

Highlands' Newspaper

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Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012

Electric credit coming; form of government changes

When citizens opened their electric bills this month not only did they experience sticker shock but outrage.

The new rates, which were OK'd at the Jan. 17 Town Board meeting mistakenly went into

effect as of Dec. 21 – which began the regular electric cycle for the "January" bill.

But Town Manger Bob Frye said it was all a mistake and at Tuesday night's Town Board meeting he requested the commissioners

make it right.

"Our electrical billing cycle ran from Dec 21 2011 to Jan 23 2012. The electrical rate increase was approved and intended to take place as of Jan 17th 2012 and should have been reflected from

that point forward on the bill. Apparently, the billing software applied the rate increase to the entire bill instead," he said.

The board voted unanimously to not only credit customers the

• See CHANGES page 18

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Natural beauty a 'natural' attraction for tourists

By Luke Osteen

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance gave Highlanders a glimpse of a brighter future for the local economy based on the concept of sustainable tourism.

Dr. Alex Naar of East Carolina University's Center for Sustainable Tourism spoke to about 40 citizens and community leaders at First Presbyterian Church last week.

The event, sponsored by J-MCA, focused on the promise of attracting visitors with the area's natural beauty and cultural heritage. Sustainable tourism is based upon careful land use, government infrastructure that recognizes the wise use of resources, the protection of the environment, and cultural opportunities.

"This is a sound economic development strategy, and we're finding that communities that adopt green policies are able to maintain their economic health, even in downturns," Naar said. "I've been coming to this area for years and I'm still blown away by everything that Highlands offers to visitors. If you can develop a

plan for attracting people based on those qualities, your entire community would benefit."

That view dovetails with the vision of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

"Tourism has become the third leg of Macon County's economic development – the other areas are real estate and construction," said Chamber executive director Bob Kieltka. "With the other two legs in such bad condition because of the economy, tourism becomes even more important. The revenue that visitors bring into Highlands saves local taxpayers."

"Those visitors who spend \$1,000 on a weekend in Highlands could become people who spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on a second home in town," said Naar.

"The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance supports the idea of sustainable tourism because it's a way to educate the public about our natural heritage," said J-CMA's Michelle Price. "A grant from the

• See TOURISTS page 17



Rock Gorge at risk. The latest Forest Service plans would send paddlers down the Wild and Scenic Upper Chattooga in the the Rock Gorge area. Photo by Butch Clay

Conservation groups claim Chattooga River at risk from U.S. Forest Service decision

Want forest service to reverse critical decision

Georgia ForestWatch, Georgia Sierra Club, and Wilderness Watch today announce they will challenge the US Forest Service's decision to open nearly all of the Wild and Scenic Upper Chattooga River to whitewater kayaking, including in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness.

• See CHATTOOGA page 14

Sheriff Dept. investigates murder/suicide

Macon County Sheriff's Officers were dispatched to a residence in Highlands on February 2 at approximately 6 p.m. regarding two unattended deaths.

The bodies of Kenneth Simmons, age 71, and Frances Harriet Simmons, age 71, were discovered in the residence on Hog Back Mountain Lane by two family members who also reside at the residence.

A pet dog was also deceased from apparent gunshot wounds. The family members reported the situation to Macon County 911.

The preliminary results of Mr. Simmons' autopsy indicate that his cause of death was from multiple gunshot wounds. The preliminary results of Mrs. Simmons' autopsy indicate that her cause of death was from a single gunshot wound. A five-page note believed to have been written by Mrs. Simmons was found in the residence.

The residence was secured and investigators from the Sheriff's Office were contacted to initiate an investigation. An investigator was present at the autopsy on Feb. 3 and items of evidence were seized from the residence

• See MURDER/SUICIDE page 4

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Town should rethink electric rate hike

Dear Editor,

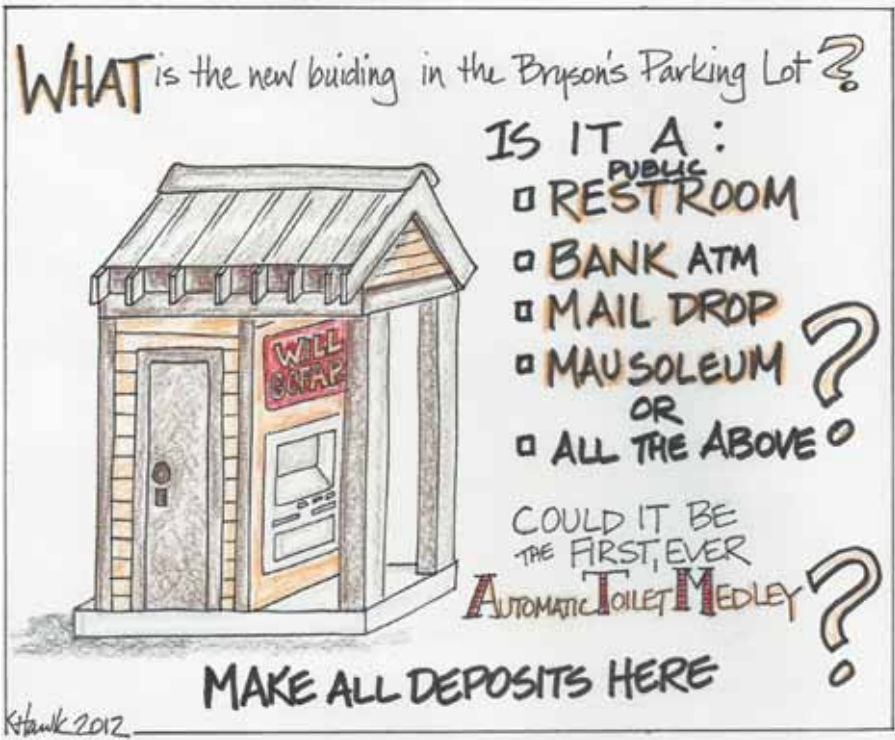
Where is a small business to turn as prices continue to rise and they are limited by how much they can raise their prices?

As the owner and operator of Kilwin's Chocolates & Ice Cream in Highlands, I am in a quandry as I continue to watch prices of goods and services increase to significant levels. My quandry is that I can only pass on so much of these rising prices to the customer before the customer decides they do not want an ice cream cone, slice of fudge or caramel apple.

I am sure many other retailers and restaurant operators face this same dilemma. The merchant must face the end user each day and is basically handcuffed by the commodities markets, utility monopolies, credit card companies and government. Many of the commodity products we use, mainly sugar and pecans, have gone up more than 100% over the past three years. As I have watched the discussion in our local papers regarding the cost of electricity in the Town of Highlands and just how much the Town Board believes they need to increase the rates, I begin to cringe and feel the need to write down my concerns for everyone to hear.

I understand the need for a town to raise revenues to meet the needs of its citizens, but I believe a town should follow a sound business model as it meets these needs. An approximate 25% increase in the cost of electricity overnight does not appear to be a sound business practice and certainly does not serve to encourage the economic climate of our small town. A 25% increase in electric costs will result in an approximate \$2,000 annual utility bill increase for my small business. To put this in ice cream terms, I will need to sell an additional 1,600 ice cream cones to simply get back to where I was before the electric rate increase. As a small business, I cannot raise my prices 25% in order to maintain my same profit margins and I do not think

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



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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the town should operate any differently. Over the past three years, I have had to run my business more efficiently with less employees and implement slight price increases to stay competitive and attractive to my customers. When I hear the town wants to maintain an 8% profit on the utility fund and looks no further for additional revenue, it sounds like they are taking the easy way out because they do not have to be competitive or attractive to the customer since they are the only game in town.

