

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, Feb. 7, 2013

Long summer ahead for Macon County Schools

Teachers, administrators, students & parents weigh in on new calendar

By **Ryan Potts**

Last Monday evening the Macon County Board of Education approved the district calendar for 2013-14, marking the start date of the 2013-14 school

year on Monday, August 26th. This marks a major change from this calendar year's starting date of August 9th. The last day will be Thursday, June 12.

The calendar change comes

courtesy of a new state law that mandates a starting date no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26th. The new state law also eliminates the winter weather waiver that many mountain area

schools used to deal with inclement weather that is common in this portion of the state. The lack of the winter waiver removes the flexibility and control that local

• See SUMMER page 6

Highlands Plaza to change

At Monday night's Appearance Commission meeting, board members unanimously approved a much needed face-lift to the upper Highlands Plaza 9.60-acre parcel.

Dubbed the Highlands Plaza Landscape Improvement Plan, work which is set to begin this winter, will streamline traffic flow around 236 proposed parking spaces – six more than now – situated around five, one-way isles capped with curbed planter islands.

The raised planter islands will house shrubbery, day lilies, grass and Princeton Elms, which are V-shaped trees with a high canopy.

"We are creating more green space with these islands and taking out unneeded asphalt which will also improve the permeability," said Landscape Architect Hank Ross.

Stamped asphalt crosswalks are planned in the vicinity of the entrance to Bryson's Food Store and also to a plaza area in the parking lot.

The crosswalks will extend from Subway and from mid-block between the Chinese and

Mexican restaurants to a plaza-like area in the parking lot which may house a historical monument as well as three flagpoles – one for the U.S., one for NC and one for Highlands. The idea is to tie the restaurant area together.

The "dreaded" speed bumps will be moved and improved using a modern design. There will be three, 4-inch high speed "humps" marked with stamped asphalt. One will be situated near the NC 106 entrance, one mid-block between the Chinese and Mexican restaurants and one midway between the car wash and the credit union ATM.

The cut-through from NC 28 to NC 106 will remain, delineated by trees at the end of each isle cap to create the feeling of a through-way.

"It's not realistic to think that people aren't going to drive through the plaza," said Ross. "There really isn't a way to get from NC 28 to NC 106. They are always going to cut through so we're going to improve it so it's not so obnoxious for shoppers."

Irrigation and lighting conduits will be laid in the same ditch in the planter islands to ensure sustainability of the foliage.

Town Planner David Clabo said the owners aren't bound to complete the project as planned but are bound to do what is on the plan for the parts they do complete. "There is no zoning requirement as far as that goes," he said.

• See PLAZA page 5

State writing contest winners



Three of the eight Macon County Schools winners of the state's annual Young Writing Project were from Highlands School. Pictured are tenth-graders, Allison Bolt who wrote "Nothing More, Nothing Less" and Jacob McElroy who wrote "The Shot." Not pictured is English teacher Michelle Lane who wrote "Not a Game."

Photo by **Ryan Potts**

Driver license office moving;

Remember to pay traffic tickets on-line

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles Franklin driver license office, located at 185 Industrial Park Road, will close at the end of the business day on Thursday, Feb. 7, in preparation for its move downtown to 16 W. Patton St. It will reopen in its new location at 8 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 11.

The new location is a Macon County-donated space which has been up-fitted for DMV driver li-

cense operations. The office phone number will remain the same, (828) 524-3592, and service hours will remain 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Driver license offices administer sign tests, written tests and road tests used to qualify applicants for a North Carolina driver license.

Pay Tickets OnLine

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UDO changed; PB policies questioned

At the rescheduled Planning Board meeting Tuesday night, members voted unanimously to accept the changes to the zoning ordinance suggested by Town Attorney Bill Coward concerning the board's power over Conditional Use District (CUD) zoning changes.

The changes basically eliminate the Planning Board's power to make administrative changes to the conditions assigned a CUD by the Town Board.

Planning Board power over those changes was a unique procedure in the CUD portion of the Unified Development Code (UDO).

Now, in all situations, the Planning Board will make recommendations to the Town Board, rather than rulings.

"The charge given the Planning Board isn't allowed under our statutes and is unworkable in practice," said Coward. "When changing conditions for a CUD, you are changing the zoning map which is supposed to be done after a public hearing by the Town Board."

Chairman Thomas Craig

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTER •

A consistent town policy for art events

Dear Editor,

First, let me say I support the performing arts and the proposal presented at the January Town Board meeting to have summer concerts at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park. Arts events in Highlands contribute to the quality of life in our wonderful community.

Nevertheless, I am puzzled about the policy concerning arts events and town support. Tax dollars were allocated this year for upgrading the building that houses the Highlands Playhouse, a professional theatre. The current proposal for concerts in the park includes a request for town tax dollars to cover any short fall in private funding for the first few years. I, as a Town of Highlands taxpayer, have no problem with this kind of support. But, if the Town Board approves this new request it will add to an already inconsistent policy concerning park use by art groups.

Some commissioners have justified support of certain arts events based on an

organization's nonprofit status. While an arts organization may be nonprofit, that does not mean it is a charity, and I certainly do not suggest that should be the case. But, professional performing artists working for nonprofit arts organizations are indeed compensated, even at events staged on town owned property. Is paying performers all that different from visual artists selling their work on public property? Indirectly, the town tax payers will be underwriting this proposed concert series as they already indirectly support some theatrical and musical performances. I am not opposed to this town support if it is fair, consistent and inclusive of all the arts.

