People panicking at gas pumps

By Kim Lewicki

Though 615 miles away, Highlands is feeling the effects of another hurricane, but this year it's at the gas pump.

Cars started lining up at local gas stations as early as 10 a.m. Wednesday morning when news began to leak that oil and gas shortages were eminent.

By Jim Lewicki

Highlands School juniors and seniors were called to an emotionally charged emergency assembly Tuesday morning to discuss "huffing."

"This may be the most important assembly of your life," said Assistant Principal Mark Thomas.

Recent events in Highlands involving some youth, prompted Highlands School administration, local clergy and law enforcement officials to gather with high schoolers to discuss the practice of huffing harmful inhalants, said police officers.

"If you think one time won't hurt you, you're wrong," said Student Resource Officer Ronnie Castle with the Highlands Police Department. "Your blood doesn't get oxygen and it can kill you."

Castle encouraged students to communicate about the issue. "Talk to the school nurse, talk to me, talk to the principals. We can offer counseling and treatment to stop using if that's the problem," he said.

French teacher Dr. Patsy Wilson implored students to be their brother's keeper. "Tell someone if you suspect a friend of huffing. Everything you say is confidential. We will not mention your name."

Wilson reminded kids of the tragedy of Columbine. "A lot of kids knew before it happened. We need to help each other. You can come to us in confidentiality so we can help."

Principal Monica Bomengen agreed with Wilson. "We are concerned with helping people not punishing them," she said. "I've been to seven student funerals in my career - five from accidents and two self-inflicted. I don't want to go to any of yours."

Community Bible Church Youth Minister Ryan Sprague told of horror stories associated with the use of inhalants - of rapes and killings. "There is no reason why this kind of stuff should happen. It's foolishness, it's foolishness," he said.

Inhalants include a wide variety of products:
- cleaning agents such as spot removers and dry cleaning fluid;
- aerosols such as hair spray, deodorant, and spray paint; adhesives such as glue and rubber cement;

Hurricanes in the mountains

By Kim Lewicki

It’s hurricane season and with it comes memories of Hurricane Ivan, Peeks Creek and the realization that though far from the coast, Highlands, Macon County and Western North Carolina will continue to see their share of hurricanes.

Since Sept. 16 when a debris flow spawned near the top of Fish Hawk Mountain traveled 2.5 miles down slope to the Cullasaja River devastating the Peeks Creek community, geologists, law enforcement and municipal officials, have been working to prevent future tragedy.

But state geologists say landslide movement is nothing new to Western North Carolina, Macon County and Peeks Creek. "In fact, Peeks Creek has been the site of such movement in the past," they said. There are still remnants of ancient debris fields in the Peeks Creek area.

In a presentation entitled "A Historical Perspective - Causes and Triggers," geologists Rick Wooten and Rebecca Latham, with the N.C. Geological Survey are educating the public and local governments as to safe building practices.

"You need to watch where you build, watch how you build, utilize land use planning and best management practices," they said.

They said losses from landslides can be reduced if people know up front that slopes greater than 30 degrees are more susceptible to landslides and that landslides most often occur in areas where landslides have occurred before.

Through their study, a landslide hazard map has been developed and susceptible areas red flagged, but so far there aren’t any regulations prohibiting developments.

At the end of an emergency assembly the morning of Tuesday, Aug. 30, Principal Monica Bomengen invited everyone willing to commit themselves to helping her in the fight against using inhalants to join her center court.

School rallies against inhalant use
... INHALANTS continued from page 1

Food products such as cooking spray;
- gases such as helium, propane and nitrous oxide (“laughing gas”);
- solvents such as nail polish remover and paint thinner.

Users inhale or “huff” the chemical vapors from these products to get high. Because inhalants are easy to get, young people often use them before they start to use tobacco or alcohol. Since they are common, the use often goes unnoticed as a substance abuse issue. Yet eighth-graders are more likely to have used inhalants in the past year than any illegal drug except marijuana, said officials.

Symptoms of inhalant use include:
- paint or stains on clothing or body, especially face and hands;
- presence of chemical-soaked rags, plastic or paper bags, socks or clothing or latex balloons; drunk, dazed, dizzy or drowsy appearance lacking explanations;
- anxiety, excitability, irritability; red or runny eyes or nose; spots, sores or rash around the mouth or nose;
- chemical breath odor; nausea, loss of appetite, drooling;
- unexplained aerosol sprays or paint, lighter or refills, glues, solvents, propane hidden, nearby or in possession.

Authorities warn to approach a suspected abuser with extreme caution. Try not to frighten them. Abusers, adult or youth, may be very excitable and given to impulsive or violent behavior. They may use unanticipated physical strength. Any fright may cause sudden heart failure.

Over time, inhalant use reduces mental and physical abilities, damages internal organs, and causes problems in school—falling grades, chronic absences, and general apathy.

Depending on the product they inhale, users can suffer lasting damage to the nostrils and the lungs. They also can suffer from hearing loss, limb spasms, and brain damage.

Captain Tony Carver with the Highlands Police Department said huffing inhalants is nothing new and not a “Highlands phenomenon” – people are doing it everywhere, he said.

“We don’t expect to convince people in 10-15 minutes not to do something, but we can plant a seed so if a person is in a dangerous situation, they can draw from what we’ve told them.”

At the end of the assembly, Principal Bomengen invited everyone willing to commit themselves to helping in the fight against the use of inhalants to join her center court.

Every junior and senior student, teacher, clergy, parent and law enforcement official in the gym Tuesday morning joined her.
Relay for Life raises $205,000

Mayor Buck Trott with Chairman of the National American Cancer Society Dr. Thomas Burish, currently provost of Notre Dame University. Trott caught up with him on the blood line at the Rec Park Friday night. He was one of 35 people to donate blood. The 2005 Relay was the first time a blood mobile was on site. Trott said they’ll have one there next year, too. “We were overwhelmed with the response.” Though serious fund-raising was accomplished for a serious cause, youngsters, Carter Potts and Jacob Watson helped raise money by playing some putt-putt golf.

‘Nick’s’ still part of the Highlands menu

Concerned with rumors flying around town, Nick Moschouris, owner of Nick’s Restaurant wants to set the record straight.

Nick’s Restaurant at N.C. 28 and Satulah Road will close Jan. 1 but will reopen in the spring in a new location in Highlands.

For five years, Nick and his wife Patti have been talking about making a change – “either selling or downsizing,” he said. “We want to work fewer hours, enjoy life a little.”

Finally, he got his chance. The Old Edwards Inn & Spa group has purchased the property – not the restaurant’s name – just the property so change is in the air.

“We will close Jan. 1, just like we always have, and reopen in the spring, just like we always have, but in a new, smaller location in Highlands,” said Nick.

He wants to downsize from the 110 seats he now has to 50-60 seats and he plans on having the same menu, but will include some new ideas.

Meanwhile, it’s business as usual at Nick’s Restaurant – open everyday except Wednesdays – for lunch and dinner. Dinner reservations are suggested. Call 526-2706.

