

Highlands' Newspaper

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Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012

Greenway boardwalk proposed through Mirror Lake

The initial reaction the proposed Mirror Lake Wetlands Boardwalk got at Tuesday night's Town Board meeting was tepid – at least from a fiscal point of view; at least for now.

Hillrie Quin the face and

voice of the Highlands Plateau Greenway proposed a boardwalk complete with "classroom" hubs, a canoe dock and storage area constructed along the part of Mirror Lake surrounded by Cullasaja Drive.

As part of the Greenway Trail system, "It would meander through different stages of the wetland since some areas are more mature than others and would create a different recreation experience introducing sub-wet-

land ecosystems," he said.

Despite fervent efforts to reverse the inevitable – including the introduction of grass-eating carp – nature has taken over that part of the creek which is now

•See BOARDWALK page 17

BOE discusses Spring 'Intercession' and more

By Ryan Potts

The Macon County Board of Education met on Monday for their monthly business session in which they honored and recognized several Macon County school groups, recieved updates on the Lindamood-Bell learning process and discussed plans for the upcoming Spring Intercession.

In the recognition portion of the meeting, several teachers were honored for their achievements in obtaining National

Board Certification. Teachers who are National Board Certified are done so by the National Board for Professional Teacher Standards and hold that status for ten years. Also honored by the Board of Education were the Franklin High School Band and the Franklin High School football team. The Panthers finished the regular season with an undefeated record of 11-0 and advanced to the third round of the NCHSAA state playoffs.

•See BOE page 11

2011 statistics paint picture

At the Jan. 21 continued meeting of the Macon County Commission, Sheriff Robert Holland gave the annual presentation and report concerning his department.

In 2011 there were 24,213 emergency calls to the Franklin Police Dept., the Highlands Police Dept. and the MC Sheriff's Office. Franklin logged 8,341, Highlands logged 2,427 and the Sheriff's Dept. logged 13,445. In addition to the calls there were

16,685 emergency walk-ins to the Sheriff's Dept. and 16,469 non-emergency walk-ins.

In 2011, there were 504 warnings issue, 954 citations issued, 51 DWI arrests and 117 checkpoints conducted throughout the county.

The K-9 unit has been busy, too. There were 186 vehicle searches, 208 building searches, 5 suspect searches, and 7 fleeing suspect searches. Because of the K-9

•See STATISTICS page 11

Fireman of the Year



Saturday, Jan. 21, was the annual Fire & Rescue Dept. Awards Dinner held at the Community Building and catered by The Sports Page. Fire Captain Matthew Wilson, pictured with Chief James Manley, was named Fireman of the Year and also recognized for perfect attendance. For more photos, see page 15.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

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Public asked to fill out 'branding' survey

Need to be turned in by Friday, Feb. 3

The NC Small Town Main Street Program for Highlands is asking for public participation in its Branding and Wayfinding project for the Town.

On January 3rd the Town Board approved the budget for the project, which has been under study for a year and will be conducted by two design firms this winter and spring.

According to Ran Shaffner, chairman of the STMS Design Committee, "The first stage of the project will begin with a short survey. It's important that everyone take this survey to assure that public involvement will be complete. We want our identity and our signage system to belong to Highlands, and this can best be achieved if everyone has a chance to express what they think makes

•See BRANDING page 11

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

The ties that bind



Kim Lewicki
Publisher

In preparation for our next Back Days series that begins in this week's paper, I read through the history of the William Thomas and Martha Ammons Potts family as well as that of the John Palmer and Jane Gribble McKinney Family and found that the Hyatts in my family tree are likely related to the Hyatts in the McKinney Family tree.

I also read where my second cousin, Mildred Cowan, postmistress of the Webster, NC post office for years, recounted visits from W.T. "Billy" Potts when he was a circuit Baptist minister in Western North Carolina.

Turns out when he preached at the Baptist Church in Webster, he stayed at the home of Lawrence and Roxie Cowan, Mildred's parents. She said upon his arrival, her mother would open the wood burning stove door to warm preacher Billy and always had a hot pot of coffee waiting. Roxie Hyatt was my grandmother Elsie Catherine Hyatt's oldest sister. (Elsie's portrait hangs in our office at 265 Oak St.)

There's a link in the McKinney Family history, too. Frances "Eliza" Hyatt from Haywood County who married Allison McKinney (the start of the McKinneys in Highlands) is the source of the Cherokee blood in the Potts and McKinney families today. Eliza was part Cherokee on her mother's side.

Family stories on my side note an Eliza Hyatt, who was part Cherokee, as the source of Cherokee blood from the Hyatt branch of our family. I'm still following the branches but it appears that her father Nathan Hyatt is a distant uncle.

The ties that bind us are interesting indeed. We'll see how the story unravels.

• 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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• LETTERS •

Wayfinding Signs?

Dear Editor,

What exactly are they? What size are they? How many are planned? What information is on them? With the tourist traffic we have there will probably be an increase in bumper-thumpers and fender-benders as people rubber-neck trying to figure out "Why the Signs?"

It seems the funds would be better used:

1. Correct drainage on Main Street in the area of the trees planted on the sidewalk. In heavy rains, or if there is ice, it's almost impossible to get from your car to the sidewalk.

2. Speaking of sidewalks, how about funding for repair or replacement of the "beautiful" bricks, some of which are almost upright!

Wayfinding signs? Why?

Elaine Johnson, Larry Reynolds,
Bill Prosser, Jill Prosser, Jerelynn Frankford, Buck French, Kim French, Mary Anne Massey, Michael David Rogers, Paula Gordon, Dana Gordon, Bob Borline, Angie Reynolds, Elizabeth Gordon
Highlands

Sausage makin'

Dear Editor,

I just finished Fred's gastronomical column in the Jan. 18 edition and found it to be delightful. However, in North Carolina and Florida you make your sausage differently than in the hills of Tennessee.

In Tennessee your sausage recipe would be called "souse." This is the noun, the verb usage of this word means to become drunken as he is soused. Souse is made from all parts of the hog except the squeal, from snout, "read nose" to feet and tail.

Another delicacy is "chitterlings." These are hog intestines which are prepared either hand-rung or stump-slung for cleaning and boiled or fried. People will come from miles around to a "Chit-ling Supper." Recipes are available upon request.

Walter Sloan
Fayetteville, TN

• OBITUARIES •

Hubbard "Hub" Sherry



After living a long, joyful, and productive life of almost 87 years, "Hub" Hubbard Sherry went home to be with Jesus on December 29th, 2011. Hub and his wife, Trudy, formerly of Miami, FL, retired to Highlands, NC in 1989, before moving to Johnson City, Tennessee in 2006.

Hubbard Sherry was born February 21, 1925 in Yonkers, NY, the son of the late Charles William and Carolyn Hubbard

• See SHERRY page 12

Dee Lois McCollum

Dee Lois McCollum, Artist, Poet, Writer and Pilot was born September 26, 1923. She died January 17, 2012 of cancer in Palm Terrace Hospice Unit in Lakeland, FL.

She was preceded in death by her son, Harry Clifford McCollum 111.