Some of our town leaders see a visual art exhibit in the park differently. Instead of asking for town financial support, the organizer of the recently banned art shows wanted to rent the park, in other words: give the town money. A counter argument for denying access to the organizer is that the visual

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Highlands School students and staff with Capitol in the background.

Highlands School students and staff attend Presidential Inauguration

By Ryan Potts

A group of 30 Highlanders met at 5:30 am on Saturday morning to head to Washington DC to attend the Inauguration of President Barack Obama. Highlands School Social Studies teacher Chris Green organized the trip, and this marks the third Presidential Inauguration that he has attended with a group from Highlands School. Other chaperones for the trip included Highlands School teachers Gina Billingsley and Tracy Hedden. In recent years, Green has taken Highlands School students to other historical cities such as Boston and Philadelphia, but it is a priority to go to Washington DC during an election year.

In addition to attending the ceremony, the Highlanders also completed a tour of Washington DC, including stops at the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. Also on the itinerary for the group were the Smithsonian museums, particularly the Holocaust Museum. After attending the Inauguration and the Inaugural Parade on Monday, the Highlanders returned home on Tuesday, stopping at President Washington's home at Mount Vernon on the way back.

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter has been a big supporter of Coach Green's annual trips, for numerous reasons. "I think going to Washington is a great ex-

perience for our students," said Jetter, "not only because they get the opportunity to see the political process in action, but also to experience a different lifestyle. A large city like Washington provides a picture of urban living that many of the students in this area haven't had a great deal of experience with."

Highlands School Freshman Colin Weller attended the Inauguration with the group from Highlands. "It was fun," said Weller, "the best part for me was the Inauguration because we were able to be part of a historical event. The monuments were pretty cool as well." Freshman Remy Adrian also enjoyed the monuments, and said the best part about the whole trip was "getting to ride the subway into DC at night."

Green had nothing but great things to say about the trip, "the kids were terrific, everything went very smoothly and as planned. They really enjoyed going to see the monuments the first night we were there, and I think that taking the subway into DC that night from the hotel gave the kids an opportunity to experience city life." Green also noted the historical value of the trip and the significance of seeing the President take office once again. "I think the kids realized that they were watching a piece of history unfold before them," said Green, "and that is one of the major goals of a trip like this...to experience a historically significant event."

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• OBITUARIES •

John George Glattli

John George Glattli, 97, of Highlands, NC, husband of Thelma Tyler Glattli, died Friday, January 18, 2013. A memorial celebration of both of their lives was held at First Baptist Church in Highlands on Saturday February 2.

John was the ninth child born to Theresa and John F. Glattli in Marion County, Florida. He grew up on their farm outside Ocala, Florida, and attended school in a two room school house there. After serving in WWII as a medic in the battery of Harbor Defenses of Puget Sound in Washington State, he moved with his family to Deerfield Beach, FL.

His businesses included landscape design, maintenance, and pest control. He also built several rental warehouse complexes in Florida. And, he was a land developer and excavator in Florida and Highlands. Johnnie and Thelma have had a home in Highlands for 43 years. His favorite hobbies were landscaping, gardening, and woodworking. He was a member of the First Baptist of Highlands for 43 years. Johnnie will be especially remembered by friends for delivering firewood, filling their mantles with wood crafts he had made, assisting in building or gardening projects for neighbors and friends, and co-hosting too many gatherings to number.

John was preceded in death by his first born son, Herbert John Glattli, a fire chief in Deerfield Beach, FL. He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Thelma Tyler Glattli, his son William Glattli and his wife Sandy of Boynton Beach, FL, his daughter Pam Powell and her husband Joe Powell of Highlands, his daughter Becky Simmons and her husband Joe Simmons of Highlands, 8 greatly loved grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren, and a very large extended family that loved him dearly.

In lieu of flowers a donation to Hospice or First Baptist of Highlands would be appreciated. The family appreciates the loving care of the staff at Fidelia Eckerd nursing home and Four Seasons Compassion for Life. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Email - info@bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Irene Moffitt Hughey

Irene Moffitt Hughey, age 85, of Cashiers, NC died Sunday, January 27, 2013.

She was born in Macon County, the daughter of the late Finley and Vylenea McCall Moffitt. She was married to Doyle Hughey who preceded her in death. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and loved doing crafts and sewing. She was the oldest living member of Cashiers Church of God where she was former church clerk and a member of Ladies Ministries.

Mrs. Hughey is survived by two daughters, Brenda Moss and husband Larry of Cashiers, NC and Hilda Nevius and husband Terry of Glenville, NC; two sons, Leland Hughey and wife Jayne and Clay Hughey all of Cashiers, NC; two sisters, Azilea Fugate of Cashiers, NC and Willea Stiwinter of Cullowhee, NC and two brothers, Marvin Moffitt of Cullowhee, NC and Cleamon Moffitt of Cashiers, NC; 13 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a sister and two brothers.

Funeral services were held Friday, February 1, 2013 at Cashiers Church of God with Rev. Markus Zipperer and Rev. Scottie Patrick officiating. Burial will be in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Pallbearers were grandsons, Todd Moss, Chris Moss, Stacey Dillard, Chadd Hughey, Trent Nevius, Jonathan Hughey, Matthew Dillard and Brady Wise.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

L C Nix

L C Nix, age 92, died Friday, February 1, 2013, at his residence. Born in Haywood County, NC, he was the son of the late Oscar and Marguerite Neely Nix. He was married to Ellie Wilson Nix who passed away May 5, 2011. He was a WWII US Air Force Veteran and a member of Highlands First United Methodist Church. He was a district ranger for the US Forest Service in the Atlanta office and completed his Forest Service career in administration.