My philosophy with regard to operating with public or private funds would be to first look for every possible alternative before raising prices or taxes. First, the town must ask themselves: Are we operating as efficiently and effectively as possible? And are there items in the budget we can reduce or eliminate? Second, How can we raise revenues in a manner that all beneficiaries of town government services contribute? Third, If we need to raise utility rates, how can we do this on a gradual basis so as not to shock our local economy? The current approach to raising or maintaining revenues by increasing the electric rate has a much more significant effect on the small businesses than it does on the rest of the town. If you consider that most of the commercial properties are leased and not owned by the small businesses, the owners of these properties continue to enjoy their profits from lease payments without being affected by utility increases. Further, part-time residents enjoy all the benefits of town government but only incur a modest net dollar increase in utility costs. I would encourage the Town Board to rescind the increase in electric rates and implement a more modest increase, realizing they may not be able to make the same profits off the electric fund in the years to come. Respectively,

Jerry Moore
Highlands

Show up in support of no land use regs

Dear Editor,

One of the most memorable days of my life was January 19, 2001. The county had tried to institute a serious zoning ordinance, about the size of a telephone book,

• See LETTERS page 17

• OBITUARY •

Mary Elizabeth Rogers Houston

Mary Elizabeth Rogers Houston, age 91, of Highlands, NC went to be with her Savior, surrounded by her family who loved her very much, on February 1, 2012. Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Benjamin and Callie Tilson Rogers. She was married to the late Donald G. Houston. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother; a member of Buck Creek Baptist Church; she had a great sense of humor, and enjoyed reading, gardening and flowers.

Mary is survived by four daughters, Shirley (Tom) Murphy of West Chester, OH, Betty (Mickey) Henry of Highlands, NC, Donna Houston of Highlands, NC and Kathy (Don) McConnell of Franklin, NC; five sons, Billy Houston of Highlands, NC, Wiley (Diane) Houston of Franklin, NC, Gary (Patty) Houston of Highlands, NC, Jimmy Houston of Highlands, NC and Robert (Sharon) Houston of Pickens, SC; eight grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Saturday, February 4, 2012 at Buck Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Jamie Passmore and Rev. Dan Lyons officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were Shawn Keener, Scotty Keener, Stevie Keener,

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Jonathan Deats, Christopher Deats and David Leffler. Honorary pallbearers were Glandon Vaughn, Algie Bolick, Michael Houston, Ralph Rogers, Lonnie Barnes and Martin Chavez.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations

may be made to Buck Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Geneva Vaughn, 133 Embers Dr., Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Cock fighting....a sport the whole family can play

If you're a true Highlander, you proba-
bly don't know a lot about cock fight-
ing, mostly because it's banned in the
United States. But who cares about that?
Murder is also banned but it hasn't slowed
killings down too much, especially in Mi-
ami.

Right after the Mariel boat lift, Miami
Beach was flooded with people released
from Castro's insane asylums, prisons, and
an amazing number of his homeless. Thank
you, Jimmy Carter. Of course, they brought
their customs and traditions with them, like
cock fighting and gut stabbings. Rooster sales
skyrocketed and cockpits were fashioned
inside high fenced backyards. As a cop, I
found myself right in the middle of all this.
Fun, fun, fun! Pet goats were turned loose
to make room for the cockpit. We had more
goats in jail then persons. (Could I make
this up?) Goats are also illegal on Miami
Beach.

Anyway, here's how it works. First, you
buy a rooster and feed it well to build its
strength. Also, slap it around often until it's
meaner than Don Swanson at a Democrat-
ic rally. When the rooster wants to go for
your throat....or the family dog....or another
rooster....especially another rooster, chal-
lenge another cock owner to a cockfight.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
askfredanything@aol.com

There's much bravado that takes place
during this process. The challenger, known
as the "cock-man" or the "cockster," usual-
ly meets another cock owner in a small
outdoor café, featuring rock-hard stools
with no backs. First they smile, displaying
badly stained teeth, shake hands, sip Cu-
ban coffee together and then look mean at
each other after neither offer to pay for the
coffee. Next, the challenger says, "Como
grande es su martillo?" which, of course
means, "How big is your cock?" His friend
laughs and says, "Mas grande que el suyo,"
which means, "Bigger than yours, I'm
sure."

Then they insult each other's mother.
"Bring your mother. I'll use her as a stool to
milk my cow," is a typical insult. They laugh
and a time and date is set. The whole neigh-
borhood shows up to witness the fight. Bet-
ting becomes intense. The two roosters are
thrown into the cockpit and the fight be-
gins. The battle is to the death unless, of

course, the nice Jewish couple living next
door calls the police to complain about
the noise, then everyone runs except the
roosters who are, at this point, bloody and
pissed at each other. Throwing cold water
on cocks usually calms them. (You knew
that, right?)

So there you have it, folks....and you
thought Bingo was exciting. I'm out of the
loop now but I know the fights still go on.
Come on down and I'll see if I can find a
couple of cocks willing to go at it.

PS- WARNING: This is very important.
Never, I repeat, never eat a dead cock. It's
tougher than trying to buy a beer at a Bap-
tist social.

• Are you sick and tired of going to
cock fights every Saturday night. Then read
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your Kindle or Nook.

**... MURDER/SUICIDE
continued from pg 1**

and during the autopsy. No criminal charg-
es are expected to be filed and the Investi-
gation will remain open pending the final
autopsy report.

At the request of the family members
who reside in the residence, the Sheriff's
Office is releasing this information so that
the public will be made aware of the facts
surrounding this unfortunate incident.

Additionally, Mr. Simmons was ex-
tremely ill and under care of hospice when
the incident occurred.

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Dr. Henry Salzarulo

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Sunday night; Marley has had his last walk of the day. The Super Bowl had ended, not coincidentally, just minutes earlier. I was elated with the outcome, New York over New England in a game that went down to the final play. Bull, who had declared himself a Patriots fan just minutes before the game, wasn't eager to discuss it.

Lizzie was already sleeping, and Marley's interest was limited to sniffing trunks and stumps. At this moment, I have no one but you, a patient reader who cannot possibly express disinterest until at least Thursday. Some of you in Bonita Springs may not see the paper until next week, or never. I could call my friend Rocket in Houston, but he'd be too analytical. Selwyn, a close friend whom I met in Haiti, lives in Boston, so he's out. Bostonians love their teams. Boston is a Red Sox town, but the Patriots, Celtics, and Bruins all have hordes of fans after the World Series is finished. Selwyn, a native of Saint Croix, has lived in Boston since his freshman year in college and, except for the absence of an annoying nasal accent, is indistinguishable from a native.

I understand why Selwyn loves the Pats, and I wouldn't be surprised to be told that Mayor Bloomberg, with all his wealth and power, eats, drinks, and sleeps the Giants. Their passion is explicable. I'm not passionate about the New York Football Giants. As the pairings took shape, I learned that the Giants had squeaked into the playoffs in the final game. Yesterday I became a Giants fan. The team can expect no loyalty from me. This was a one game commitment. I have a hunch that I wanted New England to lose more than I wanted New York to win. Had New England won, their quarterback, Tom Brady, would have tied Joe Montana with four Super Bowl victories. We couldn't have that. Montana played at Notre Dame and I was a Catholic kid

who grew up in Indiana. I understand why I love Notre Dame.

More than being unable to explain why I would have been very unhappy if the Patriots had won, I'm at a loss to understand why I'm skipping around on clouds. The glow will be fading in the morning, and, by lunchtime, the Giants will be last night's spinach dip. I've known people who adopt teams as they move from city to city or campus to

campus. It makes sense, but I could never do it. I knew a nurse whose husband, some kind of forestry guy, had been transferred from Tallahassee to Clemson. At far as I could tell, her affection for Clemson was genuine. The plasticity of the female mind amazes me. I could never do that. It would be convenient if I could. I have little affection for Clemson, although I've lived in its backyard and treated its athletes for more than 20 years. The reason is simple and embarrassing.

On New Year's Day, 1981, Clemson played Nebraska in the Orange Bowl for the collegiate national championship. I had no interest in either team. I was in Fort Lauderdale at the time and bet a guy I met at the hotel five dollars on Nebraska. Everybody had heard of Nebraska. Few people outside of Pickens County had heard of Clemson. I thought it was a sure thing. Clemson won, and to be honest, I've never forgiven them.

It's Sunday night. The Giants are champions of the football world, and I'm a happy man. It makes no more sense than the depression I felt when Connecticut beat Duke for the national collegiate basketball championship. I didn't graduate from Duke. I've only been in Durham once in my life, and that was passing through. I wasn't really aware of Duke until an October day in 1987. I was driving through Columbia, SC when I heard a radio interview with Coach Krzyzewski. I was hooked. But that's another story. Tonight be satisfied with a peek into the troubled male mind.