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

Price Reduced! Now $549,000

In a lovely secluded area close to Glen Falls is this ready-to-move into 3-bedroom, 2-bath with cypress floors, tongue-in-groove cypress ceilings in the living areas, vintage beams, stone-faced fireplace, wrap-around deck, verde butterfly granite countertops, Baldwin hardware, Hunter fans, locust posts with moho rails and a full basement on a beautiful open lot with winter Blue Valley view. Now offered at $549,000.

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What does Highlands have more of than any other thing? Did you guess preachers? Wrong! Did you guess boutiques? Wrong, again! If you guessed weekend motorcycle gangs, you are close, but still wrong. Think hard on this. Give up? Are you sitting down? Highlands’ preachers can’t hold a candle (har, har) to what I am about to tell you. Boutiques are not even in the running but our wonderful motorcycle gangs are a close second. I am talking about the gigantic number of Realtors lurking about in this area. While writing this column, two more people became Realtors, bringing the number to over 400 for the Highlands/Cashiers area. Yes, I said 400 Realtors. Let’s see, that comes to about one Realtor for every three pieces of property for sale. When cops retire, many of them become Realtors. Go figure. When people get fired, they briefly look for another job, and then become Realtors. Empty nesters become Realtors. When a spouse dies, the one still breathing becomes a Realtor although there is some confusion on that. When retired folks become bored with life, POW, they become Realtors. At least the motorcycle gangs are only here for the weekends.

Fred Wooldridge

Get real
Wedding in Galilee

A Palestinian/French/Belgian production, mostly a drama, but there are some comic elements, some romance, and some very realistic tension.

This film, winner of the Cannes film festival, the Belgian Academy of the Arts festival, and the San Sebastian Film Festival, was somewhat controversial, considered by some Palestinians as anti-Palestinian, thought by many Israeli as anti-Israeli, to progressive for traditionalists and dwelling too much on traditional village ways for progressives. Seems to have been designed for a fairly narrow audience, at least in Israel and Palestine. Directed by Michel Khleifi, starring Ali Akili as the Mukhtar, Nazih Akly as the son and Anna Achdian brilliantly playing the bride, Samia.

The Storyline:
The mukhtar of a Palestinian village under Israeli rule wishes to hold a large traditional wedding that will go well past the imposed curfew. The local military governor agrees, but only if he and his officers are invited as guests.

The story, filmed and edited beautifully, unfolds as the friends and family have to find ways to deal with this compromise.

What some people saw as an anti-Israeli or anti-Palestinian bias, I saw as just what seemed to be a fairly realistic portrayal of various people trying to find ways to lead a normal life under very difficult circumstances. And no, not everyone is shown in a terrific light, but there are a few real bad guys here, on both sides. Most are shown as ordinary people leading as ordinary a life as possible by occupied people, or as occupiers (which isn’t exactly a picnic). The wedding plans unfold, with most going along reluctantly. While any wedding can have a lot of complications and confusion, most don’t include minefields, missing horses or fainting soldier, and this one has more than your average share of wedding day drama. Without giving away all the details, the fates seemed determined to make this day a tough one. And it is.

One unusual aspect:

One unusual aspect of this story is that one of the few that treat the people in this volatile region as well, people, as opposed to movements or governments. The army is portrayed as neither jack-booted thugs nor saviors. The Palestinians are shown, not as victims, martyrs, or terrorists, but as fathers and sons and daughters, and families with their own views on compromise, tradition modernization and more.

More films from the Middle East worth watching are Yanna’s Friends, Children of Heaven, Baran, and Afghan Stories.

Buy a brick to support Highlands School!

The Highlands School Booster Club is selling commemorative bricks to be put in front of the new gym on Pierson Drive.

Bricks cost $50 and include three lines of text with 20 characters per line. Call Stephanie McCall at 526-4499 or Sherrie Gibson at 526-2260.

All proceeds will benefit Highlands School programs.

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Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10
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Weekdays: (4:20), 7, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
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The race for Town Board

This is the first of 10 questions to be asked of the candidates. Their answers will be published each week through Oct. 30.

Question 1:
If you are for declaring the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) boundaries suggested by the Land Use Planning Committee, please say why you feel this is important for Highlands.

If you are not for ETJ or the boundaries suggested by the Land Use Planning Committee, please explain why.

Mayoral Candidate
Mayor Buck Trott

I feel that ETJ is necessary for the Highlands community because of the following reasons:
1. The highways approaching our area should provide some village character that we attempted to maintain for years within the town.
2. It is absolutely essential to protect our water source. Recent rain events have emphasized the necessity for closer monitoring of soil and erosion control on the plateau.
3. Other towns saw it necessary to employ ETJ years ago and have been very successful in using it as a tool for improvement of the community’s quality of life.
4. ETJ provides a means of managing growth.

And ETJ is actually representation without taxation. The town cannot levy taxes and law requires that there be representation on the planning board from the ETJ’d area.

Mayoral Candidate
Zeke Sossomon

I favor the establishment of an extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) which will continue to honor our heritage as a community.

Growth on the Highlands plateau has been constant for many years. In this growth our community and its leaders must respect property owner’s rights and assure that only minimal regulations are enacted to control growth and conserve our resources. This balance must be consistent.

Although Macon County has been enforcing regulations regarding soil erosion and watershed problems for sometime in these areas, rapid growth near the town of Highlands now, so I favor the establishment of ETJ and the boundaries suggested by the Land Use Planning Committee.

Commissioner Candidate
Amy Patterson

I have believed for many years that ETJ is an important strategy the town should use to help manage its future. Highlands as a community doesn’t stop at the town limits.

As Highlands continues to grow and change there will be increased pressure for development outside the community, but then again maybe not.

Mayoral Candidate
Don Mullen

After all, the main interest of the developer will be consistent and considerate of Highlands as a community, but then again maybe not.

Well, we in a marvelous natural environment and must protect areas.

See ZEKE pg 15

See DON pg 17

See AMY pg 17

• See THE REST OF THE CANDIDATES on page 17

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**Another View**

If he really cared

George W. Bush is fond of professing a “culture of life.” Let’s assume for a moment that this is a sincere entreaty, and not just a politician’s sleazy appeal to radical-right evangelicals and Roman Catholics. Let’s assume, for the sake of argument, that Bush really cares about your life, my life, our children’s lives (now living and yet unborn). Isn’t that something a President should care about?

If he really did, he wouldn’t have started a wholly unnecessary and illicit war, completely unrelated to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, costing in excess of 1,500 young American boys’ lives, not to mention more than 10,000 Iraqi civilians. If the President, like many of us, was victimized by bad intelligence from the CIA, he could have acknowledged his mistake. Was arrogantly removing a paper tiger dictator, no matter how brutal, worth the price?

If he really did care, he wouldn’t have blocked all new federally-funded stem cell research on the flimsy premise that microscopic ova, slated for disposal, were more important than the prospect of finding cures for diseases like diabetes, Parkinson’s, and paralytic conditions. If he really cared about the unborn, there would be a national commitment to adoption programs and adequate funding for foster parents. In fact, such few measures that did exist have been cut back.

If the President cared, he would encourage some inclusive dialogue about our inhumane, racist death penalty, the scourge of the civilized nations of the world. He would also convene a national commission to come up with some alternative to our ever-increasing stockpile of state and federal prisoners, many of them addicted and mentally ill. And, speaking of prisoners, he would stop stonewalling whenever reports surface of detainee abuse, and see that something is done about it.