He is survived by four sisters, Beatrice Buler of Hendersonville, NC, Thelma Smith of Bishopville, SC, Betty Woodall of Clemson, SC and Audrey Tindall of Bishopville, SC and one brother Bill Nix of Thomasville, NC. A number of nieces and nephews also survive.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Charlie, Ernest and Paul Nix, and sisters, Dorothy Campbell and Beulah Templeton.

Funeral services were held Sunday, February 3, 2013 at Highlands First United Methodist Church with Rev. Paul Christy and Rev. Beth Bowser officiating. Burial was at Highlands Memorial Park. Pallbearers were Morris Nix, Bert McCall, Roger Wilson, Ralph Reed, John Tate and Craig McCall.

The Franklin VFW Post # 7339 and the American Legion Post #108 conducted complete military graveside rites.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741 or to Four Seasons Hospice, 171 Hospital Drive, Suite 600, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Janey Sticka

The world went a little dim on Jan. 27, 2013, as it lost one of the its' special residents. Janey L. Sticka went to the Lord after losing a battle with a burst aneurysm and stroke, while aiding her hospitalized daughter in San Clemente, Calif.

Janey was one of those who was a people magnet, never meeting a stranger, making instant friends with a bright smile, and her great Texas hug. She never made an enemy and always had great compassion.

Her loves were her family, husband Dale, & daughter Shannon. She had a special relationship with her Mother Iris, not only mother and daughter but best friends. She also loved her dogs, flowers, shopping, and travel. Just say Paris, France and she would be ready to go in a heartbeat. She always had a passion for interior decorating and was always working on a new look for her home. She loved to learn and was always taking classes and reading. She was always able to factually speak on most any topic. Doing all this while fighting Multiple Sclerosis.

She was born in the Texas town of Lubbock on April. 4, 1944 and was attending Texas Tech University when she met her husband Dale who was going through flight school at Reese AFB just outside of town. While with the military and later the airlines she lived from coast to coast, gathering lifelong friends along the way. She was able to enjoy Charlestown, SC, loving the past as it came to reality. Maguire AFB, NJ, which allowed trips throughout New England, but a special love for New Hope, Penn. Leaving the Air Force she found the West Coast and while living in So. Calif. developed friendships that have lasted forever. Then back to Texas, living in Dallas before finding her garden spot on earth in

• See OBITUARIES page 5



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Too many Martoonies
(The invention of the Fredtini)

Dateline: Winter in No. Palm Beach.

It's not fair. Just when I've decided to give up alcohol, my close friends (Yes, I have a few.) take up drinking martinis. Bummer.

No, no, no, I'm not joining the Baptist church and I'm certainly not becoming a Muslim. I just figured, at my age, I can't afford to kill off any more brain cells. Actually, I can feel them dying even when I'm not drinking.

But when I did drink alcohol, I could never stomach sweet drinks. A Margarita sent me gagging to the nearest bathroom. I think there's more sugar in a single margarita than in ten Hershey Bars. I could feel my arteries clogging as I sipped.

Now, in the New America, all the fancy smanchy martinis seem to be sweet or contain foreign substances that

don't belong there. A good martini should only contain vodka or gin and never, never, ever mixed with ice. The only pollutant would be a thoroughly rinsed olive on a toothpick.

Here's what I did when making a martini. I took a bottle of my favorite vodka and a martini glass from my freezer. I stabbed two large olives with a right wing toothpick and sat them into the frozen glass. I gently poured the vodka over the olives, drowning them. I called this "olive boarding." After adding a dash of sarcasm and just enough smartass to aggravate the liberals, I'd pull a sealed bottle of vermouth from the shelf, bless the martini with the bottle and put it away unopened. TADA! I called it the Fredtini. Now that's a serious martini. Are you writing this down?

Soooo one afternoon last week we invited friends over for Bridge and out to eat later. The woman walks in with a paper bag full of ingredients to make Cosmopolitans. And for those who say they don't drink, here's what's in a Cosmopolitan...or Cosmo as it's called. It has triple sec, cranberry juice and fresh lime....oh, and vodka.

As it turns out the smartest guy at our Bridge game was the woman's husband who asked for wine. I must admit, the Cosmo was pretty good 'cause it wasn't as sweet as the other concoctions I've sampled but still too sweet for me to add to my "once in a blue moon" list. I'm stickin' with the Fredtini.

Later in the evening we headed for dinner at a place called Downtown, an upscale open-air mall with many restaurants and quaint shops. It was a balmy evening with temperatures in the mid seventies. While strolling to our restaurant, we passed a place called Dirty Martinis and stopped to stare at their martini list posted outside. They have the most exotic list of martinis I've ever seen.

Go to www.dirtymartinipalmbeach.com/Menu.aspx if



Fred Wooldridge

you're a martini lover.

During dinner, my friend who brought the Cosmo stuff, suggested I write about martinis. After reading the martini list from the Dirty Martini Restaurant, I could see she was hyped and I was getting inspired. Soooo here are a few cocktails that may not be on anyone's menu.

The Red Necktini is served in a canning jar and contains straight whisky, a splash of Tabasco, finished off with a bar-b-que sparerib stuck in the jar. While sipping, scratch your butt. Yum-

my for my tummy.

The Rich Bitchtini is only served in a Waterford crystal martini glass, contains Diva vodka, one large Turkish olive stuffed with the finest and rarest Russian caviar pierced with a diamond studded toothpick. SHUTUP!

Then there's the Brotini, served with the purest and finest uncut Boone's Farm apple wine, finished off with a sliver of watermelon pierced with a switchblade knife. It's a cut above the rest.

