

Highlands' Newspaper

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Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011

The Coach Smart 'back story'... before Highlands

By Ryan Potts

December 13 was an exciting moment in Highlands' history as legendary Highlands Coach Butch Smart won the 700th game of his illustrious career with a 59-31 victory over the Blue Ridge Bob-

cats.

The milestone victory comes at the culmination of a career spanning five decades that began in 1968 in the parishes of Louisiana and will be completed on the plateau in Highlands.

Smart was born in Louisiana, and attended Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA, where he played for legendary coach Scotty Robertson. Smart credits Robertson and fellow La Tech Bulldog Leon Barmore as major influenc-

es in his life, personally and professionally.

In 1968 he was given a job at Bastrop High School as the JV basketball coach and left a year later to become the head basketball

• See SMART page 6

Bio Station site of climate change workshop

Twenty-two high school science teachers from across North Carolina recently visited the Highlands Biological Station for a weekend retreat focusing on the impact of climate change on the Southern Appalachian mountain ecosystem.

The Highlands Biological Station, an inter-institutional center of the University of North Carolina system that is administered by Western Carolina University, hosted the teachers in collaboration with the Institute for the Environment at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The teachers are enrolled in the NC CLIMATE Fellows Program. The professional development program – which stands for North Carolina Climate Literacy: Integrating Modeling and Technology Experiences in N.C. Classrooms – is designed to increase teachers' knowledge of

• See WORKSHOP page 8

2011 – Year-in-Review

A year of 'visual' changes and more



The new Post Office.



The Hudson Library facelift.



The new Mirror Lake bridge.



New turn lanes at Main & 3rd.



The new sidewalk to The Bascom



The new Police Station.

There have been a lot of changes in Highlands this past year. Recurring themes include Conditional District Zoning, Extra Territorial Jurisdiction, Highlands' form of government, the SOS/Calendar Waiver for Macon County Schools, and Electronic Gambling to name a few. Then there are the physical or visual changes pictured above. All this

goes to show what a dynamic place Highlands is!

January

• TB meeting postponed due to weather. Snow predicted for Wednesday night began to fall steadily around 5 p.m. and by six commissioners agreed to postpone the Wednesday, Jan. 5 Town Board meeting to Wednesday, Jan. 12.

• Form of government questions linger. The issue of revising the Town Ordinance to match the Town Charter, which was amended to the Council-Manager form of government over two years ago, has been raised again. The item was on the Nov. 6, Jan. 5, Jan. 12 and is also on

• See YEAR IN REVIEW page 12

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Watershed district ID'd

At the Dec. 13, Macon County Commission meeting plans to declare a new watershed district from Franklin to Fontana were presented.

The presentation, made by Western Watershed Planner for NC DENR, Andrea Leslie, was met with a lukewarm response from the board – due to perceived regulations that could accompany the plan.

The plan encompasses about 150 square miles and has been in the works – complete with intense in-field testing and fact gathering – for three years.

The objectives of the Franklin to Fontana watershed study were to assess the health of the Little Tennessee River and its tributaries including Cowee, Burningtown, Iotla, Watauga, Cat, Rabbit, Brush and Tellico creeks.

The study identified major stressors (problems) that impact stream quality and sought to de-

• See WATERSHED page 21

See continuation of 2011 Property Transactions in Highlands, Highlands Township and Flats Township on page 14

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Angels among us – Part 2

Please read Angels Among Us – Part 1 in the Dec. 21 edition of Highlands' Newspaper online at www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com



**Kim Lewicki
Publisher**

...We felt everything was going to be OK. Megan just needed to mend and I could help her do that, at least until noon Sunday. My flight left non-stop to Greenville at 1 p.m.

Megan awoke Saturday morning feeling worse than she had Friday night. Her head ached non-stop. She could barely walk to the bathroom. The pain medication worked for a while, but everything came back as soon as it wore off or she sat up.

Sunday morning dawned and she felt worse than she had Saturday. Instead of getting better, she was getting worse. It was so bad that the pain drove her to the floor each time she rose to go to the bathroom. Her neck hurt so badly, she could barely shift positions.

The morning wore on. I walked three blocks to the CVS Pharmacy to get a neck brace, thinking that might help. It did, for about 15 minutes. Then she ripped it off, saying she couldn't stand the pain.

She was feeling worse than ever. "Can't you stay, Mom? You can't go, please don't go."

I told her I had to get back to put the paper out, that I had meetings to go to and there was no way I could do it all from Chicago.

I knew I couldn't stay for days, but I knew I had to change my flight to a later departure. I got on the phone and worked out another flight, this one left at 9 p.m., got into Greenville at 11:15. Jim would

meet me in Greenville, and we could be home by 1:15 a.m., Monday.

At the end of the call, the woman said, "For some reason they aren't charging you to change your flight. I don't know why, it must be your lucky day."

I loaded Megan into her car and drove to the hospital emergency room entrance. I helped her in — my 5-foot, 8-inch daughter draped on my 5-ft., 4-inch frame.

I told them this is her third time in the emergency room in as many days. "There is something really wrong and we need to see a doctor right away."

The emergency room staff looked at us in a glazed-over, blasé way. It's noon Sunday and the ER waiting room is full of people suffering from alcohol poisoning from Saturday night on the town, a couple of babies are wrapped in blankets with ailments unknown, there are a few heart attack victims and a nine-year-old girl who is having some kind of respiratory attack.

Megan can't stand or sit; she can't hold her head up. They categorize her as Triage which means they will see her quickly. We went into an exam room where they took her temperature, vitals and asked her questions. Then they told us to have a seat in the waiting room. Since she can't sit or hold her head up, they gave her a wheel chair. She arranged herself so she can brace her head and neck on the top edge of the back of the chair. It barely works. We waited about an hour. I went to the nurse who first saw us and asked how much longer. She said there are two people in front of Megan. It will be about two hours.

I didn't dare tell Megan that.

By now, she's making a bit of a scene. She's delirious in pain. She's moaning and wailing and saying, "I can't take it, Mom. I can't take it." I told her to hang on; there were only two people in front of her.

I was trying to stay cool; trying to comfort her best I could with words and by rubbing her head and neck, but it wasn't working.

I saw a male nurse behind the counter. Instead of jumping over the counter like I

•See ANGELS page 9

• LETTERS •

Take a stand ... vote against those who use negative campaigns

Dear Editor,

During this season of good will and cheer, it seems like things are already gearing up for the 2012 election and we are beginning to be continually assaulted with negative political campaigning. I guess the big reason politicians do it is because, sadly, it works. But we don't have to support it.

Can you imagine a political campaign where someone says, "You know, my competitor is really a fine person. They love our country and have served it proudly. I honor them and the job they are doing. However, I think I could improve on these things...and I'd like for you to consider me as a replacement for them."

Can you imagine people speaking well of the people they're running against?

People who know me know that I'm pretty much a dyed-in-the-wool Democrat and vote that way 98% of the time, but I am considering voting for anyone who doesn't downgrade their opponent. Doesn't that alone speak volumes about their character?

I'm sure I'm not the only one who is sick of negative campaigning. We could change the way campaigning is done with our votes. Simply don't vote for anyone who does it, and write to them and let them know why. Granted, you might be hard pressed to find anyone to vote for at first, but they would eventually get the message.

We sometimes forget how powerful we are in numbers.

**Betty Holt
Highlands**

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper.

Please EMAIL letters by Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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• OBITUARY •

Harold Franklin Brammer

Harold Franklin Brammer, 84, of Highlands, died peacefully Friday, December 16, 2011 at home with his family present. He was born in Mullens, West VA, the son of Trevor Franklin Brammer and Hallie Beckelheimer Brammer. He was a US Navy Veteran of World War II and a graduate of Concord University. He and his wife moved to the Highlands area in 1979 where they lived on King Mountain for 20 years and later in Highlands proper. He co-owned and developed Wright Square and other properties in the area. He was an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Highlands where he served as an Elder; he was also in the Men's Prayer Group and enjoyed participating in missions. He was always involved in charity work in every community in which he lived.

Before moving to Highlands, the Brammers lived in Largo, FL where they were active members of Christ Presbyterian Church, participating in youth activities and teaching. Mr. Brammer also served with the Sertoma Club, a charitable business organization. He was founder and president of Seminole Awning and Screening Company in Pinellas County, FL and a member of the Florida Mobile Home Association as well as the Largo Chamber of Commerce.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Gwendolyn Austin Brammer; two daughters, Karen Brammer Austin of Los Angeles, CA and Leah Gwen Brammer Long and her husband Ron Long of Portola Valley, CA; a son, Harold Austin Brammer and his wife Christel Brammer of Largo, FL; three grandchildren, Brendan Brammer Long, Bria Lorette Long, and Olivia Grace Austin.

Memorial services were held Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, with the Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman officiating. Memorials may be made to Four Seasons Hospice, 171 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741, or Highlands Community Day Care, PO Box 648, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Ba Rump-a-bum-bum

Excuse me!" the manager called out to the group. Nothing happened and the singing continued. The manager spoke louder, racing from behind the counter. "Excuse me, people. You people cannot do this. You cannot be here. Cease and desist at this very moment."

One by one, the Christmas carolers stopped singing. A post office manager ordered the singing to stop mid-song at a post office branch in the Aspen Hill Shopping Center at Silver Spring, Md.

That didn't sit well with resident J.P. Duffy, a nice Irish Christian, who said he witnessed the incident while waiting in line with his wife and 2-year-old daughter. His shorts were in a major wad.

U.S. Postal Service spokeswoman, scrooge Laura Dvorak, said the carolers,

dressed like characters from "A Christmas Carol," were in violation of Postal Service rules on public assembly and public address. What? Do we live in Russia?

Duffy is not going away. Just so happens he is vice president of communications for a right-wing Christian lobbying group called Family Research Council. Duffy said the post office manager told the carolers they were violating the post office's policy against solicitation. That drew loud boos from many of the customers in the branch.

Duffy wants to challenge the post of-



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
askfredanything@aol.com

fice on a citizen's right to free speech. Wow, this could get interesting, especially at a time when everyone is grumpy about the post office losing about five billion (yes, with a B) dollars of our money each year. I know you're tired of hearing it but, once again, is this country broken, or what?

