouraged me to write the piece.

It is unfortunate that some are angry with the paper. I am sad they don’t appreciate the nature of the vehicle but not sorry for the spoof because no harm was ever intended.

So standby, grumpy Realtors of Highlands, you have not yet seen the tenacity of my editor. She will not let this get her down. Is there a Realtor out there who liked the article?

**Country music at PAC Fri. at 7 p.m.**

On Friday night, Sept. 16, PAC presents “Country Music, Highlands Style” at 7 p.m. Admission to the performance is $10 for a two-band concert – one bluegrass, one country music.

The bluegrass band is “Bluegrass Alliance” and country band is “Clearwater County.” Reserve a seat by calling the Performing Arts Center at 526-9047.
The race for Town Board
Every week prior to the Nov. 5 election, candidates have agreed to answer questions.

Question #3

The concept of Conditional Use Districts was developed in response to persistent requests from planners and other local officials who wanted a legal way to hold developers to promises made when they applied for rezoning, such as the promises made regarding use of the property on the corner of Hickory and U.S. 64 east if rezoned to multi-family.

A “Conditional Use District” system makes contract zoning legally enforceable by the Town. The new districts track exactly the existing “general use” districts, except they are denominated “Conditional Use Districts.” For example, the Town could create a “R-3 Multi-Family Conditional Use District.”

Do you think the establishment of Conditional Use Districts to “custom fit” requests is a good way to control yet enable growth?

Mayoral Candidate
Zeke Sossomon

I truly believe that Conditional Use Zoning Districts (CUD) are a step forward toward allowing municipalities to assure growth will be as proposed by the developer whenever rezoning is requested. In other words the developer must build exactly what he presented at the initial hearing before the Town Board.

Currently a developer can request rezoning for a certain project, and once rezoning is approved, a change of mind can lead to construction entirely different. Simply put, CUD makes contract zoning legally enforceable by The Town. There is considerable work to get CUD in place and functioning. Our Zoning Ordinance text must be amended to provide a new set of districts consistent with State Statutes. Dimensional requirements such as lot size, setbacks, watershed built upon limits, building heights, etc. cannot be any different than those in counterpart conventional districts.

No CUD can be created except by application of all owners of land within the proposed district. The CUD status once approved “runs with the land” and cannot be voided by simply transferring title to someone else.

Let me assure the citizens of Highlands that CUD will be closely studied before attempting to apply this procedure. Your Town staff will seek advice and guidance from UNC Institute of Government and municipalities that have experienced success with this type of zoning.

The bad news is that to fully utilize conditional use zoning, the zoning board and the town board must have a well-developed idea of what is truly desirable for the town and must be vigilant in ensuring that the plan as approval is implemented. This really applies to all zoning issues, but will be more important with conditional use.

‘Relay for Life’ overshoots target

Each year Highlands and Cashiers overshoots the goal for Relay for Life donations. This year the 2005 Mountain Top Relay For Life raised $215,030. This represents an increase of more than $23,000 from the 2004 event. The total amount raised the past five years equals $908,000, which means next year, the event will surpass the million dollar mark.
Mayoral Candidate
Don Mullen

An old medical school professor of surgery of mine once told me, “Don, rules are made for people who can’t think for themselves!” While he was talking about surgical procedures, it frequently applies elsewhere.

There are certain rules that indeed do need to be bent. Zoning regulations sometimes fall into that category. The “Conditional Use District” system is a convenient way to change and use of a certain property for a specific purpose. If the property approved by the Town is not used, the property reverts to the former zoning regulation.

The Conditional Use District system gives the Town Board better control of growth for the good of the community. It also allows developers to properly maximize the use of their property.

This is what we want in Highlands and I favor this system as we seek to continue to honor our heritage. The Town needs to work closely with the Zoning Board and careful inspection with “surgical precision” by the zoning administrator is necessary on approved projects. This may take extra staff to accomplish efficiently and, as mayor, I would see that adequate and competent staff would be available.

Commissioner Candidate
Amy Patterson

Conditional Use Districts are an attempt to insure that developers are sensitive to and respect the wishes of a community as it relates to the specifics of their developments. Listings like aesthetic considerations are not conducive to the hard and fast rules of a general zoning ordinance. A developer’s interests and the community’s interests are not the same. But there may be ways to make them compatible or at least comfortably coexist. Conditional Use Districts are a legal way of holding a developer to his promises. It will make developers do more pre-planning so they know they can deliver what they promise. There must be follow-up and enforcement from the town for Conditional Use Districts to be successful and effective.

A problem with Conditional Use Districts is that it makes every property in the district subject to negotiations between the developer and the town. And negotiations mean concessions may be made. When you start making concessions there is a real possibility of losing consistency and the overall vision for the town. What may be a good fit for a particular property may not be consistent with the best interests of the community. Sometimes we lose sight of the health of the forest when we concentrate on the individual tree. I have not reached a final conclusion as to whether I think Conditional Use Districts would be good for Highlands.

... QUESTIONS continued from page 6

organization. If that was not the good doctor’s intention, his apology is accepted.