And finally, the guiltini is made with hard to find Star of David vodka and a few splashes of guilt. The drink is served in an upside down yarmulke shaped glass with a long stem. The olives are pierced with a crystal toothpick resembling a Jaguar. Oy!

I could go on and on but this is making me thirsty. And since I don't drink anymore (I don't drink any less either.) I'll substitute Sprite Zero for the vodka....or not. Oh, and there is no such thing as a right wing toothpick. I just wanted to jack up my liberal friends and critics. Yes, I have a few of them also.

Have you read Fred's mystery/thriller, Deceived? Ask for it at your local book store or download it on your e-reader.



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ly things are changing, and most of the changes which rely on the computer would have been impossible without it?

Why do I bring this up? Because in 1982, the year people were starting to catch on to the potential of the computer, I said, "I don't know what I'd do with a computer. I've got a secretary." In retrospect, it's like saying, "I don't know what I'd do with a million dollars. I've got a penny." I don't intend any disrespect on Irene, but that's the way

it is.

I believed General Westmoreland really could see the "light at the end of the tunnel;" I wanted Frazier to thrash Ali; thought President Obama would change America; and that an over-valued micro-restaurant chain, with great press releases, below average food, and a flimflam man at the helm, could make me rich. Oh! And I thought Super Bowl was a stupid name for a football game.

It seems like I've been wrong more than I've right. And I was wrong every time I doubted the ability of man.

There may be a limit to man's ingenuity, some height he cannot reach, some mathematical problem he cannot solve, some illness

he cannot cure. We may be limited by physics, or by the intervention of some supreme being, but I'll never lose again betting on it.

... LETTER from pg 2

artists are making money on town property. Ironically, the actors and musicians at current and proposed performances are, or will be, making money on town property. Why have a different standard for visual artists that does not permit compensation for their work?

Maybe town taxes and other sponsors should pay visual artists to put on a show in the park with the understanding it is for entertainment purposes and the promotion of downtown businesses only, not unlike the former Art Walk. A "no sales" policy could be in place.

Or, maybe the town allowing the park to be used for art shows, along with concerts and performances, would be a consistent policy rather than what is currently in place and what is being proposed.

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Resident

... PLAZA continued from page 1

However, Ross said the project was initiated by the owners not by the town because they want to do it. "The owners said 'we need to improve the shopping center because we want it to look better for the community and we want people to want to rent and stay here because it is a

nice looking shopping center."

Clabo said their plan establishes the expectation of something the townspeople will want to see happen and that alone should be enough pressure to proceed to completion.

— Kim Lewicki

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It was 1960. Jim Hurtubise had just set the single-lap record at Indianapolis. The speed was an incredible 149 miles per hour. Never, I solemnly told my brother, would the average speed for the 500-mile race exceed 150 miles per hour. He merely shook his head, chuckled, and sighed.

In 1982, the computer was named Time Magazine's "Man of the year." The choice drew a lot of attention, not because the title had not been yet changed to "person of the year," but because the computer wasn't a man. Time didn't make the change until 1999. How could I have found that bit of information, on Sunday evening in Highlands, NC, without a computer?

There wasn't a time in history when information was so readily available as it is today. Queen Victoria, with the resources of the vast British Empire at her command couldn't compete with a precocious nine-year-old with a computer.

Today, I can find out almost anything, short of the existence of an afterlife, on my telephone. The screen is a little small, but they'll soon be projecting the images before my eyes. That's a small sample of how rapid-

... OBITUARIES continued from page 3

Highlands, NC. The struggle of Texas heat that aggravated her MS gave way to cool summers, and her love of flowers was given by the huge bouquet Mother Nature provided in the Rain Forest of the Appalachian Mountains of NC.

Janey was always known for her wonderful baked goods, and was eager to present a fantastic pecan pie, or carrot cake for social events. Yup, she was the best.

She will be honored with two Celebrations of Life, one in So. Calif., and one in Highlands, NC. Dates will be announced later.

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The power of negotiating toward everyone's best interests

I recently had new Buyer prospects contact me who had been on the other side of the table from me during negotiations where I represented the Seller in the transaction.

While I always encourage Buyers to stay with their current Realtor, there are two exceptions to that position: 1) The Buyers did not receive extraordinary service and have lost faith in their agent, and/or 2) The Buyer's agent conducted himself or herself in a manner that was unprofessional at best or unethical at worst.

These Buyers were clearly not represented well by their former agent who possessed a lackluster interest and ability to negotiate on their behalf for a property with which they were enamored. As a result, in representing my Seller clients, I worked with another offer and successfully negotiated a better deal for my clients.

These Buyers were now ready to restart their property search and wanted to ensure that they did not have a repeat experience. This time, they wanted strong advocacy and negotiating acumen on their side of the table.

I tell this story to illustrate one essential aspect of sound negotiating which is many times overlooked: getting very clear on what the other party wants to have happen in the deal, most of all.

Often, people will incorrectly just assume everything is about price and dig into a head-to-head battle over the purchase price. This position forces a narrow line of battle and removes alternative paths to a successful agreement. Obviously, price is important, but often times there are other terms and/or conditions that may trump price from the perspective of the Buyer or Seller. Further, engaging in negotiations with a spirit of "let's see if we can draft an agreement where everyone wins," while counterintuitive, does, in fact, often render very positive results.

So, let's look at other terms that may override price from either a Buyer's or Seller's perspective.