If George W. Bush cared, there would be serious efforts to reduce our national deficit, rather than promises followed by inaction. Our children and grandchildren are being saddled with a humongous debt while Bush insists on cutting taxes and drivels on about privatizing parts of Social Security, which will cost hundreds of billions more.

If the President cared, we would already have a robust alternative energy plan, a global warming task force, and an urgent, massive educational project to enable us to compete with the Chinas and Indias of the future. If he cared, there would be a progressive Republican plan for universal health care for our children, as well as some kind of workable plan for all American citizens. He would stop pandering to the NRA, and stand behind a gun control law that would not take hunting and recreational weapons from law-abiding citizens, but would control the many kinds that criminals use—a measure favored by almost every police department in the country.

If George W. Bush truly cared about human life, he would have done everything possible to insist that the Secretary of Defense equip our troops with military equipment that could safeguard their lives. He did nothing and said nothing publicly at all.

And, to make a final point, only because it’s getting tiresomely repetitious, the President would stop waging his surreptitious war against poor people and the working class by cutting taxes disproportionately for the wealthy, rewarding his corporate chums, dismantling social services, eliminating many veterans’ benefits, and so on.

The Christianity that George Bush often proclaims calls for succor for the poor and afflicted. I see no evidence of that principle in his behavior. Some think of him as a “nice guy.” To me, he is just another in a long line of hypocritical and self-serving politicians, worthy neither of loyalty nor respect.
**All About Wine**

**Thoughts on grape juice**

One day a while back a husband and wife were standing at the wine bar sampling a few of the wines we were tasting that afternoon. Down below was their little one, about four or five and very well behaved.

“Mom, I want some grape juice,” he said in a soft little boy voice.

We all chuckled a bit, realizing a new meaning to the old phrase “Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink.”

Kid, we’ve got grape juice—plenty of it. Just none for you.

As I recall that story, my mind goes in two really different directions. On one hand: man, do we have grape juice! So much wine, so little time.

And in a year, we’ll have this much all over again. Sangiovese, Riesling (kabinett, spätlese, auslese), Grenache, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir/Blanc/Grigio/Grillo, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon/Franc, Tempranillo. From Spain, Italy, Germany, Napa, Barossa, Bordeaux, South Africa, South America, Paso Robles, Oregon. You say “Shiraz”; I say “Syrah.” (And Petite Sirah too, spelled a whole different way.) You say “Mataro”; I say “Mouvedre.”

I’m just getting started. No doubt: the wine world can be overwhelming. But on the other hand: wow. Such a fascinating world. So much great wine out there, and no matter how hard you try, with new ones constantly introduced into the market, you’re going to miss some of the ones that, if you knew about them, you’d really like. When we do our wine flights or tastings, we get so many different responses from people who are encountering a wine that they otherwise may have never tried. Some they’ll like; some they won’t. But the chance to learn about and experience a new wine is well worth the effort, regardless of the final impression.

In our flights, we try to present the wines in the order where each will best reveal its strength: the lighter whites first, progressing to the big red boys. On one of our recent flights, we served a rich Rioja, one that Robert Parker scored a 93. At $49.90 per bottle, it’s a treat. Usually during the wine flights, we also try to end with not only the biggest wine, but the wine with the biggest price too.

Following that Rioja, however, we poured a Petite Sirah, coming in at a great bargain price of $12.99. Coming from small grapes, the juice is intense; not big grape, but big wine. A Petite Sirah is not the wine which most people reach for when they’re looking for a big red, but perhaps they should. We made some believers last week, and one guy, who said he’d never had a Petite Sirah before, bought every bottle we had. His wine world is now bigger than it used to be.

But when I think of the irony of that little guy asking for grape juice, my mind goes in a different direction too. Why is it a crime for this little guy to sample some “grape juice” if his parents so desire? Why is our society so screwed up (for lack of a better phrase) when it comes to alcohol and the so-called “drinking age?” Perhaps with little doses here and there under his parents’ tutelage—of wine, beer, some 30-year-old Scotch, whatever—Junior won’t grow up thinking it’s such a big deal. Forbidden fruit is way too enticing. So why do we make it forbidden? I’m a big college football fan (and it is that time of year, finally!). One of the young guys on the team I support is suspended for the first game. He had an open container, when the police asked him what was in the cup, he had an open container; when the police asked him what was in the cup, he had an open container.

And was arrested. Can anyone make any sense of that? (A guy on another team beat a fellow student, with videotape evidence, and left him on the ground as he and a few teammates walked off. He has a two-game suspension. But I suppose this is a topic for another column some day.)

For a while, I taught at that same university. One day as part of the conversation we were having about a short story we’d read. I asked the blunt question: “How many of you DON’T have a fake ID?” This was a class of almost all full-term freshmen, who had placed into the second level English course—a pretty impressive group, in fact. About 20 in the class.

One poor little guy raised his hand.

Way back when I first began writing these columns, I dealt with the 80-year aftermath of Prohibition...
... ABOUT WINE continued from page 8

in this country and how loopy not only some of our laws are, but our attitudes as well. Can alcohol be abused? Of course—as can everything else, including church or cheese cake. But I would argue that the way we treat it makes it only more abused.

If parents are given the right to responsibly teach children to appreciate and value beverages beyond Kool-Aid and Coke, then perhaps we’ll remove the desire to binge. Perhaps we’ll remove the need to have nearly every self-respecting college kid breaking the “law” with a fake ID. Perhaps that honest kid could suit out and play the opening game without having a criminal record.

And perhaps the little guy could sample some grape juice next time without having his parents and me in danger of going to prison.

Are there other issues and other ways of looking at this topic? Sure. But this way deserves some attention too.

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

because they get a piece of the action no matter who sells the property.

The first thing you learn in Realtor's school is to smile and say "It's a great investment." Then the school teaches you that selling property is not necessary to make money, it's the listing that counts. Once you get the listing, you could be in Iraq and still get a windfall bunch of money on a sale by someone you don’t even know. Is this a great business, or what?

Realtors are like cops, they're necessary evils. Unlike cops, though, you can find one when needed. Realtors, like ants, are everywhere. They are necessary because it is impossible to sell your house without one, but evil because you must pay them a service fee equal to the national debt.

Recently, my son called and said, "Dad, I'm selling my house in Highlands. Can you recommend a good Realtor?" (Is the term “good Realtor” an oxymoron?)

I said, “You are about to get me in a whole bunch of trouble. I personally know 20 Realtors in Highlands and if I pick one, the other 19 will be angry. Leave me out of this.”

I suggested he do research to find which Realtor would receive his windfall listing. I then called the 20 Realtors I know and told them what I did. They all got mad. Now instead of 19 Realtors mad at me, I now have all 20 asking why I didn’t pick them. I will add these people as members of the "Mad at Fred Club" list, which is now larger than the New Testament.

I prayed the Realtor he picked would be someone I didn't know. Since I only know 20 and there are 400, oops, I mean 402, chances were good he would pick a stranger. I waited and waited. Finally, I called my son to get a progress report.