Regarding Iraq, valid links have been established between Al-Qaeda and Hussein’s regime. Enriched uranium (moved to the U.S. for safe-keeping) and artillery shells containing Sarin gas have been discovered. I doubt the millions liberated from Saddam’s rape rooms and torture chambers consider the war “wholly unnecessary and illicit.” Establishing democracy in the Middle East will deliver untold dividends for worldwide peace for our grandchildren.

President Bush was the first president to establish federal guidelines for stem cell research. Former presidents choose to ignore the issue out of fear of the political consequences.

The individual states, not a “national commission” are granted by our constitution with authority over the death penalty and the vast majority of prisoners. Regarding prison abuse, there have been things done about it. They are called trials with the guilty receiving prison time.

Our national debt is the direct result of a just war. However, the debt is ameliorated by our roaring economy. If nothing is done to save Social Security, our children and grandchildren will be the ultimate victims of this Ponzi scheme. If the good doctor cares about that fact, I welcome his positive, constructive
... QUESTIONS continued from page 7

Commissioner Candidate Hank Ross

There have been three or four zoning cases during my term on the Town Board for which I wished Highlands had the conditional use zoning tool. I am in favor of the conditional use option for zoning and zoning districts because it is an excellent tool to help fit a proposed development to a specific property.

The surrounding neighborhood or property conditions could indicate that additional or different requirements are necessary. Sometimes the best development does not exactly fit the zoning ordinance or other town requirements. The town could change or add restrictions such as a reduced density, a greater setback, or preservation of an environmentally sensitive area.

Unfortunately, sometimes promises are made to communities by developers that are not kept. Although usually well intentioned, unforeseen site conditions or other factors can change the economics of a project after town approval.

Conditional use zoning can hold the developers to promises made when they applied for rezoning and construction permits.

Final HIARPT lecture

Professor Don Cupitt, Life Fellow and former Dean of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, England, will conclude the HIARPT Public Lecture Series on Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. His lecture held at the PAC, is entitled “A New Method of Religious Enquiry.” A seminar-discussion of his lecture is 10 a.m., Sept. 27, in the lower hall of PAC on Chestnut Street.

... LETTERS continued from page 9

Reverent humor appreciated

Dear Editor,

I like Wooldridge. His columns are the first items I turn to when I begin looking through Highlands’ Newspaper every week. They are what my friends and I discuss afterwards because they are funny, with a tongue-in-cheek reverent humor that marked the humor of Mark Twain, and, currently, Dave Barry and Carl Hiaasen.

To take offense at what he says in his columns displays a lack of a sense of humor in my humble opinion. Heck! I was a lawyer for over 45 years. If I took offense at every lawyer-joke I have heard and read, I would be a bitter man who hated everyone by now (since I don’t know anyone who has failed to feed me some put-down-lawyer joke).

Fred is a breath of fresh mountain air for the community... including the Realtors. Pat Allen was wrong to condemn Wooldridge in her letter in the Sept. 9 issue of the paper. I wonder what kind of letter, Allen would have written had she been a member of Congress at the time Twain said, “Suppose you were an idiot... And suppose you were a member of Congress... But I repeat myself.”

Keep those columns coming, Kim. They certainly help make Highlands’ Newspaper an entertaining read.

H. Jack Miller
Highlands
... LETTERS continued from page 7

suggestions to save a sinking ship.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union went the last haven for American socialists and anti-capitalists, ultra left-wing whacked-out fringe of the environmental movement. Perhaps we should adopt some prudence and wait for the “global warming task force” until real scientists have established that global warming is actually occurring.

I have talked with many medical doctors and health care professionals about this country’s adoption of socialized medicine. Almost universally, they proclaim that it would be a disaster. Hillary Clinton’s attempt to establish such a plan in her husband’s first term was loudly rejected. Given the direction of the country, however, some form of socialization is almost inevitable.

Our military is the best equipped in the world. When improvements are deemed necessary to safeguard our soldiers from new enemy tactics, their needs are met expeditiously.

The good doctor’s last point is the oldest in the Democratic playbook—class warfare. No wonder he finds it “tiresomely repetitious.” The fact is that 20 percent of wage earners pay 80 percent of our taxes. Welfare reform has proved a benefit in actually helping lift folks from the vicious cycle of government dependence. President Clinton even took credit for it after vetoing it! Go figure.

Yes, George Bush cares for this country and all of its citizens. That is why they mandated that he serve as President for eight years.

Jack Cota
Highlands & Atlanta

Fred is refreshing

Dear Editor,

I have enjoyed the writing of Fred Wooldridge and do want to continue to read them in your paper. His writings are refreshing. Surely those with a sense of humor appreciate the type of satire he brings to your readers.

Your paper in general has added a great deal to the town of Highlands. I’m sure there are many others who agree with me and want you to continue with the format as it is and has been.

Mary S. Cleckley
Highlands

Tongue-in-cheek needed

Dear Editor,

In response to “In defense of Realtors” letter in the Sept. 9 issue I must say that as a reader of Highlands’ Newspaper, I find a nice balance between the greed of Realtors on the one hand, and the tongue-in-cheek satire as carefully presented by Fred Wooldridge.

While the advertisements of the Realtors display a certain form of power in that the real estate market in Highlands provides the fulfillment of justified greed, there is the welcome satirical wisdom provided by Fred’s thoughtful musings.