What if each caroler, dressed in a Christmas costume, got in line with a letter to be mailed? Would they be allowed to sing individually while in line? Was it the Christmas costume the post office czars objected to or the freedom of speech in the form of singing? Would collectively

standing in line and singing make a difference?

Should you want to side with the post office on this one and feel that the building should not be overrun with noisy carolers, disrupting service, then you'd be wrong again, Mr. Coalmeister. There were only three carolers. You read it right. This is all about three happy carolers filled with the Christmas spirit. So to the post office czars who have more rules and regulations than common sense, I say, "Ba-rump-a-bum-bum" to you.

Finally, chew on this. The USPS sells Islamic stamps but doesn't permit Christmas caroling?

Read Fred's column on-line all winter. Go to www.highlandsnewspaperPDF.com

Also, have you read his mystery/thriller **Deceived?**

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• COACH'S CORNER •

New Year Resolutions

(In case the Mayans are right)

So supposedly, the world is going to end on December 21, 2012 according to the Mayan calendar. I don't necessarily believe this to be the case, but I also believe in hedging my bets. Therefore, here are some New Year's Resolutions in case that the world is actually going to end.



Ryan Potts

I resolve to "Tebow" if my team wins a Championship this season...how awesome would that be?

I resolve to take my wife somewhere nice for putting up with basketball season, football season, baseball, video games, missing the toilet seat at 3AM and pretty much everything else she puts up with throughout the year. Yes ladies, I realize that taking her somewhere nice once doesn't make up for all of my faults, but it's a start, right?

I resolve to take a bullhorn and a siren onto the Gorge Road and hand out fake tickets to people who refuse to pull over while driving slow.

I will resolve to list all of the reasons why Drew Brees is awesome...and I will make a pilgrimage to the Superdome to pay homage to him.

I resolve to lament how sad it is that even if I won powerball and pledged all of my money to the Pittsburgh Pirates, they still would have half the payroll of teams like the New York Yankees or the Anaheim Angels. The whole MLB payroll system is absolutely absurd, but it isn't going to change anytime soon.

I resolve to find out where Billy Packer is living at and send him a nice fruit basket as a token of my appreciation for his decision to retire from commentary. Doug Gottlieb has stepped up to take Packers place as an irrational hater on commentary, but he has a long way to go before he can undo the

original curmudgeonly ways of Packer.

I resolve to continue to support professional wrestling proudly. Jackpot is going to give me a bunch of crap about it, but I don't care...sometimes you have to stay true to yourself-woo woo woo, you know it.

I resolve to try and stop jumping off the floor during HHS basketball games while coaching. First of all-I haven't left the ground since 2005, so it is really causing some wear and tear on my feet to be jumping up and down in loafers. Secondly, it gives Jeff Weller and Brett Lamb way too much joy to make fun of me for my three inch vertical, so I need to avoid doing it at all costs.

And finally, I resolve to get a new picture to put with this column...I need one that captures my current age and appearance, and I need one to use with this column for the next 10 years so that I can remember what I looked like when I had a little bit of hair left.

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• BACK DAYS IN HIGHLANDS – PART 12 •

By Herm Wilson
8/23/1905 to
1/6/1993

Over the years ...

"The history of the true mountaineer will soon be lost forever. We don't know why our ancestors settled in the rugged mountains of Western North Carolina, but I am sure they had a reason.

The young people of today who grew up in the mountains don't have the slightest ideas as to what the true life of a mountaineer was because they were born into the jet age and our nation has changed so much in the last 50 years. I write the following parts of "Back Days in Highlands" so a record of that time can be kept."

– Herm Wilson

(Published with permission from his son Neville Wilson)

Sometimes I think back over the years when my brother and I would go over in South Carolina and cut us several can fishing poles that grew on the river banks.

My brother John Wilson was the best fisher that I ever knew; while I was never a good fisher. I just didn't seem to hold my mouth right or didn't use the proper bait.

We would fish Overflow Creek, Chattooga River and Big Creek.

He would always come out with a string of nice trout. I would end up with a bunch of scaly rive3r fish. He always used the fishing pole as we called it that grew on the river banks.

Back in those days, a fishing license was unheard of. We didn't know there would ever come a time when we would have to buy licenses or ever need a permit. Fish hatcheries were unknown. The fish were truly natives. All the trout were speckled trout that had been here when the Indians roamed this great nation.

Sometimes we could camp out

along the river. All we needed was salt port, salt and break. We always caught plenty of fish and many more than we could eat. We would always try to bring some nice ones home for the family.

Could we ever go back to those days? I doubt it. We are living in a different age. But I still like to remember those good ole days that are long gone. But who knows, with good management we could return to the good ole fishing days again.

A moment in time ...

I was standing near the water fountain in Franklin, talking to an old friend. We were talking about the state of the nation and the world we live in. We agreed that most all the news was bad news. Then from across the street, a troop of little girls was making their way to the water fountain. They were dressed in pink,



yellow and blue. Nothing could be more innocent and beautiful.

They made their way to the water fountain and climbed up to the rim and went marching around it without a quarrel or fuss. They were like a rose garden bursting into bloom. It reminded me of a glimpse of heaven.

My friend asked me what I thought their life would be 30 or 40 years from now. I shook my head and said "unknown."

That beautiful sight made me think that we still have something to live for. Protect the children. They will be the Dads and Mothers of tomorrow.

• Herman "Herm" Wilson was one of the six men whose contributions to the Town of Highlands were featured in the Highlands Historical Society's production of "Highlands Live!" in June 2011. Interest in him led his son Neville and daughter-in-law Kathleen to share some of Herm's writings that reflect the man's homespun humor, philosophy and patriotism.

... SMART continued from page 1

coach at Dubach High School, which is located about 10 miles outside of Ruston. Robertson proclaimed that the young coach would be successful because with Smart, "no detail was too small to be addressed."

Smart's next coaching stint was at Cedar Creek High School in Ruston, where he led Cedar Creek to three Louisiana Independent High School championship games. While at Cedar Creek, Smart met his wife Judy and the family established a great tradition at the small private school.

After 10 years at Cedar Creek, Smart left to become the head coach at Quitman high school, located in between Ruston and Grambling. Three years after leading Quitman, Smart was offered a job outside of the Ruston area at East Ascension High School. East Ascension was a much larger school, and so Smart and his family moved south to Gonzales to become the leader of the East Ascension Spartans.

In his 10 years at East Ascension, Coach Smart enjoyed an extremely successful run as coach of the Spartans. Smart averaged over 20 wins per season while at East Ascension, and had a state championship run derailed by a freak last second shot. During his time at East Ascension, Smart's teams competed throughout the country in tournaments, playing in both the Superdome as well as in Las Vegas.

After 10 years in Gonzales, political pressures led Smart to consider looking for jobs elsewhere, and a trip to Brevard, NC convinced Smart that the mountains of North Carolina might be a good place to relocate. Smart credits former Highlands School Principal Larry Brooks with helping to convince him to come to High-

• See SMART page 7

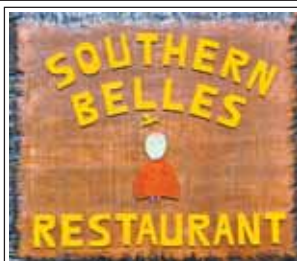
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lands, and Smart, Judy and his young daughter Stephanie moved to the plateau in 1996 after winning 544 games in the state of Louisiana.

Smart's first Highlander team struggled early, but in just his second year at Highlands Smart led the Highlanders to their first conference championship in over a decade. In his 16 years at Highlands, the Highlanders have won three conference championships and have been to the NCHSAA state playoffs in all but two seasons. Smart's teams are known for being fundamentally sound and playing tenaciously on the defensive end.

At season's end, Smart's daughter Stephanie will graduate from HHS and

attend Louisiana Tech University. Her father and mother will also move to Ruston to enjoy time with old friends and build their dream home. While Smart is looking forward to retirement at the end of the season, he still feels like he has some unfinished business at Highlands. "We want to win a conference championship this year," said Smart, "it has been our goal every year that I have been here and this year will be no different."

The Highlanders are currently 1-1 in conference and will resume conference play on January 3rd, where Coach Smart will look to get win number 701 against Nantahala.



Warming up at the Superdome in 1994.



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• CONSERVATIVE POV

Good Bye – and Good Riddance

Some of you may have had a good year in 2011 – many did not. The world, in general, had kind of a quirky time of it. I decided to review the major news stories of the year concerning natural disasters. My search started out with a bang. Jan. 1 saw earthquakes in Argentina and China; Jan. 2, Chile; Jan. 3, near Japan (triggered tsunami warning), Iran, and Argentina, etc. Not only were they unusual in number, but their severity, as well. Their frequency sustained throughout the year.

It is here the strangeness begins. From the LA Times: "Scientists still don't know what's causing flocks of birds to drop from the sky in the South, even as several hundred more fell dead onto a Louisiana highway. The puzzling phenomenon started on News Year's Eve when thousands of blackbirds were found dead in central Arkansas. Scientists have descended on the area, trying to find the reason for the mass die-off."

Thousands of dead birds showed up in Manitoba according to unconfirmed reports. It is suspected some Canadian governmental agency squashed the story.

The New York Daily News reported on Jan. 5th; "Doomsday believers got

more signs of the apocalypse as reports of mass animal deaths continued to emerge around the world.

Hundreds of dead birds were found on the streets in Murray, KY, officials announced Wednesday, marking the second time this week that the state has made such a discovery. Earlier in the week, several dozen dead birds were found in Gilbertsville, KY, according to local radio station WPSD. Sweden also reported discovering 50 dead jackdaw birds on a street in Stockholm.

Strange? I think so. What is even stranger is, search as I may, I can find no one claiming to explain the phenomenon, with certainty, to this day. Some say "fireworks displays" may have startled them. Others say some atmospheric occurrence might have caused it, or "something in the air" may have poisoned them. Nothing even close to proof has been offered to substantiate any theory.

To complicate the issue, at the same



Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged. Email
swansonson@dnet.net

time birds were falling from the sky, fish and other marine creatures were surfacing, stone cold dead. MSMBBC reports on Jan. 3rd "State officials were investigating why 80,000 to 100,000 fish washed up dead on the shores of the Arkansas River. The mass kill occurred just one day before thousands of blackbirds dropped dead from the sky in Beebe, Ark., which is 125 miles away."