Now he is on my "Mad at Fred" list also, claiming the research was overwhelming. Of the 402, oops, I believe it’s now 404 Realtors he checked, 212 were still in bed. Eighty-four were visiting Florida, taking the Realtor's test down there. Seventy-eight refused to return his call because it was long distance and 17 hung up on him when they heard his last name was Wooldridge. There were only 13 left and he finally picked one. Thank God, I didn’t know him!

You can bet on one thing though, right now, there are 403 angry Realtors looking in the MLS to see who he picked.
Highlands School News

It’s volleyball galore at Highlands School

By Claire Young
JV Volleyball Coach

The JV and Varsity Volleyball teams at Highlands School are gearing up for another exciting season. Led by Head Coach Rick Rawlins, Assistant Coach Kyle McKim, and JV Coach Claire Young, the Lady Highlanders have seven returning Varsity players including five seniors: Ramsey Ashburn, Team Captain; Maggie Dearth; Callie Rawlins; Anna Trine; and Leslie Wilson.

The Varsity team is well on its way toward its goal of securing the Conference Championship for the third year in a row after its resounding win against the Nantahala Lady Hawks on Thursday evening, its first conference game of the season. Highlands won in three straight games (25-17, 25-16, 25-23), thanks to strong, consistent serves and very few hitting errors. Ramsey Ashburn was 100% at the serving line, getting all 12 of her serves in, including 4 aces. Junior Katie Bryson also boosted the Highlanders with 7 aces out of 16 successful serves. Outside Hitter Anna Trine dominated the net with 12 kills, thanks to great performances from setters Callie Rawlins and Toni Schmitt who had 12 and 10 assists, respectively.

After tough losses at Franklin High School on Tuesday, both the JV and Varsity teams brought home wins last Wednesday evening in their first home game against Rabun Gap Nacoochee School. Once again, 100 percent serving performances from juniors Rebecca Ashburn, Angela Sanchez, and Toni Schmitt helped the varsity team win its match in three straight games. Angela and Rebecca also had strong performances in the JV match.* Angela served all 12 serves in, including 7 aces, and had 7 digs and 15 assists. Rebecca contributed 4 aces, 12 digs from the back row, and 5 kills. Sophomore and JV Team Co-Captain Danny Puchacz had 7 digs, as did Freshman Setter Marisol Ruiz. Freshman Carolyn Hornsby was also 100 percent from the serving line.

All home games will be held in the new gym at Highlands School so please come out to see the new facility and support our team!

The Fighting Highlanders
August 29
Highlands vs. Polk Co. - 4-5

The Fighting Highlanders fought long and hard for their four points, Monday night.

Polk Co. lead 2-1 and half and went up 5-1 until Highlands finally found themselves and scored 3 unanswered goals threatening to tie the game in the waning seconds with continue pressure on the goalie.

Coach Parrish said mental errors ended up being the difference in the score with the game proving to be a tremendous learning and building experience for the team. “We are coming together as a unit and should do well the rest of the season,” he said.

Ryan Bears and Taylor Parrish scored goals and Buddy Parrish scored 2.

The team has now played six games, all against very tough competition. Polk County currently ranked #4 in State for all 1-A schools. “We have yet to win, but we improve with each match,” said Parrish. “We scrimmaged two weeks ago in Asheville playing two 3-A schools (Erwin 0-3 and Piedmont 2-3) and 4-A powerhouse Watuga 0-4, losing all three.

“IPurposefully set a tough beginning to the season to get the team ready for another shot at a Big Smokey Mountain Conference Championship and prepare them for the State Playoffs,” said Parrish. “All and all the team has performed better than my expectations and if we can get and stay healthy, should have a very successful season.”

The record is now 0-3 with losses to Franklin (0-3), Rabun Gap (2-4) and now PolkCo.

VOLLEYBALL

VARSITY TEAM MEMBERS
Ramsey Ashburn, Captain; Rebecca Ashburn;* Katie Bryson;* Maggie Dearth; Callie Rawlins; Angela Sanchez;* Toni Schmitt; Anna Trine; Leslie Wilson; and Allison Winn.*

VOLLEYBALL JV TEAM MEMBERS
Chelsea Carlson; Jessica Dryman; Carolyn Hornsby; Amanda Parmelee; Co-Captain; Danielle Puchacz; Co-Captain; Marisol Ruiz; Vicky Smith; and Taylor Stinson.

*Special thanks to Varsity players Rebecca Ashburn, Katie Bryson, Angela Sanchez, and Allison Winn who play in JV games as needed.
Golfers support Scholarship Fund

On the winning team with a score of 59 were Tony Potts, Randy Marshall, Bobby Potts and Dennis Perkins (not pictured.)

This year’s Highlands School Scholarship Golf Tournament was held at the Cullasaja Club where participants were treated royally. About 136 golfers teed off at 12:30 Monday, Aug. 29 to play 18 holes. About $40,000 in proceeds was added to the scholarship pot which brings the principle close to $665,000. Each year, Highlands School graduates and alumni in college who apply are granted scholarships to offset college expenses.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Highlands Playhouse
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2005
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Don’t miss ‘Driving Miss Daisy’

By Kim Lewicki

Well, it’s true. Highlands Playhouse Director Robert Ray and Executive Director Joseph Litsch CAN produce musicals and drama.

“Driving Miss Daisy,” at the Playhouse through Sept. 4 is just plain great.

If chemistry is key then that’s what made it work. Chris Weatherhead as Miss Daisy and Charles Venning as Hoke appear to be the real thing—they’re that comfortable together. Randall Taylor as Miss Daisy’s son Boolie was convincing as well—a doting son caring for his mother while catering to her eccentricities.

Like Executive Director Joseph Litsch said in his piece about the play prior to its opening “Everyone knows a Miss Daisy,” her idiosyncrasies, her prejudices, her attitude, her heart. She is immediately endearing and Weatherhead plays Miss Daisy exactly as she should be portrayed.

Theater—music and drama—with a professional, polished touch is what’s at the Playhouse this year.

If you haven’t seen “Miss Daisy” there’s still time. It’s well worth the ticket price. Call 526-2695 for reservations.
Erosion control at HCCDC

The Highlands Community Child Development Center began planting this week to beautify the town’s right-of-way on Church Street in front of the new center.

The streetscape designed by John Jeffers, local resident and award-winning Atlanta landscape architect/horticulturist, is jointly funded by Beverly Howell and an HCCDC nonprofit grant from the Town of Highlands.

Because of the heavy rains this summer, John Jeffers with landscapers Ananda Mills and Van Williams have planned and sequenced the work on the steep bank to minimize potential erosion and sitation problems while the work is being done.

The erosion control netting placed on the slopes during construction is being rolled back in small, controlled sections to allow raking, planting, and mulching of the landscaping. Only when each section of work is completed and mulched is the erosion control mat rolled back to expose another fresh area. No section of disturbed soil is left uncovered overnight.

As an added precaution, a silt fence was installed at the bottom of the slope in case of a rain storm while the work is in progress.

“HCCDC planned an environmentally conscious project from the very beginning. The board of directors is committed to being a good neighbor and responsible member of the Highlands business district,” said Bob Wright, President of the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association and Treasurer of HCCDC, Inc. “With the high rainfall intensities experienced this summer, it is impossible to minimize erosion and silt in the streets unless the project is carefully planned and executed to eliminate large areas of disturbed land left unprotected during the nights and weekends,” he said.