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Adult Language and situations

• BACK DAYS • John Palmer and Margaret 'Jane' Gribble McKinney

This continues our Back Days series in Highlands' Newspaper. This time it features the family of John Palmer and Margaret Jane Gribble McKinney families whose descendants tell the tales that will follow in this and subsequent issues.

Those who came before and after them – Part 3

By Jesse McKinney, who was listed living in Surry County, NC in the 1790 Census,

is the father of James McKinney who was born in 1795 who is the great-great-great grandfather of the McKinney heirs in High-

lands today. James McKinney married his cousin Sarah (Sally) McKinney from Pickens District of SC in what is now Oconee County.

James and Sally McKinney had only one child, Allison Dickson McKinney, born Feb. 22, 1818.

Around 1835, James McKinney obtained about 600 acres of land in Cashiers Valley, part of which is now known as the High Hampton Inn property and some say they were the first white settlers in the area.

In the 1840s, James's son Allison became quite active in the procurement of land. On May 5, 1843 he entered a claim for 100 acres on the Chattooga River on the public road to the South Carolina line for \$5.

On Sept. 17, 1845, he bought 500 acres also on the Chattooga River from Jacob B. Trammell for \$500.

Next he entered another claim for 100 acres on the Chattooga for \$5. This was a total of 700 acres in addition to the land originally claimed or purchased when coming into Cashiers Valley.

The McKinney version of how Cashiers got its named is supported by historians, though there are many versions of the tale. It goes like this:

Even before James McKinney moved his family to Cashiers Valley, he was using it for summer pasture for his livestock. Among the animals was a white stallion, which cost him \$500. Because of its value, James named it Cash. One fall James failed to round the horse up due to its "wildness." But the next spring, he found Cash alive and well and with a colt. He called the place where the horse had wintered Cash's Valley which evolved to Cashiers Valley.

Those familiar with Southern Appalachian speech know mountaineers stick the letter "R" into all kinds of words – wider, warsh, wormen – so it's not surprising that the "r" sound is added to Cash's.

James McKinney is said to be the source of two other names in the area. Knowing that horses wouldn't graze where there were sheep, he put his sheep on the cliffs and his horses on the river bottom lands, hence the names Sheep Cliff and Horsepasture River.

According to reports, the McKinney's



John Palmer and Margaret Jane Gribble McKinney

two-story, log home became a center of hospitality for people traveling through. It lies about two miles south of Cashiers on NC 107, just past the entrance to High Hampton.

Evidently, McKinney guest were never lacking in something to quench their thirst and a keg of brandy was kept on each end of the front porch.

James McKinney was preceded in death by his wife, Sarah, who is supposedly buried in some unmarked and unknown grave on or near High Hampton Estate.

Both James and Sarah are listed in the Macon County census of 1850. Jackson County was formed in 1851, thus in 1860 they were listed in the Jackson County census.

James is designated as a farmer with two in the family (himself and Sarah). The value of his real estate is listed at \$250; his personal estate at \$3,300; as owning four slaves – a black female, 27, and three mulatto children ranging in ages from eight to one-years-old. He also lists one slave cabin.

Their son Allison is listed in the same census as a farmer, holding property worth \$1,460 and personal property worth \$1,600. He has 10 in his household and one slave, and 8-year-old mulatto female.

In 1870, James is listed as a farm worker, 75, and apparently a member of Allison's household. Sarah isn't listed, for had died in 1868.

James is believed to be buried at Clark's Chapel in Franklin and it's believed he died between 1872 and 1875.

Now, back to Allison.

On Dec. 9, 1845, at either Yellow Hill in Haywood County or Quallatown in Jackson County, James and Sarah's son Allison

• See BACK DAYS page 8



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• COACH'S CORNER •

Duke-UNC one

Tonight marks chapter one in this years edition of the greatest rivalry in college sports as Duke travels to Chapel Hill to face North Carolina. Both teams have been somewhat of an enigma this year, as both teams are extremely talented yet have underachieved at times. Duke started the season strongly, with wins over Kansas and Michigan State, but the Blue Devils have faltered as late, with two uncharacteristic home losses to FSU and Miami. North Carolina suffered a complete blowout in Tallahassee but appear to have righted the ship with some good wins this past week. Let's take a look at Wednesday night's matchup and make some sense of it.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

leading rebounding team in the nation. Duke has been a poor rebounding team, and that does not look to change tonight. In fact, UNC's best offense may be to put the ball on the backboard and go get it.

When Duke has the ball

UNC protects the lane extremely well with tremendous shot blocking, but their lack of quickness has hurt their ability to cover the three point line and cover up dribble penetration. Duke is an extremely prolific outside shooting team, but they have a tendency to fall in love with the three point shot and avoid getting the ball inside to the Plumlee brothers. The key for North Carolina will be to force Duke to drive the ball to the basket and run them off of the three point line. UNC has the length to protect the rim, but no one who can match up with the quickness of Austin Rivers and Seth Curry on the perimeter.

Key matchup

Ryan Kelly: Kelly is basically a 6'11 guard who can pull either Henson or Zeller away from the basket on offense and open up the paint. If Kelly can knock down some shots, it will allow Duke to have some room to operate in the paint. Duke wins 90% of their games in which Kelly scores more than 10 points, and that statistic is certainly one to pay attention to tonight.

The Pick

UNC is at home and has been trending upward, while Duke has struggled as of late. UNC takes this one, 79-71

When UNC has the ball

The strength of this UNC team is the usual trademark of Roy Williams coached teams, the post game. Tyler Zeller has been dominant in ACC play, and John Henson has been equally impressive. PG Kendall Marshall is one of the best point guards in the nation, and he makes the Heels offense run efficiently. Duke's perimeter defense has been atrocious this season, and they have had trouble stopping dribble penetration all season. UNC forward Harrison Barnes is a matchup problem at 6'8, but his mobility has been hampered by a sprained ankle and Duke may choose to guard him with a larger defender. One advantage for Duke is that Carolina does not possess the kind of penetrating guards that have hampered Duke this season. However, North Carolina is one of the largest teams in the nation size-wise, and is the



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• CONSERVATIVE POV

Mr. Woodchuck, Go chuck some wood...

...and leave us alone. Unless you're telling us the next six weeks will be like the last six, in which case, bring it on. This winter around here is almost enough to make one believe in global warming, if you think the globe stops at our borders. While we bask in remarkably mild weather, the folks elsewhere aren't so lucky. According to The Washington Post: "Snow has gone missing in action for much of the U. S. the last couple of months. But it's not just snow. It's practically the season that's gone AWOL. For the lower 48, January was the third-least snowy on record, going back to 1967. On the last day in January, all but a handful of states had temperatures in the 50s or higher. In Washington, DC, where temps flirted with the 70s, some cherry trees were already budding – weeks early. But there is lots of snow and dangerous cold – it's just elsewhere in the world. Valdez, Alaska has had 328 inches of snow, 10 feet above average and Yukon hit a record 66 below zero. Nearly 80

people have died from a vicious cold snap in Europe, and much of Asia has been blanketed with snow. The weather is so cold that some areas of the Black Sea have frozen near the Romanian coastline, and rare snowfalls have occurred on islands in the Adriatic Sea." From the Orange County Register: "The Earth's temperature hasn't increased significantly in about 15 years, which wouldn't be big news except global warming extremists had predicted temperatures would soar during that time because of manmade greenhouse gas emissions. That forecast would be just another failed hypothesis, except governments around the world used the threatened overheating as an excuse to regulate, tax and subsidize in order to curb greenhouse gases and, of course, save the Earth." Well, since the theory has been completely debunked and the scheme is losing



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

steam (pun intended), the Green people are calling in the heavyweights to bolster their efforts. Roseanne Barr, alleged comedienne and perhaps the most disgusting person of her era, has launched her bid to become president. It's no joke – Roseanne Barr has submitted her plan to go from the nut farm to the White House as the Green Party's presidential nominee. For those of you who are too young to remember or who have managed to forget, she

stirred up controversy when she screeched her rendition of the National Anthem off-key at a 1990 nationally aired baseball game, followed by spitting and grabbing her crotch. Now, that sounds like Presidential material to me. Barf. On the flip side, from Reuters: "Forget Romney or Obama, the voters want Tim Tebow. He wasn't in this year's Super Bowl and his Denver Broncos are already 50-1 longshots for next year's NFL title, but if Tim Tebow swapped the pigskin for politics, he might be a shoo-in for the White House.

