

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 3, Number 35

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Sept. 2, 2005

On-going

- At Bascom-Louise Gallery, "Wood Works," an exhibit of fine art works created from wood by 13 accomplished artists

- Live music at Jack's at Skyline Restaurant every Friday and Saturday nights.

- "Driving Miss Daisy" at Highlands Playhouse through Sept. 4. Call 526-2695 for ticket information.

- 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.

- Labor Day Weekend at Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: 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.

Sept. 1

- Cajun Dance lessons Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at the Rec Park. Lessons include Waltz, two-step and jitterbug. Call 526-9713 to register.

Sept. 1-4

- Julia Boss Fine Jewelry Trunk Show at Acorn's on Main Street, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sept. 2

- Photography and weaving exhibit at Mill Creek Gallery 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 Town Hall. Call Edwin Pool at 526-2775.

- At Instant Theater Studio on Main Street. Dromedary - Instrumental duets that travel the globe. For tickets, call 828-342-9197. Only 50 seats available.

Sept. 4

- Cajun Music and Dance Festival on Sunday at 6 p.m. at PAC. For tickets, call 526-9047.

Sept. 7

- C.L.E. presents a talk about the life and music of Thelonius Monk by Mark Couture and Plavel Wlosok at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center. It's free.

- Labor Day Cook Out/Day at the Pool at Skyline Lodge. \$10 per person.

Sept. 8

- Male Chorus trio at PAC. Admission is \$10. Call 526-9047.

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.

"It's been crazy," said Charissa Barnes at Exxon Farmers Market. "Everyone is afraid we're going to run out."

Prices in Highlands are about \$2.85, \$2.95, and \$3.05 respectively for regular up to premium.

Some gas stations in Franklin ran out
• See PUMPS page 26

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 Cullusaja 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 or 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 devel-

• See HURRICANES page 27

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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

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 highschoolers 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;

• See INHALANTS page 2

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Fun on top of the mountain



Rayfest - a time for celebration, fun, and music on Ravenel Ridge - is an annual affair thrown by the McPhails and associates. But the affair is named for Ray -- affectionately referred to as a "repressed Bluegrass singer" by his friends. This year scores of guests gathered to picnic and party to the sounds of Appalachian music and song.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

... 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.

SRO officer Castle said there are tests to verify use, but symptoms of huffing are so obvious, a test isn't usually necessary.

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, lighters 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.



Photos by Jim Lewicki

'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.

- Kim Lewicki

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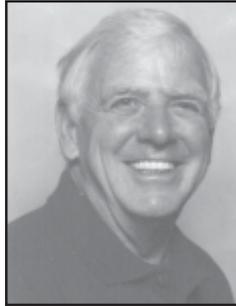
Call Helen Simmons at 828-526-2520

• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Get real

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



Fred Wooldridge

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.

If I were not busy writing a weekly column, playing bridge and keeping the little missus happy, I too would probably be in the mix, trying to sell a piece of rundown property for an outrageous price. Why not?

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to be a Realtor, just unemployed. You plunk down some money to attend Realtor's school and in a matter of weeks, you are one. Next, you need a broker. A broker is a person who plunked down more money than you and went to broker school. Actually a broker is more better (did I just say more better)?

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 9

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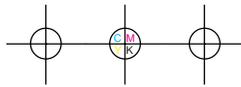
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• MOVIE PIX •

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 Belgium Academy of the Arts festival, and the San Sebastian Film Festival, was somewhat controversial, considered by some Palestinians as anti-Palestinian, thought by many Israelis 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 Palastinian 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 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



Stuart Armor
Movie Stop Video

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 of this story is that one of the few that treat the people in this volatile regions as, well, people, as opposed to movements or governments. The army is not portrayed as either jack-booted thugs or saviors. The Palestinians are shown, not as victims, martyrs, or terrorists, but as fathers and sons and daughters, and families with their won 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!

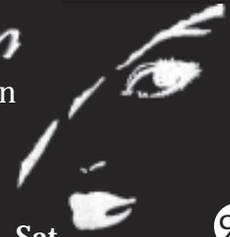
The Highlands School Booster Club is selling commemorative bricks to be put in front of the new gym on Pierson Drive.

Bricks cost \$50 and include three lines of text with 20 charactes 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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Sept. 2-8

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rated PG-13

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Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:15), 7:15, 9:15

THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN

rated R

Weekdays: (4:10), 7, 9:10

Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10

THE BROTHERS GRIMM

rated PG-13

Weekdays: 4:20, 7:10, 9:20

Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20

RED EYE

rated PG-13

Weekdays: 9

Sat & Sun: 9

MARCH OF THE PENGUINS

rated G

Weekdays:(4), 7

Sat & Sun:(2), (4), 7

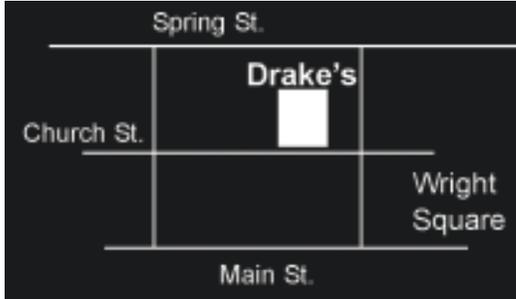
Drake's Diamond Gallery

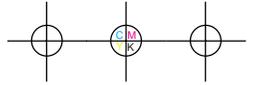


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The race for Town Board

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.

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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 same 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 Mayor Zeke Sossomon

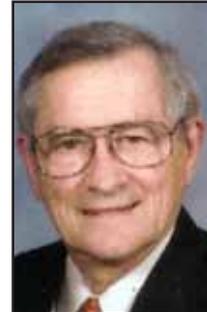
ETJ, in and of itself is neither good nor bad. It is simply a tool, along with others, which the State has given to municipalities, to be used in meeting municipal goals. The problem is in defining those goals.

The present recommendation seems a little ambitious to me.