“HCCDC’s contractors and landscapers have worked hard to combat the heavy rainfall and to repair or replace the erosion controls after they have been tested by Mother Nature.”

HCCDC’s philosophy is that quality early childhood development operations at the center and being an environmentally conscious corporate citizen of Highlands work together to produce happy, well prepared children who also have a sense of the importance of protecting the environment around them. Highlands is a special place. The best way to keep it that way is to teach our children how to take care of what they will inherit.

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‘Dearly Departed’ - a great way to end a decade
By Kim Lewicki
The Highlands Community Players ended their 10th season as it began — with a bang. Ten years ago when the group debuted, the community was delighted with the possibility of good community theater. These days the community is delighted with the consistently good theater the Players deliver.

This past weekend the seasoned group of players performed to a packed house for the second weekend in a row.

To recreate the intimate atmosphere of the original production of “Dearly Departed” performed 10 years ago by the fledgling group, Director Virginia Talbot opted to return to the Highlands Conference Center — the group’s home for several years prior to moving to the Performing Arts Center.

Quarters were cramped; tickets were $15 instead of $5 like years ago, but worth every penny.

Though still considered “community” theater, the group has grown professionally and the community has come to expect the polished shows it continues to produce.

There were plenty of regular Players on stage like Jim Gordon, Jean Morris, Jody Read, Stuart Armor, Derek Taylor, Dean Zuch and Virginia Talbot and they did their expected good job, but the new faces, some on stage for the first time, helped carry the show to standing ovations.

Jennifer Royce, who played Suzanne, Lee Lyons, who played Lucille, and Sue Manning, who played Raynelle Turpin, all major characters and newcomers to Highlands Community Players, were hilarious and endearing.

But like they say, “It takes a community to raise a child” and the child the Highlands Community Players has raised can now stand on its own. The 2005-2006 season promises to be a good one and Highlands will continue to enjoy the outstanding community theater it has come to expect in the Players.

Opening its 11th season Oct. 27-30 and Nov. 4-6 is “The Second Time Around.” Call 526-8084 for ticket information.

Auditions for “The Second Time Around” are Sept. 18, 3 p.m. at PAC. A copy of the play is at the Hudson Library. The play calls for eight characters: one older man; one older woman, two middle-aged men, two middle-aged women, one teenage boy and one teenage girl.

Coming up: The Second Time Around, Oct. 27, 28, 29, 30, and Nov. 4, 5, 6; The Hollow March 2,3,4,5, and March 10,11,12; I Remember Mama May 4,5,6,7, and 12,13,14; Simon’s Suites - New Directors’ Project Aug. 10, 11, 12, 13, and 17, 18, 19, 20.

Season subscribers get four plays for the price of three. All 2005-2006 performances will be presented at PAC on Chestnut Street.

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The new president of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital says he is thrilled to be back in the mountains of North Carolina and to continue his 30-plus year career in health care management at a hospital that has such strong community support.

Kenneth A. Shull, FACHE, who was most recently the president of the South Carolina Hospital Association, assumed his duties at the hospital Tuesday morning. He replaced Jim Graham, who is relocating to Winston-Salem, N.C., for family reasons.

“I’m thrilled to be back in the mountains after many years, and to get closer to the front lines where patient care is actually taking place. For someone like me, that’s something that can only happen in a smaller hospital,” said Shull. “I’m looking forward to working with the people here at the hospital and throughout our communities.”

Shull began his career in hospital administration in Banner Elk, N.C., where he was assistant administrator at Charles A. Cannon Jr. Memorial Hospital.

“I’ve always had fond memories of that time in the mountains and it’s great to get back. Every one in the family is looking forward to getting back to the mountains,” he added.

Shull’s children are both married with families of their own. His daughter and her family live in the Tidewater region of Virginia. His son’s family is in the Charlotte area. However, he says they all eagerly anticipate the prospect of having a place to visit in the mountains.

While Shull has spent most of the last eight years heading up the 90-member hospital trade association in the state only a few miles to the south, he has had more than 20 years experience in leadership and management in individual hospitals and hospital systems. Most recently he was president and CEO of Lexington County Health Services District, in West Columbia, S.C., which operates a 292-bed acute hospital, 354-bed nursing center, and an ambulatory care facility in nearby Irmo, S.C.

“In Ken Shull we have found an experienced administrator with outstanding leadership ability, and we are very pleased to welcome him to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital family,” said Jack Calloway, FACHE, and CEO of the hospital. “We know that Ken will bring a lot of knowledge, both at the operational level and from an industry-wide perspective, to his new role here at the hospital.”

Prior to heading up the Lexington County health system, Shull was president of two smaller hospitals: Stanly Memorial Hospital, a 126-bed facility in Albemarle N.C., and Cannon Memorial Hospital in Pickens, S.C., with 56 beds.

“Over his career, Ken has managed both large and small hospitals, which gives him a much wider perspective on many of the issues facing Highlands-Cashiers Hospital,” said Walton K. Nussbaum, chairman of the Board of Directors. “We are looking forward to working closely with him in the weeks and months ahead to strengthen the hospital and move it forward into the future.”

Shull has a Masters degree in Hospital Administration from the Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, and a Masters of Business Administration from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville II. He was an administrative resident at Community Hospital Roanoke Valley in Roanoke, VA.

Prior to that residency, he served for four years in the US Air Force, attaining the rank of captain.

He is certified in hospital management and a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He has received the Distinguished Service Award from both the North Carolina and South Carolina Hospital Associations. And he has served as chairman of the Hospital Advisory Committee and the Standards Review Committee for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. He was also active in a number of community organizations in and around the Columbia, S.C., area.
A whirlwind week of...  

By Rachel Power  
Highlands Rotary Exchange Student  

W  

The celebration started off with a costume party last Friday. I decided to go as a hippie as a last minute decision. It was very fun. It was like a Halloween party! There were a lot of interesting costumes there. Some were very original. One girl was dressed up in a nurse’s costume, and the dress was made entirely of the covers of Belmont cigarette cartons! My host sister’s class all dressed up like Egyptians, and they had one girl dressed up like Cleopatra. One guy dressed up like a blind bum, with a cane, sunglasses, and a little cup for money. Another crazy costume was a dress covered with balloons all in different sizes and in a cool pattern. The senior class dressed up like a huge Mafia gang! With fake guns and black suits! All the crazy costumes were for a contest of the most original costume. I don’t know who won, because the winners were announced at 2 a.m., and I went home at 1:30. I liked the Mafia gang the best.

That weekend was very busy, as well. On Saturday, I studied my Spanish and went to shop with my mother. On Sunday, my family and I went to the Agriculture Center, which is a huge open market with lots of different foods. There were fruits that I have never seen or heard of (like this one that looks like an artichoke), light green squash with spikes, barrels and barrels of olives in vinegar, boxes filled with dried fruit.

Arica is all desert, but it has two valleys from where the city gets its main crops. In Valle de Azapa, there are olives and tomatoes. And in Valle de Lluta, (pronounced like Utah) there is corn.