However, these two diverse parties remind one that, as Albert Einstein said on May 23, 1953 “The attempt to combine wisdom and power has only rarely been successful and then only for a short while.”

Einstein went on to say “The majority of the stupid is invincible and guaranteed for all time. The terror of their tyranny, however, is alleviated by their lack of consistency.” Let us not be too critical of those who have the ability to bring some welcome satire into our world. Remember “In order to form an immaculate member of a flock of sheep one must, above all, be a sheep.” (Again, Einstein had a certain insight into the world of his fellow man).

While many worthwhile efforts would not have been undertaken if it were not for greed, satire does provide a certain balancing factor in our over extended world.

E. T. (Ed) Dibble
Lakemont, Ga.

Fred worth reading

Dear Editor,

Fred Wooldridge’s satire columns are a laugh a week.

Don Sweet
Highlands

Protect satire

Dear Editor,

It is with deep concern that I here write in support of my favorite part of your journal.

The art and style of satire is, in my opinion, in great danger of extinction. Simple “tongue-in-cheek” simply does not aspire to the high degree of irony and wit that is, again my opinion, the heart and soul of satire.

Let us all, readers, writers and supporters (aka advertisement clients) alike, cultivate, appreciate and compassionately the inspired wit of Fred Wooldridge. The species of satire faces extinction. Whether or not I agree, approve or adhere to the form, content and expression of a particular piece seems quite the pedestrian issue when the legacy of Aristophanes is at issue.

An interested pedestrian who abhors the banal...

J. M. Booth
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 8
Highlands Antique Show to benefit Playhouse and school

Now that all the pieces are in place, the Highlands School and the Highlands Playhouse are happy to announce the First Annual Highlands Antique Show, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, at the New Highlands School Gym.

The three-day event will feature a wide variety of antiques and collectibles ranging from rare books, to vintage linens to fine English furniture to rustic primitives. Such a show has been discussed for some time in Highlands, but finding a large enough space was a problem. The new Highlands School gym, completed just this summer solved the space. Then, the Highlands School and Highlands Playhouse joined forces to create a plan beneficial for both. Profits will be split 50-50 between school and non-profit playhouse.

Tickets are $10 – $1 off with the below ad. Call the Playhouse at 526-2695.

AUTOTOGRAPHED


Sponsored By:
The Highlands Playhouse and the Highlands School.
For information, call The Playhouse
828-526-2695

HCDC get check from Mountain Findings

Trisha Rodlike, Mountain Findings volunteer, presents a check for $3,000 to John Bauknight, Gayle Cummings, and Frances Oakley of Highlands Community Child Development Center. HCCDC has a scholarship fund for needy families and children at-risk in the community. Donations to the scholarship fund are tax deductible and are segregated from the center’s operating funds.

HCCDC offers the only full-year, five days a week, 10-hours per day child care program in Highlands.

GOLF

4 miles east of Cashiers on Hwy 64

“Best Golf Value in the Smokies”

• Dramatic Elevation Changes • 90 degree rule always in effect • Bent grass greens, tees and fairways • Visit our fully stocked Pro Shop with logo’d souvenirs items

Mountain Mama’s Grille & Tavern • Open Daily 11-5
Soup & Salad Bar • Build Your Own Burger Bar • Hot & Cold Sandwiches • Homemade Chips • FULL SERVICE BAR

Daily-Fee Golf Rates
Early Bird Rate: 7am-8:23am $49 • Midday Golf: 8:30am-1 pm $87
Twilight Specials: 1 pm $49, 3 pm $37 • Replay Rate: $25

Call 743-1174 to reserve your Tee Time today
... ROOM TAX continued from page 1

rent private residences and cottages to transients on behalf of the owners — will have to submit to an audit of transactions for the past three years.

Plus, the 15 percent administrative fee the county has been taking from the three percent occupancy tax proceeds since January 2005 will stay “at least until an audit is complete,” said County Manager Sam Greenwood.

Commissioners will also solicit the General Assembly to upgrade the county’s occupancy tax provision from Session Law to General Statute:

At the Sept. 12 Macon County Commissioners meeting, board members agreed both chambers were left high and dry by the county’s decision to increase its administrative rate to process the three percent occupancy tax proceeds levied on rooms, homes and cottages in the county — from five percent to 15 percent.

The higher percentage was in both the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 budgets but it slipped past some of the commissioners.

“I really feel we blind-sided the chambers,” said Chairman of the Macon County Board Allan Bryson. “We need to do something.”

Chambers fund projects that generate tourism money with the occupancy tax proceeds.

Greenwood said it wasn’t until January 2005 during a transition between the county’s finance officers that he realized the 15 percent hadn’t been taken for 2004.

“I then directed Ms. Southard [new finance officer] to recover the withholding in the last five months of fiscal 2004-2005,” said Greenwood.

Suddenly, because of the retroactivity and the new 15 percent administrative fee in play, the chambers were getting back far less than expected.

“We later learned the respective chambers hadn’t been notified by the Finance Department of the initial budget passage when the administrative rate was moved back to 15 percent,” said Greenwood.

In 1999, commissioners decreased the occupancy tax proceeds administrative rate from 15 percent to five percent. As of July 1, 2004 the rate returned to 15 percent.