Asked which NFL playoff quarterback they would choose for president of the United States in the coming election, more than one in four voters go for Tebow, according to the results of a new Reuters/Ipsos poll of likely voters released recently. Tebow's success on the field in the past few months helped make him a media sensation as he turned a struggling Denver Broncos team around. His open and oft-professed religious faith gained him huge support in the evangelical community."

Asked if he would consider a political career at some stage he said, "Maybe one day in the future, not right now though." Since he is 24, and the President must be at least 35, devotees will have to suffer through a few more elections before his time comes.

When the New York Times runs stories like the following, you can understand what a tough time I'm having coming up with relevant items of interest. In the interest of being fair and balanced, from the NYT: "The 2016 Election, Already Upon Us. (Really?) Distant as it may now seem,

with the Republican race dominating the news and President Obama sitting in the White House, the Democrats are not all that far from the tumult of another nominating contest themselves.

No matter what happens on Election Day in November, when Mr. Obama wakes up the next morning, he will no longer be the future of his party. If he loses, attention will immediately turn to which Democrat might be able to pick up the pieces from the deep disappointment of his one term. If he wins, the party will begin turning to who might be able to accomplish the difficult task of winning a third straight term for one party. Already, jockeying for 2016 has begun." From that point on it goes downhill, not fit to print.

... BACK DAYS from
page 6

married Frances Eliza Hyatt who was born July 12, 1823, part Cherokee Indian on her mother's side.

The ceremony was performed by Joseph Keener with John Talley and Mary Leatherwood as attendants. They were blessed with many children. James, who was born Oct. 29, 1846, was the only one not born in Cashiers Valley. He was born in Quallatown, the homeplace of his mother so it's believed that Frances Eliza returned to her parents home for the birth of her first child.

Other children followed about every two years. They were Nathan, born Sept. 3, 1848, Catherine, Dec. 5, 1850, Harriet Elizabeth, April 11, 1952, John Palmer, Jan. 13, 1854, Caroline Preston, Jan. 1, 1856, Sarah, Feb. 26, 1858, Zebulon Vance, June 17, 1860, Ruth Sherill born July 6, 1862 and Virginia born June 26, 1864.

The two oldest boys, James and Nathan, fought in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. When the war broke out, James would have been 14 and Nathan 12. But at the end of the war they would have been 18 and 16, respectively, and by that time boys under than Nathan had joined the ranks.

Prior to that, however, they sold their property in Cashiers Valley to General Wade Hampton (though there is no record of the transaction) and moved to Sweet-

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS • with Ryan Potts

Highlanders sweep Nantahala, set up Championship showdown Friday

The Highlands Highlanders and Lady Highlanders traveled to Topton last Tuesday to face the Hawks in the second to last Little Smoky Mountain Conference matchup of the season. Both the Highlanders and Lady Highlanders needed a win to maintain control of first place in the conference heading into the final week of the season.

The Lady Highlanders started the game by using immense pressure to build a lead on the Lady Hawks. Nantahala only has five players, and Lady Highlander coach Brett Lamb said that wearing down the Lady Hawks with full court pressure was part of the gameplan going in. The Lady Highlanders built a double digit lead and looked to have the game on cruise control before an unlikely 4th quarter run from Nantahala cut the Highlands lead to

just two points. However, despite losing their lead, the Lady Highlanders did not lose their composure and were able to calmly reassert themselves and finish the game on a 10-0 run that resulted in a 58-46 victory. Emily Munger led Highlands with 18 points and Kirstyn Lamb and Emily Shuler added ten apiece for the Lady Highlanders.

The Highlanders looked to continue their winning ways in conference, having won three straight conference games to take a share of first place. It was obvious from the opening tip that the Highlanders were ready to play, and they used suffocating pressure defense and hot shooting from Dax Lloyd to overwhelm the Hawks and put the game out of reach with a 31-4 run to start the game. The Highlanders continued to pour it on and finished up with a 71-28

victory. Lloyd finished with 28 for Highlands and 11 Highlander players scored in the rout.

The victories at Nantahala give both Highlander teams a 4-1 record in league play heading into Friday night's showdown with Blue Ridge. With a victory, the Lady Highlanders can clinch at least a share of

their second straight Conference Championship. The Highlanders will be looking to claim the Conference Championship outright for only the 4th time in 25 years. Friday night will also be Senior Night for the Highlander teams, so please come out and pack the gym to support the Highlanders on what could be a Championship night.

... BACK DAYS continued from page 8

water, Tennessee around 1867. After two years they moved to Andrews, NC.

Then sometime between 1870 and 1872 the Allison McKinney family moved to Clarks Chapel near Franklin in Macon County.

Allison died of gangrene and apparently, his father James outlived him. Frances lived until 1905 and died at Turtle Pond, presumably at the home of one of her children – Caroline Preston and three of her siblings married and moved to Turtle Pond in the triangle formed between Highways 106 and 64.

Frances is buried in the Miller cemetery located across US 64 from the Turtle Pond Road. Turning onto the Cliffside Road, take the first road to the left and go about ¾ of a mile.

Nathan married Temple Ann Hill, Catherine married Thaddeus Carpenter, Caroline married Thomas Marion Cabe, and Zebulon married Ann Evitt.

James married Coy Adams and settled in Hiawasse, GA; Sarah married Thaddeus Messer and lived in Dillsboro; Ruth married Thomas Ford and lived in Highlands before moving to Anderson, SC; Virginia married Joshua Adams and lived in Cullowhee; Harriet never married and John Palmer married Margaret Virginia (Jane) Gribble on Dec. 25, 1875. John Palmer was 20 and Margaret was 21. The ceremony was performed by John McDowell, M.G., and they lived in Highlands.

They are the part of the McKinney fam-

ily that is connected to the Potts and other families in Highlands.

The John Palmer McKinney and Margaret (Jane) Gribble McKinney connection next week.

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Highlands Area Upcoming Events

• Registration is now open for the 2012 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! – a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-13), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-14). Most camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

Daily

• CORE classes at Mountain Fitness on Carolina Way. Tues., Thurs., Sat., 9:30; Mon., Wed., Thurs., 5:15. \$10 per class or ask about specials. Call 526-9083. (st. 6/9)

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$20/month.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$40 a month.

• Zumba at the Rec Park, 9:05a-10a. \$5 per class. First class free. Call Mary Barbour for Franklin schedule: 828-342-2498.

Mondays

• Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tuesdays

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center at noon.

• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 8:30 a.m.

• Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

• The Homegrown Buds, a homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays & Fridays

• Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Every 3rd Wednesday

• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Thursdays

• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

• The Highlands Writers Group meets at 1 p.m. at the Hudson Library on Thursdays. Free writing exercises. Bring a seven-minute writing piece to read. Newcomers are welcome. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

Thursdays & Sundays

• At Paoletti's, 15% off your entire Dinner Check. Call 526-4906 for reservations.

Fridays & Saturdays

• At Paoletti's, 25% off all Bottled Wine and Cocktails.

Every Saturday through Feb.

• The Art Room, 45 East Main St. in Franklin is having free Make & Take Classes from 10am to 12:30. Come make a Card...Ages 15 and up please! For More Information call Dianne 828-349-3777 or Robin 828-421-9891.

Every Saturday

• Ruka's Wine Tastings from 4:30- 6:30 p.m. Jazz begins at 7:30 p.m.

Every Third Saturday

• The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

Through March 1

• Bascom Instructors. Arium Gallery. A sampling of talent from dedicated artists who share their gift through teaching. At the heart of The Bascom's education programs are the instructors who work with us throughout the year. These instructors hold the distinction of being experienced professional artists and skilled educators.

Wednesdays, Feb. 8, 15, 22

• At The Bascom. Painting Basics and Beyond from 10am – 12noon. Enjoy the painting experience from inspiration, to design, to finished painting. An opportunity to create captivating works of art while learning or expanding your knowledge of the building blocks for application, design and color. Instructor: Robin Swaby. Levels: I & II. Tuition: \$100 member/\$135 non-member per month

Mondays, Feb. 13, 20, 27

• At The Bascom. Drawing Basics and Beyond. 10am – 12noon or 5:15 – 7:15pm. These classes are as much about learning to see as about making art. For the absolute beginner or as a refresher for skilled artists, discover a new sense of self and spirit enhance your observational skills and develop confidence and awareness. Explore drawing without making a lengthy or expensive commitment. Instructor: Knight Martorell. Levels: I & II. Tuition: \$100 members/\$135 non-members per month

Wednesday, Feb. 8

• An American Red Cross First Aid Basics course will be conducted by Macon County Public Health Wednesday, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Macon County Public Health. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at Macon County Public Health before February 8, 2012. For information on class fees and to register for this class please call Melissa Leatherman at 349-2459.