She is survived by her daughter, Tara Mueller, and son-in-law, Jay Mueller, of Lakeland, FL, granddaughter, Dikola Bragg, Hendersonville, TN, granddaughter, Hayley Hurd, Lakeland, FL, and four great-grandchildren.

Dee loved to fish and garden. She was a private pilot and was one of the founders of the ladies flying club, "The Grasshoppers." She was an artist who owned and operated her own art gallery, "Paintin Place," in Highlands, N.C. for over 25 years. She was also a published writer and poet. She was dignified and interesting, unique and gifted.

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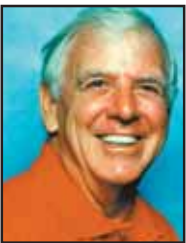
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

I'm not running for president

But are you watching this stupid stuff?



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
askfredanything@aol.com

Obama will probably win in 2012. With clowns like the ones I just named, how can Obama fail? Do the math. Die-hard Democrats will vote for Obama....as they should. Black folks (yes, I'm using the B word) will vote for Obama....and they will. Those paying zero income taxes (almost 50%) will vote for Obama. Gays will vote for Obama. Everyone on welfare, getting food stamps or any kind of government subsidy, including free housing, will vote for Obama. TA DA, that's over 50% of the voters out there.

Now that we've learned it's unconstitutional and racist to ask a citizen for picture ID before they vote, I'm sure the dead will, once again, rise up to vote. I know of a lady, thanks to ACORN, who voted seven times in '08 for Obama and is proud of it. She hopes to break that record in 2012.

If you're wondering who will not

vote for Obama, put li'l ole me on that short list. Also on that list are rich folks, fed up folks, die-hard Republicans, the very rich, the Tea Party, the very, very rich folks, fed up folks (me), white racists and a mess of bigots.

If you're not preparing for another four years of President Obama rule, you're making a huge mistake. It's crisis time. It's time to go to the mats and hide your money. It's time to hoard, buy nothing and hunker down. Learn the future of America by reading Argentina's history. Think about hiding somewhere warm with zero taxes.

Oh, I almost forgot. The main reason I won't be running for president is I'm not qualified. Ya see, I know there are nine justices on the Supreme Court and I know the voting age is eighteen. I know there are not 57 states and I'm a capitalist who pays his fair share of taxes every year since I first got a job, over a half century ago.

But the killer for me is I'm honest. I managed to maneuver myself through 28 years of scary police service in one of the most corrupt cities in America. I was proud that I was known for my honesty. How can I run for president with that terrible reputation? I'm not a crook!

• If the weather outside is frightful and the fire inside is delightful, curl up with your sweetie and read Fred's new mystery/ thriller, *Deceived*, loaded on your Kindle or Nook.

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Gingrich is tapping into anger



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

South Carolina. His campaign will draw little support in liberal bastions of Massachusetts, Minnesota, and California, states in which no Republican has a chance in a general election. However, in much of the country there is a nagging fear that we have lost our way. Anger extends beyond the current high unemployment. Whether correct or errant, there is a belief this isn't the America our forefathers intended or our fathers built. There is almost certainly

an element of racism in the enthusiastic support of Newt's idea of providing part-time janitorial jobs to inner city black kids, although I am unconvinced that Gingrich is a racist, any more than I believe that Bill Cosby, who has taken the African American community to task for its unwillingness or inability to help itself, is a racist. Both are bright men who see that our attempted solutions have been ineffective, and who have boldly and courageously offered provocative and sometimes unpopular alternatives.

His intelligence and debating skill have drawn voters to Gingrich. He chucks huge hunks of red meat to disillusioned voters. He has tapped into the anger, fear, and frustration which are a part of life in America today. He has done it with little money and even less organization. He's done it from the stump, albeit a mass-media stump.

In Utah, a school board vetoed a high school student body's decision to make it's mascot a cougar, because of fear of offending middle-aged women in pursuit of younger men. Wiccan headstones are permitted in National Cemeteries, but Christians can't pray in school. A kid can get expelled for wearing a Confederate flag on his tee shirt, but burning the American flag is a constitutionally protected right. An 80-year-old woman with a colostomy can be strip searched by TSA in the name of homeland security, but we fret about profiling.

I'm not saying I agree with the anger, but I understand it. We'll see how the voters in Florida feel. If Newt happens to win again, we can at least celebrate the fact that the American people are listening to more than 30-second attack ads.

Newt Gingrich just won't go away. He might be compared to the phoenix, were it not for the fact that he stages a dramatic reincarnation every few weeks instead of every thousand years. As he surged from single-digits to a virtual tie with Mitt Romney in South Carolina polling, political experts posited that even a South Carolina would do nothing to alter the landscape of the Republican race.

They pointed to the Romney machine, fueled by money and organization. It would be impossible for Gingrich and his Mom and Pop campaign to launch a serious challenge in Florida and the contests to follow. They may yet be proved correct. The latest example of Newtonian magic may be an illusion. South Carolina is a very conservative state. Unemployment is high, people are angry, and Romney's wealth, moderate brand of Republicanism, and Mormon faith created a kind of perfect storm.

Something else happened in South Carolina, the same thing the briefly catapulted Gingrich to the top of the polls a few weeks ago. He is an excellent debater. He speaks forcefully and thoughtfully. He speaks unapologetically of his vision of America and his disdain for the liberal media. He answers the questions asked, or refuses to answer them. Unlike other candidates, he does not use every question as a launch pad for his canned stump speech. It turns out people like that.

We are not as gullible as most politicians think. The Speaker is willing to express radical solutions for deep problems, and when the expected storm strikes, boldly steps into the maelstrom and defends his position, patiently explains it, and like the professor he is, seems a little annoyed if we are unable to appreciate his genius. It is not that he is unaware that his positions will often offend the liberal left. He exploits their outrage. He is well aware that they will never vote for him, so he gets what value he can from them?

His is an interesting strategy, and one which might play well beyond

... LETTERS continued from page 2

The difference between us

Dear Editor,

I wish to address the controversy surrounding the Planning Board. Maybe, just maybe you'll understand our fight against YOU and your quest to control our property and lives. The word "YOU" applies to all who want to add more government and regulations. The word "WE" applies to all of us who stand in opposition. The residents of Macon County are known for being fiercely independent. We love these mountains. We will give you the shirt off our back but start messing with our "stuff" (land, family, property rights etc) and you'll have a fight!

YOU say; "We must protect OUR

mountains".

WE say; these are NOT "your mountains" other than the 50% USFS land in Macon County. The remaining 50% is owned by individuals who pay the taxes and whose name is on the deed. If you wish to make them "your (our) mountains" kindly get out your checkbook.

YOU strive to further regulate us yet you can't site a truly valid reason why.

WE say; show us the problem, one that you could really fix. There isn't one! You can't protect us from the hazards of everyday life.

•See LETTERS page 14

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• BACK DAYS • William Thomas & Martha Ammons Potts

This begins another segment of Back Days in Highlands' Newspaper. This time it features the family of William Thomas (W.T.) and Martha (Mattie) Ammons Potts, whose descendants tell the tales that will follow in this and subsequent issues.