In 2004, following what County Manager Sam Greenwood called “a wake-up call” that not all lodging proprietors were correctly reporting and remitting occupancy tax proceeds, a compliance check was completed through a consultant operating on a finder’s fee basis.

The wake-up call came when the Hampton Inn in Franklin voluntarily made a large catch-up payment of occupancy tax based on its own internal audit procedures.

Though happy to receive the voluntary payment, the action made the county realize it had no idea what was going on concerning occupancy tax, said Greenwood. “Nor did we have any mechanisms in place to demand payment.”

The consultant determined the honor system wasn’t working. Collections weren’t occurring in a fair or equitable manner. The majority of the room rental businesses were complying, but a sizeable minority were not paying properly or not paying at all.

To re-establish a base line, the consultant suggested a three-year compliance audit. He also said the entire system needed a redesign from the remittance forms to registration and that enforcement options were vague and difficult to use.

County Attorney Rick Moorefield said since the ability to collect Macon County occupancy tax is based on Session Law to General Statute, the chambers hadn’t been notified by the Finance Department of the initial budget passage when the administrative rate was moved back to 15 percent.

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Highlands School Sports

Win or lose, JV and varsity volleyball worth watching

By Claire Young
JV Coach

The JV and Varsity Volleyball teams had two of their most exciting home matches of the season last week against Walhalla (Sept. 1) and Rosman (Sept. 6).

Highlanders fighting their way through it all

So far the Fighting Highlanders have only won one game, but that doesn't mean the team isn't trying.

At the Thursday, Sept. 8 away match against Franklin, the final score was Franklin 7-Highlands 3.

Alec Schmitt scored two goals and had one assist; Buddy Parrish scored one goal; Nick Kerhoulas and Greg Porter each had one assist.

The half-time score was 4-2. "We scored first at the start of the second half to make it 3-4, but Franklin scored three unanswered goals to put the game away," said Coach David Parrish.

At the Friday, Sept. 9 away match at Madison High, the final score was Madison High 6-Highlands 4.

Greg Porter, Alec Schmitt, Matt Chenoweth and Buddy Parrish each scored a goal.

At half-time the score was Madison 5-Highlands 2. "We out played them in the second half (2-1) and played much better defense with Nick Kerhoulas leading the way," said Coach Parrish. "I am still very optimistic about our chances this year."

The team's first conference game was Wed., Sept. 14 at Hayesville.

The Varsity team lost the first game of the match against Walhalla (20-25), but rebounded to win the next 3 games in a row to clinch the win (25-19, 27-25, 25-23). Seniors Ramsey Ashburn and Callie Rawlins were 100 percent from the serving line, with Ramsey serving an impressive 29 times including 2 aces. Callie had 2 blocks and 18 assists, which helped lead the team to a total of 40 kills. Seniors Anna Trine and Maggie Dearth had 11 kills each, and Juniors Toni Schmitt and Allison Winn had 6 and 5 digs, respectively. Junior Rebecca Wyatt also played a great, well-rounded game with 10 successful serves, 4 digs, 10 kills, and 3 assists.

The JV also brought home a win against Walhalla with their strong serving, including 100 percent performances from Danny Puchacz, Marisol Ruiz, Vicky Smith, and Allison Winn, plus 5 aces from Angela Sanchez. The entire team played well defensively with 5 or more digs from the servers above, as well as Katie Bryson and Amanda Parmelee. Katie and Danny also had 2 successful blocks each.

The Varsity's closest, most exciting game this season was against Rosman last Thursday. The team started out strong with commanding wins in the first two games (25-19, 25-8), but then lost the third (19-25). The 4th game was the closest with the Lady Highlanders making an impressive comeback, but ultimately losing (24-26), and the final game left the team with only 12 points to Rosman's 15. It was truly a team effort with strong serving, defensive, and attacking across the board. Senior Maggie Dearth played her best game of the season with 20 of 20 serves including 6 aces, 15 kills, and 3 blocks.

Win or lose, JV and varsity volleyball worth watching.
On-going
- Cashiers Quilters Guild meets at the United Methodist Church in Cashiers, every Wednesday at 12:30.
- Live music at Jack’s at Skyline Restaurant every Friday and Saturday nights.
- Music and dancing at Fressers in Helen’s Barn the third Thursday of each month, 8-11.
- Live music at Buck’s Coffee Cafe Thursday-Saturday, 8-11 p.m.
- Piano Bar at... on the Verandah seven nights a week accompanied by jazz guitar Tuesdays and Thursdays all at 7 p.m.
- Live music at Wolfgang’s Restaurant and Wine Bistro, Mon., Wed., Thurs., 6-10 p.m.
- Highlands Wine and Cheesecake: 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.
- Open Studio with a live model has returned to the Gallery on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Cost is $10 per evening. Please call the gallery by Monday evening if you will be bestopping by on Tuesday night, so they can coordinate with our models.
- Various art classes held for children and adults at the Bascom-Louise Gallery throughout the week. Call 526-4949.
- 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.
- Mountain View Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in the remodeled basement room of the Presbyterian Church, every Wednesday through Saturday. HealthTracks at 526-4949.
- Inter-Church Pot Luck Supper at First Baptist Church at 6 p.m. Call Pat Griffin at 526-2418.
- Jim Casada, nationally known fly fishing author and fly fisherman extraordinaire, will speak at the Plateau Fly Fishing Club on Thursday. The meeting is at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers at 7 p.m.
- Masters Potter, Sid Luck, will be at the Bascom-Louise Gallery to conduct a workshop and pottery sales. Call the gallery at 526-4949 to register.
- Book Fair at Highlands School. Parents and children may shop in the Media Center when they come to the school for the PTO meeting on Sept. 15, or they may shop before or after school during the Book Fair week.
- “Bluegrass Style” will be on tap at PAC Friday at 7 p.m. Two bands, including “Bluegrass Alliance” will perform. Tickets are $10 and may be reserved by calling the PAC at 526-9047.