CBSNEWS reported on Jan. 5th: "The estimated two million dead fish found floating in the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland recently are not another sign of the apocalypse, but were instead probably killed by the cold weather, officials told the Baltimore Sun."

Brazilian authorities also reported that fishermen found several tons of dead fish, sardines mostly, near the port of Paranaguá, reports the website Mediate. Authorities there are investigating the reason for the deaths. In New Zealand, Fisheries officials are investigating the death of hundreds of snapper near Coromandel Peninsula beaches reports the daily New Zealand Herald. Beachgoers found the fish – many with their eyes missing – dead on the sand."

From the Huffington Post: "As if thousands of dead birds falling from the sky and millions of fish turning up dead across the world weren't enough, the Thanet Coast in the UK is now littered with tens of thousands of dead crabs that have washed ashore."

And we're not out of the first week of January.

There are some interesting sidelights to these stories. One is, all mentions of the signs of the coming of the apocalypse, and there were several, were on the denial side. In all my research, I never saw a scientific explanation of any of the reported events nor did I see any reporting that claimed that they were signs of the approach of the end of the world. I find that fascinating.

The second is the knots the environmental community tied itself into trying to avoid blaming the incidents on the unusually cold weather, which may have had something to do with some of the fishkills, which would fly the face of their global warming delusions. You take your pleasures where you find them.

Are these events giving us signs of an impending apocalypse? I don't know. I do know what Jesus said on the subject. From Matthew 24: "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars... For nation shall rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there shall be famines, pestilences and earthquakes in various places."

What will be will be. Hopefully, you will be prepared. "Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain you." Have a blessed 2012.

... WORKSHOP from page 1

current climate change science and use of technology to support climate change instruction.

Made possible through \$318,000 in funds from NASA's Innovations in Climate Education (or NICE) project, the NC CLIMATE Fellows program will serve up to 24 N.C. high school teachers annually for the next three years. The teachers will investigate how scientists are studying climate change and its impacts on the local, regional and global scales, as well as how scientists use NASA data and models in their research.

The weekend retreat in Highlands was one part of the free yearlong program, said James Costa, director of the Highlands Biological Station and professor of biology at WCU.

"Participants were immersed in themes related to the ecology of climate change as it pertains to the mountains," said Costa. "Emphasis was placed on salamanders, which are especially abundant and diverse in the Great Smokies, as well as plant species unique to the Southern Appalachian Mountains."

Activities included a hike on Satulah Mountain to study rock outcrop communities; a trip to Dry Falls to learn about "rockhouse" communities, unique plant communities that hold important lessons for climate change ecology; and an excursion to Purchase Knob in Great Smoky Mountains National Park where teachers experienced first-hand how to integrate outdoor learning experiences into climate change instruction, he said.

For more information about the program or about Highlands Biological Station, call 828-526-2602 or visit the website www.wcu.edu/hbs.

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... ANGELS continued from page 2

wanted to, I leaned over as far as I could and said, "Look, there is something really wrong with her. I mean, you can hear her, can't you? This is real. You have to do something. Is there at least a gurney she can lie down on? If she can get flat, the pain might subside some."

"Let me see what I can do," he said. He disappeared into the emergency room. He came out and motioned to us.

I maneuvered the wheel chair through the waiting room, juggling my carry-on, pocketbook and Megan's back pack.

He showed us to a gurney set up against an exam room wall in a bustling city-emergency room packed with patients, nurses, residents and doctors.

Laying down helped ease the pain. I thanked the nurse. He smiled and left.

After about 30 minutes they rolled Megan into an exam room where she was asked a million questions over and over again by three different doctors, three different times.

Once the change of venue wore off, the pain was all she could think of. Thirty-minutes after that, she's hooked up to a morphine drip and fluids which helped

• See ANGELS page 11



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Make your remodel count

Recently, I was talking with my sister-in-law and she mentioned she felt she was finally ready to take over her son's room. He is a sophomore at Chapel Hill. His windowless room, or cave, was in the basement of their town house. The room was perfect for a teenage boy or bat, but less than ideal for guests or living space. Her idea was to create a Hot Yoga room, her latest hobby. My first thought was sauna, which could easily be combined with Hot Yoga. Our conversation quickly turned to design trends in luxury housing.

Even in today's dreary economy people continue to build and renovate. No, no one has quite reinvented the wheel, but some really nice innovations have been made. Newer technologies and building materials have introduced a range of possibilities, previously available only to an Indian Rajah.

The green movement continues. Passive solar, energy efficient appliances, nontoxic, eco-friendly building materials, recycled glass and renewable woods remain top priorities. Some homes are even completely off the grid,



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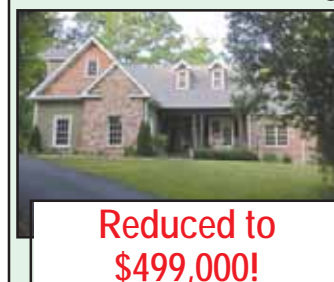
using geothermal or wind for energy. The home has become a retreat, emphasizing comfort and well-being, more spa-like than ever before. The bathroom may feature steam showers, saunas, heated floors, towel warmers and sunken tubs. The design is minimal, open and clean. Toilets do exist, but are always hidden behind closed doors. The fitness room has morphed into the fitness center, with top-of-the-line equipment, comfortable seating area, and in some cases, even a lap pool. Outdoor living spaces that emphasize the beauty of nature have become a luxury home necessity. Even kitchens are finding a second home outside and cost just as much as the indoor version.

Flexible and multiuse rooms are gaining in popularity. Sliding walls add flexibility to living space, allowing intimate spaces to expand to ballroom-size rooms. Built-ins for storage and ample space for everything behind a closed cabinet door follow the trend of clean, simple, clutter-free living, reminiscent of the austere elegance of a Japanese tatami room on steroids. Henry often reminds me of his Mom's statement, "Space is elegant." Mama was right.

The popularity of home theatres and game rooms continue, and recent technological advances have moved from the office to the home. Smart homes, with integrated controls for heating, cooling, water, lighting, home entertainment, and security systems are ever prevalent, and simplify the home owner's life.

So, if you are thinking about selling and you are in the position to renovate give yourself an edge ... consider the amenities buyers today want and see if you can incorporate one or two of them in your remodel.

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... ANGELS from page 9

ease the pain. More doctors came in and asked more questions. They learned about her week in and out of the ER and tried to piece together the events to see if anything was connected.

Then the anesthesiologist who gave her the final spinal tap on Wednesday came in and told us that the pain in her head Friday morning was likely the residual effects of the virus she had Wednesday; no one knew what the neck pain was about, but they knew she didn't have meningitis. (Turns out the neck pain was due to a severely strained muscle due to the projectile vomiting which was later fixed with physical therapy.)

The doctor said that the headaches she had experienced since Saturday were likely because spinal fluid was leaking from the spinal tap; which one she didn't know (Megan and I were pretty sure it was from the botched ones the residents attempted) and so without a cushion of fluid, her brain was hitting her skull.

Anyway, she said the fix was fluids, lots of them, pushed, as she put it, combined with morphine and if the headache didn't subside pretty quickly, then a blood patch would be performed. That's where they take 20cc's of blood and inject it into the spinal tap hole. This patches the hole and allows the spinal fluid to stay put and the pressure in the spinal tube to stabilize.

Instead of sending her home, all the doctors agreed she needed to be admitted right away. Thank God! There was no way Megan was going home anyway. She said she wasn't leaving until they fixed her. LOL!

By 6 p.m. she was in a room hooked up to fluids and morphine. Though still unsure what was wrong or if she would ever feel better, she felt relieved and safe, as did I. They brought her a meal and she ate a bit. At 7 p.m. I prepared to leave. I held back tears as I said good-bye. There is something about seeing your child lying in a hospital bed hooked up to an IV that is

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wrenching.

A taxi picked me up at the hospital entrance and took me to O'Hare. The driver was kind and immediately tuned into my trepidation and sadness. I was confused about my flight and where to go. He pulled up to the curb, got out of the idling cab and waited with me until he was sure I was where I needed to be. Probably because I was emotional at that point, his act of kindness hit me hard and we almost hugged each other as we said good-bye!

I settled at the gate to wait the 30 minutes before take off. I called Rachel our other daughter who lives with her husband and child in Raleigh. As I recounted the drama, I began to cry. I felt so stupid. Megan was where she needed to be. She was going to be fine, I was sure of it. But, still I cried.

Rachel soothed me, saying I was a good mom and it was natural to cry, especially since I refrained from crying in front of

• See ANGELS page 17

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• 2011 YEAR-IN-REVIEW •

the Jan. 19 Town Board agenda.

- Fire destroys home in town. About 6 p.m. Monday, a resident in the vicinity of Satulah Ridge Road called the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. to report smoke was billowing out of the attic of a house. Shortly after the fire department arrived the smoke had turned into flames.

- Highlands 'Vision Statement' finalized for Main Street Program.. About 14 people turned out for the January Main Street Program meeting at the Rec Park where the vision state-

ment for the program was finalized.

- Town Board votes 3-2 to amend charter. After the persistent lobbying of commissioners by Mayor David Wilkes, the board's Nov. 6, 3-2 vote — to leave the town charter as is — was put back on the Jan. 12 agenda. On Jan. 12, the vote was flipped 3-2 — this time to change the charter and to instruct Town Attorney Bill Coward to change the words "the board" to the "Town Manager" through the ordinance.

- Lupoli project up for Main

Street Grant funding. Town Manager Jim Fatland, the Town Board voted unanimously to request that John Lupoli be the recipient of up to \$200,000 from the Dept. of Commerce's Main Street Program.

- Dept. selects 'Fireman of the Year' At Saturday night's annual Firemen Awards ceremony held at the Community Building, Robbie Forrester was named "Firemen of the Year." Chief James Manley said picking the winner is always tough because "everyone is 'Fireman of the Year,'" but or-

rester's fellow firefighters picked him.

- Fire Dept. hiring full-time employee. A combination of increased calls and the downturn in the economy has the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department looking to employ another officer rather than just relying on volunteers.

- Planning Board split 2-2 on charter change; Includes detailed comment with recommendation

February

- Citizens oppose changing ordinance. Changing the town ordinance to be consistent with the Council- Manager form of government is a no go — in fact, if the Town Board wants to continue on that path, it must start over from scratch. At the Feb. 2 Town Board meeting about 25 citizens turned out to speak during the required Public Hearing on the topic — the majority of whom spoke against changing the ordinance.