Those who came before and after them – Part 1

By Jessie Potts Owens in 1987
Usually people come first, and they make the towns. Highlands, NC was dif-

ferent. In 1875, Samuel Truman Kelsey and Clinton Carter Hutchinson founded the municipality of Kelsey's Plateau, later

changing its name to Highlands.
There are several stories about what brought them to this high place in the Appalachian Mountains, probably the best known one is that Kelsey and Hutchinson drew two slant lines across a map of the US, one from Chicago, Ill to Savannah, GA; the other from New York, NY to New Orleans, LA. The intersection of the two lines, they believed, marked the geographical center of Eastern American, an area which could be developed into a great commercial center if settlement and transportation facilities were promoted.

Among the early settlers of the new village were my grandparents, William T. and Martha Ammons Potts; yet their decision to settle here was not theirs alone but the culmination of moves by family members who preceded them.

Around 1750 Moses Potts came from Pennsylvania to Rowan County, (later Iredell County) which originally included all the western part of the state. According to research done by Caroline Kimsey, a great-granddaughter of David Washington Potts, the settlers in the area where Moses settled on Fourth Creek (close to Statesville, NC) were subject to attack by Indians and often had to take refuge at Fort Dobbs.

On one occasion men from the fort had ventured to Moses's place to get provisions when the Indians struck. Several were killed in the raid.

Coming with Moses from Pennsylvania were James, Henry and John Potts, believed to be his brothers or cousins. Each of these Pottses had a son named James, but we are descendants of the James born to Moses.

That James was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and was wounded while fighting at Ramsour's Mill in Lincoln County. Records show that he bought 150 acres of land from his father on Aug. 27, 1777, for which he paid five pounds. Gradually, he acquired other tracts of land. When he married Sarah Morrison in 1785, she brought with her an inheritance from her father that included a chestnut sorrel horse, a heifer, two cows, a bed, other furniture, pewter and 1/12 of the proceeds from the sale of his estate at auction.

Sarah was of Scots-Irish descent; her grandfather having brought his family to America in 1730 and settled in Lancaster



"Billy" Thomas and "Mattie" Ammons Potts
Photos: Highlands Historical Society

County, PA. In turn, four of his sons moved to Rowan County, NC, in the 1750s.

James and Sarah Morrison Potts had seven children to reach adulthood, but only two of them married. Emeline, the wife of Asa Summers, was childless; Milus and his wife Nancy Stevenson Potts, had nine children – the only grandchildren of James and Sarah.

Like her mother-in-law, Nancy's grandfather, William Stevenson, was Scots-Irish. He, too, had first settled in Lancaster County, PA, before moving his family in 1782 to North Carolina where he accumulated large holdings of land close to Statesville.

In 1819, Milus Potts had purchased 133 acres on Fourth Creek from his father for \$400. Later he made other land purchases in Iredell County totaling about 250 acres but sometime in the 1840s he and Nancy and seven of their children moved to Macon County and settled in Cowee Valley.

Three of their sons, John Stephen, David Washington and Milus Lusk, married sisters, the daughters of Moses and Lydia Duckett Addington. Moses had been born in Newberry District, SC, but as a boy had moved with his parents, William and Delilah Duncan Addington, to Buncombe County, NC.

William was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. About 1820, William and several of his sons moved from Buncombe westward into what is now Macon County, but Moses didn't move his family until about 1825.

Lydia, too, had moved from South Carolina to Buncombe County and it is quite possible that the Addingtons and Ducketts had known each other before the moved to Western North Carolina.

• See BACK DAYS page 8



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• COACH'S CORNER •

Emptying my (fake) emails

It's that time again, the time where I empty out my imaginary mailbag and answer questions that no one knows the answers to! So without further ado, let's get to the questions

To: CoachPotts

From:

OlRoy@unc.edu

Dear Coach, I recently ran into an issue down in Tallahassee where my team got their tail kicked and I was so embarrassed that I took all my players to the locker room....the only problem was that I "accidentally" left my walk-ons out on the floor while I retreated to the locker room. Now people are mad at me....what should I do?

Roy, If I were you I would apologize to my players instead of sending out Steve Kirschner to be your version of the Iraqi information officer. Taking your kids off the floor was understandable in that situation, but not staying out there with the walk-ons is inexcusable. Additionally, if you were telling the truth about not knowing the walk-ons were on the court (you're not, but let's pretend) then that makes you look even worse! A D1 coach doesn't know where 5 of his players are? Come on Roy, you are a HOF coach, just admit the error and move on.

To: CoachPotts

From:Cundiffnevermore@ravens.com

Dear Coach, I recently had a bad day at work and now my coworkers are really upset with me...what should I do?

Billy, If I were in your shoes I would probably run as far away as possible from Ray Lewis. Ray is getting long in the tooth and you just cost him a chance at a Super Bowl. So run, Billy, run like



Ryan Potts

tryanpotts@hotmail.com

the wind.

To: CoachPotts

From:

GBSquared@broncos.com

Dear Coach, I have been invited to the Pro Bowl as an alternate, but I got hurt in my last game. Should I participate in the Pro Bowl or not?

Dear Tim, My advice to you would be not to attend.

First of all, you are injured and therefore need some time off. Secondly, the world actually needs a little less Tebow right now, so pack it up, lay low for a bit and come back next year with an improved game and with the same attitude that you have had since you were, say, 6.

To: CoachPotts

From: BradyBunch12@Pats.com

Dear Coach, I don't get it....I'm rich, good looking, I'm the best quarterback of this generation and have made it to the Super Bowl (again) despite to worst defense in the NFL....why does everyone hate me?

Dear Tom, Most people I know hate you because you are an extension of your coach, who just happens to be the most weasel-esque coach in the NFL. Seriously, Belichick has been caught taing things illegally and then pulled a fast one on the Broncos by hiring their former coach right before a playoff game. (anyone notice that the Patriots were in the backfield all day? It's a lot easier to do when you know the snap count and the protections) But seriously Tom, there are a few reasons people don't like you that don't have to do with your slime ball coach. You carry a smug look most of the time, and the refs protect you as if you are made of porcelain...but other than that, you seem like a pretty good guy.



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• CONSERVATIVE POV

‘Mr. President, what are you thinking?’

I borrowed the headline from an energytomorrow.org blog and I will refer to the body of the blog as well as several others in trying to explain what in the world is going on with the Keystone XL pipeline project. There is so much conflicting information on TV news, where most folks get their information these days, I thought I'd try to straighten things out. What immediately follows can be a bit tedious, but I assure you, it gets very interesting.

First, what is Keystone? It's a pipeline, running from northeastern Alberta, Canada, carrying crude oil to refining facilities in Illinois and Oklahoma. It already exists and is operating today. What is now in play is Phase 4. Wikipedia explains: "This phase is part of the Keystone XL pipeline and would start from the same area in Alberta, Canada as the main pipeline. The Canadian section would consist of 329 mi. of new pipeline. It would enter the United States at Morgan, Montana and travel through Baker, Montana where domestic oil would be added to the pipeline. Then it would travel through South Dakota and Nebraska, where it would join the existing Keystone pipelines at Steele City, Nebraska.