Sept. 17
- The Bolivia Mission’s annual auction of Bolivian art and the work of local artists at the Highlands Playhouse on Saturday at 6 p.m. with catered food and live and silent auctions. Call 526-3665 or reservations. Cost is $50 per person.
- Art Alliance benefit at Carpe Diem Farms, 5:30-8 p.m.
- Mirror Lake Improvement Association will hold its regular meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.
- Audubon field trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway for fall migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Highlands Town Hall. For information, call Edwin Poole 526-2775.
- Sept. 22-24
- plein air painting with Sue Stewart will be a wonderful three-day excursion into the fine and ancient art of oil painting in the open air. The class is filling up so get your registration in right away. Call the gallery at 526-4949 to register.
- Sept. 24
- Mirror Lake Improvement Association will have a litter pickup Saturday at 9 a.m. at Thorn Park.
- Sept. 26 (rain date Oct. 3)
- Toys for Tots Golf Tournament at Mill Creek Country Club in Franklin, 9 a.m. $75 entry fee ($65 with $10 unwrapped toy). Sponsored by Marine Corp’s League of Smoky Mountains, Dept. Daisy. Call 828-524-4653.
- Sept. 30-Oct. 1
- Fine Arts Center/Bascom Louise Gallery Art & Wine Auction. For tickets, call 526-4949.
- Sept. 30-Oct. 2
- Highlands Antique Show in the new Highlands School gym. Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. -7 p.m. Sun., noon to 5 p.m. Admission $10. Admission ticket benefit the Playhouse and the School. Call 526-2695.
- Oct. 1
- Yard Sale - Satulah Club at First Citizens Bank, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featuring baked goods, dried flower and much more
- Oct. 8
- Princeton University’s Capella singing group, the Princeton Nassoons, will perform at PAC from 7:30-9 p.m. For tickets, call Kristy Budner at 404-888-3740.
- Oct. 14
- Healthy Carolinians of Macon County has scheduled their third annual golf tournament for Friday, at The Ridges in Hayesville, Shotgun Start is 9 a.m. Registration Fee to play in the tournament costs $75 per player, or $300 for a team. Registration includes green fee, cart fee, and lunch buffet. Any person or organization wanting to sponsor the golf tournament, or would like to register a team can call Rhonda Blanton at 828-349-2425.
- Oct. 17
- Open Studio at Highlands Fine Art & Fine Craft Show, 10-4 at the Recreation Park. The Children’s Table will be open both days for well-supervised fun activities as usual. All work is original. Free admission. Contact Mary Ruppert 828-883-2560.
- Oct. 22
- The annual Highlands School Fall Festival this year at Highlands School in the new gymnasium at 5 p.m.
- Oct. 29
- “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.

GOLDEN CHINA of Highlands
Open 7 days a week
Lunch Buffet: 11-3  M~F  $6.95
Dinner: Sun-Thur 3-9:30 Fri & Sat 3-10
In-town deliveries - $15 minimum 526-5525 • Highlands Plaza

We’re Almost There! Opening In September
154 Highlands Plaza

Day Trips & Excursions
- River Rafting & Float Trips
- Bike Tours
- Hiking Trips
- Canoe & Kayak Trips
- Paddle Boarding
- Llama Trekking
- Mountain Biking
- Kayaking
- Rafting
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1-800-903-4401 • 828-743-2052
www.adventuredepot.net

Family Float Trip Adventures
Great Smoky Mt. River Fun
Tuckaseegee Outfitters
1-800-539-5683
Hwy 441 at Barkers Creek
Depot
Dillsboro, NC
1-866-586-3797
828-506-3610
Playing for listening pleasure Saturday, Sept. 17 at 8 p.m. is original live music with George Reeves and Lee Ladensack and bassist James Poe.

Reeves and Ladensack met in Cashiers in 1996 and shortly afterwards formed the band Hurricane Creek with bassist James Poe and drummer Sam Potts. Most recently they have received recognition for the haunting release “Feathers on the wind” co-written by the duo to benefit the victims of the Peak’s Creek tragedy when Hurricane Ivan hit in September of 2004 causing a mud slide that devastated homes and lives.

Make your reservations early to experience this evening of Live Original Music by these very talented musicians. For reservations call 828-342-9197. Adults $15; 17 & Under $7. Limited Seating. Complimentary wine and soft drinks served with performance.