The Highway 28 boundaries are pretty well set. The US 64 boundaries toward Franklin are set. Main Street, aka Horse Cove Road pretty much stops at the top of Horse Cove. The US 64 corridor towards Cashiers is another matter.

The reason for ETJ is to allow a municipality to protect its development plan, as expressed through zoning regulations, slightly beyond its borders for the sake of consistency. This is an issue facing Highlands now, so I

•See ZEKE pg 15



Mayoral Candidate Don Mullen

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 some time in these areas, rapid growth near the town of Highlands now makes this a greater local concern.

We live in a marvelous natural environment and must protect areas

•See DON pg 17



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 town limits.

Currently there is no control over that development so the community is left to the mercy of the developer.

Maybe the developer will be conscientious and considerate of Highlands as a community, but then again maybe not.

After all, the main interest of the developer is his bottom line and not the community.

ETJ would help insure that all development in the Highlands community would fit with the best inter-

•See AMY pg 17



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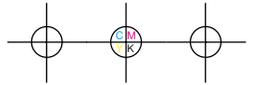
Famous Appalachian Fries

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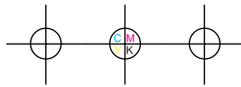
Fast Food is not Good And Good Food is not Fast

526-1600

30 Dillard Road • Highlands
(corner of Main Street and Dillard Road)



•See THE REST OF THE CANDIDATES on page 17



• 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?



Dr. Alex Redmountain

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 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 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 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 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.

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.

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.

If George W, Bush cared, there

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.

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Daniel & Brenda Hamilton

• **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 or so and very well behaved.



Bert Mobley
 Highlands Wine & Cheese

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: petite 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

"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, Reisling (kabinett, spatlese, auslese), Grenache, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir/Blanc/Gris/Grigio, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon/Franc, Temperanillo. 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 "Mouverdre."

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 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.

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, the honest young man told the truth. 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.)

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.

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 fall-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

•See ABOUT WINE page 9

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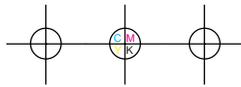
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... ABOUT WINE continued from page 8

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 cheesecake. 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.

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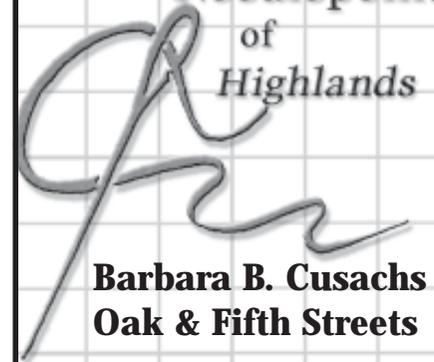
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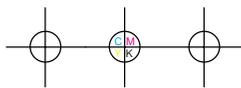
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Highlands School News

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!



Varsity captain, Ramsey Ashburn setting up for the Aug. 24, Rabun Gap game.

Photo by Claire Young



Left: Freshman Taylor Parrish scored the first goal unassisted at the Friday, Aug. 26 game against Rabun Gap.

Photo by Linda Parrish

Below: Junior Jason Aspinwall takes the ball down field at the Friday, Aug. 26 game against Rabun Gap.

Photo by Megan Lewicki

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.

"I purposely 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.



Photo by Noel Atherton
Ryan Perkins was spectacular as keeper/goalie during the Aug. 23 Highlands vs. Franklin game.

School News

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

H

Highlands Playhouse

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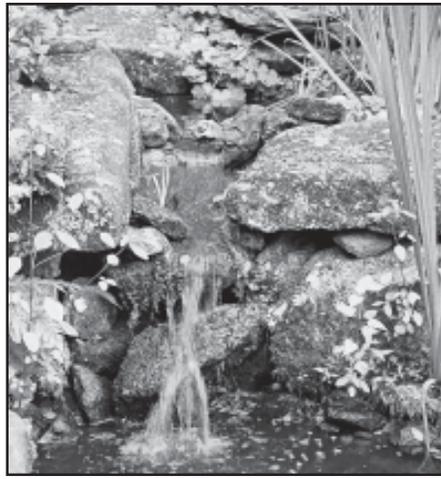
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Native Plant Conference

Landscape designer, Lois Fuller, will lead a field-trip to the gardens of Sheryl Hudgens of Highlands Falls Country Club and Dr. "Mo" Wheeler on Short Off as part of the Highlands Native Plant Conference September 9-11.

The Sixth Native Plant Conference sponsored by the Highlands Biological Foundation to benefit the Highlands Botanical Garden begins with a talk by gardening author Felder Rushing on Friday evening at 6:430 p.m. at PAC. His talk will be open to the public at no charge. Registration is \$100 for all events. Forms available at the Biological Station or by calling 526-2602.



Mo Wheeler's gawater garden.

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.