This phase has generated the greatest controversy because of its routing over the top of the Ogallala Aquifer in Nebraska."

From foxnews.com: "The Obama administration blocked a permit for the \$7 billion Keystone XL, at least temporarily, claiming a more thorough review is needed to examine problems it may pose to the nation's air and water quality. The administration also blamed Republicans for including a provision in a recent tax cut bill that compelled a decision within a 60-day time frame."

Back to the energytomorrow.org: "Even though the only question the president had to answer was whether the 1,700-mile project is in the national interest, he settled on a different calculus – re-election politics. Jobs and energy security...or politics? He chose politics, while, at the same time continuing to offer that he's for 'America-made energy that creates jobs'."

Yet, in his rejection of the Keystone XL the president is rejecting jobs – 20,000 of them in the pipeline's construction phase



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

and up to a half-million more over time, as the Keystone XL would play a major part in full utilization of Canada's oil sands. The president is rejecting the advice of his own Council on Jobs and Competitiveness just a day earlier, that the U. S. needs an 'all-in' energy strategy that pursues more American oil and natural gas, as well as the means to deliver those resources."

From American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Jack Gerard: "What we see and what we hear from this administration are two different things. No place is this more clear than the decision on the Keystone XL pipeline. President Obama said last year that many of the shovel-ready jobs imagined by his stimulus program were 'not as shovel-ready as we expected'. But today, in a clear abdication of presidential leadership, rejected the Keystone XL pipeline. How can you say you are for jobs and reject the largest shovel-ready project in America today? Mr. President, what are you thinking?"

So where does Canada, that has a huge stake in all of this, stand. From Bloomberg.com: "President Barack Obama's decision to reject a permit for TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone XL pipeline may prompt Canada to turn to China for oil exports. Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in a telephone call yesterday, told Obama 'Canada will continue to work to diversify its energy exports,' according to details provided by Harper's office, Canadian Natural Resource Minister Joe Oliver said relying less on the U. S. would help strengthen the country's 'financial security'. Harper 'expressed his profound disappointment with the news,' according to the statement, which added that Obama told Harper the rejection was not based on the project's merit and that the company is free to re-apply."

Per cnn.com: "Harper is scheduled to make a high-profile trip to China in February. Canada is proposing to build a pipeline of its own through western Canada that would make oil exports to China faster and cheaper. In recent months, Harper has pushed more forcefully for the Northern Gateway pipeline project to get underway, calling it in the country's 'national interest' as it works to develop markets other than

the United States for its crude oil exports."

So the wonder child, the bolt out of the blue who was trumpeted to make friends out of those who hate us, has managed to turn our closest friend and neighbor Canada, who currently sends 99% of its crude to the US, to looking for other buyers. Working against the citizens, the labor unions, our economy and America's future, Obama has confused Canada's leaders to the point of breaking with history and seeking other trading partners.

What's his game? Back to energytomorrow.org: "The fact is you can't be for infrastructure and for jobs – and be against actual projects that create jobs. You can't be for working men and women and then deny them real jobs with real paychecks. The administration has dithered studying the Keystone XL for more than three years, including two environmental reviews, contradicting the president's suggestion that the project hasn't had enough review."

Again the question. What are you thinking, Mr. President? Politics. When the American people need leadership that results in jobs and a more secure country - politics."

... BACK DAYS continued from pg 6

In Macon County, Moses saw both his land holding and his family grow. He and Lydia had 11 children, 10 of whom lived to adulthood. Of them, Sarah Ann married John Stephen Potts in 1855 Lydia Carolina married David Washington Potts in 1855; Mary Catherine married Milus Lusk Potts in 1859.

John Stephen and Sarah Addington Potts are buried in Highlands Memorial Cemetery. She died in 1905; he in 1910.

They had six children, the oldest of whom was our grandfather, William T. (Billy) Potts, born in 1857. The next two died in infancy. Fanny E, when she was two years old; Frank S., when he was one. The sole surviving girl and the youngest in the family was Nancy (Nan or Nannie), who married William L. Pool.

According to the family Bible, the ceremony was performed by the Rev. W.R. Barrett. The couple lived in Birmingham, AL.

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Vacation Rentals – Will they help stagnant sales?

Chances are you know of some one in Highlands trying to sell their home. With over 400 homes actively on the market (in the Highlands Township alone), and with the average days on the real estate market being 497 days – it's not a far stretch to make that assumption.

It's been a tough haul over the last two or three years for many people trying to sell, but hopefully, if 2012 ends the way it's started, a good many of those sellers will get some relief. In the meantime, what if there was a way to help bring in a little income while waiting for the right buyer? Vacation rentals may just be the right vehicle you need for marketing your home for sale – you may even decide to take your home off the real estate market if the rental income is enough. Rental income won't heal your debt problem, but it may be the band-aid you need to dress the wound of lowered property values caused by the cut-rate home prices during the last couple of years.

Albert Einstein was quoted as saying, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Another quote I like is "If you always do what you've always done, then you'll always have what you've always got" – not sure who first said that, but the sentiment



Jeannie Chambers
The Chambers Agency
REALTORS
jsc@chambersagency.net

is the same, we're all trying to reach the same destination, but if your home has been listed near the average of 497 days- maybe it's time to try a different route. Here are some guidelines to help you in the process

1) Ask your Realtor about the possibility of renting your home. All homes aren't necessarily rentable at market prices- there's a flood of available homes for rent

right now, just like there are homes for sale, but almost any home can rent at *some* price.

2) Educate yourself – Did you know there's an enforceable Act of Congress that deals with vacation rentals for homes listed for sale? As of 1999, the North Carolina Vacation Rental Act (General Statutes, Chapter 42A-19 specifically) deals with the transfer of property while the property is rented/ will be rented within 180 days of the sales recording date..

3) Get your home ready — you've got to make your home stand out from the crowd, especially if it's for sale. Seek advice about staging your home; there's not much difference in staging your home for sale and staging your home for rent- it just HAS to be livable.

4) Be realistic in your rental goals while your home is being marketed for sale. Some renters will not want their home to be shown while they are occupying your home. Some owners don't want the renters bothered with showings because they're glad to have the rental income, while others insist in showing regardless if empty or rented. At any rate, renters need to know when making their reservations if the home is subject to being shown, and if a Broker can show up without an appointment or other arrangements. Real estate brokers are well aware of the procedure of calling ahead to show properties (whether rented, vacant, on a lock box, etc). It's just common courtesy to give as much advance notice as possible when showing any real estate.

5) Know that any rental less than 90 days is subject to Macon County occupancy taxes and NC State sales and use taxes,

even if you rent your home to 'your friend from back home.' A portion of the tax money is returned to Highlands for tourist marketing — money well spent. If your home is for sale, you WANT as many people in town as possible. The law of averages is in your favor — more people mean

• See INVESTING page 15



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Highlands Area Upcoming Events

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 calss. 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 am.