- 'Operation Ice Melt' nets 18 on drug felonies. Agencies that participated in the three-month investigation were the Macon County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit, the Jackson and Swain County Sheriff's Offices and the NC State Bureau of Investigation.

- 85% grade needed on online test to sub in MC Schools. The 400+ people on the Macon County Schools Substitute list and those wishing to be added to that list, will now have to complete an 8-12 hour, 65 multiple-choice question, online test to continue substituting at area schools.

- Ordinance 'change' process questioned. Last week amending the Charter Implementing Ordinance was stopped in its tracks by citizens and by Commissioner Amy Patterson who pointed out flaws in the proposed amended version.

- Man falls to his death from Cullasaja Falls. Feb. 6, rescue crews responded to the Cullasaja Falls area on Highway 64 west concerning a rappeller who had apparently fallen from near the top of the falls. Upon arrival, they found the body of fatally injured Gregory Cooper, 19, of Dawson-

ville, GA in the water below the falls.

- Work starts on landslide warning system Macon County in top 4 of 19 counties to be mapped first.

- Lady Highlanders take home title. It was a moment that the Lady Highlander seniors had looked forward to for four years, as they first defeated Blue Ridge 65-21 before facing archrival Hiwassee Dam on their home floor with a chance to win a Little Smoky Mountain Conference title.

March

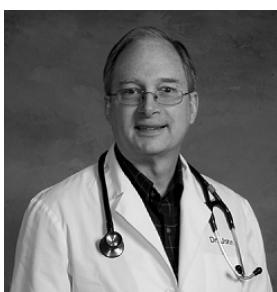
- Charter/ordinance coming to a head. Step one in the second round to amend the town's ordinance to align with the boiler-plate version of the Charter regarding the Council- Manager form of government began with an unpublicized 4 p.m. work session Wednesday, March 2.

- Calendar hot topic with BOE. Ever since the Dept. of Commerce was able to sway the State Board of Education to change school calendars and to take away local districts' ability to make their calendars to suit the needs of their students and families, Macon County has been trying to reverse the clock.

- Man risks all to protect maple tree. This wasn't a planned publicity stunt but owner of Bob Weber Tree Company suspects it won't hurt his business any, either. Weber is all about trees, literally, and thinks it's important for developers, homeowners and the town to take the preservation of old, stately trees seriously. So when the survival of a 100-year-old red maple was in jeopardy, he jumped to action.

- Plans to rejuvenate 'look' of library. It's been scrutinized by two boards and it's headed to a third board next Wednesday, but all indications are that the improvements planned for The Hudson Library will get the go ahead with no snags.

- Citizens' voices heard; board votes 3-2. The prelude to the outcome of Wednesday



HEALTHline

"Heart Attack Care at HCH"

John F. Baumrucker, MD, Board Certified Physician

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S., with over one million people suffering from heart attacks annually. For many people, this life-changing event may begin with a crushing pain starting in the center of the chest. It might spread to the shoulders, neck or arms and may be mild to intense. However, not all attacks involve such symptoms and might be more gradual. Whether someone is experiencing the above or other unusual symptoms, it is vital that they seek medical attention as soon as possible.

At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital the Emergency Room is ready 24/7, to provide emergency care for someone who may be experiencing a heart attack. "Time is muscle," said Dr. Baumrucker. "The longer a coronary artery remains partially or totally blocked the greater the chance of damage to the heart muscle. We identify possible symptoms of a heart attack, and then make a diagnosis using an electrocardiogram (EKG)." Speed in such circumstances is essential, and from the time the patient enters the Emergency Room at HCH to receiving an EKG, is usually less than 5 minutes. Clot-busting medication can be administered and the patient is then transported to the nearest catheterization center.

"From our ER doors to the Cath. Lab at the receiving facility, the time elapsed is often times quicker than if the patient had walked into the ER at another facility," said Baumrucker.



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• 2011 YEAR-IN-REVIEW •

night's Charter-Ordinance amendment vote to place at the 4 p.m. meeting at the Rec Park where a dozen citizens turned out to hear and watch the Town Board discuss for the last time, the pros and cons of amending the town's hybrid form of its

- Council-Manager form of government. Town asked to ban electronic gambling. Like scores of towns and cities in the state, Highlands is home to electronic gambling but some want to make sure no new gambling businesses aren't allowed to set up shop. WNC's rural schools face added stress in state budget woes 'Gaming' the big issue at Planning Board.

- Educators agree: 'It's all about reading. To meet the goals in Macon County School System's strategic plan – that all students are reading on grade level by third grade, that all schools meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and understanding that reading is the cornerstone of all academic areas – the system is incorporating a new methodology to help struggling readers Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes

April

- Moratorium set for gaming businesses. The Town Board wanted to regulate electronic gaming operations in town with an amendment to the zoning ordinance, but after a public hearing and much discussion, a 60-day moratorium on the opening of gaming establishments in town was put into affect instead.

- Talk emerges about 'form of gov't' again. At the April 6 Town Board meeting, commissioners got snagged up in another discussion about the Council-Manager form of government as it pertains to the town's charter and ordinance.

- State accepts BOE waiver. school for the 2011-12 school year is Thursday, Aug. 4. On April 7, the NC State Board of Education approved Macon County's request for a calendar waiver which means more local control of the calendar for the district.

- Lupoli 1 of 7 Main St. Grant recipients, Must spend \$400,000 to get \$200,000



- PB puts finishing touches on Gaming Ordinance. In a brief Planning Board meeting Wednesday night changes to the Electronic Gaming Ordinance recommended by the Town Board at its April 6 meeting were quickly accepted unanimously.

May

- Electronic Gaming moratorium lifted. After much massaging between the Planning and Town boards the Electronic Gaming Operations ordinance made it through its final cut and the moratorium on new operations opening up in town was lifted.

- New construction sales office to go up on Maple Street. Johnny Deal, is in the midst of purchasing the former Prudential Real Estate property on the corner of Maple Street and US 64 east, for his business Affordable Green Builders.

- Mirror Lake Bridge closed until Dec. 31. Plans include reconstructing the bridge – making it four feet wider and one foot higher off the water. Higher off the water means it will be easier to maneuver boats under the bridge; four feet wider.

- Seniors Katie Nix and Spencer Houston were crowned at the Highlands School prom held at HCC's Hudson House, Saturday, May 7.

- Town considers raising electric rates. At a special 4 p.m. Town Board meeting Wednesday May 18, commissioners learned Duke Power is raising its wholesale electric and transmission rates. To offset the financial hit, Highlands will likely be raising its electric rates, too. The rate increase will keep the town's electric fund healthy – an enterprise fund the town has long depended upon to fund capital projects.

- Post office a go.



June

- Noise ordinance big issue for Town Board. A streamlined, draft, noise ordinance complete with definitions of all sounds and noise disturbances was considered Wednesday

night. It will be voted on at the June 16 Town Board meeting after minimal verbiage changes are made. Though the ordinance still has a lot of wiggle room and in fact is complaint-driven only, it will be an ordinance the police department can enforce.

- Local/SOS contest new school calendar. This week, Highlands' Sabrina Hawkins and Save our Summer of NC (SOS) filed a petition to contest the NC State Board of Education's recent MC Schools Calendar Waiver.

- ZB OK's SUP for OEI's Piermont Village. Wednesday's Zoning Board meeting was the last stop for Old Edwards Hospital-ity Group's newest venture – Piermont Village to be erected on the Rib Shack property.

- Sunday's robbery suspect on the lam. An attempted robbery at the Farmers Market has police asking the public for help. On Sunday, June 12 at 10 p.m., at the moment the female clerk was about to lock the door for the night, a disguised male appeared at the doorway and forced her back into the store where he physically directed her to empty the cash register.

- MC students to go to school 185 days. On the heels of the petition filed against the State Board of Education by Save our Summers of NC (SOS) and Highlands School parent Sabrina Hawkins, comes the override of Governor Bev Perdue's veto of the state budget and a required 185 days of school attendance for students rather than the traditional 180 days.

- Car stolen from Highlands; Police not ready to connect cases ...leads in connection with the June 12 attempted robbery of the Farmers Market but are not ready to disclose information.

- Crazy weather brings June hail. Late-ly, balmy summer days have been turning into wild nights bringing thunder, lightning, rain and hail. This photo was taken Wednesday night, June 15 when hail drifted like snow.

- Calendar stays; waiver sought for 185-days. Macon County Board of Education meeting Monday night, Superintendent Dan Brigman announced that Macon County's non-traditional calendar approved by the State Board of Education would stay intact for 2011-2012.

- Planning Board suggests new zoning district. The Highlands Planning Board, presented with the proposition of granting a conditional use permit to renovate the old Northland Cable Building on Highway 106, decided on Monday night to ask the

Town Board to allow a new multi-family district available a conditional use designation.

July

- Coram subpoenas Sheriff Dept. files. Ever since his daughter died of an alcohol and drug overdose on July 9, 2009, JB Coram has made it his business to expose the underbelly of Highlands' drug society – a society he claims law enforcement does little about.

- Town Board fires Fatland. Following a closed session Wednesday night, the Town Board voted unanimously on four calls to terminate Town Manager Jim Fatland effective immediately. The League of Municipalities will supply an interim manager until a replacement is found.

- Town quiet about Fatland details. Town Manager Jim Fatland was terminated "for cause" following at 2-hour closed session at the Wednesday, July 6 Town Board meeting.

- On Monday, July 11 a three hour Emergency Town Board Closed Session meeting was held but Town Attorney Bill Coward said the Town Board wasn't ready to release details.

- SCC's MC campus could close. Thanks to the state legislature, there's a chance the Macon County Southwestern Community College campus will be shut down.

- Maxwell gone; Fatland issue settled. This week the Town Board disclosed at least one item decided during last Thursday's Closed Session, and after Wednesday's Closed Session meeting, the Fatland issue was settled. Mark Maxwell, who has held the position of Interim Planning Director since Nov. 8, 2010 was terminated Thursday night, effective Friday, July 15.