HCP to hold auditions Sept. 18

Auditions will be held for the Highlands Community Players production of the comedy “The Second Time Around” on Sunday, Sept. 18, 3 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. There are roles for an older man; an older woman, two middle-aged men, two middle-aged women and small roles for a teenage boy and teenage girl. Performance dates are October 27-30 and Nov. 4, 5, and 6. Director is Jim Gordon, 743-2654. Telplay is available for reading in the Hudson library in Highlands.

ITC offers free acting classes

Registration has started for The Instant Theatre Company’s 2005-2006 free classes in the Performing Arts for students in grades 5 - 12.

Theater Arts 1 for grades 5-8 is on Wednesday afternoons from 4-5 p.m. beginning September 22.

The class includes basic stage craft and technique, acting including improvisation, voice control, character development, and scene study 1. The class will be supervised by Collin Wilcox Paxton and taught by Sara Dodson, a graduating senior in the Theater Department at Western Carolina University. Ms. Dodson will graduate with a B.A. in the spring of 2006 and will receive an Honors credit from the University for teaching this class at ITC.

Theater Arts 2 for grades 9-12 meets Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. beginning September 22.

The curriculum covers the collaborative essentials of theater. Among the subjects being taught are play analysis, voice control, and a refresher course in basic stage technique, play writing, monologues, advanced scene study and improvisation. The class will be supervised by Collin Wilcox Paxton and taught by Hannah Case, a graduating senior in the Theater Department at Western Carolina University. Ms. Case will graduate with a B.F.A. in the spring of 2006 and will receive a Theater Arts Workshop credit from the University for teaching this class at ITC.

To register call The Instant Theatre Company at 526-1687. There is a limited quota of students for each class and early registration is suggested.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 762-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Sunday night services every second and fourth 6-7 p.m.
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. Embelding, 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
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
526-2830 – Corner of Spring & Third Streets
Come hear the healing message of the Christ
Sunday at 11 a.m.
Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Study Room Open Saturday, 1-3 p.m.
CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Everett Wilson, (828) 743-3379
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service – 7 p.m.
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
Steven E. Kerhoulas, Senior Pastor
www.cbchighlands.com
526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
6 p.m., “The Rock” for highschoolers
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
Wed: 5:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting; 6:15 p.m. Supper;
7 p.m. Teaching
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968
Sundays: Choir – 9 a.m.; Adult Sunday School classes – 9:15 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.;
Children’s Chapel – 10:30 a.m.
Mondays: Women’s Curiosity Group (Library) – 4
Tuesdays: Men’s Curiosity in Jones Hall – 8
Wednesdays: Liturgy Mtg. – 4 p.m.; Christian Education – 5 p.m.; Supper & Program – 6 p.m.
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.
Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.;
School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15
Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.;
Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 8:30 & 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.: Adventists del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 5
HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7
HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474
HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sun.: School – 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship – 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 in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.
MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
St. 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 Sunday School; Worship – 11
WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
**Police & Fire**

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Sept. 7-14.

**Sept. 7**
- At 9 a.m., officers responded to a call of a stolen antique goat cart valued at $500 from a residence at VZ-Top. The case is under investigation.

**Sept. 8**
- At 6:20 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Mt. Lori. All was secure.

**Sept. 9**
- At 9:10 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was issued a citation for a traffic light violation at N.C. 106 and Main St.
- At 9:10 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Wachovia Bank. All was secure.

**Sept. 10**
- At 3:50 a.m., John Dean White, 38, of Tacoma, Wa., was arrested for DWI on N.C. 106.
- At 11:05 a.m., a resident on Satalah Ridge Road reported damage to his property.
- At 3:05 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving without a license on Wilson Road.

**Sept. 11**
- The dept. responded to fire alarm at a residence on Dillard Road. Smoke was coming from the oil furnace.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.
- The dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on U.S. 64 west. One victim was taken to the hospital.

**Sept. 12**
- The dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 28 south. There were no injuries.

**Sept. 13**
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Highlands School where a girl passed out during an exercise class. She was taken to the hospital.

**Sept. 14**
- At 6:50 a.m., officers responded to an accident on NC 28 south. There were no injuries.

**Contacting the Highlands Police Department**

There are three ways to contact the Highlands Police Department - but it depends on the nature of business.

If there is an emergency, Police Chief Harrell advises people to call 9-1-1. For all non-emergency police assistance matters, he asks that citizens call local dispatch at 526-4131 or 369-9116.

To talk to or leave a message for a specific officer, or to contact the department on all other matters, call 526-9431.

If officers aren’t on patrol, someone will be there to answer the phone, otherwise leave a message on the recording.