• 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 am. 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.

Thursday, Jan. 26
• The Blue Ridge Farmers Coop, with the support of the Cashiers Valley Community Council, invites you to a Community Feast January 26th, from 5-7 pm at the Cashiers Valley Community Center. Bring your ideas and input as we launch the 2012 Community Soup Kitchen, honoring our beloved friend Blaine Hawkins and serving the residents of our village. The meal is free- just bring your community spirit. For information call 743-5106.

• The USDA Forest Service National Forests in North Carolina will hold a workshop in Franklin, regarding the agency's Trails Strategy initiative from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. in the Macon County Community Facilities Bldg., 1288 Georgia Rd in Franklin. The Forest Service encourages participation by one representative from each trail group. Trail

users or group members are encouraged to register online at: www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5343920.pdf

Saturday, Jan. 28
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a four-mile moderate hike to Lower Whitewater Falls from the Bad Creek Reservoir Parking area. Meet at the new parking lot near the new Rec Center just past the Cashiers Post Office at 10 am. Drive 22 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

• Art Cinema at The Bascom at 2 p.m. Crafts in America Part 2.

• Winter Barn Dance at The Bascom. Honoring Veterans. 7-10 p.m. Tickets \$5 at the door. Cash only please. Free to Veterans.

• Free Make & Take Classes at The Art Room, 45 East Main St. in Franklin. 10am to 12:30. Come make a Card...ages 15 and up please!

Sunday, Jan. 29
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.2 mile hike on Lakeside Drive Walking Trail just north of Franklin, near the Environmental and Macon Co. Health centers. Meet at the Health Center on Lakeside Drive off E. Main at 2 p.m. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

Tuesday, Jan. 31
• Sustainable Tourism presentation in Coleman Hall at the First Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m.
• Highlands Dialogue 10-11:30 a.m. at The Hudson Library. "Body Theology" (handout). Coordinator: Martha Porter. Questions? E-mail John Gaston

The creativity continues in February at The Bascom!

The Winter Barn Dances celebrate the service of others to the community. Gather with friends and neighbors, enjoy great music with Nitrograss and relive the memory of a great Highlands' tradition.

Honoring veterans on Saturday, January 28th; the fun begins at 7 pm. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at the door. Admission for honorees is complimentary. Food and libations will be available for purchase. The Bascom's Winter Barn Dances are sponsored by The Bascom, The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, Mountain Fresh Grocery, the Ugly Dog Pub. and the Highlands Historical Society.

Discover Art Cinema, Saturdays at 2 pm in the Loft Gallery. Sit back and enjoy this week's feature presentation: *Craft in America, Part 2*. Admission is free.

Plus the diverse offering of classes and workshops in ceramics, painting, drawing, mixed media and journaling continue in February:

• **Painting Basics and Beyond** with Robin Swaby on Wednesday, February 1-22 from 10 am-12 noon.

• **Journaling Mornings** with Betty Holt on Saturday, February 4 from 10 am-12 noon.

• **Glazing Techniques** with Frank Vickery, February 4-5 from 10 am-4 pm.

• **Drawing Basics and Beyond** with Knight Martorell on Mondays,

February 6-27 from 10 am-12 noon or 5:15-7:15 pm.

• **Ceramics: Beginning and Beyond** with Frank Vickery on Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 7 - 16 from 1-3 pm or 5:15-7:15 pm.

• **Ceramic Sculpture** with Colette Clark on Mondays and Wednesdays, February 13 -22 from 12 noon-2 pm.

• **Discovering the Image** with Diane McPhail, February 18 from 10 am-4 pm

• **Horse Hair and Fuming Fires** with Frank Vickery, February 18-19 from 10 am-4 pm.

Visit The Bascom's new website, check out all our offerings for 2012 and take advantage of Early Bird Discounts on adult workshops and classes in ceramics, painting, photography, journaling, drawing, and so much more. By March 31st, sign up for any 2012 adult class or workshop priced over \$100 dollars and receive a 10% discount when you pay in full. This offer is good for classes valued over one hundred dollars based on the membership price.

The Bascom is now open year-round - Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. Enjoy workshops, exhibitions, special events and quality programs throughout the year at The Bascom. For more information, to register for Bascom workshop offerings or for more details on all Bascom activities, visit www.TheBascom.org or call 828.526.4949.

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... BRANDING continued from page 1

Highlands unique."

The project will follow two stages, both of which require public involvement. Arnett Muldrow & Associates, Ltd. of Greenville, South Carolina, is a design firm that has completed branding and marketing programs for over 280 communities in 27 states. It will begin in Highlands with a three-day Charrette involving interaction between their project team and the public in a very short timeframe.

The team will hold sessions with city officials, downtown and area businesses, civic organizations, and the general public to create a single, high-quality identity for wayfinding signs in Town. This identity may be used, if desired, for letterheads, banners, brochures, event posters, advertising, etc. The general public is invited share their thoughts on what identity they feel best represents the Town on Monday, February 13, at 5 p.m. at the Community Building. A reminder will be published a week before the event.

After receiving input from the community, the team will spend the following days working on designs and agreeing on a final package, which will be presented to the STMS Steering Committee on February 15th. Two more weeks will be devoted to refining the design before the Wayfinding stage begins in mid-March.

Frazier Associates of Staunton, Virginia, will conduct the Wayfinding stage of the project. Their project team will prepare two or three sign system designs based on the new Highlands identity. They will then apply the preferred design to gateway, parking, and destinations signs and information kiosks throughout the Town.

After ranking the signs according to priority and selecting what's to be included on the signs, they will prepare a sign location map and give cost estimates for engineered drawings and the manufacture and installation of the signs. By the end of May they hope to present the results of the Branding and Wayfinding Project to the Town Board for final approval.

The public will have several opportunities to be involved in the process. "It's essential that the community feel a sense of pride and ownership for this to be a Town effort," Shaffner remarked. "And it begins with their input on the survey."

The survey involves only nine questions, which can be answered at the following internet address: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22EBGCQY3RK>. Surveys need to be completed by Friday, Feb. 3. There will also be copies available at the Hudson Library and at Town Hall for those wishing to complete it offline.

... BOE continued from page 1

In addition to recognizing the achievements of Macon County students and employees, the Board of Education also heard updates on the oft-discussed Lindamood-Bell reading program. Macon County currently has one teacher who is on the cusp of completing the required training to become certified by Lindamood-Bell. Currently, 90 teachers in Macon County have now completed the Lindamood-Bell initial training, and Macon County's plan for implementing Lindamood-Bell in the classrooms is currently proceeding on schedule. In terms of the impact on Highlands School, all of the required teachers at Highlands School have completed the Lindamood-Bell training process. Additionally, all students have now completed the core pretesting and have moved into the next step in the process which consists of process-based instruction and weekly diagnostic testing. Instruction involves the use of a concept called "visualizing and verbalizing" which involves using flashcard pictures to assist students in learning descriptive skills.

... STATISTICS continued from page 1

unit, 596 grams of marijuana were seized, 17.5 grams of meth, 2.5 grams of cocaine and 316 Oxycodone pills were seized. In addition, 35 drug paraphernalia items were seized and \$1,088 in currency was taken.