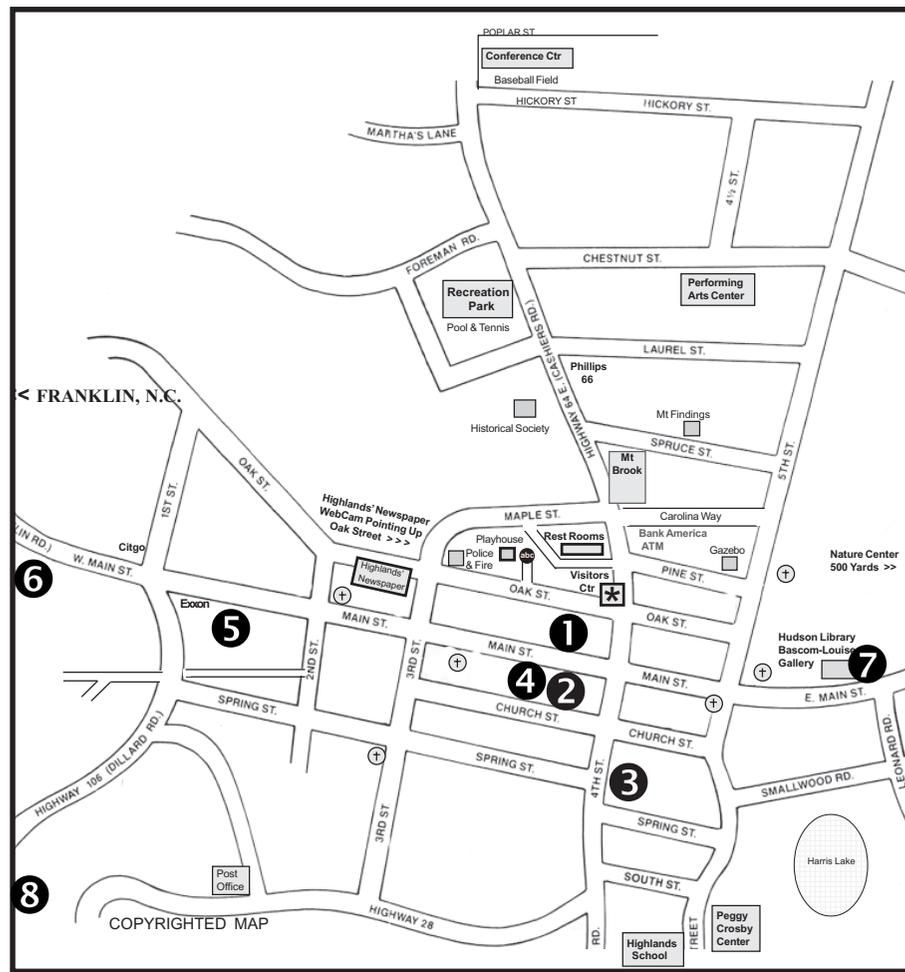
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Erosion control at HCCDC

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 siltation 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 rainfalls 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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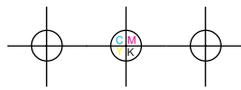
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'Dearly Departed' – a great way to end a decade

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 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.



New administrator at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

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 regions of Virginia. His son's family is in the Charlotte area. However, he says they are all eagerly anticipating 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."



Kenneth A. Shull

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, Ill. 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 both the Hospital Advisory Committee and the Stan-

dards Review Committee for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health-care Organizations. He was also active in

a number of community organizations in and around the Columbia, S.C., area.



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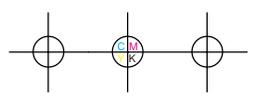
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... ZEKE continued from page 6

think ETJ is something which we have got to consider along this corridor. How and exactly where it is used is another matter. There has been no real debate, at least none that I'm aware of, of where, or why, to use ETJ. In other words, why are we going to use it, and where? It is important that the Town know what it is doing, and explain the goal to those affected. Landowners may not agree, but

they are entitled to know why.

I think there are justifications for imposing ETJ along the 64 corridor toward Cashiers, and to a lesser extent, along the 3 other roads, although probably not to the full extent permitted. What I really think is that the best use of ETJ is as a tool to bridge the gap leading to annexation. But that's another question.

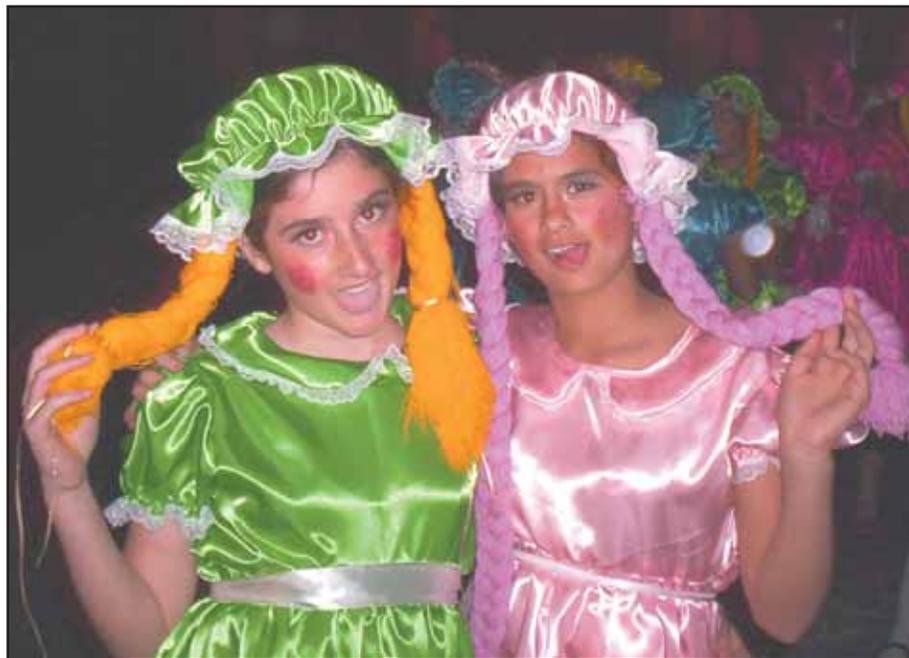




This is the view from my bedroom window. I am able to see Arica, and some other condos. I am also able to see a soccer stadium.



This picture is during the Anniversario, on the soccer fields. From left: Sonja, Panchita, Camilla, Hermiña, and Rachel.



Rachel Power's Arica "sister," Alejandra (in green) and her friend dressed up for a dance from the Wizard of Oz.

Rachel Power is one of two out-going exchange students sponsored by Highlands Rotary this year.

She and Sara Baty, both juniors at Highlands School, will be submitting articles about their year-long experience. Sara is in South Africa.

- News from Arica, C

A whirlwind week o

By Rachel Power

Highlands Rotary Exchange Student
Wow! So far the trip has been great! I have learned a lot more Spanish since I've been here. School is good, too. I don't have to take any tests or do homework yet, because I don't know the language very well. But I try to understand what is going on. I have only had four real school days because the whole week was dedicated to my school, Junior College's, anniversary.