- State cuts Highlands magistrate position. 2011-12 state budget, on Jan. 1, 2013 Highlands will no longer have a magistrate – a position fought for and won some 20 years ago. Instead, when law enforcement arrests someone – either the Highlands Police Department or the Macon County Sheriff's Department – officers must leave the plateau and drive down to Franklin to appear before the magistrate there.

- BOE to battle with SOS/ Hawkins for calendar. Following a Special Called Closed Session mid-morning Monday, July 18, the Macon County School Board signed a resolution reiterating its support of the current school calendar for the 2011-

Please go to
www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com
to read the Dec. 21 issue.

• REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS FOR 2011 •

Jan. 1, 2011 to Dec. 16, 2011

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HIGHLANDS TOWNSHIP

•7551633591,129 COUNTRY CLUB DR,0.62,10/24/2006 0:00,COLES CHES-TER CHATTIN JR,5/4/2011 0:00,400000,GRINDLE DANNYA,868680
•7551635248,180 COUNTRY CLUB DR,0.3,5/3/2007 0:00,SHARP STANLEY C,10/7/2011 0:00,240000,CLAUS WILLIAM P,331640
•7439176191,2622 DILLARD RD,0.5,11/13/2006 0:00,WILSON LOUIS JAS- PER,10/5/2011 0:00,0,NIX CLAUDE ROSCOE,124590
•7551667505,901 COWEE RIDGE RD,1.5,10/9/2006 0:00,SHEPPARD STEVEN L,4/29/2011 0:00,600000,BANK OF AMERICA NA,708220
•7551730301,71 MOUNTAIN ASH LN,0.68,10/24/2006 0:00,PHILLIPS JOHN GURLEY,2/7/2011 0:00,0,PHILLIPS

JOHN G & EVELYN,1579730
•7439260474,2512 DILLARD RD,4.98,11/13/2006 0:00,WILLIAM J INGATE & SOR-AYA A INGATE REVOCABLE TRUST,11/14/2011 0:00,200000,HAUGALEXANDER FREDRICK,421580
•7550051089,251 CHESTNUT CV,0.03,2/14/2006 0:00,GOLDSBERRY LINDA GAIL BAUCUM,7/13/2011 0:00,0,GOLDSBERRY FRANK HOOD JR TRUSTE,490140
•7550063688,105 RIVER CT,0.47,2/14/2006 0:00,LANIER PATRICIA PADGETT TR,4/5/2011 0:00,0,LANIER PATRICIA P,861930
•7551801691,2130 MAGNOLIA DR,0.54,10/24/2006 0:00,J & M CO LLC,5/5/2011 0:00,0,CROWELL RICHARD B,909380
•7551803320,ON RD 1600,2.21,10/24/

2006 0:00,J & M CO LLC,5/5/2011 0:00,0,CROWELL RICHARD B,84020
•7459536929,289 CHESTNUT RIDGE RD,1.99,10/3/2006 0:00,TODD WILLIAM J,9/26/2011 0:00,355000,DOWLING CYRIL- LA,744350
•7551568429,OFF 64 EAST,1.7,10/9/2006 0:00,MCPHERSON REX V II TR,3/17/2011 0:00,0,MCPHERSON JOHN R TR,284580
•7551630870,140 HEMLOCK WOODS DR,0.64,10/24/2006 0:00,BLUE SKYWAY LLC,10/17/2011 0:00,225000,BUMGARD- NER WILLIAM A,442760
•7551631322,41 STREAMSIDE LN,0.38,10/24/2011 0:00,HEBERT PAUL M JR,6/30/2011 0:00,0,OSSEROGA HIGH- LANDS COMPANY INC,1053760
•7541406829,541 FLAT MOUNTAIN RD,0.72,10/28/2011 0:00,MARVIN GUY IV,10/21/2011 0:00,0,MARVIN GUY

IV,254390
•7551639240,RD 1600,0.66,10/24/2006 0:00,PHILLIPS JOHN GURLEY,2/7/2011 0:00,0,PHILLIPS JOHN G & EVE- LYN,231180
•7449403182,HARBISON ORCHARD RD,2.4,10/3/2006 0:00,OCONNOR TIMO- THY P,5/20/2011 0:00,145000,LARGE TH- OMAS,112280
•7449423256,170 SATULAH FALLS LN,1.23,10/3/2006 0:00,CHANDLER DOR- OTHY D,3/25/2011 0:00,0,CHANDLER DOROTHY D,760970
•7510826663,BROADWAY,26,3/30/2006 0:00,CAROLINA TIMBER CO LLC,11/22/ 2011 0:00,500,CAROLINA TIMBER CO LLC,928960
•7439279699,31 CABEP,1.47,11/13/2006 0:00,FREEMAN CENTER CONDOMIN- IUM ASSOCIATION INC,12/6/2011 0:00,0,GILBERT CHRISTOPHER,362450
•7541536528,104 CHENEY LN,0.74,10/2/2006 0:00,MILLS STEVEN H,3/23/2011 0:00,226000,FURNALD RUTH G TRUST- EE,295460
•7551822052,675 COUNTRY CLUB DR,0.72,5/3/2007 0:00,CHICONE JERRY JR TR,12/8/2011 0:00,0,CHICONE JER- RY JR,776040
•7551505074,215 GARNET ROCK TRL,0.81,5/1/2007 0:00,ISHEE JONATHAN N,3/10/2011 0:00,600000,STEWART RANALD,877510
•7541335507,336 SIMON SPEED RD,3,10/4/2006 0:00,BARRY SUSAN L,9/20/2011 0:00,0,BARRY CAREY N TRUST- EE,424200
•7459538745,CHESTNUT RIDGE RD,1.01,10/3/2006 0:00,SHEFFIELD DI- ANE KING,11/28/2011 0:00,0,KING W THOMAS,51510
•7551605389,BIRCHWOOD DR,3.14,12/22/2010 0:00,WILDCAT CLIFFS COUN- TRY CLUB INC,3/2/2011 0:00,0,THE BIRCHES OF WILDCAT CLIFFS,781390
•7551640288,75 HEMLOCK WOODS DR,0.79,10/24/2006 0:00,REID CHARLES R,2/17/2011 0:00,295000,DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST CO TR,637060
•7449405303,HARBISON ORCHARD RD,2.32,10/3/2006 0:00,OCONNOR TIM- OTHY P,5/20/2011 0:00,145000,LARGE THOMAS,96080
•7551713133,214 OAK PT,0.74,10/24/ 2006 0:00,WOOD MARY GAYE,8/11/2011 0:00,0,WOOD JEFFREY G,441710
•7551714240,ON RD 1600,0.64,10/24/ 2006 0:00,WOOD MARY GAYE,8/11/2011 0:00,0,WOOD JEFFREY G,32440
•7541533488,138 CHENEY LN,0.43,4/30/2007 0:00,MONTGOMERY CHARLES H LIFE EST,5/23/2011 0:00,0,MONTGOM-

ERY CHARLES H,251880
•7439288235,DILLARD RD,1.34,3/21/ 2007 0:00,HIGHLANDS POINT DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT LLC,1/31/2011 0:00,0,DUPREE AND ASSOCIATES INC,200000
•7550055092,1393 FALLS DR E,0.87,5/1/2007 0:00,BNY MELLON NATIONAL ASSOC,2/1/2011 0:00,0,BORUCHOW IRWIN B TR,730130
•7531150038,4028 FLAT MOUNTAIN RD,90.84,9/26/2006 0:00,JONES EZRA B TRUSTEE,7/18/2011 0:00,0,COHEN GEORGE L TRUSTEE,2795970
•7551609178,22 OAK PT,0.73,10/24/ 2006 0:00,BERSET MARK S,10/31/2011 0:00,740000,WULBERN JOHN C,806430
•7551619038,BIRCHWOOD DR,8.76,12/22/2010 0:00,THE BIRCHES OF WILDCAT CLIFFS,3/2/2011 0:00,0,THE BIRCHES OF WILDCAT CLIFFS,6868770
•7551620470,11 HIGH POND LN,0.11,10/24/2006 0:00,TAYLOR CHRIS- TOPHER,6/10/2011 0:00,435000,WELLS FARGO BANK NA TR,859960
•7551629690,60 PRIMROSE LN,0.88,5/3/2007 0:00,DYAL JAMES E,2/18/2011 0:00,500000,BOSSERMAN CHARLES E TRUSTEE,889830
•7551728311,598 COUNTRY CLUB DR,0.51,5/2/2007 0:00,WALKER JER- RY,10/26/2011 0:00,450000,CABLER JAMES A JR,558720
•7439279916,DILLARD RD,0.98,11/13/ 2006 0:00,HIGHLANDS POINT DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT LLC,1/31/2011 0:00,0,DUPREE AND ASSOCIATES INC,112160

FLATS TOWNSHIP

•7419009586,7420 DILLARD RD,16.06,6/2/2008 0:00,COLE SCOTT III TR,7/19/2011 0:00,0,SCALY MOUNTAIN SLOPES LLC,660580
•7419037631,LOVE RD,2.07,10/3/2006 0:00,BILLINGSLEY VIRGINIA,2/24/2011 0:00,0,BILLINGSLEY VIRGINIA LIFE EST,59900
•7419047052,BILLINGSLEY RD,1.23,10/3/2006 0:00,BILLINGSLEY VIRGINIA LIFE EST,8/26/2011 0:00,0,BILLINGSLEY VIRGINIA,41500
•7408988210,6,3/28/2007 0:00,JAMES NORMAN E TR,12/6/2011 0:00,0,JAMES NORMAN E,133110
•7419300802,7117 DILLARD RD,3.3,10/3/2006 0:00,VELMA M GILLET REVO- CABLE LIVING TRUST,4/25/2011 0:00,0,NEWMAN CARL A TRUST- EE,298650

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•7419372582,BOB LONG MTN RD,1.17,10/3/2006 0:00,CORAM JENNINGS B,4/19/2011 0:00,0,CORAM JENNINGS B,37280

•7419373232,BOB LONG MTN RD,1,10/3/2006 0:00,CABRERA MARGARITA T,4/19/2011 0:00,0,CORAM JENNINGS B,38250

•7419415924,27 EASTSIDE DUCK MOUNTAIN RD,0.87,10/3/2006 0:00,FORTUNE JERRY L,8/17/2011 0:00,170000,JERNIGAN SANDRA L ETAL,287040