Perhaps a Seller is building a new home elsewhere and would rather have the ability to close on the transaction and stay in the home for six months while their new



Susie de Ville
Owner/Broker-in-Charge
White Oak Realty Group
526-8118

home is being finished. Or, perhaps a Buyer client cannot qualify for traditional financing and needs the Seller to finance the sale. Maybe a Seller client is facing foreclosure and needs a very short Due Diligence period and a quick Closing. Or, perhaps a Buyer client is relocating to the area and prefers including the furnishings and decorative accessories with the conveyance of the real property.

There are as many potential scenarios as there are Buyer and Seller clients.

Keeping the lines of communication wide open so that you may fully understand the other party's needs and wants is key. Remember: it is not all about the price. Engage with a spirit of cooperation while standing strong in your position. Be like water and yield at encountered obstacles, but stay ever focused and moving forward toward your desired outcome.

• Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.

... SUMMER from pg 1
education agencies once had.

Reaction within the Highlands community to the new calendar has been largely neutral, although one prominent local business owner is pleased with the results. Sabrina Hawkins, owner of the Highlands Inn and the Highlands Lodge, was part of a lawsuit brought against Macon County through the group Save Our Summers (SOS). Hawkins publicly questioned the use of weather waivers by Macon County, and is pleased with the new law that the Legislature has passed. "I am very happy about the bill passed that disallows the

•See SUMMER page 7

• COACH'S CORNER •

Super Bowl was truly Super

While those of us in the news media (LOL at me calling myself "news media." I'm a guy with a 10-year-old picture who writes a bad newspaper column...wait a minute....YES! I'm finally fitting in with all the others) are often prone to hyperbole, I think it is fair to say that this year's Super Bowl was one that was actually worthy of the hype. It seems funny to say that about a game that looked to be over just 12 seconds into the second half, but then San Francisco got rolling and the second half was about as good of a game as you will ever see.

Just a couple of quick thoughts on the game itself before I get into the fun part (commercials and halftime show). First of all, the announcers killed John Harbaugh for the fake field goal call in the first half, but I thought it was a good decision. Obviously, the Ravens had seen something on film that they thought they could exploit and

... SUMMER from 6

waivers which have allowed school districts to skirt around the law," said Hawkins "I'm an advocate for the long summers, as you know and I think the legitimacy of the waivers being issued were questionable and the powers that be in Raleigh, quite possibly, finally realized such."

Interim Superintendent Dr. Jim Duncan said he wasn't familiar with lobbying of SOS over the last couple of years, but says the legislation was part of a last minute deal in the General Assembly. "The tourism industry was heavily involved with the Senate leadership with regard to the issue. The result has affected almost every county in Region 8 (mountain region) of the state," he said.

He suggested the school board accept the calendar for one year only because weather conditions can always change

• See SUMMER page 9



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

it was there. If Patrick Willis doesn't make a fantastic play there then Justin Tucker easily picks up the first down, which is about the best you can hope for in the NFL. If the other team needs a spectacular play to stop what you are doing, then it is worth the risk. Secondly, I thought Jim Harbaugh did a terrible job of playcalling on the 49ers last series in the red zone. Seriously, you have a running QB and a tired Baltimore defense-and you run a scatback into the middle and then throw three drop back passes? At least roll Colin Kaepernick out and give him an

option...or run read option and try and pound it in... but three drop back passes?

I didn't get to see much of the halftime show because I was doing the dishes, but my Facebook feed quickly devolved into a lengthy discussion over either how great Beyonce was or how much of a whore she was. Surprisingly, the breakdown between whore/fabulous did not go along female/male lines as one would expect, but instead mostly went according to piousness.

I didn't think the commercials were very good this year, but if I had to pick the best my top 5 would look like this.

1. Budweiser Clydesdale-the room got a little dusty on that one.
2. Dikembe Mutumbo for Geico- Mutumbo's Cookie Monster-esque voice makes the ad.
3. Wheat Thins Yeti-the neighbor stealing the Wheat Thins was awesome.
4. Doritos eating Goat.
5. Kia where do babies come from?



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

“Bible Bullies”

By Margaret Howell, Chaplain
Holy Family Lutheran Church

I don't know about y'all, but I was bullied as a child. My family moved to a larger home after my brother was born, and this necessitated my sister and me attending a different elementary school, leaving the one behind where we had gone since first grade.

I was a swarthy 6th-grader with glasses, still wearing bobby socks in the '70s, a bit overweight, carrying a stack of books and a violin case. I was doomed from day one.

Bullying was not the hot-button issue it is today. It wasn't until I actually became physically ill that something half-hearted was done about it.

The bullying ceased for a while. I got beat up regularly in junior high by white kids, and later, when desegregation hit, by black kids, too. Just goes to prove meanness knows no particular race, sex or creed.

In my senior year of high school, I started dating a college guy, lost 20 pounds, and actually bought myself a few outfits that didn't include bobbie socks. I went on to teach with some success for 18 years. I really loved my students. I probably lost my last teaching gig at a fancy private school because I called to task an administration who tried unsuccessfully to bully me.

As I was packing up my office, the head of my department came in to grovel. A lot of them got free tuition for their kids by teaching at there. That means they had a lot to lose and therefore took a lot of guff.

“At least I have a backbone,” I told her as my minister appeared to help me load my car. There is a saying that sometimes what looks like a curse turns out to be a blessing. I went home that afternoon, the severance check the school gave me in my hand, and got on the computer.

I had been taking night classes at the Lutheran Seminary in Columbia, SC, for several years, but had about exhausted those offered on nights, summer and weekends. I called, and found out that the new semester's classes had only just started.