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 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.

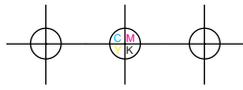
Later on in the evening, we ate lunch with other family members and family friends at a recreation place called Centro Español. The recreation center is mainly for families who are Spanish. For lunch, my grandmother made this delicious Spanish dish with mollusks, shrimp,

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



Arica, Chili, part 3 -

Week of fun traditions

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 rock and roll edge. I love it! I am going to try to get a copy of the video clip from the boy who made it. It was incredibly funny!

On Friday, there were the final tournament games for the soccer

division. The boys team in my class won the championship for that, but my team lost by one. I enjoyed it all anyway. Later that night, was a formal school dance. It was like Homecoming at Highlands. The party was held in a gigantic hotel on the beach, called Hotel Arica. It also has another great view of El Morro, a cliff that looks out to the ocean. El Morro has a gigantic statue of Jesus on top. There was a lot of dancing, and little hors d'oeuvres served for us. It was a great week. Highlands School should celebrate its birthday! Class vs. Class in volleyball, basketball, soccer and a couple more dances wouldn't be so bad. It is so much fun.

But oh no! school again next week! Ahh! This week has been so fun. Can't wait for more! Chao!

... AMY continued from page 6

ests of the community. Anyone who truly loves our community will not balk at conforming to rules that the community has agreed upon.

Some people will argue that the county should be the ones to regulate outside the town limits. I disagree for several reasons.

First, we have been waiting for at least 15 years for the county to establish some land-use regulations. To date, only ones mandated by the state have been enacted and they are of the minimally effective, minimally enforced, one-size-fits-all variety.

Second, I believe that land-use decisions that affect our community should be made by people who are part of our community.

Yes, Highlanders living outside town limits cannot vote for town board members but Highlands has always had sever-

al representatives from outside the town on its planning board and with ETJ there will also be outside representatives on the town zoning board.

Currently the county planning board has only one representative from the Highlands area and he is from inside town.

With ETJ the decision makers for our community will be your friends, relatives, neighbors, people you do business with and who do business with you, folks who know your family as you know theirs, people you recognize on the street or at the grocery store and who recognize you and call you by name.

I believe you will receive more effective representation from people you know and are part of your community than from county representatives whom you don't know, who don't know you and who are not part of our community.

... DON continued from page 6

sensitive to uncontrolled growth. This protection is for the greater good of all our inhabitants, both inside the town limits and outside our boundaries. Appropriate regulations in Highlands and the adjacent lands will insure that we are doing what is necessary to conserve our environment. Water runoff and lake management will all be necessary now and in the future as we also protect our green spaces and build new walkways and trails for the enhancement of our life in Highlands.

The Town Board, with the help of a

professional engineering evaluation, will have to look carefully at the expenses of providing services because the tax base will not be increased with ETJ. As we move into these areas of development in our community, these concepts must be studied carefully as we move forward in the growth of a town in which we can all continue to take pride.

Working together with firm, consistent and energetic leadership, we can all continue building a community which will honor our heritage.

... CANDIDATES continued from page 6

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.



Commissioner Candidate Hank Ross

The decision to extend extraterritorial jurisdictional (ETJ) boundaries to areas outside the town limits is one of the most serious decisions a town commissioner will make. It can affect many people's property both outside and inside the town. Among other things, ETJ could bring land use controls, subdivision and sign regulations, and improved sedimentation and impoundment protection to these areas within one mile of the town limits.

I do believe that ETJ is important to Highlands because of the large amount of development potential within the entire Highlands Plateau. Our major roadways are especially vulnerable to development that does not enhance the Town of Highlands and the Highlands Plateau. The lack of land use controls and subdivision code in unregulated Macon County is a major concern to me. I believe that managed growth

•See HANK this pg



Commissioner Candidate Eric Pierson

I am for and against the proposed ETJ depending upon what the ultimate intentions / outcome are to be.

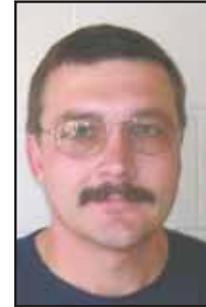
I think it can be positive if the town wants to impose a limited portion of its ordinances in these affected areas.

For instance, enforcing soil and erosion control to protect our watershed and provide some subdivision regulations to ensure proper, safe and responsible development is good for everyone.

However, I am against the idea of ETJ if it is to be the beginning of the town exacting its full zoning ordinances in order to control any growth outside of current town limits.

The truth is, there is a lot more to this than simply being for or against it. Some people want to create harsh density requirements in these areas which is not right, but could be done.

With very limited zoning, allowing one person on the planning and one person on the zoning boards would be OK, but if imposing too many regulations, the people in the ETJ'd area would not be represented adequately with only one vote.

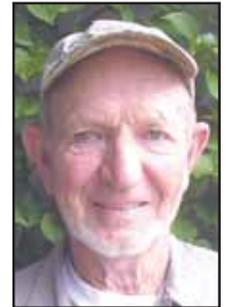


Commissioner Candidate James Manley

I am not for ETJ. I do not understand how this would benefit the property owners in this area. They would not get any Town benefits and would have zoning regulations and ordinances saying what they can and cannot do with their land. I would not be happy if I lived in this area.

Furthermore, the Zoning Administrator can hardly keep up with the enforcement of soil and erosion controls within the Highlands town limits. How will he keep up with the ETJ'd area?

The town would incur more expenses because it would have to hire the zoning administrator an assistant.



Commissioner Candidate Larry Rogers

The county has zoning. The strict zoning in the town limits is why the people have moved into the county.

The way I see it, being in the ETJ'd area will not benefit the people because they would have no voice with the town or county.

The people I have talked to inside the town limits, as well as outside the limits do not want ETJ.