•7409200550,OFF RD 1624 HIGHLAND GAP,3.02,9/19/2006 0:00,INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL BANK,9/16/2011 0:00,114000,GAJDA STEVEN J,138620

•7419646923,1111 KING GAP RD,0.7,5/17/2011 0:00,CAHILL GER-ALD R,5/23/2011 0:00,1000000,KING MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT LLC,794840

•7409446543,188 HIGH POINT VW,5.34,3/29/2007 0:00,MASELLI JOHN A,3/28/2011 0:00,380000,HSBC BANK USA NA TR,1116980

•7408127253,CREEKSIDE COVE,0.13,10/4/2011 0:00,TIMBER LAND CO LLC,11/9/2011 0:00,26000,CORAM JENNINGS B,100000

•7409841299,RD 1622,0.86,9/19/2006 0:00,DYCHES FLETCHER M,9/15/2011 0:00,0,MCEWEN LOUISE R & CAROL M DYCHES,39850

•7409614643,828 MCCONNELL RD,102.66,9/19/2006 0:00,MILLER JAMES L,7/1/2011 0:00,0,MILLER JAMES L,3071220

•7418259193,437 HIGHPOINT DR,1.03,9/21/2006 0:00,FIERBERG JAMES H,6/16/2011 0:00,0,FIERBERG JAMES H,492670

•7419014817,OFF HWY 106,7.49,10/3/2006 0:00,GREFE MELANIE MARGARET TR,11/2/2011 0:00,0,GREFE WILLIAM TRUSTEE,244950

•7419033959,RD 1622,0.67,3/30/2007 0:00,HOLT STEVE NEWTON,8/2/2011 0:00,0,HOLT TOM,31830

•7419043862,111 BAILEY RD,4,3/30/2007 0:00,HOLT STEVE NEWTON,8/2/2011 0:00,0,HOLT TOM,212010

•7419045175,ON RD 1622,2.72,3/30/2007 0:00,HOLT STEVE NEWTON,8/2/2011 0:00,0,HOLT TOM,73400

•7419324463,OFF 106,1.14,10/3/2006 0:00,ABBOTT CHARLES J,7/12/2011 0:00,85500,ROBERTS ARTHUR J,43170

•7409122405,1213 LOST VALLEY RD,85.67,9/19/2006 0:00,ANDERSON RAY C,2/7/2011 0:00,0,ANDERSON RAY C,1773890

•7419410334,16 CHAPIN RD,0.75,10/3/2006 0:00,ELLER PAIGE A,9/19/2011 0:00,40000,UNITED COMMUNITY BANK,221260

•7409368791,OFF SHOAL CREEK RD,3,9/19/2006 0:00,MOORE RONALD C TR,5/12/2011 0:00,0,MOORE RONALD C,91800

•7418322417,1724 HALE RIDGE RD,1.9,9/21/2006 0:00,WILLIAMS RAY TR,11/3/2011 0:00,0,WILLIAMS LINDA ROGERS,337910

•7408126441,74 CREEKSIDE COVE N,0.18,9/9/2010 0:00,B&D INDUSTRIAL & MINING SERVICES INC,7/21/2011 0:00,105000,CO-RAM JENNINGS B,100000

•7418084825,OFF RD 1625,5.7,9/21/2006 0:00,JAMES LINDA LIFE ESTATE,5/17/2011 0:00,0,JAMES LINDA LIFE ESTATE,128630

•7409697838,340 EVANS CREEK RD,2.05,9/19/2006 0:00,BAGWELL SUSAN G,5/20/2011 0:00,0,BAGWELL STANLEY R,275130

•7419040161,50 BILLINGSLEY RD,1.18,10/3/2006 0:00,BILLINGSLEY EUGENE,8/2/2011 0:00,0,HOLT TOM,120540

•7419123071,115 TALL PINES RD,0.57,10/3/2006 0:00,CROSS MARY H TRUSTEE,8/31/2011 0:00,0,CROSS TED R & MARY,144510

•7419123126,TALL PINES,0.56,10/3/2006 0:00,CROSS MARY H TRUSTEE,8/31/2011 0:00,0,CROSS TED R & MARY,33840

•7419207523,7134 DILLARD RD,0.77,10/3/2006 0:00,VELMA M GILLET REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST,4/25/2011 0:00,0,NEWMAN CARLA TRUSTEE,148100

•7419318028,6845 DILLARD RD,0.47,10/3/2006 0:00,MAXWELL WILMA JEAN,2/24/2011 0:00,0,MAXWELL WILMA JEAN,91640

•7419318300,232 EASTSIDE DUCK MOUNTAIN RD,2.25,10/3/2006 0:00,LANGFORD J DAVID,2/24/2011 0:00,0,LANGFORD WANDA TRUSTEE,132620

•7419412886,70 EASTSIDE DUCK MOUNTAIN RD,0.59,10/3/2006 0:00,IMAGINATION CO. LLC,11/29/2011 0:00,55000,ADLER

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John 3:16

PLACES TO WORSHIP

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA
Church: 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion
CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church,
Cashiers

Sun.: Holy Communion - 9 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45 at Buck's
Coffee Cafe, Cashiers

Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

Wed.: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

Thurs.: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian
Church: Healing Service at noon

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School
10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Children's Program,. Worship
Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts Group, 5 p.m. HS
Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

526-2968 • Reverend Denson Franklin
Sunday: Holy Eucharist Rite, 8 a.m., Breakfast; 8:30-9:30 a.m. -
Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.; Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group; Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
Reverend Howard L'Enfant

Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526--4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Evening Worship
6:30

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.,
Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:15-8:15 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. School – 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Rev. Carson Gibson
Sunday School – 10 am
Worship Service – 11 am
Bible Study – 6 pm

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor
828-421-9172• 165 S. Sixth Street
Sundays: Worship – 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson
670 N. Fourth Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)
Sunday: School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., Evening
Worship, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45 a.; Worship 10:50 a.; Youth 5 p.
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 –
Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs: 12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;
Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Roy Lowe, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704
Independent Bible Church
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge
Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor – Parish office: 526-2418
Mass: – Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat: 4 p.m.; Thurs & Fri.: 9 a.

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 • 526-3212
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6
p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Youth 8th - 12th grades meet the 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Dr. Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.

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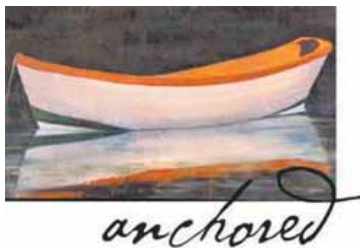
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• HEALTH MATTERS •

Help for Holiday Breath

By Joseph Wilbanks

'Tis the season for holiday parties and lots of group activities. So how is your breath? If it smells minty fresh right now how can you keep it that way at the office party?

Preventing or masking bad breath is a \$2 billion dollar a year industry. It is not surprising that we spend this much money when half of the adult population suffers from chronic bad breath and over one-third of us say that bad breath makes us hesitate when talking to other people (especially the boss).

How do we solve the problem so we can just relax? The first step is finding out what causes bad breath. Halitosis can be caused by several things:

?Bacteria that live in our mouths cause 90 to 95 percent of bad breath. When these bacteria combine with proteins they give off a sulfurous gas — not pleasant. Keep oral bacteria in check with regular brushing, flossing and visits to your dentist.

?Foods can cause bad odors as well. The usual culprits are garlic and onions. Coffee

breath is actually a combination problem caused by the coffee smell combining with the odor produced by bacteria.

?Dry mouth can be caused by medical conditions, certain medications or just by breathing through your mouth. Our saliva serves to moisturize our mouths and washes away bacteria. Take away the saliva and the bacteria thrive causing bad breath and other dental problems.

?Health issues can cause bad breath. Certain conditions including diabetes, liver or kidney disease can cause bad breath. Acid reflux washes food up to the esophagus where it can mix with bacteria to cause an odor. Dental infections can also be the cause of bad breath.

If you have been experiencing bad breath and haven't been able to get the problem under control at home please contact Wilbanks Smile Center in Toccoa, GA at 706-886-9439. A visit to our full service dental office may be all that is needed to get your breath smelling fresh and clean.

Ask Dr. Blue

"Does LASIK cause Dry eyes?"

- Betty from Franklin, N.C.



Betty, the Lasik procedure does not cause dry eyes. The majority of people who come seeking Lasik already had Dry Eyes and didn't even know it. Many times we'll perform Lasik and also treat the Dry Eyes. Those patients often say, *"I had no idea my eyes could feel this good!"* Whether you are interested in LASIK or not, if you experience symptoms of burning, redness, stickiness and blurry vision, I encourage you to see an Ophthalmologist. As simple as it is to treat Dry Eyes, there's no reason to live with the condition.

~ Richard Blue, M.D.



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HELEN,112000

•7409782293,1745 BUCK KNOB RD,4.16,9/19/2006
0:00,EADES ELEANOR B,10/24/2011
0:00,173500,STEELE THOMAS A & KAY,210570

•7409429275,MCCONNELL RD,14.73,9/19/2006
0:00,MILLER JAMES LIFE ESTATE,7/1/2011
0:00,442000,MILLER JAMES L,491170

•7418395605,168 ROCKLEDGE RD,0.68,9/21/2006
0:00,PARKER VIRGINIA G,9/14/2011 0:00,172500,JA-COBS MILTON E,48110

•7418082163,OFF RD 1625,5.7,9/21/2006
0:00,JAMES LINDA LIFE ESTATE,5/17/2011
0:00,0,JAMES LINDA LIFE ESTATE,128630

•7409916339,41 BUCK KNOB RD,1.77,9/19/2006
0:00,SCALY MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INC,4/15/2011 0:00,0,FLATS TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL
SOCIETY,80660

•7409942443,OFF RD 1622,14.91,9/19/2006
0:00,KNOWLES MARGARET D,6/20/2011
0:00,0,BARBER CECILE S,279110

•7408621735,OFF HWY 106,2.35,3/27/2007
0:00,PAYNE THOMAS W,3/3/2011 0:00,60000,HINES
WESLEY SCOTT,115950

•7408230364,DILLARD RD,0.01,9/18/2006
0:00,CITY OF SKY VALLEY,3/16/2011 0:00,9500,CO-
RAM JENNINGS B,2250

•7408321622,364 HUCKLEBERRY HILL
RD,0.84,9/18/2006 0:00,FOGARTY TIMOTHY
LUKE,9/2/2011 0:00,0,FEDERAL NATIONAL MORT-
GAGE ASSN,329780