Thursday, Feb. 9

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center on Riverview Street in Franklin. Cheryl E. Ramey, RN BSN, Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program Coordinator and WiseWoman Program Coordinator with Macon County Public Health will be speaking on Cervical Cancer. There will be free handouts, light refreshments, and a \$50 gas card will be given away. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call 828-369-9221.

• The League of Women Voters will host a program on a new organization in Franklin, Venture Local, directed toward helping local businesses and expanding economic opportunities and awareness of resources, while enhancing the quality of life for those who live here and as a draw to investment and activity. The program will be held at Tartan Hall in Franklin. Lunch is available at noon, by reservation. Call 371-0527, The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

Saturday, Feb 11

• The Highlands School 5th Grade Class is holding a Valentine's Dance on Saturday from 7 to 10p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center next to the ball field. All ages are welcome to attend and the cost is \$5. We will serve drinks and desserts

A free Kindermusik Class in Cashiers-Highlands area

Kindermusik classes will be offered at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers beginning Feb. 10th. Children may attend their first class free. Now families in the Highlands-Cashiers area will have the opportunity to broaden their children's horizons through music.

Kindermusik is an early childhood music and movement program based on the beliefs that every child is musical, every parent is the child's most important teacher, the home is the most important place for learning to take root and grow. Based on research, Kindermusik enhances math, language and social skills and improves physical coordination, giving them excellent preparation for school.

Classes will be taught by Lori Richards, an early childhood music special-



ist, licensed Kindermusik educator and director of The Music Village in Cullowhee & Waynesville. For 10 years, Richards has been recognized as a Kindermusik Maestro for having one of the top 5% of the 5000 Kindermusik programs worldwide.

Classes will be provided for newborns – 5 year olds on Fridays. Village (newborn-18 months) is scheduled from 11:30 am - 12:15 pm. Our Time (1 ½ - 3 ½ years) will meet from 10:30 am – 11:15 am. Imagine That (3 ½ - 5 years) is scheduled from 12:30 pm - 1:15 pm.

Come to our first class for free on Friday, February, 10th at the above listed times. Families are encouraged to attend and discover the many benefits of Kindermusik.

For more information visit www.themusicvillage-nc.com or contact Lori Richards at 293-5600.

'Love Songs' at First Presbyterian Church



First Presbyterian Church will present a Valentine Concert of Love Songs featuring Stell Huie, baritone, accompanied by Angie Jenkins at 4pm on Sunday, February 12. The concert will take place in Coleman Hall. A reception will follow. Come and bring your friends and valentines! The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

Upcoming Events

and Mike Murphy will DJ the music for the night. All proceeds go the 5th grade class Charleston Trip.

- Otto Community Blood Drive at the Asbury United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall Highway 441 South, Otto, 8 am to 12:30 pm Please call 524-9307 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Give the GIFT of LIFE in honor of Phyllis' birthday! Birthday cake and presents for all donors. All presenting donors are entered into a drawing for a pair of Delta Air Lines tickets!

- Students involved with Gilliam's Promise, a newly established club who's motto is "There is a better way," will be selling baked goods at Mountain Fresh and Bryson's Food Store in Highlands, and at Ingles in Cashiers from 10-2.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a seven mile strenuous-to-moderate hike with an elevation change of 1,000 ft. on the Mooney Gap and Ridge trails to Dyke Gap, descending on the Cunningham Creek Trail in the Coweeta Labs area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, across from Burger King, at 10:00 a.m. Drive 16 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298

- First Chocolate Cookoff at the Cashier Library from 2-4 p.m. \$5. Children under 5 free. For an application and information, call 743-0489.

- At The Bascom. Art Cinema. Sit back and enjoy our weekly feature presentation "The Shakers" at 2 pm.

- Free at The Bascom. Be My Valentine. 11.1 - 3pm. Valentine's Day is right around the corner and you may be looking for that perfect gift or decoration. Create fun and easy to make collages. This FREE program will provide all the materials and instruction to make beautiful Valentine's Day collages for someone you love. Drop in. Level: All ages.

Sunday, Feb 12

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile moderate hike with an elevation change of 700 ft. into Panthertown to see two or three waterfalls. Meet at the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot in Cashiers at 1:30 p.m. Drive 16 miles round trip. Call Leader: Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations.

- Heart of Highlands Celebration Dance at the Highlands United Methodist Church. An intergenerational dance featuring music, food, fun. Call 828-526-3376 for more information.

- A Valentine Musical of Love

Songs at 4 p.m. in Coleman Hall of the First Presbyterian Church by Stell Huie, Baritone & Angie Jenkins, Piano. Reception to follow.

Mon. & Wed., Feb. 13, 15, 20, 22

- At The Bascom. Ceramic Sculpture. 12noon - 2pm This is a great class for all interested in learning how to construct sculptures in clay. Instructor: Collette Clark. Levels: I & II. Tuition: \$125 member/\$160 non-member per month.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

- Come and listen to the 'Love' stories at the Story Swap on Tuesday 7 pm, at the Ugly Dog Pub at 294 S. Fourth St. in Highlands. If you have a special 3-7 minute love story to tell or read, sign up at

the pub or call 369-1927. Note - Our winter start time is a half hour earlier!

Wednesday, Feb. 15

- Adult Classic Movie at Hudson Library at 3:30 p.m. In the Heat of the Night.

Thursday, Feb. 16

- Taize at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m.

Sat. & Sun., Feb. 18 - 19

- At The Bascom. Horse Hair and Fuming Fires with Frank Vickery. 10 am - 4 pm What do feathers, horsehair, and sugar have to do with ceramics? Learn this traditional low fire process with a twist. Instructor: Frank Vickery. Levels: I, II & III. Tuition: \$175 member/\$210 non-member

Set work begins on 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof'



From left: Lee Lyons, Bonnie Earman, Donna Cochran (seated) Kathy Evans, and Thomas Craig.

Highlands Cashiers Players is bringing Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize winning play *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* to the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (PAC) February 23 to 26 and March 2 to 4.

While the actors are busy learning their lines and memorizing their blocking the tech crew that director Donna Cochran has assembled is also hard at work. Cathy Evans assisted by Bonnie Earman has designed a back drop that will recall the Mississippi Delta and transverse the length of the stage.

Barbara Werder will cos-

tume the cast in 1950's attire, and Ron Belcher has made a sound disc with all the correct cues. Steve Hott assisted by John Roman is building the set that has been designed by Thomas Craig.

Helping to coordinate these efforts as well as assisting with rehearsals are Assistant Director Lee Lyons, stage manager Robin Phillips and Tracy Smith, youth coordinator..

You won't want to miss this winter production. The box-office opens February 18. Call 828 526 8084 for tickets.

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• **HEALTH MATTERS** •

Skin cancer



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Skin cancer treatment is a major focus in many plastic surgery offices. This is due to two things. First, many skin cancers occur on the face and in places where people wish to have minimal scars when they are removed, or they incur in places where the resulting defect when the lesion is removed requires more than simple closure. Secondly, almost all skin cancers are caused by the same sun rays that cause skin aging. Therefore, people wishing skin rejuvenation frequently also have skin cancers.

Skin cancer development is a progressive problem. Cells are not normal one day and cancerous the next; over time, the sun causes progressive damage to the cells. Eventually that damage progresses enough that the cells begin to behave abnormally. The skin cell itself begins to stick more tightly to the surrounding cells. Normally the cell moves to the surface and is shed after it dies. However,

with sun damage, the cell clings for a significant amount of time after it dies and the outer dead cell layer of the skin thickens. This causes dullness of the skin. That layer is what is removed with micro dermabrasion, micro peels, etc. Pigment cells simply stop distributing pigment normally and begin placing it only in the surrounding cells. This causes dark spots to occur. With continued sun damage, the cell becomes “pre-malignant,” and, with further damage, malignant. When this cell multiplies, a skin cancer develops.