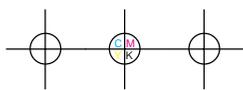
Furthermore, expanding the Town's boundaries through ETJ would require more town personnel thus more expense to the town.

We pay county taxes, let the county handle its own zoning.

... HANK

may be best for the future of the Highlands Plateau.

The decision to extend ETJ will not be made until after we have a public hearing. I encourage citizens from both inside and outside of town to participate in this important decision.



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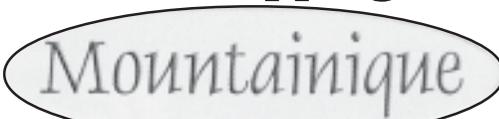


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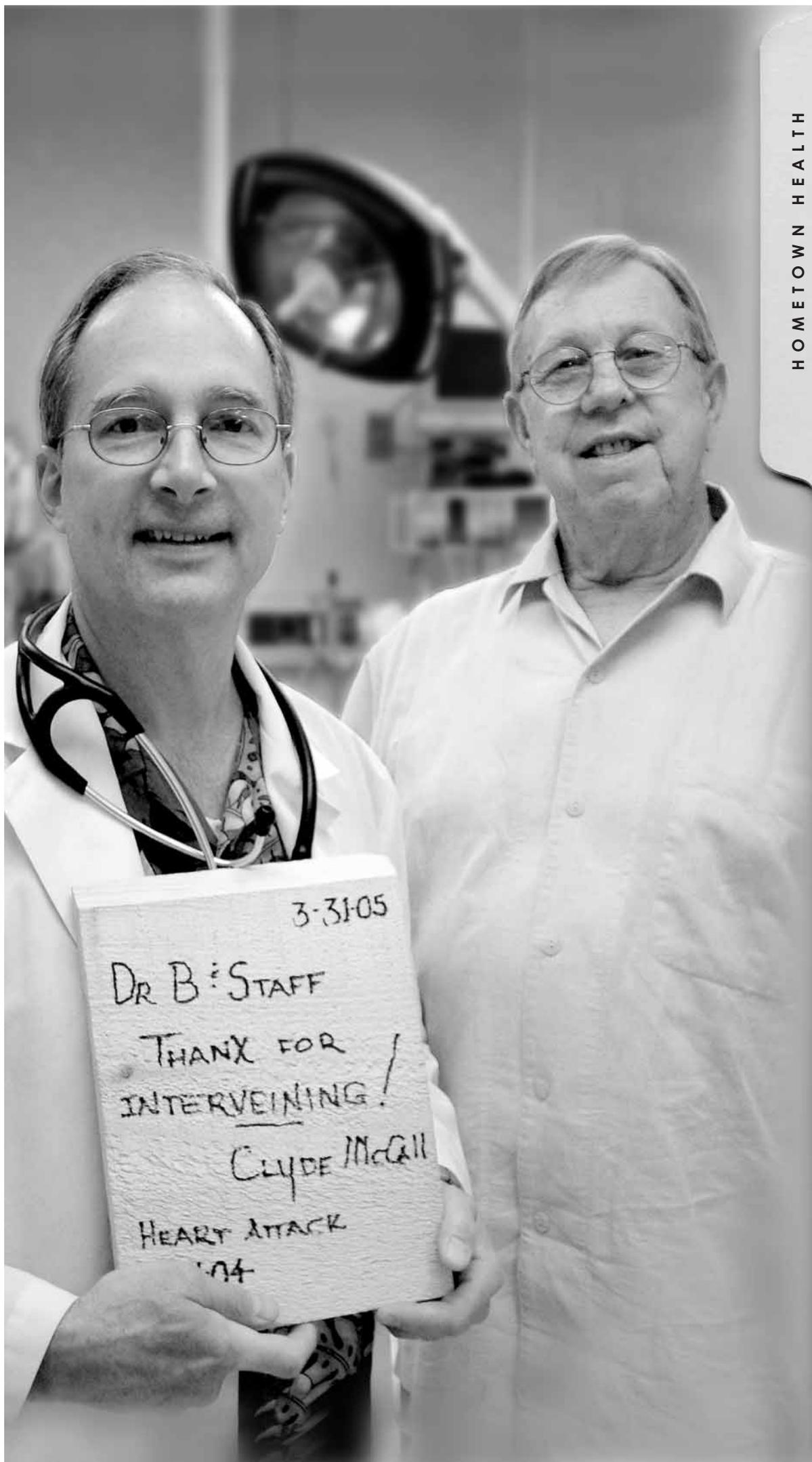
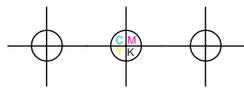
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Last August Clyde S. McCall, Jr. climbed to the roof of the cabin he was building in Cashiers. Next came the intense chest pain.

"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.

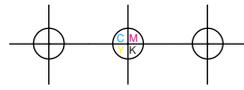


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Bolivia auction set for Sept. 17

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.



Artwork will be available, too.

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.

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Cool Cats Hot Dogs



Photo by Jim Lewicki

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.

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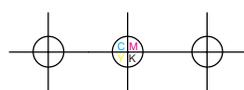


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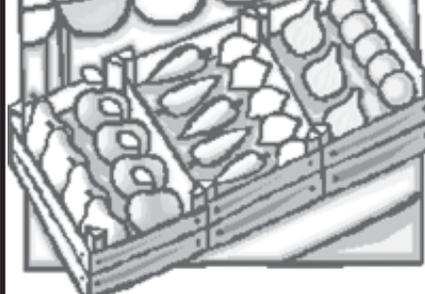
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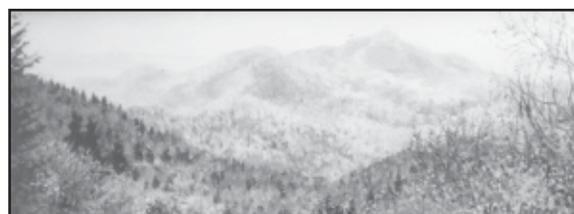
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Fine Art Auction Sept. 30-Oct. 1

Sept. 30 its a silent auction and a tasting of fine wines; Oct. 1 its 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

Cajun Music and Dance Festival set for September 4 at PAC

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 Highlands' 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 "tireless 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.