All told, the Investigations Unit, which includes Narcotics, Domestic Violence, Criminal, Juvenile and Computer Sex Crimes, handled 837 investigations, 459 felony charges and 292 misdemeanor charges.

The Narcotics Unit handled 99 cases, issued 101 felony warrants, 69 misdemeanor warrants, 19 search warrants, 98 houses were searched, 296 vehicles were searched, 4 meth labs were dismantled, 36 federal charges were made and \$65,000 in cash and property was seized.

A breakdown of drugs seized in 2011 is: 254 grams of meth plus an additional 4.5 pounds of meth from one case, 416 oxycodone pills, 5 percocet, 88 methadone pills, 7 klonopin, 16 valium, 36 grams of marijuana and 164 marijuana plants.

Using \$1000 of Macon County "buy" money as well as \$5,100 SBI funds, \$6,100 DEA funds, \$4041 OCDTF funds and \$1,500 Highlands funds in one drug investigation 8 vehicles were seized, \$3,500 in precious metals, \$691,505 in real property, \$42,267 in cash, 4 ½ pounds of meth concluding in 18 Federal bills of indictment.

The Sheriff Dept.'s fight against drugs is ongoing. Though not included in the 2011 stats (but in 2010 stats) Mitchell Lee Stahl, who was picked up in Highlands Plaza Sep-

tember 2010, pleaded guilty in superior court Jan. 11, 2012 to attempted trafficking of opium/heroin and selling/delivering a Schedule 2 controlled substance and for selling or delivering Schedule 2 and 4 controlled substances, and for maintaining a vehicle and home for the sale of controlled substances. He was sentenced to 38 months and given another suspended minimum sentence of 31 months.

Involuntary commitments are up in Macon County; so is the money spent on them. In 2010 \$44,882 was spent in Sheriff Dept. salaries dealing with involuntary commitments – in 2011 that jumped to \$103,859 requiring 4,437 hours of deputy time in 2011 versus 1,908 in 2010. The reason for this is the ways and means involuntary commitments are now handled in the state.

The 2011-12 budget for the Sheriff's Dept. is down 6% from the 2010-11 budget — \$5,495,127 versus \$5,835,129 last year.

As to crimes reported, burglary is down 11%, larceny is up 56% and motor vehicle thefts were up 150%. Arrests made mirror crime percentages — 11%, 56% and 150%, respectively.

Drug and alcohol arrests were down 2% from 2010, but incidents investigated were up 8% in 2011. Arrests for all crimes were up 8% in 2011.

Still, of 383 NC agencies, the MC Sheriff's Dept. ranks 35th in lowest crime rate.

— **Kim Lewicki**



Winter 2012



Early Bird Discount

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... SHERRY continued from page 3

Sherry. A star athlete in High School, Mr. Sherry served during WWII in the South Pacific in the United States Marine Corps. After his release from service, he received an football scholarship to Champlain College in Upper New York State, and upon graduation, went on to play intermural football at Ohio State University, where he graduated with a BBS degree in 1951. He remained an enthusiastic fan of Ohio State Buckeye football all his life.

Hub Sherry had a distinguished career in mortgage banking in Ohio and Florida, serving in numerous leadership roles; but if you asked him, he would tell you that he truly found meaning and purpose in his life when he was introduced to Jesus Christ by Eddie Waxer from Campus Crusade for Christ. Hub made Jesus his Lord and Savior, and since that day, through ups and downs, Hub has been an ambassador for Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.

Hub served as an Elder at Community Bible Church in Highlands, NC; he was also active in Promise Keepers, the National Day of Prayer, Cursillo, Kairos, and many other ministries. While living in Johnson City, he was active in the creation of the Amputee Support Group and grateful for the establishment of local hospital wound care. He became a mentor, encourager, adopted dad and trusted friend to the many people whose lives he touched. Often seen zipping around NHC in his power wheel

chair, wearing his Ohio State sweatshirt and his WWII veteran's cap, you hardly noticed he was also on oxygen; he was a colorful character that will always be remembered fondly, and with a smile.

Mr. Sherry was preceded in death by his parents and siblings; twin sons, Frank and Peter who died in infancy; a precious granddaughter, Megan Lawson. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Trudy Sullivan Sherry; a daughter, Carolyn Sherry Lawson of Johnson City; a son Steven Hubbard Sherry and his wife Rachel of Loveland CO; a son Donald Charles Sherry and his wife Lisa of Tallahassee, FL; grandchildren: Joshua Lawson of Johnson City, TN; Kyle, Justin, Kayla, and Aaron Sherry of Loveland, CO; Frank Sherry of Tallahassee, FL; great-granddaughters: Caitlyn and Isabella Lawson Holmes of Newport News, VA.

Graveside services with military honors will be held at the Mountain Home National Cemetery, near Johnson City, TN on Friday, February 3rd; the family will gather at 1:30 pm, with services at 2 pm. A celebration of the life of Hub Sherry will be held at University Parkway Baptist Church, 219 University Pkwy, Johnson City, TN 37604 on Saturday, February 4th at noon, with lunch being served at 1 pm. In Lieu of flowers, a fund has been set up in Hub's honor for the purchase of Bibles and children's Bibles for Parkway Church.

LASIK MYTH # 26

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

What if?

Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central Baptist Church



My next scheduled newspaper column is the week of April 9. But, "what if?" What if I've died and gone to Heaven? What if you've died? What if the Highlands' Newspaper is no longer around? (Just kidding, Jim and Kim.)

What if a severe weather pattern keeps us from getting the paper? What if the economy tanks even more? What if a terminal disease is contracted? What if tragedy strikes my family?

"What if?" It just might be our most asked question. But it doesn't stop with that. Often the question is asked with fear and insecurity. And, most of the time we don't go on to the obvious answer (and there is an answer).

Most simply put: The "what ifs" are answered by the "Who is." Before there was life on this planet...and before you and I, there was God. And yes, after life on this planet and you and I, that same God will still be. But that isn't even the whole story. It would be one thing to have a God far removed from us "pushing the buttons" in Heaven with some sadistic delight. But, it's another thing entirely to have a God in Heaven who has come to earth in the person of Jesus Christ, who has declared His unequivocal love for us, who has demonstrated that on the Cross and in the Resurrection, who promises to forgive us of our sins so that we can know Him personally and intimately...and then promises to work all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. And, this is the kind of God we have! Frankly, our fretting and worrying are useless. They produce nothing but anxiety and maybe even sickness.

So, I must ask myself a question: "When I am caught up with the 'what ifs', isn't that my cue to trust more the 'Who is'? I do that not through positive mental attitude or mind over matter. I do it through a living, conscious relationship with Jesus Christ.

Think of it: The Son of God has committed Himself to take care of His sheep FOREVER. The Son of God cannot lie. He is bound by His own honor and Word. To put it another way: He knows and controls the future and has considered every contingency on behalf of His own. He always knows exactly what He will do next. Since He is God, we don't have to be.