The next morning, I drove to Columbia, saw the registrar and was registered as a full-time student by chapel at noon. My severance check had been exactly the right amount for tuition and books for one semester.

In 24 hours, my life had taken a dramatic turn. I remember I sat in chapel that morning, dazed and little overwhelmed and shaky, singing Psalm 5 with my new classmates.

One passage leaped out at me – Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me. (Ps 5 vs. 8)

When God opens a window, he opens a window!

Our gospel for the past several weeks from the 4th chapter of Luke has Jesus being rejected by his hometown. I really relate to Jesus in that passage. Here he was offering those in his hometown to be the first to hear what had they had been waiting for with hope for hundreds of years, the coming of the Messiah. They not only didn't believe him, they got all bent out of shape – they

John 3:16

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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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10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Children's Program., 10: 45am: Worship Service
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Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09 & 10:50.; 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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Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH
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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
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... SUMMER continued from page 7

which may mean a waiver at some point.

"This year The legislation gave us no leeway to count partial days from previous years. When we went back to look at the total number of school days absent our average number did not meet the minimum number to qualify for an exception especially when we had to plug in zeros for some years," he said.

At Highlands School, however, news of the new calendar was met with concern and disappointment. Highlands Principal Brian Jetter was an advocate for the earlier start-date provided by the winter waivers, and was disappointed with the news. "I wish we were sticking with the earlier start because it allowed us to finish the first semester before Christmas break," said Jetter. "It doesn't benefit the high school kids who have to go on vacation for two weeks and then come back for a week or so before taking a state-mandated End-of-Course test. Obviously, since the Legislature told us what to do then we have to do it, but it is frustrating to lose the flexibility."

High School teachers Cathy McIntyre-Ross and Gina Billingsley echoed the frustration that came with the news that

testing would occur after Christmas break. McIntyre-Ross said that "22 years of teaching has shown me that it is not in the best interest of the students to have the first semester extend past Christmas. It is disappointing that our state legislature has taken a "one size fits all" approach to the school calendar because the students end up being the losers in this situation." Billingsley agreed, "No exams before Christmas will be very rough on my students."

Highlands School students are also somewhat disappointed with the calendar news, although many of them look forward to the long summer that will occur this year.

"It will be nice to have a long summer this year," said Freshman Delaney Keith, "but no fall break and having exams after Christmas will not be good. Most kids won't study over Christmas, so the material won't be as fresh for exams after the break." "Fall break is also a good thing for students," said Freshman Whitney Billingsley, "it kinda helps keep the school year from dragging and lets me refocus. I will miss that next year for sure."

The new calendar will also cause problems for the Highlands School athletic

Highlands Newspaper - Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013 - 828-526-3228 - Page 9 teams, particularly when paired with the new NCHSAA "dead periods" created this fall. Highlands School Athletic Director Brett Lamb said that the calendar law will affect all summer sports activity as well as fall sports of soccer and volleyball. "It's going to be tougher to take kids to summer camps," said Lamb, "because we can't do anything until school is out and then we are going to end up with only 2 1/2 weeks to use because the NCHSAA mandates that we can't do anything the week of July 4th."

The NCHSAA has also designated another "dead period" the week of July 22, which will also hamper summer activity. Lamb says the new calendar will also have a major effect on soccer and volleyball both, because "we can't wait until August 26 to start playing games and fit a whole season schedule in, so we are going to end up having to play some games before school starts, which will be difficult for kids and parents."

Interestingly, the Macon Early College (MEC) school doesn't have to adhere to the same calendar schedule.

"The MEC calendar is part of the innovative high school legislation that enables them to set a calendar that is more closely associated with the college they are using

as a partner, which is Southwest Community College," said Duncan. "While they have to have the same number of days as regular school they can be arranged differently."

MEC's first day will be Thurs., Aug. 8 and the last day will be Wed., May 21.

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• HS SPORTS •

Highlanders honor Seniors, whip Nantahala

By Ryan Potts

The Highlanders and Lady Highlanders honored their Seniors on Friday evening, then picked up a pair of important conference victories against the Nantahala Hawks. Highlands recognized Caroline Shomaker and Taylor Osteen from the Varsity Basketball teams, as well as Varsity Cheerleaders Caroline Christy and Paige Moss.

The Lady Highlanders came out looking to play better than they did in a close win up at Nantahala, and they were able to do so, using a stingy defense and some timely shooting from Jessie Tilson and Kirstyn

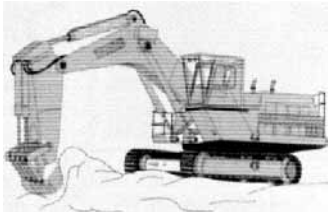
Lamb. Lamb's 18 points led Highlands, and included a half court buzzer-beater that really got the home crowd rocking. Tilson finished with a career high 13, and Emily Shuler added 15 points for the Lady Highlanders in the 59-39 blowout victory.

The Highlanders came out against the Hawks and used a full court press and some hot shooting from Osteen to build an insurmountable lead. As was fitting on Senior night, Osteen scored a career-high 31 points on 11-18 shooting. Ash Gordon added 12 for Highlands, and Brent Amundrud and Philip Murphy both added 10 for the Highlanders in a 79-36 victory.

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... POLICIES continued from page 1

and Tony Potts questioned the decision because now any change, no matter how insignificant, means the applicant must go through the entire process again.

Coward said "That's exactly right. A change to that CUD zoning district can only be determined by the Town Board."

Town Planner David Clabo and Coward said applicants need to do their homework early and come prepared the first time.

Stephen Ham, an aggrieved neighbor to Town Place Condominiums, where changes to the CUD initiated the above amendments, filed a suit against Mayor David Wilkes in Macon County Superior Court alleging "errors in legal procedure occurred."