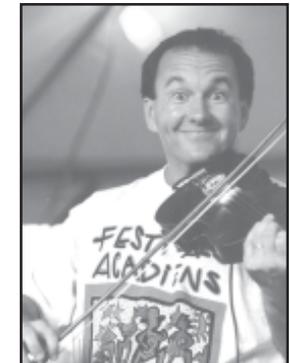
They are known for their angelic vocal harmonies, intricately woven sometimes high-energy other times ethereal fiddling, driving rhythm and attitude of fun and rapport with the crowd. Their waltzes are beautiful and haunting, their two-steps are spicy and powerful and their Zydeco numbers are hot. Best 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. Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler! Let the good times roll! See you there.



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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- Through Sept. 3, local photographer, Reuben Cox, is featured in an exhibit "The 2004 Contract Bridge World Championships!" at The Captain's Bookshelf at 31 Page Ave. in Asheville. Call (828) 253-6631.

- 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.

- At Bascom-Louise Gallery, "Wood Works," an exhibit of fine art works created from wood by 13 accomplished artists

- Live music at Jack's at Skyline Restaurant every Friday and Saturday nights.

- "Driving Miss Daisy" at Highlands Playhouse 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 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.

- Labor Day Weekend at Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: 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.

- HealthTracks, at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, offers a special fitness classes Monday through Thursday. HealthTracks 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. Refreshments and tours of the model home and Clubhouse.

- Al-Anon Group meets at noon on Thursdays in the Community Room at First Presbyterian Church.

- Mountainview Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the remodeled basement room of the Presbyterian Church sanctuary, Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon.

Sept. 1

- 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.

Sept. 1-4

- Julia Boss Fine Jewelry Trunk Show at Acorn's on Main Street, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sept. 2

- 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. Dromedary — Instrumental duets that travel the globe. Last October 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 Courthouse 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 9:50 a.m. Drive 10 miles round trip, returning 2-3 p.m. Call leader Mo Wheeler, 526-9561, for reservations.

Sept. 4

- Cajun Music and Dance Festival on Sunday at 6 at the fundraiser for the PAC. For ticket information call 526-9047. Sponsored by the Highlands Accommodations Group and PAC.

- 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 pretty waterfall. 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 Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sept. 7

- C.L.E. presents a talk about the life and music of Thelonius Monk by Mark Couture and Plavel Wlosok, professors at Western Carolina University at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center. This lecture is free, open to the public and sponsored by the Center For Life Enrichment.

Sept. 8

- A trio composed of baritone Stell Huie and tenors Wayne Coleman and John Greene will be one of the features in the performance of the Highlands Male Chorus, sponsored by the PAC. The chorus is directed by Orville Wike and accompanied by Angie Jenkins. Admission is \$10, with seating on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 526-9047.

Sept. 9-11

- Sixth Native Plant Conference sponsored by the Highlands Biological Foundation to benefit the Highlands Botanical Garden begins with a talk by gardening author Felder Rushing on Friday evening at 6:430 p.m. His talk will be open to the public at no charge, with seating at PAC on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is \$100 for all events. Forms available at the Biological Station or by calling 526-2602.

Sept. 10

- Our Lady of the Mountains Faith

Formation children's group is holding spaghetti supper in the parish hall on Saturday from 5 pm until...This is a fundraiser for the children and a new playground at the church. Cost is \$6 per person which includes spaghetti with Paoletti's famous sauce, meat balls, salad, bread, drink and dessert. For more information, please call the church office at 526.2418.

- At Instant Theater Studio on Main Street. ROCK'O — An Acoustic Dance Party. Out on your dancing shoes and come dancing. We're rolling up the rugs, folding up the Director's Chairs and creating a Dance Hall tonight. Come dance to LIVE Classic Acoustic Rock & Roll in a unique and intimate atmosphere. Complimentary wine and soft drinks served with all performances. For ticket information call 828-342-9197. Only 50 seats available. Reservations STRONGLY Suggested.

Sept. 12

- A Beth Moore Bible Study, The Patriarchs: Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, beginning Monday at Highlands School at 4 p.m. This study is open to anyone who desires to participate. There is a workbook to accompany the study, and there will be a video presentation and discussion each week for 11 weeks. Carol Bowen is the facilitator. Call 526-5168.

- Want to know what to do to treat your hemlocks? Come to the JMCA forum to be held Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Various options will be presented as well as how and when to treat hemlocks against the hemlock wooly adelgid. Experts will be on hand to answer your questions. For more information contact The Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance at the Peggy Crosby Center 526-9172.

Sept. 13

- Doris Mager, the "Eagle Lady," will present program on Birds of Prey with live birds; sponsored by Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, 7 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Sept. 15

- PTO meeting at Highlands School

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, Highlands 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 \$10 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.



Rev. Brian Sullivan
Episcopal Church of
the Incarnation

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, 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 the 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: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every second and fourth
Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

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First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

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Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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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.;
Childrens Chapel – 10:30 a.m.;
Mondays: Women's Cursillo Group (Library) – 4
Tuesdays: Mens 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

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

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

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Wed: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities – 6

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Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m.
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

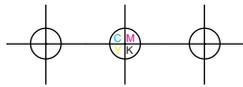
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11



Highlands International Film Festival Finale at OEF'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