The real question then can only be: "What if you believed all of this?"

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

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 Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion
CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
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 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 Bruce Walker
 Sunday: Education for children & adults and choir rehearsal
 beginning at 9:00am. Holy Eucharist Rite II Service held at 10:30am
 in the Main Nave of the Church.
 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 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)

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

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 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.

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 Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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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

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

... LETTERS continued from page 5

YOU know full well additional regulations will slow growth through increased construction costs.

WE say; construction and real estate are all we have left to make a living with.

YOU say; we have big problems and use the environment to try to impose your will upon us through regulation.

WE say; there has been substantially more injury, loss of life and property damage resulting from kitchen and heating unit fires in recent years than from anything you are trying to regulate! What's next? No fireplaces, annual cooking and training classes, licensing, certifications, home inspectors?

YOU have a sympathetic press to support your efforts and a Planning Board that for years has been dominated by outspoken activists pushing your agenda. Facts

have been distorted. The deck has been stacked. At the Aug 2010 Planning Board meeting Chairman Penland even went so far as to prohibit anyone who had spoken out on steep slope at previous meetings from speaking again on the subject – even in public session!

WE have Commissioner Ron Haven (top vote getter in 2010) who we elected to fight for us. He is now following through on the promises he made. How refreshing!

Our property values have been slashed, retirements decimated, our children forced to move away looking for work, our taxes increase daily and YOU want to regulate us even further than the myriad of regulations already on the books thereby making it even harder for us to make a living?

Commissioner Haven stated “either fix it OR shut the Planning Board down.” Commissioner Corbin also recognized there is a problem. We agree. THANK YOU Ron Haven for having the guts to take on the fight. We encourage all Commissioners (especially Republicans Corbin and Tate) to stand with Haven. Stand tall... WE, the “silent majority, the working folks” stand with you!

Bill Vernon,
Franklin

Good for you, Ron Haven

Dear Editor,

Macon County should be proud to have a politician who makes promises to voters, and then works to try to keep them.

I'm referring to Commissioner Ron Haven. He received significantly more votes than his opponents in the 2010 election by promising to work to prevent a steep slope ordinance from being passed, and to make changes to the County's Planning Board. Those promises apparently resonated with many voters.

He has been working for more than a year to keep those promises.

With the resignations of two commissioners over the past year, Commissioner Haven's progress has been slowed. I believe Commissioner Haven's recent public e-mail, sent to his fellow commissioners, county manager, media, and others, was a display of his frustration with the slow

progress. He has met one delay after another

Commissioner Haven's e-mail removes the façade that the Board of Commissioners is one big happy family. Politics is, and has been, alive and well in Macon County. Many issues can be handled amicably between partisans. The Planning Board is apparently not one of those issues.

Environmental groups like the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee, and the Western North Carolina Alliance would like to severely limit the development of private property in Macon County and elsewhere. They diligently work to get overly restrictive land use and development ordinances established — thus their strong support for a steep slope ordinance and its advocates on the Planning Board.

Expect environmental groups, Democrats, and local newspapers to attack Commissioner Haven. It has already started. Commissioners Corbin and Tate can expect the same treatment if they support Commissioner Haven. They both will have to run for election this year, and once again the Planning Board will be an election issue.

Keep up your efforts Commissioner Haven, and know that many Macon County citizens support you on this issue. I expect Republican Commissioners Corbin and Tate to do the same.

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• POLICE & FIRE •

The new Police Station opened “softly” this week. For police business go to the new building in the Playhouse complex behind Town Hall on Oak Street.

Highlands PD log entries from Jan. 10. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 10

- At 3:45 a.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 hang-up at a home on Choctaw Ridge Road but no one was home.
- At 10:15 a.m., officers were called about vehicles parked in the main turnaround on Dog Mountain. Workers said the owner of the home they were working on didn't want them parking in his driveway. They were told to move.
- At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a call about a tractor-trailer starting down the Gorge Road. They escorted the driver to Bridal Veil Falls where he turned around and headed for NC 106 instead.
- At 5 p.m., officers received a call about a possible intoxicated driver in the vicinity of Spring and NC 106 who drove up on the sidewalk and into oncoming traffic. Officers drove to the GA line but weren't able to locate the driver.

Jan. 12

- At 8:30 a.m., a caretaker of a home on Sequoia Point reported a breaking and entering where \$1,000 of radio/TV/VCR stereo equipment, a \$1,500 rug, a \$2,000 patio door and \$600 worth of alcoholic beverages were taken. The owners' primary home is in Florida. The case is under investigation.
- During the week, police officers responded to 3 alarms.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Jan. 10

Jan. 10

- At 5:59 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at OEI's spa on Church Street. It was set off by steam.

Jan. 11

- At 1:39 p.m, the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on NC 106. Two subjects refused ambulance transport.

Jan. 16

- At 1:44 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly Fire & Rescue on a brush fire. The call was cancelled en route.

Highlands Fire & Rescue Awards Banquet – Sat., Jan. 21



Officers for 2012 were recognized: Chief James Manley, Asst. Chief Ryan Gearhart, Fire Captain Matthew Wilson, 1st Lt. Roger Wilson, 2nd Lt. Jimmy Petrone, Rescue Capt. Jim Tate, Rescue Lt. Eric Pierson, Operations Lt. Robbie Forrester. Not pictured is Sec/Treas. Bobby Lewis.



Recognized for Perfect Attendance: David Leffler, Hunter Leffler (not pictured), Matthew Wilson, Roger Wilson and Jimmy Petrone.



Lenny Metrick received a certificate and pin recognizing 15 years of service with the department. Pictured with him from left are Asst. Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart and Chief James Manley.

Photos by Jim Lewicki

• Salons & Spas •

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... INVESTING continued from page 9

more possible buyers.

All Realtors don't handle rentals, just as all Realtors who handle rentals don't allow rental homes in their program that are listed for sale by other Realtors. There have probably been as many successes as failures using the 'multi party system' (Seller, listing broker, Rental broker, tenants, brokers attempting to show the home, etc). It takes a lot of cooperation, but it can be done if done correctly.

For real estate, we have our Highlands-Cashiers Multiple listing service where each broker can go to one spot to see all the homes offered, and the brokers advertise communally.

There is no Rental MLS, each office

handles its own rentals separately, and most require an exclusive property management agreement signed prior to any rental marketing or rentals. If you decide you want to see how the rental process works, don't delay if you expect rentals in 2012 – **NOW is the time to have that talk with your Realtor** — always talk to your Realtor before calling another broker.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are brokers and co-owners of The Chambers Agency, REALTORS in Highlands, specializing in second home investment homes and vacation rentals. 828-526-3717 www.chambersagency.net getit@chambersagency.net



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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL NEWS •

1st Grade students
make Smokey Bear
posters

Students in Mrs. Donna Sizemore's 1st grade class put the finishing touches on their Smokey Bear Posters last week. "The posters show lots of details about Smokey, from his shovel to the animals he wants us to help protect," said Dr. Becky Schilling of the Mountain Garden Club.