Later on in the evening, we ate lunch with other family members and family friends at a recreation place called Centro Español. The recreation center is mainly for families who are Spanish. For lunch, my grandmother made this delicious Spanish dish with mussels, shrimp, chicken, pork and rice called Paella. It was so good. My grandparents here in Arica are originally from Spain, and cook Spanish dishes every time we come over for dinner or lunch. I hope to cook with my grandmother soon and learn how to cook like she does!

After lunch, the parents talked and drank coffee for hours, while all the kids played outside. I played soccer with my cousin, Santiago, and other guys for two hours! I also played racquet ball and pool. I also met another Rotary exchange student from Germany named Maya. There was a small earthquake that night, but it was so small that you could barely notice it. The next day we went back to the Centro Español after lunch. We stayed there for a few hours again, and then went home. I spent the rest of the night hanging out with my Finnish cousin Sonja (pronounced Sonya).

The following Tuesday was a school day, but it was only a half-day. On Wednesday, the whole school went to the beach for games and to hang out. The beach was beautiful! The ocean waves were so big and looked powerful as they hit the rocky shore. The water is extremely blue because it is so cold. But Allison, a girl from Iowa, and I went in the water anyway. It was freezing! So we only stayed in for like five minutes! According to the locals, this time of year is freezing! But to me, it is autumn in Highlands, so when I walk around in flip flops or with only a hoodie on at night, their jaws drop. For the activities on the beach, I was on a volleyball team and we played the other classes for the Volleyball Championship. Our team won the volleyball championship against everyone. They are very enthusiastic about cheering and winning games! So it was very exciting the whole time.

Thursday was the day for the soccer games. The guys played on the huge field, while the girls played against each other on a baby soccer field. I wanted to play on the regular field, but it is against the rules or something. But I had a great time anyway. My team beat the seniors, with the score of 2-0. I scored both points. The next game I played was against my sister’s team, so it wasn’t too fair to play them, because they are 12 and 13 years old. But we won, 3-1. I felt very self-conscious about playing against them, because they are so small, and I am so aggressive on the field! But I only
scored two against them. My team didn't want to slaughter them horribly.

On both Wednesday and Thursday nights there was a choreography contest at the school and video clip challenges. The video clips were the best! The classes would pick a music video and remake it and copy all of the moves on the video, act and sing. It was great! My favorite one was the remake of the song "Don", by Miranda. If you can, download the music video! It is great! The singer sounds like Brian Starr, but with more of a video! It is great! The singer sounds da. If you can, download the music It was great! My favorite one was the video and remake it and copy all of the moves on the video, act and sing.

On Friday, there were the final tournament games for the soccer contest at the school and video clip days there was a choreography release. Some momentous and homespun in volleyball, basketball, soccer and a couple more dances wouldn't be so bad. It is so much fun to see the kids do school again next week! Ahh! This week has been so fun. Can't wait for more! Chao!

... AMY continued from page 6

... DON continued from page 6

... CANDIDATES continued from page 6

... HANK
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Highlands’ Newspaper - Friday, September 2, 2005 - Page 19
Last August Clyde S. McCall, Jr. climbed to the roof of the cabin he was building in Cashiers. Next came the intense chest pain.

"I knew the pain wasn’t going to go away and going to the ER was the smart thing to do," Clyde says.

And he was right. Within minutes of his arrival, Dr. John Baumrucker had diagnosed Clyde as suffering from an acute myocardial infarction. Using advanced clot-busting medications, Dr. Baumrucker and the ER staff were able to quickly stabilize Clyde’s condition.

"It was a quick diagnosis and quick action. I’m glad there are doctors like John Baumrucker and an ER as good as this one so close by," Clyde says.

This spring, Clyde fashioned a plaque using wood from his cabin and presented it to Dr. Baumrucker and the ER staff.

"This simple piece of wood represents a life saved," says Dr. Baumrucker.

And that is our greatest reward.
Bolivia auction set for Sept. 17

By Dr. John Baumrucker

The Bolivian Mission is proud to announce the annual auction of Bolivian art and the work of local artists. This year's auction will be held at the Highlands Playhouse on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. with catered food and live and silent auctions.

Many items will be featured including two end tables made by the local craftsman, John Rieckelman. John never sells his work, and this is the only opportunity you may ever have to purchase a piece of his beautifully crafted furniture. This furniture and two cherry benches made by Herb James were made from the same tree that fell during Ivan last fall.

There will be fine Alpaca garments, hand carved wooden animals, jewelry, wooden bowls, chairs, and other fine Bolivian artifacts available for purchase, in addition to work by local artists. This is the main fundraiser for the mission that has done so much for the tropics of Bolivia, one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. In March the mission brought laparoscopic surgery equipment to the hospital, and the surgeons were taught how to use this new technology by Dr. San Ho Choi of Franklin. Defibrillators donated by the Baptist Medical Hospitals in Tennessee were distributed to five local hospitals, and Dr. Rodenbeck did his dental clinics with the help of several Highlands volunteers. Two homes were built and a church begun during the mission. Martha Rodenbeck did her wonderful evangelism skits in churches, schools and in the streets.

Reservations for the event can be made by calling 526-3605. The cost for the evening is $50 per person, and the admission is tax deductible.

Artwork will be available, too.

Jewelry and chandelier designer Dorian Webb was at Cool Cats Hot Dogs on S. Fourth Street ... on the hill, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 26 and 27 with her new fall collection of beads and baubles.

By Dr. John Baumrucker

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Business News

Cool Cats Hot Dogs

Jewelry and chandelier designer Dorian Webb was at Cool Cats Hot Dogs on S. Fourth Street ... on the hill, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 26 and 27 with her new fall collection of beads and baubles.
Cajun Music and Dance Festival

Put on your dancing shoes! The Atlanta Swamp Opera Cajun Band is coming to Highlands with some uplifting Cajun music. Mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 4 at 6 p.m. for some big fun at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center.

For a small donation of $25 to benefit PAC, you will be treated to home style Cajun cuisine, some of the best toe tapping music around and dance lessons from Highland’s own Morris and Anita Williams from Carolina Cajun Dance.

On exhibit will be all of the entries from the Cajun Music and Dance Festival poster contest and a special Mardi Gras surprise. There will be some great door prizes ready for you to claim, too!

We are fortunate to have a terrific band join us this year. The Atlanta Swamp Opera is a “birthless and talented, high-energy traditional Cajun and Zydeco band with a modern flavor.”

Larry Enlow, accordion and vocals, Maureen Kilroy, guitar and vocals, Lisa Backalenick, fiddle and vocals, Doug Landsburg, drums and Larry English, bass make up this highly acclaimed band. In 1997 the Cajun French Music Association voted their album “Et Toi” the second best recording by a band from outside of Cajun Country.

They are known for their angelic vocal harmonies, intricately woven sometimes high-energy other times ethereal fiddling, driving rhythm and attitude of fun and rapport with the crowd. Their waltzes are beautiful and haunting, their two-steps are spicy and powerful and their Zydeco numbers are hot. Best of all they are great to dance to! They have released two albums “Pour Toi” and “Et Toi.”