Specifically, he objected to changes to the district that switched a single-family structure to a multi-family structure and moved that structure closer to adjoining boundaries – a change that was made without a public hearing before the Town Board.

Coward has filed a motion to dismiss. The case will be heard in Macon County Superior Court, Monday, Feb. 11 at 10 a.m.

Citizen Griffin Bell, a past member of the Planning Board, spoke to three issues unrelated to the agenda. He questioned the need to have seven members on the Planning Board, spoke to conflict of interest, and questioned the board's absentee policy.

"During ETJ [Extra Territorial Jurisdiction] we added two people to the board so they could represent ETJ. But since we no longer have ETJ why do we have seven people?" he asked. "The Planning Board isn't as important as the Town Board and it has five."

Second, he said according to the Planning Board section of the NC General Statutes, a substantial financial interest in a case is a conflict of interest and as a matter of integrity, a person with a conflict should voluntarily recuse himself as he did when the Planning Board heard cases about Brushy Face where he lives.

Third, since the Jan. 28 Planning Board meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum, he asked about the board's absentee policy and said members need to be committed to board meetings.

"That means you should give it priority. If you can't give it priority you ought not be on the board," he said.

According to a June 3, 1998 re-drafted policy on appointments to boards and committees: A member failing without good cause to attend more than three sequential monthly meetings, or more than four monthly meetings within a 12-month period, shall be asked by the board to resign.

– Kim Lewicki

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... LICENSE from pg 1

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"The new payNCTicket online payment system is the best method of payment for waivable traffic offenses," said Clerk of Superior Court Vic Perry "Citizens can may make payments from anywhere internet connectivity is available. If not appearing in court, to save gas and time it's best go online to pay."

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Upcoming Events

- Ongoing**
- Registration is now open for the 2013 summer Nature Day Camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are being 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, and sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit the summer camps webpage at www.highlandsbiological.org.
- Thurs., Feb. 7**
- Taize at HUMC at 5:30 p
- Tuesdays, Feb. 12 to April 30**
- A 12-week course designed for family members of individuals with serious mental illness. 6:30 to 8:30p. Pre-registration required. Call Ann 828-369-7385 or Mary Ann 828 524-1355.
- Thursday, Feb. 14**
- The League of Women Voters of Macon County will sponsor a program with County Commission Chair, Kevin Corbin. Mr. Corbin who will provide an update on important issues and plans for the coming year. The program will be at noon at Tartan Hall in the Presbyterian Church in Franklin. Attendees are welcome to bring a bag lunch. The public is invited.
- Tuesday, Feb 19**
- The Highlands Dialogue Winter-Spring discussion series continues on Tuesday at the Hudson Library from 10–11:30 a.m. The Topic: Resolved: The US Must Outlaw the Death Penalty. Based on: "Who Would Jesus Execute?" by Richard Viguerie. Sojourners: January 2013. Handout available at the Library (also e-mailed). Coordinator: John Gaston.
- Thursday, Feb 21**
- Healthy Heart Symposium at the Jane Woodruff Clinic, Level One, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Program includes Heart Risk Screening, Lunch and Learn educational talk with Dr. Julie A. Farrow entitled "Women and Heart Health," and an overview of the latest information on prevention, detection and treatment of heart disease provided by HCH Staff and Mission Heart. 11:30am – 2pm. Reservations required. Call Callie Calloway at 526-1313.

... SPIRITUALLY from page 8

even tried to throw him off a cliff, but he walks among them and away, unscathed.

He came to give the best of himself to them and they would have none of it.

How many of us have suffered at the hands of some sort of bully, even in adulthood? In the movie the Christmas Story the narrator says that as a kid, "you are either a bully a toady or one of the helpless victims." I think that the majority of us were probably in the later category.

We graduate from high school, relieved that the harassment is over, only to find that it, too, graduated and is all around us in the grown up world.

Jesus encountered bullying during the entirety of his ministry. Isaiah says "he was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief."

Why would the Son of God, the Creator of all Things, take all that guff? Why didn't He just annihilate his enemies? Why did He allow himself to be bullied right on up to the cross?

He did it in order to defeat the ultimate bully – death and the devil. On the cross He became the ultimate victim, and in so doing, defeated the enemy in a twist that would have delighted O'Henry.

I am fond of telling my congregation that God loves irony, and in the sacrificial triumph of Christ, God takes that irony and turns it on its ear. And, just to put the icing on the cake, it turns out He saves the bullies along with everyone else. Sweet.

• MILESTONE •



Highlands School Media Specialist Carol Bowen with granddaughters – big sister Bradlee and identical twin sisters Ryan and Bailey.

Identical twins Ryan Avery Bowen, 5 lb 2 oz, 19 1/2 inches long and Bailey Addison Bowen, 5 lb 4 oz, 19 inches long were born January 29, 2013, at East Georgia Regional Hospital in Statesboro, GA. Parents are Jeremy and Tralane Bowen of Statesboro. Grandparents are Bill and Carol Bowen of Highlands, NC and Howard and Sandy Farrow of Vidalia, GA. Bradlee Bowen is the 17-month-old big sister of the twins.

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands PD log entries from Jan. 23. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 23
• At 3:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Wilson Road.

Jan. 24
• At 3:45 p.m., officers were called to First Citizens Bank concerning an alleged scam.

Jan. 25
• At 7:56 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east near Sherwood Forest Road.

Jan. 26
• At 3 p.m., damage to property was reported on Hardscrabble Ridge Road concerning damage to pavement in two places.