For more than 50 years the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest has helped students learn about caring for natural resources. The contest is for students in grades 1-5. Entries must be sponsored by a garden club belonging to the National Garden Clubs, Inc. The deadline for entries was January 21.

"We are so proud of the students and their posters and we know Smokey would be, too," said Mary Lou Carpenter Bilbro, also of the Mountain Garden Club. The students met Smokey Bear when he visited their classroom on November 29.

The Mountain Garden Club thanks Mrs. Sizemore and her teaching assistant, Mrs. Regina Marrone, for helping their students gain new skills while learning important information about forests and the prevention of wildfires.

Little Smoky Mountain
Conference begins

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Highlanders and Lady Highlanders travelled to Hiwassee Dam on Friday for what marked a critical night in the Little Smoky Mountain Conference.

The Lady Highlanders entered the evening in sole possession of first place and looking to clinch at least a share of the conference title with a road win.

The Highlanders entered Friday evening as part of a three team logjam at the top of the LSMC and hoped to put themselves in the drivers seat by giving Hiwassee Dam two conference losses.

The Lady Highlanders came out looking to establish their inside game early and force turnovers with pressure defense. Unfortunately for Highlands, Center Emily Shuler was saddled with early foul trouble, and the Lady Highlanders struggled to contain the outside shooting of the Lady Eagles. Despite trailing by 8 at the half, the Lady Highlanders started the second half strong and cut the Lady Eagle lead to just 2 points. However, cold shooting the rest of the way doomed Highlands, and they fell 68-51. Emily Munger scored 14 for Highlands and Shuler added 11.

In the men's game, the Highlanders began with a four guard lineup and attempted to attack the Eagles off the dribble. This proved unsuccessful at first due to the presence of 6'4" Jake Johnson for Hiwassee Dam. However, the Highlanders small lineup allowed them to press effectively and increase the tempo of the game, taking the Eagles larger players out of the mix.

Both teams shot well early, with Junior Taylor Osteen doing much of the damage for HHS. Osteen's five three pointers in the first half helped to stake the Highlanders to a six point half-time lead despite some early foul troubles.

In the second half, the Highlanders increased their lead to double figures and had a chance to deliver a knock-out punch, but some unfortunate officiating put leading scorer Dax Lloyd and senior forward Isaac Beavers on the bench and allowed the Eagles to creep back into the game.

After Hiwassee Dam took a one point lead, the Highlanders fought back with critical baskets from Tyler Munger, Osteen and Cai Roman to take a 3 point lead into the final moments. Despite giving the Eagles one last possession to tie the score, the Highlander defense stiffened and preserved a 65-62 victory. Osteen led all scorers with 27 points and Lloyd added 14 for the Highlanders.

The Highlanders would like to invite everyone to Highlands Gymnasium on Saturday evening at 5pm as the Highlands teams will host the Tallulah Falls Indians. This will be a special evening as we will be honoring Coach Butch Smart with a retirement celebration and ceremony that will take place between the games. Please come out and let's pack the gym to show our appreciation for Coach Smart.



Ashlynn Wilson



Jacob Holt



Ashtin Zachary



Yasmin Jarquin Colmenares



Brittany Damian Clemente



Jonathan Holland



Deisy Acevedo Diaz



Logan Zachary



Getsemani Hernandez-Rojas



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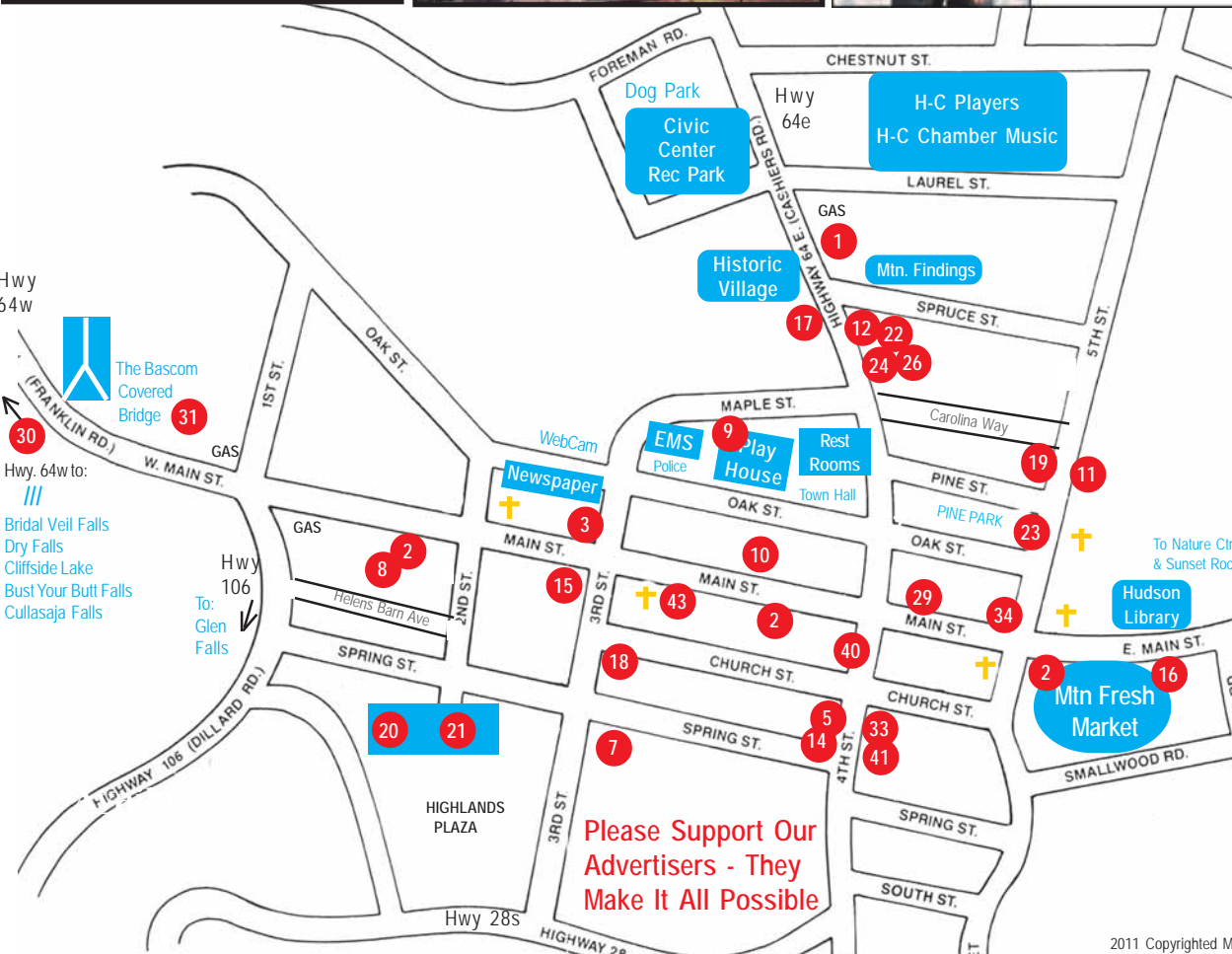
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