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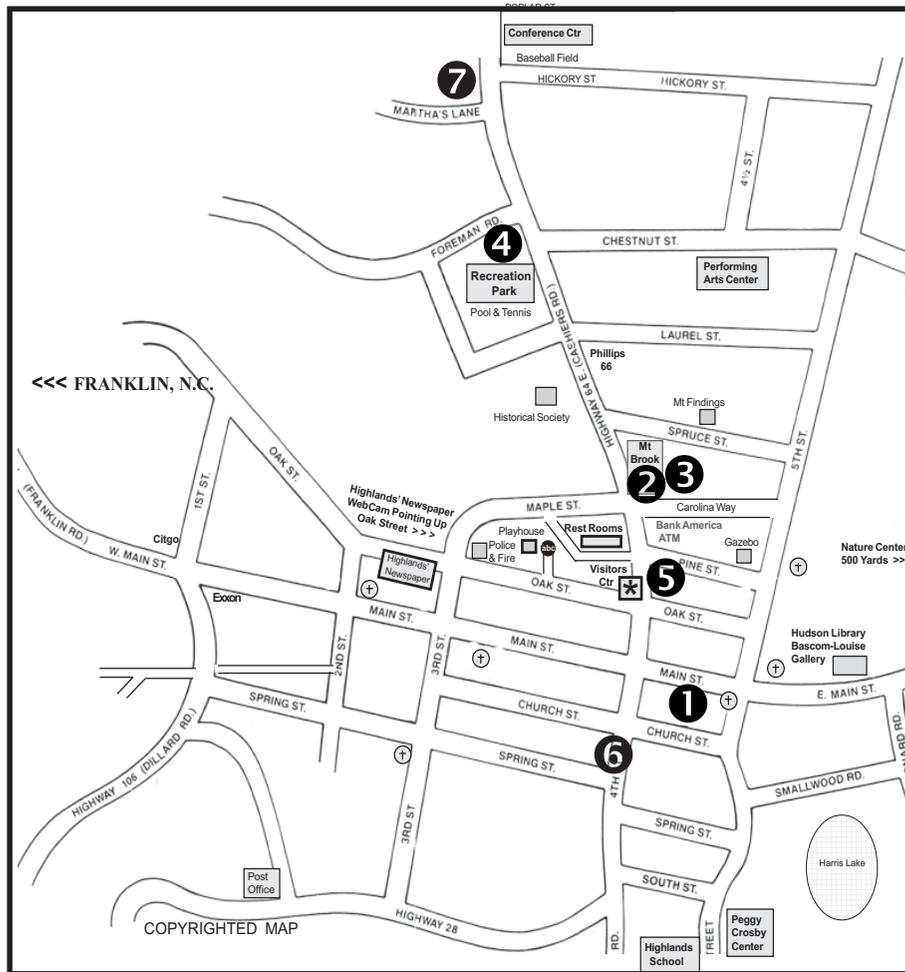
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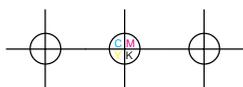
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... PUMPS continued from page 1

of fuel before Highlands which may have added to the demand up here, said officials.

Jesse Munger, of Citgo D&J Express Mart, said he expected to run out of fuel soon. "We get deliveries every two days, but we haven't gotten one since Monday. Now our suppliers are saying they don't know when they'll have any to deliver. They'll just let us know."

But distributors say for now the problem isn't a lack of fuel, it's the inability to pump it.

Director of the Chamber of Com-

merce Bill Bassham 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 Bassham. "Obviously getting it up and running is a huge priority. Authorities expect it to be flowing again by the end of the weekend." Bassham 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

POLICE & FIRE

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Aug. 24-31.

Aug. 18

- At 10:19 a.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles at the Farmers Market. There were no injuries.

- At 3:20 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles at N.C. 106 and U.S. 64 west. There were no injuries.

- At 7 p.m., officers patrolled a residence on Center Drive.

Aug. 25

- At 8 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint on Memorial Park Drive.

Aug. 26

- At 3:01 a.m., a motorists traveling left of center on Spring Street was issued a warning citation.

- At 10:45 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was issued a warning citation for a headlight violation.

- At 10:45 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was issued a warning citation for speeding. 46 mph in a 35 zone.

Aug. 27

- At 4:50 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles on Spruce Street. There were no injuries.

- At 9 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles in the Highlands Playhouse parking lot. There were no injuries.

Aug. 29

- At 8 p.m., officers helped a disabled motorist on Upper Buttermilk Road.

- At 10 p.m., officers responded to an accident in the ...on the Verandah parking lot. There were no injuries.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Aug. 24-31.

Aug. 24

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on U.S. 64 west. There was no transport.

Aug. 25

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Old Farm Road. It was false.

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Falcon Ridge Road. It was false.

Aug. 26

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Mt. Lori Drive. The victim had fallen and was taken to the hospital.

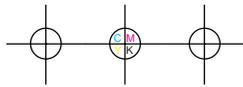
Aug. 28

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a resident on Bowery Road. The victim had fallen and was taken to the hospital.

Aug. 30

- The dept. responded to an alarm at Chestnut Hill. It was false.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Mt. Lori Drive. The victim had fallen and was taken to the hospital.



... HURRICANES continued from page 1

opment in those areas.

"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.

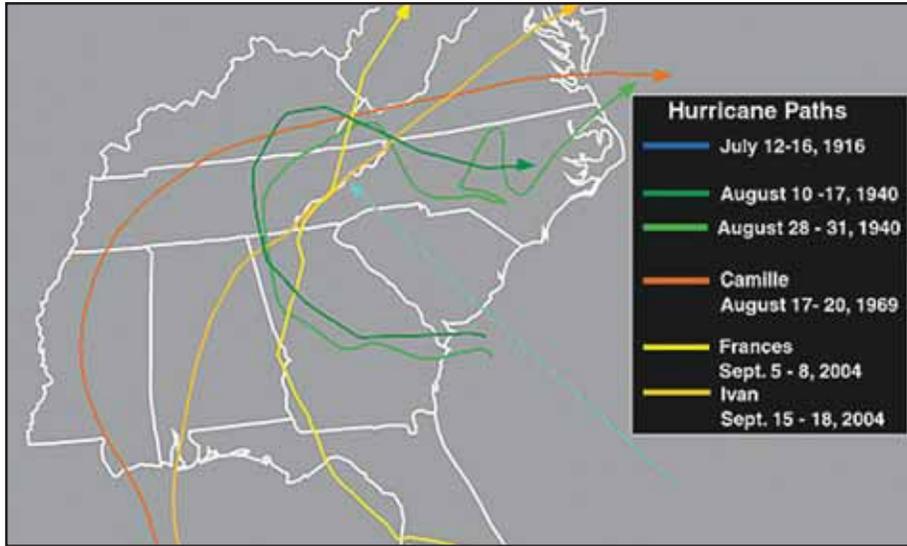
During Hurricane Frances and Ivan, Western North Carolina experienced 130 landslides, five fatalities and the destruction of 27 homes.