Come early for Cajun dance lessons from 6-7 p.m. with Carolina Cajun Dance instructors. The best part of Cajun dancing is that “there are no wrong moves, just new steps.” For anyone who thinks they can’t dance…this is for you. If you can walk, you can Cajun dance! Members of the Atlanta Cajun Dance Association will be available as dance partners.

Many thanks to our sponsors, The Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, Carolina Cajun Dance, Don Leon’s Deli Café, the Highlands Hospitality Group, Let Holly Do The Cooking,…On The Verandah and The Toy Store. Get your tickets now from Don Leon’s Deli Café, Let Holly Do The Cooking, The Toy Store or PAC. You don’t want to miss this one. For more information call Janet Wilson at 526-1552. Laisse Les Bons Temps Rouler! Let the good times roll! See you there.

Fine Art Auction Sept. 30-Oct. 1

Sept. 30 it’s a silent auction and a tasting of fine wines; Oct. 1 it’s a seated dinner, live auction and silent auction. Artists have donated their work for the event. For tickets, call 526-4949.

Pilot Mountain by artist Jack Stern
On-going

- Thursdays at the Library — an eclectic mixture of programs by authors and musicians on topics designed for enjoyment and education of area residents and visitors alike. All programs are free and start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. For more information, please call during library operating hours at 524-3600. Library hours are 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.
- 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.
- "Driving Miss Daisy" at Highlands Playhouse is performed through Sept. 4. Call 526-2695 for ticket information.
- Music and dancing at Fressers in Helen’s Barn the third Thursday of each month, 8-12.
- 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 guitarist Rufus Morgan.
- Live music at Wolfgang’s Restaurant and Wine Bar, Mon., Wed., Thurs., 6-10 p.m.
- Labor Day Weekend at Highlands Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30. Saturday, special guest Jeb Boyd with Corley Family wines. Complimentary Samples Saturday from 12:30-4. Open Sunday.
- Labor Day Weekend at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, offers a special fitness classes Monday through Thursday. Health Tracks at 526-1348 for details.
- 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. Open houses and tours of the model home and clubhouse.
- Al-Anon Group meets at noon on Thursdays in the Community Room at First Presbyterian Church.
- Mountainview Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the remodeled basement room of the Presbyterian Church sanctuary, Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon.
- Carolina Cajun Dance instructors, Morris and Anita Williams, will be offering dance lessons on Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at the Rec Park. Lessons include Waltz, two-step and jitterbug. Call 526-9713 to register.
- Julia Boss Fine Jewelry Trunk Show at Compton Main Street, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Photography and weaving exhibit at Mill Creek Gallery on Oak Street at Village Square behind Wolfgang’s "Desert by Day, Vegas by Night." Opening Friday 5-7 p.m. Come see Las Vegas shot "after dark.
- Sept. 3 — Audubon bird walk at the Highlands Biological Station and Sunset Rock for fall migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Highlands Town Hall. For information, call Edwin Pool, 526-2775.
- At Instant Theater Studio on Main Street, Drometry – Instrumental duets that travel the globe. Local band DROMEDARY played to a sold out house at The Studio. They’re back this year by popular request. Complimentary wine and soft drinks served with all performances. For ticket information call 828-342-9197. Only 50 seats available. Reservations STRONGLY Suggested.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike with an 800-foot elevation gain, to the Devil’s Den on Whiteside Mountain. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America Saturday at 9:30 a.m. or the Forest Service parking area at Whiteside at 9:30 a.m. Drive 10 miles round trip, returning 2:30 p.m. — L. GEORGE REEVES, LEE LADENSACK with James Poe — They will be on tap at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center Friday at 8 p.m. Two bands, including “Bluegrass Alliance” (shown above) will perform. Tickets are $30 and may be reserved by calling the PAC at 526-9047.
- Sept. 7 — A Beth Moore Bible Study, The Patriarchs: Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, beginning Sept. 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Various options will be presented as well as how and when to take video presentations and discuss each study. Reservations are required. Call Leader Kay Correll, 369-6820, for reservations or more information.
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- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 1.5 mile hike on the Rufus Morgan trail with some stream hopping and a short steep section to see a rock wall. Meet at Westgate Plaza (opposite Burger King) in Franklin Sunday at 2 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call Leader Kay Correll, 369-6820, for reservations or more information.
- Visitors and first day of the Book Fair. Dinner at 5:30 p.m., general meeting at 6 p.m. in the Highlands School cafeteria.
- InterChurch 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 to the Plateau Fly Fishing Club on Thursday. The meeting will be held at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers at 7 p.m.
- Sept. 15-22 — Fall 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 September 15, or they may shop before or after school during the Book Fair week.
- Sept. 16 — “Country Music, High Style” will be on tap at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center Friday at 8 p.m. Two bands, including “Bluegrass Alliance” (shown above) will perform. Tickets are $30 and may be reserved by calling the PAC at 526-9047.
- Sept. 17 — The Bolivian Mission is proud to announce the annual auction of Bolivian art and the work of local artists. This year’s auction will be held at the Highlands Playhouse on Saturday at 6 p.m. with catered food and live and silent auctions. Reservations for the event can be made by calling 526-3605. The cost for the evening is $50 per person, and the admission is tax deductible.
- At Instant Theater Studio on Main Street, GEORGE REEVES & LEE LADENSACK with James Poe — They will be playing a collection of their original music. These musicians have a large and devoted local following. Reserve early. Complimentary wine and soft drinks served with all performances. For ticket information call 828-342-9197.
- Sept. 20 — 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 Pool, 526-2775.

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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Loosen up

There are times in all our lives when we look around and wonder... where is God? Simply by asking this question, we are on the solid ground of what we call "a spiritual journey" - the long path that winds in and out of the thickets in our life and into wide open spaces where we experience God. On this path all of us are seeking a glimpse or experience of God. Our search is both active and passive. The active search for God brings us to worship; to scripture, to silence, to theologians, or to fellowship. The passive search for the holy originates from our awareness of God's presence in everyday occurrences, coincidences, and happenings.

The tough part of our journey comes when we try to explain these occurrences. Upon reflection, why would anyone feel comfortable explaining God's presence? We live in a society that explains the touchable, scientific, historic, even philosophical. In the public arena, our experiences of God tend to fall into a catch-all basin commonly referred to as "spiritual." This word is so elusive. The best anyone can do to define it is say "It has something to do with God, but it's not religious." The use of the word always makes me ask, why does society have such difficulty sharing its experiences of God's presence?

One reason for the difficulty is once we put words to something so personal, someone inevitably slaps a label on it. As a society, we like labels, because they eliminate the unknown. Labels are safe. However, labels (at best) water down our experience and (at worst) labels remove the very thing we just experienced – God. Labels are dangerous, especially when they become the only means of experiencing God. For example, use any of these words together in a conversation and I guarantee you will also remove the very thing we seek - God: liberal/conservative, mainstream/fundamentalist, orthodox/revisionist, truth/heretical. It happens over and over again. Get into a conversation with someone about your experience of God, and you will find yourself with one of these labels.

My answer to all the labeling and rhetoric, is to say, "Loosen up!" We are all on a spiritual journey. We are all capable of experiencing God in our life. I describe my relationship with God through Christ. I experience God in the Bible, in a prayer book, a hymn, or I may get a glimpse of God in a Johnny Cash song, or through a walk in the woods, or even a golf course. How do you experience the holy?