•7500502931,SR 1622,2.36,8/9/2007 0:00,KNIGHT
SEAN CHRISTOPHER,2/28/2011
0:00,83000,WILKES ALVIN L,174670

•7408677468,8761 DILLARD RD,31.75,9/18/2006
0:00,SPRAGGINS MARGARET M TR,10/3/2011
0:00,0,SPRAGGINS MARGARET M,1402500

•7409841447,121 SHOAL CREEK RD,1.11,9/19/
2006 0:00,FINLEY JESSE B,6/24/2011
0:00,146000,STERRIE KRISTINE E,160480

•7418383810,272 RED GATE LN,130.92,10/3/2006

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• REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS FOR 2011 •

Jan. 1, 2011-Dec. 16, 2011

PIN,PROP_ADDR,ACREAGE,LAST_APPR_DATE,OWNER_NAME,DATE_RECORDED,SALES_PRICE,FIRST_GRANTOR_NAME,ASSESSED_VALUE

0:00,HARTRAMPF CARL R JR,3/15/2011
 0:00,HARTRAMPF CARL R JR,6640690
 •7418393638,168 ROCKLEDGE RD,1.54,9/21/
 2006 0:00,PARKER VIRGINIA G,9/14/2011
 0:00,172500,JACOBS MILTON E,322860
 •7418086642,OFF RD 1625,5.7,9/21/2006
 0:00,JAMES LINDA LIFE ESTATE,5/17/2011
 0:00,0,JAMES ROBERT W LIFE ESTATE,128630
 •7418091081,OFF RD 1625,5.7,9/21/2006
 0:00,JAMES LINDA LIFE ESTATE,5/17/2011
 0:00,0,JAMES ROBERT W LIFE ESTATE,128630
 •7409949427,OFF RD 1622,6.39,9/19/2006
 0:00,BARBER CECILE S,6/20/2011 0:00,0,BARBER
 CECILE S,239420
 •7500607135,350 EVANS CREEK RD,2.04,3/7/
 2006 0:00,BAGWELL SUSAN G,5/20/2011
 0:00,0,BAGWELL STANLEY R,63210
 •7408649672,OFF HWY 106,4.71,9/18/2006
 0:00,SANDERS THOMAS J,11/28/2011
 0:00,54000,AMMANN BRITTANN E,113500
 •7409683342,78 CITADEL LN,2,3/29/2007

0:00,FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSN,3/14/
 2011 0:00,0,ALVAREZ MARLENE MARIA,397270
 •7419114824,119 TALL PINES RD,0.61,10/3/2006
 0:00,CROSS MARY H TRUSTEE,8/31/2011
 0:00,0,CROSS TED R & MARY,110690
 •7419322203,OFF 106,1.46,10/3/2006 0:00,ABBOTT
 CHARLES J,7/12/2011 0:00,85500,ROBERTS
 ARTHUR J,49740
 •7419555249,144 POND RD,1.27,10/3/2006 0:00,SPI-
 GEL SHARON,8/18/2011 0:00,245000,HEILER AL-
 FRED,381860
 •7419648806,1098 KING GAP RD,0.92,4/2/2007
 0:00,HEILER ALFRED,6/15/2011 0:00,645000,MUL-
 HERIN PHILLIP H,705660
 •7409756392,26 RUNKEN LN,0.52,9/19/2006
 0:00,RUNKEN FRED,5/13/2011 0:00,0,PRATT ANITA
 H,112390
 •7409757184,251 SHOAL CREEK RD,1.01,9/19/2006
 0:00,FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSN,10/
 25/2011 0:00,0,WOOD MARTHA HUNTER,152220
 •7418044844,438 RABUN BRANCH RD,4.85,9/21/

2006 0:00,PAIR CYNTHIA C,5/2/2011 0:00,0,PAIR
 CHARLES D,721580
 •7409870257,OFF 1622,0.98,9/19/2006 0:00,SCHAU
 BARBARA M,1/19/2011 0:00,0,SCHAU RONALD
 J,32500
 •7409919405,OFF HWY 106,0.15,10/3/2006
 0:00,SCALY MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 INC,4/15/2011 0:00,0,FLATS TWSHP HISTORICAL
 SOCIETY,17210

•7408332093,10114 DILLARD RD,56.38,9/18/2006
 0:00,BURNETTE RONALD LAMAR,3/15/2011
 0:00,0,BURNETTE JAMES LAMAR,2047830
 •7408629565,553 THOMAS KNOB TRL,4.4,3/27/
 2007 0:00,RICHARD L ILER FAMILY TRUST,10/13/
 2011 0:00,0,ILER RICHARD,712940
 •7408645025,381 HIGH MEADOW DR,3.62,9/18/
 2006 0:00,CLAY J CALVIN,1/27/2011
 0:00,400000,SMITH SCOTT C,456970

... ANGELS continued from page 11

Megan. I said good-bye and told her I'd call her the next day.

I put the phone away and casually watched the woman next to me preparing for her flight. She arranged things in her carry-on; put on a little makeup; brushed her hair.

She turned to me and said "Is everything all right?"

I told it was now and then explained that I had just left my daughter in the hospital and how it was hard to leave her.

She said we are so lucky to have the care we have in America and the access to hospitals and doctors. I asked her where she was from and she said Canada. "Don't you have that there?" I asked. She said yes, the same care is available in Canada but not where she lived now, which is in Africa.

Come to learn I'm talking to Michele Perry, the founder of Iris Ministries Sudan, who almost single-handedly started an orphanage/hospital/school for African children.

I asked her how she got started on that and she said she was inspired by George Clooney's "The Children of Dapur." "After I saw that, I knew I had to do something," she said.

I asked how she got it started financially. She said she cashed in everything she owned and that her family had also given money. I asked how much it took per year to maintain the facilities and all the services it offers the few hundred or-

phans. She said it took about \$180,000 a year. "That's what many Americans make in one year," I said, thinking that given the breadth of the project, that wasn't that much. I asked how that was enough and she said, "Through grace."

She gave me her card. She was headed for Ohio for what I now know was a speaking engagement. When I got home, I went on line and looked up www.fromtheunpavedroad.com and learned that as the founding national field coordinator, Michelle travels four months out of a year to raise funds and awareness for Iris Ministries Sudan. The rest of the time she spends with the children.

She was called to board at the adjacent gate. She said good-bye and said she hoped all would go well with Megan. She gathered her belongings and headed for the podium to hand in her boarding pass. That's when the impact of Michele Perry and what she is doing hit me.

Michele is a Little Person ... a Little Person with one leg and a crutch who daily faces odds I can't even imagine. Here she was offering me comfort with soothing words and kind expressions and my biggest hurdle was getting home.

No matter the trials and tribulations we endure, there is always someone enduring more. I know now, I encountered many angels during my Chicago trip, the last being Michele Perry. This Christmas season and during the year to come, we need to remember to give thanks for all we have and be thankful for the angels among us.



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• 2011 YEAR-IN-REVIEW •

12 school year with the first day Aug. 4 and the last day May 24. First day of school stands at Aug. 4. Judge denies injunction.

August

• ETJ could end; part of alley to close. The two biggest items that came out of the Aug. 2 Town Board meeting came toward the end and involved abolishing ETJ and closing a portion of Church Street Alley. Highlands one of seven schools to meet AYP.

• Town hires Clabo as Planning Director. At 9 am. Tuesday, Aug. 9, David Clabo, met with Town of Highlands officials to "sew up" his terms of employment and thereafter he was officially made the next Planning Director for Highlands.

• Carlton arrested for attempted robbery.

bery. Last Friday, Highlands Police closed at least part of the attempted robbery of the Farmers Market case which occurred on June 12, 2011. Warrants were drawn and served to Chad William Carlton, 37, who is being held in federal custody in Murphy, NC, for attempted Common Law Robbery of the Bounty Land Quick Stop, Store #9, known locally as the Farmers Market.

• HS 'School of Distinction' 2 years running.

• Senator Bob Carpenter dies. Senator Robert C. Carpenter, 87, of Franklin, NC, died Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011. He was born and raised in Macon County. The Carpenter family has been in Macon County since the 18th century.

• Highlander part of WNC meth ring. A

10-month investigation utilizing undercover agents and confidential sources netted eight Western North Carolinians as well as one man from South Carolina in a crystal methamphetamine distribution ring. Arrested were William Wesley Hargett, William Andrew Estes, Ricky Dean Fisher, Johnny Ray Frady, Kirsten Beaubien McGilivray, Lonnie Payne, Jr., Pedro Avila Sorrano, Michael James Taylor, and Larry Michael Watkins.



• Five line up for Nov. election.
• Parking citation fee rising.
• Group to push for safe slopes in county. Will urge MC Commission to pass sensible slope ordinance.

• ETJ is on the line. Monday night's Planning Board meeting resurrected the ill feelings, mistrust, even hatred citizens in the ETJ harbor against the town, government in general, and the country clubs since November 6, 2005 when ETJ was adopted. At the urging of Commissioner Larry Rogers who wants the Town Board to abolish ETJ, the Planning Board was tasked to recommend whether to keep or abolish it.

• Playhouse cited by ABC Commission. On Aug. 5, the Highlands Playhouse was visited by an officer of the ABC Commission, Steve Myers, who on an anonymous tip, showed up at the Playhouse at 8:30 p.m., ordered a beer, drank the beer and ceremoniously presented the Playhouse staff with a citation for selling beer.

• Highlands N. Historic District on the National Register.

September

• ETJ public hearing set for Sept. 27. Almost six years after Highlands evoked Extra Territorial Jurisdiction in the one-mile radius beyond the corporate limits commissioners are now considering abolishing it.

• Some claim craft fair cuts into Main St. biz. On the heels of the Village Square Art and Craft Show in

• Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street this Labor Day weekend, come cries from some disenchanted merchants crying foul.

• Fight on for Highlands magistrate position. Tuesday night, Macon County Com-

missioners were asked to sign a resolution to help fight the state's decision to eliminate the part-time of Magistrate in Highlands.

• Firetruck restoration a reality. Members of the Highlands Country Club have given the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. individual checks totaling \$9,475 which will be used to complete the restoration of the town's first fire truck.