**United States whatsoever. It was just the easiest target in the Middle East to attack (so they thought). There were no WMD, no nuclear program. Meanwhile, Osama Bin Laden got away. Thousands of new terrorists were created by our invasion. We installed a moderately decent puppet regime in Afghanistan, but the rest of the country was controlled by local warlords and opium growers, as well as remnants of the Taliban. The election in Iraq demonstrated peoples’ yearning for freedom, yet neither we nor the Iraqi security forces could provide stability on a daily basis. Even though it was obvious that we needed more troops in Iraq, Secretary Rumsfeld had insisted that a smaller force could do the job, so his reputation was on the line. The President, for whom loyalty is the supreme virtue, backed him up. All of this is tragic beyond words, but I still think we can’t just cut and run. We can’t negotiate with the insurgents, who represent many Islamic extremists, committed to establishing Taliban-like societies across the region. We will have to deal with them eventually, but can only do so from a position of relative strength, or at least from a stand-off. That is probably the closest we will come to an exit strategy. In the meantime, in 2006, we can throw out as many of the bumbling, fanatics, and chicken hawk military “experts” as we can find on our ballot.**
**Highlands Service Directory**

**CERAMIC TILE-GRANITE-MARBLE**
Counter, cabinet and lighting enhancement. All phases of interior work. New and remodels. Over 35 years experience. Appalachian Leather & Decor. 706-746-3627 or 828-524-5447.

**The Computer Man!**
But you can call me James
Computer Sales
Mail Order Pricing
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Computer Parts
& Accessories
Troubleshooting & Repairs
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68 Highlands Plaza • 526-1796 FAX: 526-2936

**JAMES COLLISION, INC.**
65 Brooks Road Highlands, North Carolina 28741
Heather Stewart
Larry W. Wooten
Owner
Manager/Estimator
Free Estimates
Collision/Auto Body Repair
Restoration & Detailing
Phone: (828) 526-1506
Fax: (826) 526-9113

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

**Kiln-dried FIREWOOD**
Enjoy your fire - Don't fight it
828-342-4681 • 828-526-3724
Highlands • Cashiers • Sylva
- Delivered - Bucky Meredith

**LJ’s Custom Painting Service**
Specializing in Interior/Exterior & New Construction • Stain Matching • Wall Paper Removal • Pressure Cleaning • Drywall Repair • Water Proofing • References
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**J & K Cleaning**
From laundry to dishes; from bedrooms to bathrooms; no job is too big or small. So give us a call!
526-4599 421-3931

**Composting Manure Delivered**
Up to four yards (full-size pickup bed) delivered in Highlands area. $25 per load.
Call 828-787-2132

**Highlands’ Newspaper Is Now In The Cashiers Visitors Center Watch For The Fall Guide Coming Soon**

**CASHIERS MORTGAGE SERVICES INC.**
Joe and Vickie Pearson
828-743-0075
“We make mortgages easy for you”
Specializing in 2nd home market mortgages
Serving Highlands and Cashiers Area
cashiersmortgage@aol.com

** числовой номер**

**DP Painting & Pressure Washing**
In business since 1984. Quality work, guaranteed. References.
Call 828-526-3542.

**Service Directory ads - $17 per week. Call 526-0782**
HELP WANTED

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 cardiology 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 membership 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.

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

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

CLINICAL DIETITIAN AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL, NC license and 1-2 years experience in clinical nutrition required. Food service experience helpful. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.


MAMMOGRAPHY TECHNOLOGIST AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Perform mammography examinations and associated mammography QC, perform general radiography and CT procedures. MRI experience a plus. Must have call. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

LPNS AND RNS – FIDELIA ECKARD 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.

REAL ESTATE – RENTALS

FAMILY RETREAT FOR RENT – Rustic log cabin with Whiteside Mountain View, 8.8 acres surrounded by National Forest with seclusion that includes a tennis court, pool, sauna, streams and trails. 7 bedrooms, 7 baths, with spacious great room with stone fireplace, commercial kitchen, wet bar, large dining area and more. Call Pam Taylor at 526-9027, 342-6988 or 526-2520.

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

1978 ROLLS ROYCE – Silver Shadow. All white, red, leather interior. Low mileage. Offers over $20,000 considered. Call 706-746-3046.

REAL ESTATE SALES

BY-OVERRIDE SAPPHIRE VALLEY – A unique “Timberpeg” Post & Beam home. Three levels: Upper level: lofted bedroom, full bath and bedroom with its own deck. Main Level: Open living room w/ fireplace, dining room and kitchen, 2 full baths, master bedroom and large deck with spectacular view. Lower Level: Large family room, w/fireplace, full bath, laundry room, an outside patio. A fully finished room and bath over a 2 car garage. Also a separate workshop all located on approximately 2 acres, on a private cul de sac. By appointment only (828) 743-2567.

SCENIC LOTS – Turtle Pond area. Views: private. 828 526 2759 marbago@direcway.com

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.

VIEW LOT FOR SALE – Whiteside Mountain Road. 100 ft. by 400 ft. By owner. Call 526-4692.

CONDO FOR SALE – By Owner. Great 2-bedroom, 2-bath upstairs condo in town. Safe gas, walk everywhere! Asking $210,000. Call for details. 526-3671.

HOUSE FOR SALE – 275 Foreman Road. 1/2 town on .67 acre-wooded lot. 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, study, large workshop/studio, stone fireplace, oak floors, hemlock paneling. Quality construction, mature landscaping, exterior stonework. Asking $425,000 (828) 342-2624. Broker/Owner.

CASHIERS CABIN, Location and Elevation: 2101 on 1.4 acres $145,000. Total Refurbish. Call 828-743-5782 for appointment.


460 FT. RIVERFRONT HOME on 4.48 Acres – Otro. Perfect for entertaining. 3BR/2.5 Baths, includes nice furnishings. Garage & Workshop. $289,000. Call Mary Mason, 706-746-3111. Resort Realty.