Actinic keratosis is the most common pre-malignancy. This is an extension of the tendency of the skin cells to stick together. Instead of just being a general thickening of the skin’s dead cell layer, a small area of markedly thick,

• See HEALTH MATTERS page 15

LASIK MYTH # 26

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Proverbs 3:5

Marriage

Rev. Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church



As we approach Valentine's Day, I thought it might be good to consider marriage. Marriage is the one

and only true outlet for romance. Romance is defined as a love affair. Marriage is founded on the idea of love, which is where romance comes from. The only true love affair is marriage. Our modern ideas about love and romance are very perverted. Hollywood has turned love and romance into a purely emotional reaction to hormones. Neither love nor romance should be considered an emotion. Love is a commitment and romance a response to that commitment.

In the Scripture, God tells us he so loved the world that he gave his only Son (John 3:16). The word gave in the Greek is the word didomi and it can be translated commend or commit. God committed his Son to the world because of his love. Love is clearly in God's eyes a commitment. In Ephesians (5:25) we learn husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved his church. He loved his church and committed himself to die for her. It also tells us, wives are to submit to their husbands (5:22) as a sign of respect for his commitment.

The husband is to commit to pursue and win the respect of his wife. The wife is to love or commit to her husband, giving herself freely to him. As the two are committed to each other the romance begins. The husband loves his wife, he commits his love to her and to her only. The wife respects her husband and grows in her commitment to him as he proves his commitment to her. The romance is on and is to last until one is called from this life by death.

It is a sad thing we see in our world, where marriage as defined in Scripture between one man and one woman is under attack. Too many churches are allowing their members to live in sin. They do not hold the honor of the institution of marriage in high esteem. Couples are living together without God's blessing and that is called fornication and it is sin (I Cor. 6:18). Many people having entered into marriage are forsaking those vows to chase their own fleshly desires and are falling into adultery, another sin (Ex. 20:14). Others are leaving the natural way and following the lusts of their flesh entering into homosexual relationships, which is sin (Romans 1:26-27).

If we allow these attacks to continue and we lose

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 15

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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.

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Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

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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

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Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

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Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

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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)

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Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526--4153
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Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.,
Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:15-8:15 p.m.

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Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
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Wednesdays – Choir – 7

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Worship, 6:30 p.m.

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

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Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45 a.; Worship 10:50 a.; Youth Group 5:30 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)

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Worship/Communion – 10:30

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Rev. Clifford Willis

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212
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p.m.

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

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

• POLICE & FIRE •

Highlands PD log entries from Jan. 25. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 25

• At 2 p.m., officers were called to Buck's Coffee Cafe about a public disturbance between two citizens. They were told to stay away from each other.

Feb. 1

• At 3:30 p.m., officers received a call about a reckless driver on Horse Cove Road right past Bowery Road. They were unable to locate the driver.

Feb. 2

• At 8:44 a.m., officers were asked to check a home on North Drive. The owner, who was away, had received the utility bill and suspected someone was in the house because it was about triple the normal rate. The house was secure.

• During the week, police officers responded to 4 alarm and issued 5 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Feb. 3 Feb. 3

• At 10:12 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Munger Road. The person was taken to the hospital.

• At 1:01 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly Fire & Rescue which was fighting a chimney fire.

• At 5:54 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mack Wilson Road where a 33-year-old woman had fallen. She was taken to the hospital.

Feb. 4

• At 10:11 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Dept. while they fought a structure fire on Wolf Knob Rd.

Feb. 5

• At 10:48 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big Bear Pen Road. The person was taken to the hospital.

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... CHATTOOGA continued from page 1

Made up of hikers, hunters, anglers, nature watchers and photographers, walkers, leaf peepers, swimmers, and conservationists, the three organizations have banded together to try to preserve the solitude and sanctity of one of the last truly wild pieces of public lands on the East Coast. The agency's decision would allow the removal of fish habitat—large wood—in the river channel, prompt the development of new parking lots, boater access routes, and boat put-ins and take-outs to accommodate use of the river for paddling on what is often no wider than a small creek.

"Everyone can enjoy the Upper Chattooga and the Ellicott Rock Wilderness, but to preserve what is special about this place, all of us must be willing to give something," said George Nickas, executive director for Wilderness Watch. "As more and more people discover our magnificent public lands, the Forest Service must set reasonable rules so that we leave these places in great shape for future generations. Restricting how and when the most sensitive areas are used is the only way to do that."

Larry Winslett of the Georgia Sierra Club's Wildlands Committee, echoed that sentiment. "For me this flies in the face of the intent of the Wilderness Act. They are supposed to be places where 'nature' comes first and people are just visitors."

"This is the exact opposite—it argues that people should always be able to put themselves first—even in Wilderness," Winslett added. "When the Forest Service can't be trusted to protect what needs protection, it is time for wildness-minded individuals and nature-conscious organizations to do their best to push back on this terrible decision."

The agency's proposal would open 17 more miles of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River to unlimited numbers of boaters at high water December through April. The newly opened stretches cut through the middle of some of the most sensitive and wild territory, including the Chattooga Cliffs area, the Ellicott Rock Wilderness and the remote Rock Gorge reach, where historically the Forest Service has allowed nature to prevail.

The decision to open this area in response to heavy lobbying by "creekers" (as people who paddle in small, shallow waterways call themselves) does not bode well for the three national forests that border this part of the river. Managing recreational use is becoming a primary task of rangers in near-urban National Forests like the Chattooga, Sumter, and Nantahala. Use restrictions limit the damage that too much love can impose on public lands.

Under existing Forest Service rules,

between 40,000 and 70,000 boaters paddle the 37 miles of the Wild and Scenic Chattooga below Route 28 every year, and countless others do the same on the nearby West Fork and Overflow Creek. The agency has prohibited boating on the 21 miles of the Upper Chattooga since 1976, two years after Congress designated the entire river as a Wild and Scenic River.

"The Forest Service restricts unfettered use of public lands by hunters, anglers, off road vehicle users, campers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, and hikers," said Joe Gatins, a ForestWatch district leader. "Why should boaters be treated any differently, particularly when they already have full and free access to the Lower Chattooga and many miles of equally challenging white-water nearby and across the Southeast?"

"We will review every legal option in dealing with this assault on a sensitive and wild place," Gatins added.

The three organizations filed joint comments on previous Forest Service boat-friendly proposals. They currently are represented by Rachel Doughty of Greenfire Law.

Primary Election – May 8

The Filing Period for the 2012 Primary Election is noon Mon., Feb. 13 through noon Wed., Feb. 29. This applies to Democratic, Republican and non-partisan primaries, if applicable and Presidential Preference, US House of Representatives, Governor, Lt. Governor, Council of State, NC Senate, NC House of Representatives, Board of County Commissioners, and State and District Judicial Seats.

There are filing deadlines and fees for the Macon County Board of Commission and the School Board races.

The Board of County Commissioners filing fee is \$97. In District 1 there is one seat open – the unexpired term previously held by Brian McClellan in which James Tate now sits.

There is also one seat open in District 2 which is held by Kevin Corbin, previously held by Senator Jim Davis.

There is also one seat open in District 3 currently held by Bobby Kuppers.

For the Macon County Board of Education, whose filing fee is \$5, there are three seats open – one in District 1, currently held by Stephanie McCall, one in District 3 and one in District 4. The filing period is June 11-July 6.

There is one seat open in Soil & Water Conservation whose filing fee is also \$5 and whose filing period is also June 11-July 6.

... HEALTH MATTERS continued from page 12

crusty cells occur. These appear to be red, flaky patches.

Since there are only three really different skin cells present, there are only three skin cancers that can develop. Probably the most common abnormality, basal cell epithelioma, that is considered a skin cancer is, in fact, not a true cancer. This is a lesion of the most primitive of the skin cells, those at the bottom of the epidermis, the basal cells. They occur almost exclusively from sun damage and are confined almost entirely to sun-exposed skin. Once they occur, they continue to grow, though at a very slow pace. Because of this slow growth, they frequently will be present for many months or even years without significantly enlarging or changing. However, if left alone, they will grow and destroy the surrounding tissue. If this is on a nose, ear, eyelid, etc., then the entire structure can be eaten away and destroyed.