• Citizens urged to attend NC-DOT info session on proposed semi turnarounds. To alleviate the problem, the NC Dept. of Transportation is considering building four semi turnarounds so truckers who find themselves on the Gorge Road route have a chance to turnaround.

• Board to consider construction standards for slopes. The county's Slope Development Ordinance has been tabled for now, but the Planning Board has been hard at work devising construction standards for land disturbing activity in Macon County which will likely find its way into some kind of pared down ordinance.

• Reval or no reval...? At a special work-session last Thursday, MC Commissioners deliberated over what path to take knowing that whichever one they choose will be considered the wrong one by the public.

• Students put Highlands School on the map. Seniors Cai Roman and Evan Iezzi were recognized for academic achievement that could earn them big bucks for college. Roman is a National Merit Semifinalist and Iezzi is a National Merit Commended student.

• Board tackles conditional zoning. Planning Director David Clabo initiated an discussion on the subject now on the front burner following a request from Old Edwards Hospitality Group (OEH) to renovate the old Northland Cable building on NC 106 for multifamily housing.

October

• ETJ not dead yet; alley closes. Tuesday night's Town Board meeting was packed with citizens most there to hear the final word on Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), but others were also there to defend the use of town property.

• 2011-12 school budget is \$50.4M \$18.99M funded locally for arts & craft fairs events; even to weigh in on the partial closing of Church Street Alley.

• 3 cases of La Crosse Encephalitis in county, one in Highlands.

• Five candidates — John Dotson, Eric Pierson, Larry Rogers, Michael Rogers and

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• 2011 YEAR-IN-REVIEW •

Brian Stiehler line up for three Highlands Town Board seats.

- Dialysis center OK'd for MC. The North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) on Wednesday voted unanimously to approve Macon County's Petition for Adjustment to Need Determination – essentially paving the way for a dialysis center to be built in the county.

- ETJ gone but not completely forgotten. return to the table. With Town Attorney Bill Coward's guidance, at Tuesday night's Town Board meeting commissioners took the legal steps necessary to abolish ETJ. The first step was the adoption of a statement explaining that ETJ isn't consistent with the town's Land Use Plan and that the amendments abolishing the ETJ zoning district are reasonable and in the public's interest.

- Repairs poised to begin at Playhouse. Back in the summer Highlands Playhouse board members asked the town to fund building repairs to the tune of about \$20,000. That request segued to the town taking a close look at exactly what is needed before allocating funds to upgrade the historical structure.

- Tax valuation stays until 2015. A lack of comparables are the main reason the county commission agreed to postpone real estate tax valuations until 2015.

- Highlands-area roads in DOT's sights for 2012.

- Bridge beats Old Man Winter. Mirror Lake Bridge is on schedule and should be open for traffic soon. The first layer of paving is taking place now, just in time, as possible snow is on its way. After paving is complete the final inspection will be scheduled before vehicular traffic will be allowed.

- Conditional Zoning draft in the works

November

- Changes at Rec Park. With the pending retirement of Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker, the Town Board has decided to split Chalker's job into two functions – Rec Park Director and Physical Plant Manager – and to begin advertising for both positions as soon as possible.



- SOS-NC still watching for calendar waivers. Recently, the non-profit organization, Save Our Summers-North Carolina (SOS-NC) and Macon County parent, Sabrina Hawkins, took legal action against the NC State Board of Education for granting waivers (from the mandated August 25th school start date) to every single school in the Macon County school district. This system-wide attempt to evade the school calendar law violates the intent of N.C. General Statute 115C-84.2(d), which states that, "waiver requests for educational purposes shall not be used to accommodate system-wide classroom preferences."

- Commission reluctant to adopt slope standards. Experts stressed the need for Macon County to adopt construction standards for slope development at a special continuation meeting Oct. 25, but still the commission is reluctant to take a stand on the issue.

- Highlands F&R rescues 'pinned' man. At 11:55 a.m., Monday, Nov. 7, Highlands Fire & Rescue responded to a 9-1-1 call about a man pinned between the hydraulic lift and cab of a front-end loader at Highlands Country Club.

- Two new faces join the Town Board. Highlands now has two new commissioners. Brian Stiehler and Eric Pierson will join John Dotson, who was re-elected, Amy Patterson and Gary Drake at the table.



- Highlands electric rates to go up again. Tuesday night the Town Board amended its contract with Duke Energy and learned that Highlands' wholesale electric rates will be increasing in January – increases which will be passed on to Highlands' residents.

- Macon County Public Library now offers eBooks.

- Highlander returns for flag ceremony. Monday morning, former Highlands student Danielle Rhodes returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan to present High-

lands School with a new flag that had been flown in Kandahar. Rhodes, a 2006 Highlands graduate, will return to Afghanistan on Sunday.

- Board picks new Town Manager. The Town of Highlands has made an offer to Robert A. Frye for the Town Manager position and Frye has accepted. He officially begins Jan. 17, 2012.

- Sheriff Dept. investigating BOE member. Macon County School Board member Tommy Baldwin, who represents the Nantahala District, is under investigation due to allegations concerning inappropriate conduct.

December

- Replacement sought for McClellan. On Thursday, Dec. 1, the Macon County Commission is holding a special meeting at 8 p.m., to consider, discuss and accept the resignation of Commission Chairman Brian McClellan. Likely due to the Nov. 18 DWI arrest in Jackson County, near Sylva, two-term

commissioner McClellan released a statement Nov. 22 explaining his resignation though he didn't refer to the DWI arrest.

- Tate to replace McClellan on MC Board. James (Jimmy) Tate from Highlands was recommended by unanimous vote during the meeting. Tate ran against McClellan in 2010 Republican primary.

- King and Queen for the night. The Highlands School Homecoming Dance was held at the Performing Arts Center Saturday night. Crowned were seniors Cody St. Germain and Julianne Buras.

- Town to decide on 'form of government. Thursday night at a special Town Board meeting, commissioners learned that as it stands now, the town isn't in compliance with the State General Statutes when it comes to the Council-Manager form of government.

- Planning Board OK's CD zone

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... WATERSHED from page 1

velop a plan with specific recommendations to restore and protect watershed resources and produce an atlas of on-the-ground volunteer projects that can benefit the watershed.

What the study found is that a large portion of the watershed is highly functioning or healthy, including much of Cowee subwatershed and the Burningtown, Tellico, Brush, Sawmill and the Needmore subwatersheds. They have a high amount of public and privately owned forest and are generally associated with healthy fish and aquatic macroinvertebrate (insects, snails, etc.) communities.

The most highly impacted subwatersheds are those of Iotla Creek, Watauga Creek, Cat and Rabbit creeks in the Franklin area including Crawford Branch.

Aquatic macroinvertebrate communities are severely impacted by toxic impacts associated with a large tomato farm along Cat and Rabbit creeks. Poor habitat was also linked to a lack of woody riparian buffers, extensive stream straightening, livestock access to streams and unpaved roads.

In Franklin, Crawford Branch fish and aquatic macroinvertebrate communities are highly degraded, impacted by stormwater, water quality problems and poor habitat. Tellico Creek was found to be impacted by waste inputs from a trout farm in its upper reaches.

Leslie briefly outlined recommendations in four categories — Conservation Projects, Policy and Institutional Measures, Educational Activities and Research and Assessment Activities.

She said the Conservation Project suggestions are voluntary but said it was up to the county's decision-makersto embrace policy and institutional measures and to prioritize what's important.

"You have the challenge of embracing economic development while protecting the county's great natural resources," she said.

She said there is money out there — often from the Clean Water Trust Management Fund — which can be used to implement conservation measures and repair streams.

The Educational aspect of the recommendations will be the main focus so citizens and students can learn how they can help protect and repair the waterbodies in the Franklin to Fontana Watershed.

Commissioner Ronnie Beale said if the county doesn't protect its water, it has nothing.

The board took her recommendations under advisement.

— Kim Lewicki



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Eckerd Living Center's nursing team complete special dementia training

Members of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Fidelity Eckerd Living Center (FELC) Nursing team recently completed a virtual training tour, focusing on dementia care for the elderly.

With the help of the Southwestern Commission Area Agency on Aging, FELC's staff members underwent a specialized training and education session to provide better care for those suffering from Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. Approximately 35 million Americans age 65 and older suffer from both diseases, as do many of the residents at FELC. To address the overriding cognitive impairments and help improve their quality of life, the living center's caregivers completed a simulated experience, attempting to "walk in the shoes" of residents stricken with the life changing disease.

"The virtual training tour combined various ob-

stacles that our residents face every day," said Emily Bowers, LPN and FELC's Social Worker. "Each staff member that participated in the tour wore gloves that covered their hands and small bags of corn in their shoes to mimic neuropathy and arthritis, headphones that projected white noise placed over their ears that depicted the inability to focus on the task at hand, and wore tinted goggles over their eyes that simulated vision impairments such as macular degeneration, glaucoma and yellowing of the lens."

Ava Emory, RN, FELC's Chief Nursing Officer added that "The training provided our staff tips and tools necessary to create a positive environment that supports the disease and lessens their confusion. It helps to build sensitivity and awareness as well as an understanding of the physical and mental challenges."

"Our living center has over 50 nursing care individuals working alongside experienced and committed Medical staff with one goal in mind- to provide the highest levels of quality health care," said Emory. "Participating in the specialized training tour shows that our staff is committed to an ongoing process of education, in bettering their skills and abilities to care for our residents."



FELC Certified Nurse Assistants Becky Gibson (middle) and Jessica Vanegas (right) participate in a simulated Alzheimer's Disease training and Chaplain, Reverend Ralph Campbell (left) takes notes during the lecture.

AnnaWear celebrates 25th anniversary



On Friday, Dec. 16, owner Anna Herz celebrated AnnaWear's 25 years in business with friends, family and customers who enjoyed refreshments and extra special deals on merchandise. AnnaWear is at 355 Main Street.



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the downtown area of Highlands, returning to
the Town Hall. Walking breaks for new runners
are encouraged. The run is held "come rain or
shine or ice or snow." No entry fee.

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- Newspaper
- Helens Barn Ave
- SPRING ST.
- CHURCH ST.
- 4TH ST.
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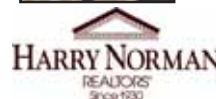


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