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

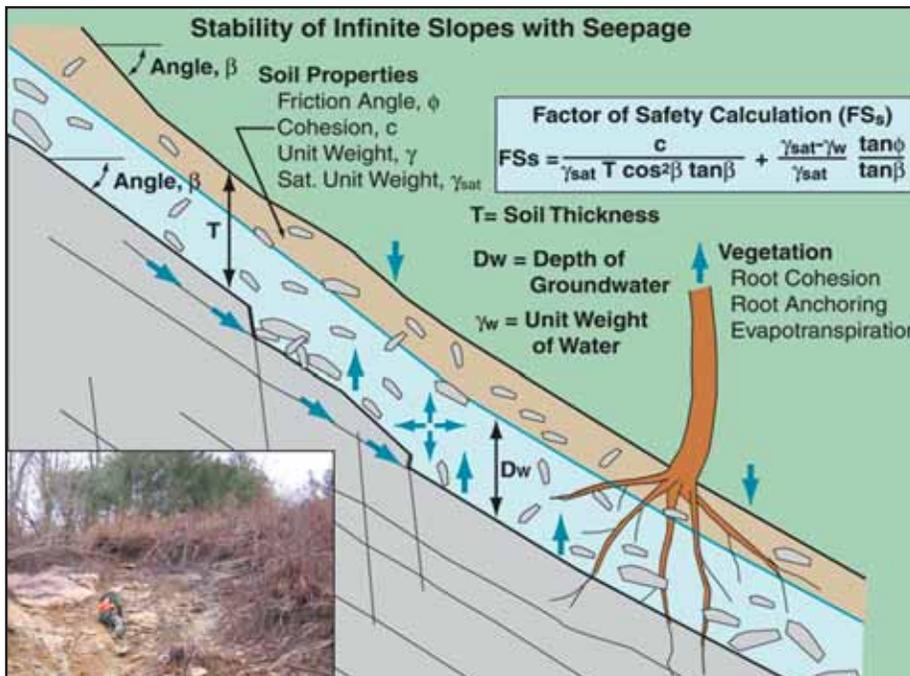
State geologists and emergency management officials have scheduled land-

slide 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.



Western North Carolina has been in hurricane paths for years.



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

... 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 produc-

tion 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.

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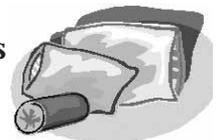
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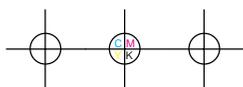
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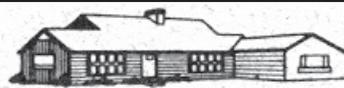
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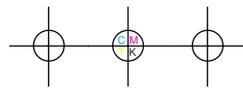
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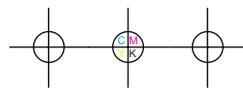
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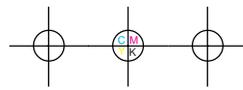
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WALK TO MIRROR LAKE from this two bedroom, two bath home. Stone-faced fireplace and decks. Being sold as is for \$275,000.



This 2 bedroom, 2 bath home is located in Holly Forest. Master Suites on each end of the house. Sapphire amenities. \$399,000.



LOCATED IN HOLLY FOREST 6 bedrooms, 6 baths great investment opportunity. A good mountain view with a gentle stream. \$529,000.



WALK TO TOWN from this 3 bedroom home on Mill Creek. Large deck overlooking creek. Two story great room. A must see home at \$650,000.



BUCK CREEK ROAD Listen to the bold stream from the large front porch of this 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath home. Offered at \$325,000. #56292



WYANOAK DRIVE. In town 3 bedroom, 2 bath with finished basement in desirable Mirror Lake area. Offered at \$375,000. #56297



WALKING DISTANCE TO TOWN Quality home. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 2 car garage and carport. Offered at \$725,000.



One of a kind real Log Cabin! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, loft, fireplace and garage. Great view of Shortoff Mtn. 1.69 acres offered at \$1,650,000.



Beautiful Mirror Lake 3 bedroom 2 bath home completely renovated. Hardwood floors and tile; stone fireplace. Ready to move into! \$499,000.



Walk to town and great location. 3 bedroom 2 bath. Covered porch overlooking a babbling brook. Recently renovated home. \$625,000.



Great Mountain View. 4 bedrooms & 3.5 baths. Double garage. House sits on 4.0+/- acres. Master bedroom on main level. Priced at \$849,000.



This log home features 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths. Stone fireplace, custom kitchen with corian countertops, 2 car carport. Offered at \$895,000.



Charming Mirror Lake home sits at the top of the dam giving the wonderful sound of a waterfall. 3 bed, 3 bath, completely furnished at \$945,000.



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



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



OLD HIGHLANDS CHARM & in town 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths on a level lot. New roof, paint & windows. Hardwood floors. Offered at \$459,000.



Rustic Lodge w/ Whiteside Mtn. View 8.68 acres, 7 bedroom, 7 bath offers a spacious great room with stone fireplace. Offered at \$1.5 million



Holly Forest 2 bed, 2 bath, home features open great room with wood floors and beautiful rock fireplace. Sapphire amenities \$399,000.