The reason a basal cell is not considered a true malignancy is that, although it does destroy the tissue around it rather than pushing it out of the way, like benign lesions, it does not spread to other areas. It is dangerous only for the part that it destroys.

As normal basal cells mature and move to the skin surface, they go from

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 13

marriage as a foundation of society our way of life will crumble and disappear. Love and romance are wonderful gifts given by God to build a society and make it strong. There is no romance in fornication, adultery or homosexuality, all of these are equally as consumed with lust and they offer nothing that can be built upon to make a society strong.

Commitment is the foundation to Christianity and it is Christianity that gave us a nation that held the honor of women and the responsibility of men on an equal footing. It is this respect and commitment to each other that grounds marriage and allows for romance in life. If we do not strive with all of our strength and courage to reclaim this foundation, we will find ourselves living under a system like the Muslims, where men are tyrants and women but chattel, where marriage is little more than slavery and romance does not exist.

being rounded to spindle-shaped. Once the cell has obtained a spindle-like characteristic, it is referred to as a "squamous cell." Squamous cell carcinoma, the second most common skin malignancy, results from degeneration of this cell. Squamous cell carcinomas are true malignancies and not only destroy the tissue locally but can spread and go to other parts of the body. If they spread it is usually after radiation other than solar, such as intense x-ray therapy or exposure. These lesions are relatively rapidly growing. Therefore, a rapidly growing, changing lesion is most likely a squamous cell rather than a basal cell. They also tend to ulcerate quickly and bleed more commonly.

The last skin malignancy results from degeneration of the melanocyte, the pigment cell of the skin. This results in a melanoma. Of all the skin malignancies, this is the most likely to cause problems or death. It readily spreads to other parts of the body even from a small lesion.

In treating these lesions, the first step is diagnosis. The most important factor is being suspicious of anything that is new, changes, grows, flakes, ulcerates, is dark, has an irregular border, or has an irregular color. If any of these signs occur, the lesion should be evaluated and perhaps biopsied.

Freezing is the most common method of treating actinic keratoses. This will remove it about 90% of the time on the first attempt. However, if there are multiple actinic keratoses scattered around the area, then treatment is aimed at treating all of the abnormal cells that are beginning to cause these lesions. The most common methods are to use a cream, which is a modification of an antitumor drug which essentially kills the abnormal cells, or a method called photodynamic therapy. In photodynamic therapy a substance is painted on the skin which is then absorbed by the abnormal cells. This substance makes these cells very sensitive to a certain light wave length. After allowing absorption, the area is treated using this light. The light energy is absorbed by the cells to such an extent that it kills the cells. Normal cells, which have not absorbed the catalyst, do not respond to the light and are therefore not injured.

Treatment of basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas consists of simple excision. This is easy when the lesion has a distinct border. However, many basal cells and some squamous cells have very indistinct borders and require removal using a method known as Moh's surgery. Once it is initially excised, the margin is

evaluated and any residual tumor is removed. This process is repeated until the entire lesion is totally excised. The defect is then either directly closed or covered with tissue from elsewhere using a flap or graft.

When melanoma is suspected, a full-thickness biopsy is required. This tells us many characteristics of the melanoma. That, coupled with a physical examination of the surrounding tissues, lets us form a treatment plan. If there is no evidence of local spread on physical exam and if the lesion is thin, all that is required is simple excision. Certain melanomas have between 97.5-100% cure rates with this. If, however, the melanoma has certain characteristics indicating that it is highly likely to spread, further evaluation with scans is undertaken. If this evaluation is negative, then we excise the lesion and, using a dye injection to identify the lymph nodes that drain the area, we biopsy those nodes. If this is positive, we proceed to treat as appropriate. If negative, then this lesion also has a 97.5% chance for complete cure.

We have not only markedly increased our knowledge of these lesions and im-

proved our treatment of them, we have also improved our ability to protect ourselves from developing them. We now know that all these lesions are stimulated by UVA radiation; this radiation is blocked by two sun block ingredients. One is avobenzone and the other is zinc oxide. Avobenzone requires that the sun block be put on every hour to two hours. Zinc oxide, however, no longer turns the skin white, but, as long as it is not washed off, stays on all day. We also now have a product which can be washed into regular clothes (Rit SunGuard) which will make them sun protective for about six months, or we can buy sun-protective clothing at stores.

Therefore, our recommendation is that you apply zinc oxide sun block daily in the morning all year and reapply it if they wash or rub off during the day. In addition, your clothes should be sun-protective.

• Dr. Buchanan practices year around in Highlands at the Center for Plastic Surgery. They carry the sun blocks and SunGuard mentioned above. For more information, please visit www.Plasticsurgerytoday.com

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... TOURISTS continued from page 1

Highlands Community Foundation allowed us to present this program. We view it as a way to not only promote ecotourism, which is tourism with minimal impact on the environment, but also to support local food production and recycling."

Naar explained that Highlands was in a unique position to promote sustainable tourism.

"Our research taken after 2008 showed that tourists are looking for value, but also unique and authentic experiences. They've done Orlando, now they're looking for something beyond the chain hotel visit. That's what's so exciting about Highlands, it's definitely unique and authentic." Naar said. "Once tourists have experienced that, they become remarkably brand loyal. They become emotionally attached to an area."

Kielyka emphasized that the Chamber of Commerce will continue to develop sustainable tourism.

"We've always represented the natural beauty of Highlands when we've advertised elsewhere, and the community itself really shines when visitors come to town," he said. "We've already seen the benefits of attracting people here - right off the top of my head, I can think of two homes that have been built in Highlands as a direct re-

sult of people coming here for the Motor-ing Festival."

"This initial meeting was a first step in a long process," said J-CMA's Price. "We wanted to provide information to the community, to create a dynamic that'll develop ideas. We hope to come up with a list of recommendations that we can present to the Town Board for consideration. And really, if nothing else, it'll help to make us all mindful of our natural heritage."

Wayfaring Public Meetis Mon, Feb. 13

On Monday, February 13th, at 5 p.m. at the Community Building on Poplar Street there will a public meeting of the Small Town Main Street Branding and Wayfinding Project for Highlands. The public is encouraged to come and share their thoughts on what identity they feel best represents Highlands in order for this project to be truly a town effort. There is also still time to take the online survey on the Town of Highlands website at www.highlandscnc.org.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

that would have affected every property owner in the county to one extent or another. A citizens' group was formed to oppose this proposed intrusion on our freedom, studied the matter thoroughly and organized an effort to persuade the County to abandon the idea.

Bumper stickers were distributed, ads were run and an informative rally was orga-

nized and publicized. The site was the Community Building and the turnout was almost beyond belief. People packed the large meeting room, the halls were jammed with folks who couldn't get in the room, and the property in front of the building was wall-to-wall citizens. A second seating was necessary and still many never got in. The Sheriff's department was busy waving people on since there was no parking to be had. The people's voice was heard. The County dropped its plans of zoning.

The group knew it was a matter of time before other attempts would be made, and the planning board has tried ever since to regulate land use. Public hearings will be held at the Courthouse on Tuesday, Feb. 14th, at 6 PM to allow public comment on matters important to the future of Macon County. The planning board has been a constant source of agitation and embarrassment to the County.

The Board of Commissioners is proposing to bring the planning board under proper control and your support would be helpful to accomplish the necessary changes. Show up at the hearing. The people's voice should be heard on this issue.

Don Swanson
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... **CHANGES** continued from page 1

money charged in the January bill on the February bill but to make the new rates affective with the Jan.-Feb. billing cycle which begins Jan. 23.

The credit will be \$1.75 to \$75 for residential customers and up to \$200 for some commercial customers, said Frye.

But Jerry Moore, owner of Kilwin's, requested the board rethink its rates entirely – perhaps find other ways to raise revenue.

He said the increase will cost him \$2,000 more this year than last year. "This is a significant increase for small businesses," he said. (See his letter on page 2.)

Bob Kieltyka, director of the chamber of commerce, said he has been fielding calls from business owners and residents requesting a step-up increase rather than all at once as the town has done.

The other big issue was the never-dying form of government.

A passionate discussion initiated by Commissioner Amy Patterson, asked why the subject was being discussed 11 months after the 3-2 vote on March 16, 2011 to keep the hybrid form of the Council-Manager where the Police Chief and Zoning/Planning Director were hired and fired by the board rather than the manager.