Jan. 38
• At 6:15 p.m., Michael Roper Bickley, 20, of Highlands, was arrested for breaking and entering, larceny and possession of stolen property. He is being held at the Macon County Detention Center on a \$5,000 secured bond. His trial date is Feb. 7.

• During the week 9 citations were issued.
The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Jan. 22.

Jan. 22
• At 12:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a person who had fallen at a residence on Webbmont Road. There were minor injuries.

Jan. 24
• At 5:12 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a 90-year-old man who had fallen at a residence on Mountain Ash Lane.

Jan. 25
• At 7:56 a.m., the dept. responded to several minor vehicle accidents with no injuries due to ice on the roads.

• At 8 a.m., the dept. responded to a minor vehicle accident with no injuries when a vehicle slid off the road on US 64 east near Sherwood Forest Road.

• At 2:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Spring Street.

• At 8:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Cheney Lane.

Jan. 28
• At 11:25 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on N. 5th Street. It was cancelled by the alarm company.

• At 11:59 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Pierson Dr.

Snow Event Report From Todd Seagle, 9-1-1 Communications Supervisor:

On Saturday, Feb. 2 between 4p.m. and 6p.m. there were 41 9-1-1 calls -- 32 between 4pm-5pm. This was not counting non-911 calls Normal call volume, from 3pm-4pm is 6 9-1-1 calls.

There were 14 vehicle accidents reported; EMS was dispatched to 6 of them but no one was transported to the hospital.

There were 3 reports of stranded motorists, 2 alarm calls, 1 residence and 1 vehicle (On-Star S.O.S. alarm but vehicle was gone when the deputy arrived).

There was also 1 medical call unrelated to weather.

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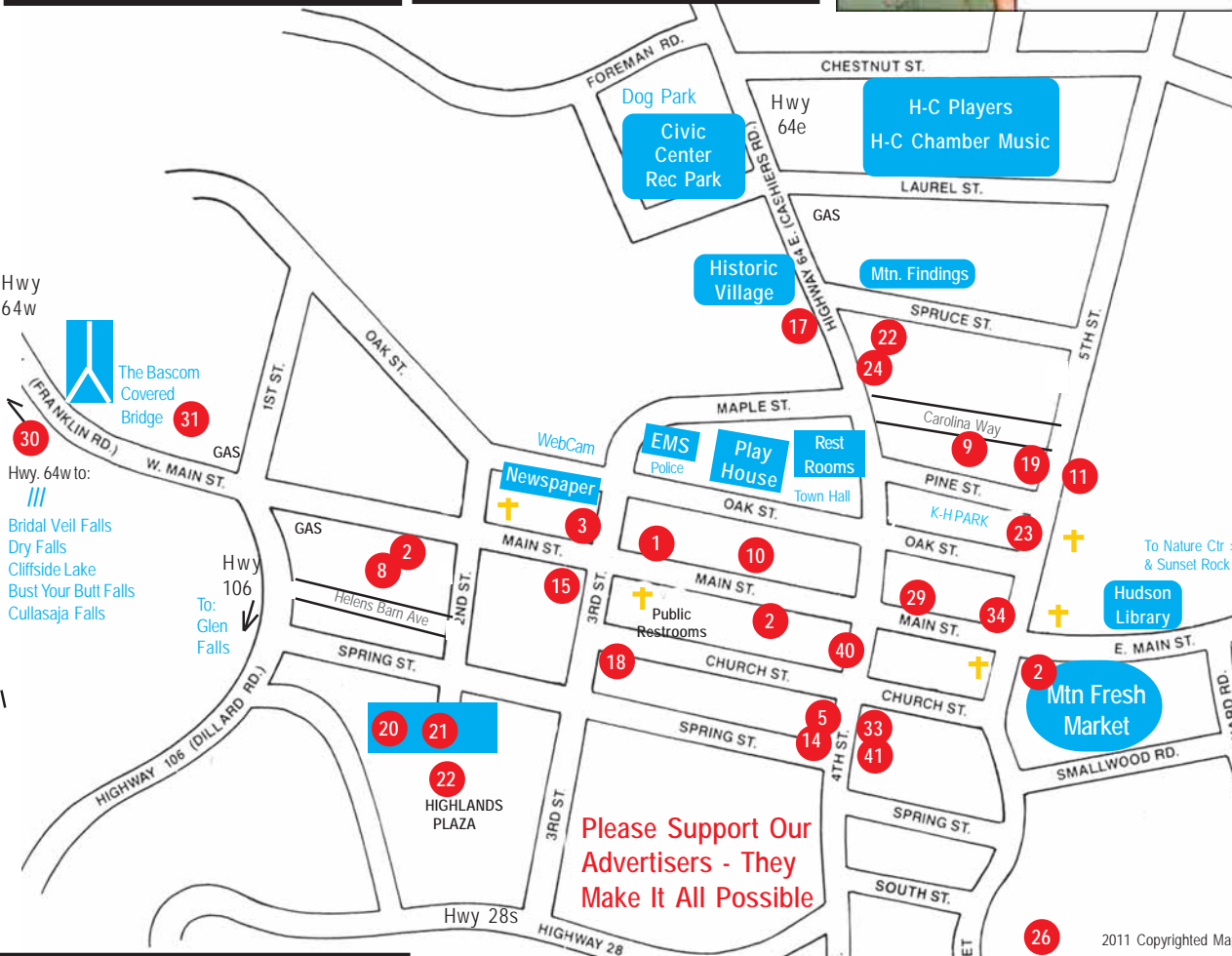
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