

Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 2

Internet PDF Version at www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com

Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013

Sun., Jan. 13

• Relaxed family friendly church service with a live Appalachian band. The music starts at 9 a.m., the service starts at 9:09 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street. There will be sausage biscuits, Danish, orange juice and coffee. All are welcome. Call Andrea Gabbard for information 828.200.6165.

Mon., Tues, Jan. 14 and 15

• PAC Youth Theater auditions information meetings: Summit Charter: Monday, January 14, 1p; Highlands School: Tuesday, January 15, 9:30a; and Blue Ridge School: Tuesday, January 15, 11:15a

Wed., Thurs, Sun, Jan 16, 17, 20

• PAC Youth Theater Auditions: Blue Ridge School: Wednesday, January 16, 2:45p; Summit Charter: Wednesday, January 16, 12:30pm and Thursday, January 17, 12:30p; Highlands School: Thursday, January 17, 3p; For All Students: at Highlands PAC, Sunday, January 20, 3p. Home Schooled students are invited to attend at any location.

Mon Jan, 21

• Winter birding for waterfowl and other species at Lake Junaluska. Meet behind Wendy's in Cashiers to carpool to the Lake at 7:30 sharp. Dress warmly, including gloves, bring binoculars, scopes (if you have them), cameras and a good sense of humor, please! In case of rain/snow/ice, we will try the following Monday, Jan. 28. We will find a good, warm place for lunch following our birding before heading back to Cashiers. Questions? Call Romney at 526-1939 or email her at croffess@brmemc.net. Please let Romney know if you plan to participate, so that no one will be left behind.

Mon. Jan. 28

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association meeting at the Civic Center at 6 p.m.

Judge Downs to fight for local magistrate

Raleigh legislators decided a year and a half ago – in July 2011 – to do away with the part-time Highlands magistrate position as of Jan. 1, 2013. So the magistrate's office is closed and Pat Taylor has gone home.

That "half" Highlands mag-

istrate position was hard fought and won some 20 years ago when legislators understood the rigors of living on an "island" in the mountains.

Now, when law enforcement arrests someone – either the Highlands Police Department or the

Macon County Sheriff's Department – officers must leave the plateau and drive down to Franklin to appear before the magistrate. This not only takes them off the streets but effects time-management of shifts.

• See MAGISTRATE page 11



At Tuesday nights Macon County Commission meeting, Commissioners Jim Tate and Ron Haven participated in a mock scenario involving a shooting which Sheriff Robert Holland enacted to stress the importance of trained law enforcement officials being the gun carriers in schools.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Commission discusses school safety

At the Tuesday, Jan. 8 Macon County Commission meeting, Sheriff Robert Holland showed – in a big way – why he is against teachers carrying guns in schools and why he believes a Student Resource Officer (SRO) should be in every Macon County School.

Using Commissioners Jim Tate and Ron Haven, as well as a woman from the audience and two of his deputies – one male and one female – he enacted a mock scenario of an armed attack in a school which people in the audience and even the commissioners viewed very differently.

Commissioners Jim Tate and Ron Haven were given unloaded guns and asked to stand out in the

hall so they couldn't see or hear what was transpiring.

Two women were asked to lie down on the floor and a male deputy dressed in plain clothes and wielding an air gun that looked like a semi-automatic was told to address the women in a verbally aggressive manner.

Commissioners were told to react to what they saw upon entering the room.

Commissioner Haven came in first and immediately began blasting away at the man holding the "semi-automatic" who was yelling at the women on the floor.

"I saw two down and I didn't want to take any chances," he said.

Next Commissioner Tate was

told to come in. He entered quickly aiming his gun at the man with the gun but didn't fire.

When Holland asked him why not, he said "Because I didn't know if he was a policeman or somebody bad."

Turns out no one deciphered the real story from the mock scenario – which goes to show how dangerous guns can be in the hands of the wrong people, even if they are trying to do good.

Turns out the two women on the floor were teachers who had come into the room in response to noises from an active shooter. The man with the gun was actu-

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Deputy served with criminal summonses

On Sunday January 6, the Macon County Sheriff's Office served two criminal summonses on a Macon County Sheriff's Office employee for communicating threats.

Detective Amy Stewart was officially served the summonses on Sunday morning by Sheriff Holland. The summonses were issued by Magistrate Bob Rovegno.

It is alleged that two separate incidents took place between Stewart and the two complainants named in the summonses; one taking place during a Franklin High School basketball game on Saturday evening and another via social media in the previous days.

Since no crime was committed in the presence of the security deputies in the gym, the complainants were advised by them that they could go to the Sheriff's Office website and file a formal complaint against Stewart and they could also go to the Magistrate's office if they felt a crime had been committed.

Detective Stewart, who is to have allegedly committed the offenses described, was off-duty dur-

• See DEPUTY page 11

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Gun control isn't the answer

Dear Editor,
While Dr. Salzarulo's comment about how it would be unlikely for someone to kill as many people with a broken beer bottle is no doubt true, it is also true that there are other ways for people intent on doing so to commit acts of mass murder. In the first recorded incident of mass murder of school children there were 45 people killed, 37 of them were children. And interestingly enough the killer didn't use a gun, he used explosives. His name was Andrew Kehoe also known as the Bath School Murderer. The date was May 18, 1927. Anyone who wants to know more about it can read it online here: <http://murderpedia.org/male.K/k/kehoe-andrew.htm>.