By arguing about the answer, or labeling it, or dividing yourself from it, you are wasting the very thing God gave us - love. You are wasting that breath that was breathed into you to experience that love. Loosen up! And give yourself the freedom to experience God in all the varied expressions that are out there. It is not going to hurt, and if it does, someone will welcome you back to the comfortable label you came from.

PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU

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

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

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

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

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

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 1:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
(Edward 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 Cursillo Group (Library) - 4
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo 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

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. Adventist: del Sevino 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 Kiddie 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 Sizemore
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

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 Building
Sundays: Fellowship & Worship - 11

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Cashiers. Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Highlands International Film Festival Finale at OEI’s The Farm

A week of film festivities ended with an elegant affair thrown by festival sponsor Old Edwards Inn & Spa. The staff of Madison’s Restaurant dressed the “international” part and food stations laden with fare representing six countries were a hit. Photos by Jim Lewicki
The ability to pump it.

Problem isn’t a lack of fuel, it’s the inability to get the fuel to merchants.

They’ll just let us know.

Now our suppliers are saying they don’t have any to deliver.

Mart, said he expected to run out of fuel before Highlands which may have oil stockpiled in underground salt caverns in Louisiana and Texas.

... PUMPS continued from page 1

do not have one since Monday.

Director of the Chamber of Commerce Bill Basham said a fuel distributor for South Carolina and Georgia told him there is plenty of gas. “But with the power out, there’s no way to pump the fuel backed up in the main pipeline out of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama,” said Basham. “Obviously getting it up and running is a huge priority. Authorities expect it to be flowing again by the end of the weekend.” Basham said if people have enough to get them to the first of next week they should be fine. “But it’s likely to be expensive,” he said.

National oil analysts said a summer of stretched capacity and high demand was worsened by Hurricane Katrina that crippled half of the 1.5 million barrel-a-day production in the Louisiana-Mississippi area but the Feds have vowed to keep supplies flowing if necessary.

President Bush has gone public saying he may consider releasing some of the nation’s strategic oil supply to refineries who request it. But so far, no one has requested it. The government has more than 700 million barrels of crude oil stockpiled in underground salt caverns in Louisiana and Texas.

... See PUMPS page 27
... HURRICANES continued from page 1

The county hasn’t said anything official about new ordinances or anything dealing with steep slopes and slide areas,” said Macon County Planning Director Stacy Guffey. “However, the public is becoming extremely vocal about the need to regulate that type of development, so I’m thinking it will come up officially soon.”

Wooten and Latham said landslides are a result of a cumulative effect of many interrelated factors. “The causes include underlying geology, geomorphology, hydrology, weather and climate,” slope modification and deforestation.”

Triggers of landslides can be volcanic eruptions, earthquakes or blasting, freezing and thawing, slope modifications and precipitation from back-to-back storms like last year’s Hurricanes Frances and Ivan where large amounts of rain fell within weeks of each other.

During Hurricane Frances and Ivan, Western North Carolina experienced 130 landslides, five fatalities and the destruction of 27 homes.

The area’s relatively thin soil in steep contact with steeply dipping bedrock, means not much of a root system can develop to prevent landslides.

State geologists and emergency management officials have scheduled landslide workshops to help city planners, real estate agents, builders and others involved in development learn about the dangers of landslides and their warning signs. To learn more visit www.geology.enr.state.nc.us/news.htm or call 919-733-2423.

Some indicators of unstable slopes are trees that curve as they come out of the ground and scarps or tension cracks in the land that look like gullies.

... PUMPS continued from page 26

The U.S. Coast Guard said there are some oil platforms and rigs adrift in Katrina’s wake. Officials believe the damage is worse than that suffered from last year’s Hurricane Ivan. But the full extent of damage won’t be known until the oil companies can survey the damage.

Last September Hurricane Ivan wiped out around 45 million barrels of U.S. oil output over six months damaging seven platforms, 100 underwater pipelines which resulted in the loss of nearly 44 million barrels of oil production between September 2004 and February 2005.

Oil companies say it is too early to confirm whether Katrina has caused any damage to infrastructure. But the damage to offshore platforms and pipelines along the Gulf of Mexico is expected to trigger a supply crunch once what’s already been processed is disbursed.

Bassham said the high price of gasoline and the inability to get gas could affect tourism this year.

Western North Carolina has been in hurricane paths for years.

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... PUMPS continued from page 26

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The Buyers’ Real Estate Team
From left, Scott Harrison,
Bill Kruckenberger, Colene West,
Paul Collins, Ken Fernandez
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- **HELP WANTED**
  **PART-TIME EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NEEDED FOR A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN HIGHLANDS.** Duties include recording minutes, bookkeeping, maintaining member data, sale, 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.

- **HIGHLANDS POLICE DEPT.** Seeking a police officer. Successful candidate must be 21 years of age; BLET certified; submit to an extensive background investigation, drug screening, and a psychological evaluation. Applicant must possess a valid North Carolina driver’s license. Applicant must successfully complete the Highlands Police Department application process. Base Salary. Contact Captain T.R. Carver, 310 Oak Street, Highlands, or call 526-9431.

- **PART-TIME BI-LINGUAL OFFICE ASSISTANT POSITION** Available immediately. Help local organization improve harmony and understanding between international residents and the community. Must write and speak English and Spanish fluently, excellent interpersonal skills, computer literate. Ability to work with people of varying backgrounds and socioeconomic levels. Send resume to International Friendship Center, 348 S. Fifth St, N.C., or call 526-9938 ext. 290.

- **UNIT COORDINATOR FOR FIDELIA ECKARD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL** Performs clerical duties and acts as receptionist for the nursing unit. Ten hours per day for a total of 70 hours every two weeks. Schedule requires working every other weekend. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 526-1301.

- **MDS COORDINATOR/RN FOR FIDELIA ECKARD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL** Ensures timely completion of the MDS and care plan. Must be knowledgeable in the procedures for initiation of level of care changes. Full time, Monday through Friday, some weekends. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 526-1301.

- **CLINICAL DIETITION 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, 526-1301.

- **CNA’S! CHECK OUT THE NEW CNA WAGE SCALE AT FIDELIA ECKARD LIVING CENTER! Starting at $9.50 per hour (Plus weekend and shift differentials). All shifts available. Excellent benefit package for full-time positions. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 526-1301.**

- **HOUSEKEEPER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL** Full-time position, Fridays - Tuesdays, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 526-1301.

- **MAINTENANCE MECHANIC AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL** General plant preventive maintenance and repairs to hospital buildings, equipment, machinery, and grounds. Full-time position with excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 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 share call. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 526-1301.

- **LPNS AND RNS - FIDELIA ECKARD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL** 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, 526-1301.

- **VEHICLES FOR SALE**
  **2003 LAND ROVER FREELANDER SE** — AWD, V6, Leather, Sunroof, CD, TP, Wheels, Excellent Condition. 28,700 miles, $16,900, Call 421-0615

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- **RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT** — Highlands Plaza. Call 864-630-0808.

- **STORE FOR RENT** — on 4th Street. Call 864-630-0808.

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