SERVICES

NEW DAY CARE – Preschool 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. After-school Care 3-6 p.m. Fun and Learning! 828-342-5029

CERAMIC TILE-GRANITE MARBLE – Counter, cabinet and lighting enhancement. All phases of interior work. New and remodels. Over 35 years experience. Appalachian Leather & Decor. 706-746-3627 or 828-524-5447.


HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE – Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

WANTED

ROOMMATE – Private bedroom, bath, living room. $350 per month plus utilities. Call 526-1552.

In an emergency, minutes are priceless.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital & Fidelia Eckard Living Center

A pattern of healing.

Located nearby, between Highlands and Cashiers on Hwy. 64.
Fall Colors Fine Art Show coming up

Mary and Emily Montgomery, enjoy painting with sponges during the Art League of Highlands Fall Colors Fine Art Show, set this year for Oct. 15-16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rec Park.

If you or someone you know have recently acquired an antique goat cart, it may be stolen property. Call 526-0165.

Work Out Longer For Less

New Equipment...

All new Cybex strength training equipment is now available to members in addition to a full line of cardiovascular equipment.

New Hours...

HealthTracks now has expanded hours. We’re open until 7 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

New Rates

Save with our quarterly, semi-annual and annual memberships. Call us today!

... RAISES continued from page 1

volunteer hours logged at the department. “At $7 per hour, that’s a savings of $20,342,” said Holland.

One big change is the number of inmates housed daily at the detention center. In 1999 an average of 22 inmates were housed. Since January 2005, an average of 70 inmates have been housed. The maximum capacity in the facility is 75 per day. “Our jail has been filled to capacity more than 14 times in the past six months,” said Holland.

But those inmates don’t sit idle, he said. During the first six months of 2005, inmate road crews have spent 131 volunteer hours collecting 32,833 pounds of trash from county roadsides.

Holland said dealing with mental health issues continues to plague the county and his department. In the last 30 days, 34 deputies have been involved with 18 involuntary commitments which took them 195 hours.

... ROOM TAX from pg 11

sion Law and not General Statute like many other counties, there isn’t an enforceable mechanism with teeth in it. “Noncompliance would result in a misdemeanor conviction with a $25 fine,” he said.

As of June 2005, the standard 15 percent administrative withholding is back in place – retroactive collections are over, said Greenwood.

He said the “extra” money collected retroactively was set aside for the audit – estimated to cost $50,000. Now that some of those funds are being returned to each chamber, it may take a little longer to collect enough money to pay for an audit. “But hopefully it will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2005-2006,” he said.

The chambers can only use proceeds from the occupancy tax to promote travel and tourism in Macon County.

More ways to help

• Highlands United Methodist Church is compiling a list of persons interested in going to MS or LA to do hurricane relief work. Please contact the church office at 526-3376 if you’d like to be on the list.

• Curves International founders Gary and Diane Heavin have set up a disaster relief fund for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. They are personally matching any contribution made up to $1,000 per Curves location. Every dollar will count as two. Donate by Oct. 24. Send local Curves donations to P.O. Box 1332, Highlands.

• The Cashiers Highlands Humane Society is offering the use of our trailer in support of transporting aid to the Gulf Coast. We are also offering animal supplies as well. Call Greta Somerville, board president at 743-0455.
Highlands Playhouse
Let The Good Times Roll
Oct. 14, 15, 16
Box Office on Oak Street
828-526-2695

Highlands Wine & Cheese
“Falls on Main”
Visitors’ Information
www.highlandsinfo.com

Highlands Newspaper Internet Directory
Lodging | Dining | Shops | Realty | Hiking | Waterfalls | Golf | Events | Maps
www.highlandsinfo.com
Perfect For: Realty Searches, Golf, Wedding & Convention Planning
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Cabin Casuals of Highlands
Casual Sportswear
for the Whole Family!
Visit us at The Falls on Main
526-3320
COTTAGE WALK

This 3 bedroom, 2 bath, well-maintained home is just what the Doctor ordered. Have you been looking for a place to enjoy all the fun of Highlands while being able to walk to town, then this is it. Priced at $389,000, you will not find a better value. Low maintenance, two car garage. Nothing to fix up. A must see.

CULLASAJA CLUB PALMER COTTAGE

When Arnold Palmer picked a location of his choice the 13th fairway at Cullasaja Club was his ideal spot. This Lake Villa located on the 13th Fairway Signature hole at Cullasaja Club is right on the lake, overlooking the golf course and mountains, enjoy the spacious great room, or screened sitting area. Completely renovated with an outstanding kitchen, hardwood floors, stone fireplace, exercise room, guest suite and completely furnished. A total of 4 bedrooms, 3 baths this home has all you need to start enjoying golf in the mountains. Membership available upon club approval. MLS# 56690 Offered at $998,000 View a Visual Tour at our website. Tour #420159

MOUNTAIN GETAWAY

One bedroom, one bath A-frame chalet overlooking a pastoral setting. This chalet is tucked away only a short distance from downtown Highlands. Striking green metal roof, wood siding, brand new carpet and single car garage. It can be yours for only $275,000. MLS#56780

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

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