Commissioner Gary Drake, who has made no bones as to which form of government he wants, said the reason the issue was being discussed again was because the town is operating illegally.

"I learned as per state statute that the Town Board that first did this, was supposed to change the charter first and then the ordinance. It wasn't done that way," he said. "We swore to uphold the state statutes and we aren't doing that right now."

Mayor David Wilkes said the town needed to clean this up and move forward. Commissioner Eric Pierson said despite where the board may go from here, it was necessary to make what's going on legal right now.

At the Jan. 8 Town Board meeting, Carl Stenberg with the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government told the board that it could request the hybrid form of the

Council-Manager form of government through a Local Act.

But Drake said he spoke to Senator Jim Davis who represents Highlands and was told that unless the board agreed 100% to the change he wouldn't take the Local Act to Raleigh.

Town Attorney Bill Coward said that Local Acts are considered non-controversial and a 4-1 or 3-2 vote represents controversy and no one will fight for it.

The only other way to a senator will take a Local Act to Raleigh is through a referendum where the majority of the voters indicate they want the change.

Coward said the referendum can only be for two forms of government – the Mayor-Council form, which includes the Mayor-Council-Administrator form, or the Council-Manager form.

Commissioner Patterson reminded the board that Stenberg said that not vesting too much power in a manager can be a good thing. She reiterated that the citizens elected the Town Board and when the board doesn't give ultimate power to the manager it stays involved with its citizens and the business of governing the town.

She said having the hybrid form of Council-Manager form of government offered the best of both worlds – the financial management needed while allowing the board to be close to governing which is what small towns do because we are close to each other, she said.

On Commissioner Drake's motion, the board voted 3-2 to repeal the amendments made to the town's ordinance concerning the Police Chief and Zoning/Planning Director so the ordinance is aligned with the state charter. Commissioners John Dotson and Patterson voted "no."

At this point, the board must decide if it wants to keep the Council-Manager form of government or if it wants to put the issue to a vote through a referendum. However, the referendum can only be for the Mayor-Council (Administrator) form or for the Council-Manager form outlined by state statute not a hybrid form.

– **Kim Lewicki**

• **BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS** •

MountainTop Rotary report

Dr. David Wheeler, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's new Emergency Room Physician, took time last Wednesday to speak to Highlands Mountaintop Rotary about one of his many passions – weather.

Armed with a marker and an easel pad, Dr. Wheeler explained how large weather systems are governed by basic Newtonian Physics. As any elementary school student knows, hot air rises while cooler air tends to sink.

When you add in the earth's rotation and the attendant coriolis effect, things start to get interesting. Warm air fronts glide across the landscape and high pressure domes set up camp. That gives us our seasonal climates and makes it possible to engage in agriculture and nude sunbathing.

For those of us living in Highlands and Cashiers, the happy circumstances of geography have blessed us with a moderate climate that's just this side of Paradise. In the spring and summer, moisture-laden clouds from the Gulf barrel across Alabama and Georgia before plowing headfirst into the Highlands Plateau. As they attempt to gain altitude to continue their Northeast trajectory, they shed all that water. The resulting precipitation has earned us Rain Forest status and ensured emerald green golf courses, healthy trout streams and relentless mildew.

In the winter, the Great Smoky Mountains act as a buffer for the worst of the Canadian cold fronts that are freighted with snow picked up over the Great Lakes. The clouds dump a portion of their frozen precipitation to the north and west of us, giving us milder winters and forcing kids in Yancey and Swain counties to go to school on Saturdays.

Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:50 a.m. Wednesdays in the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Cafeteria. You're invited to attend -- there are fascinating speakers like Dr. Wheeler, lively conversation and, as if that isn't enough, pancakes.



McCroy announces candidacy for NC Governor at local GOP meeting

On Wednesday, Feb 1st, Pat McCrory (left) visited WNC to announce his candidacy to be Governor of North Carolina. Pat Margo (right in photo) represented the Republican Party of Clay County and former Macon County GOP Chairman Gary Dills (center) represented the Republican Party of Macon County. Almost two hundred people attended the event at the Cedars in Hendersonville.

Rotary Club scholars for the month recognized



The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the January Highlands School Scholars of the Month at its January 31 meeting. Shown with Highlands school counselor, Thomas Jessup and Rotary club president, Bill Futral, are Elementary School winner, Ella Crook, High School winner, Clayton Creighton and Middle School winner, Sandra Garcia.

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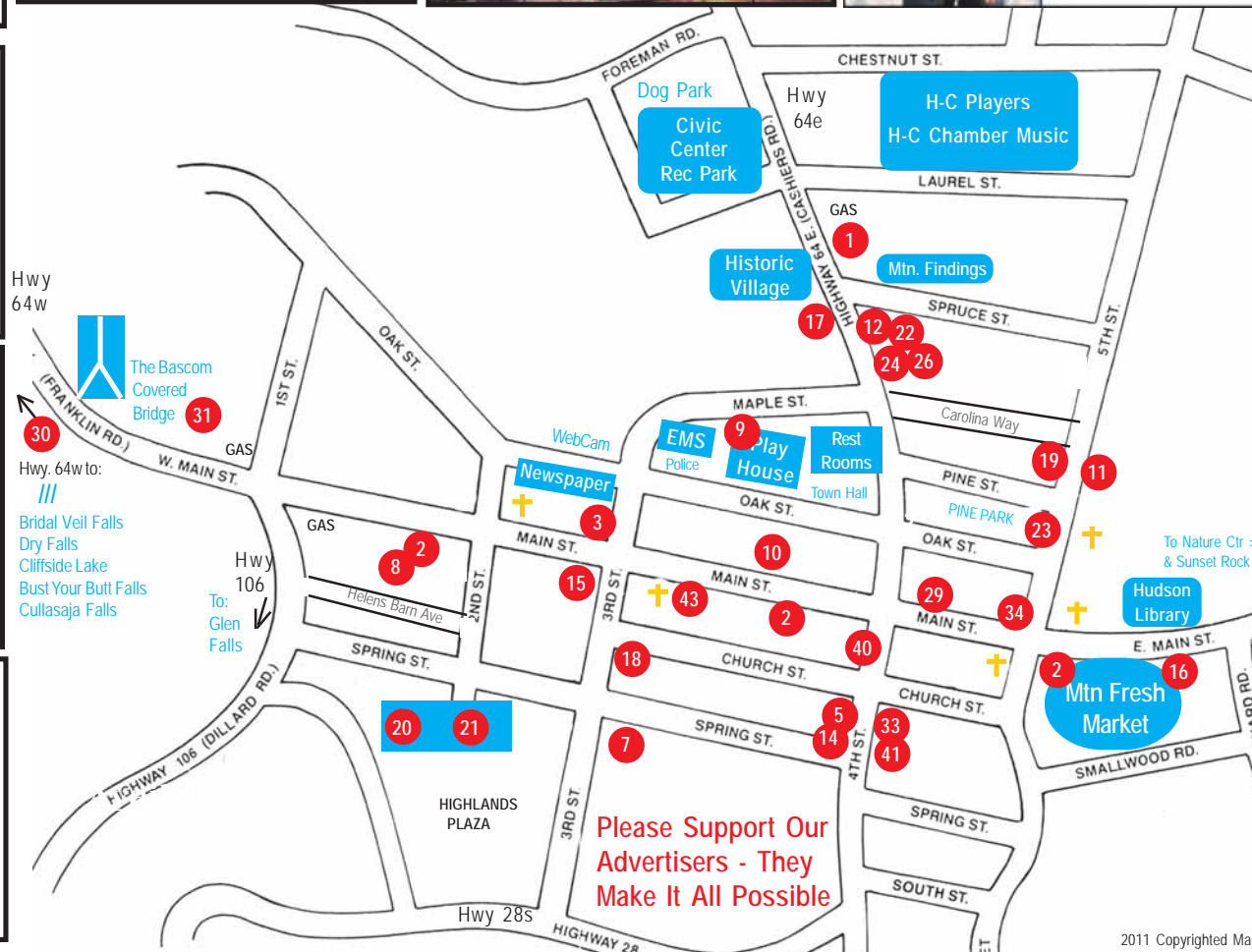
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