Another point that someone needs to make is that many cities in this country are, for all intents and purposes, "gun free zones" but that hasn't stopped anyone from using guns to kill other people. The city of Chicago has very strict gun laws and yet something like 440 school-aged children were shot there in 2011. "More young people are killed in Chicago than any other American city. Since 2008, more than 530 youth have been killed in Chicago with nearly 80 percent of the homicides occurring in 22 African-American or Latino community areas on the city's South, Southwest and West sides." (<http://www.chicagoreporter.com/news/2012/01/more-young-people-are-killed-chicago-any-other-american-city>)

There are many ways that people kill others and I have yet to hear of even one instance where a gun killed even one person of its own volition. For all those who think it would be a splendid idea to disarm everyone, or everyone except the government (including the military) and the cops, do you think it would be preferable if someone lit a Molotov cocktail and threw it through the windows of a school? And for those who think that "citizens" shouldn't be armed and should instead rely on the police the unfortunate fact is that if someone is intent on killing you, you might not have time to wait for the police to get there. As the cops themselves

will tell you, when seconds count, we're only minutes away. Except for the very rare cases where they happen upon a crime in progress all the police can do is write an incident report after the fact and then investigate it.

We don't need yet more laws which violate the second amendment in the name of gun control. We need criminal control and nut control.

Danny Crane
Highlands

Remember this ...

Dear Editor,
Just in case anyone missed it, our new U.S. Congressional Representative, Mark Meadows, voted against funding the Federal Flood Insurance program to pay for hurricane Sandy claims on his first day. This is a program that requires cer-

tain homeowners to pay for and carry flood insurance.

We learned that lesson after hurricane Ivan caused flood damage in Peeks Creek area in Macon County.

I hope everyone who voted for him remembers how much compassion he shows toward those who deserve to get what they paid for. Make him a one term representative.

Jim Hartje
Otto, NC

Fred isn't funny

Dear editor,
I think we can all take a pretty good guess at where Mr. Woolridge has been hiding, but it would be un-printable. His "Laughing at Life" article in the Dec. 27th/Jan 3rd issue of your publication utterly lacked humor, insight or even

logic (he makes the comparison of what species cohabitate outside their kind, not realizing that all races of humans are in fact the same species).

It's frightening that someone whose job it was to uphold the laws of this country doesn't understand that the strength of this country, what has made it the envy of the world, is the depth of knowledge and talent that comes from having an open system where people of all backgrounds can come and excel.

More frightening is that you, as editor, found anything worth printing in this article.

Many of us, long time home owners in Highlands, have been discussing this article over the holidays and wondering what an appropriate response could be. My suggestion has been to write to your advertisers and express our dismay with the article and by extension your publication.

They should think twice before advertising in your paper.

Michael Ouweleen
Highlands

Fred Sends the Wrong Message About Highlands

Dear Editor,
After reading the first two paragraphs of Fred Woolridge's column in the Dec. 27/ Jan 3 edition, I had flashbacks of growing up in the old segregated South. His rhetoric about species associating with their own kind reminded me of those nightly radio diatribes of the White Citizens Council, and the horrible apologetics put forth by the propaganda of those little men that paraded around in white robes, conical hats and hid behind masks.

What is so unfortunate is that Woolridge implied Highlands is still an isolated little mountain town that understands and embraces the ideas of race that he put forth. I hope and believe Highlands is a mature, forward looking community that welcomes all people of good will and industry, regardless of their race, national origin, religion, gender, social economic level, and sexual orientation. Our town has too many opportunities to move forward to embrace such backward and outmoded thinking that one angry person espouses.

Patrick Taylor
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 6

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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• OBITUARIES •

Dave Ebert

On November 23, 2011, Dave Ebert began a journey down a path to survive pancreatic cancer. The obstacles on his route became too great on December 15, 2012. Dave was predeceased by his father, Robert J. Ebert; his sister, Pat; brother, Bill, and brother, Ted.

Giving him strength to carry on was Sam Gunter, his devoted partner of 33 years and spouse since March 23, 2012. Family members missing Dave are his mother, Hazel of Visalia, CA; brother, Jack (Cheryl) of Johnson City, NY; brother, Tom of Clovis, CA; sister-in-law, Geordie (Ted) of Visalia, CA; sister-in-law, Paula (Bill) of Rancho Mirage, CA and brother-in-law, Jay Dann (Pat). His loving in-laws include mother-in-law, Ruth Gunter; brother-in-law Don (Jim); sister-in-law, Carol (Frank) Hall; sister-in-law, Joyce (Cecil) McLean; sister-in-law, Mary Ann Gunter, all of SC, along with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, all of whom will feel his absence. Dave was a personality who gathered friends wherever he went, many of whom traveled far and often to support him through this difficult time, for which he always expressed gratitude and love.

Dave was born in Oswego, NY on October 3, 1954, educated at St. Paul's Academy, Oswego Catholic High School, and graduated from Kings College in Wilkes Barre, PA. After pursuits in the furniture industry and antique business, Dave spent most of his career as senior director-marketing at AT&T in Atlanta, GA. Dave would say that his hobby was carpentry, but he was an artist who knew how to draw out the beauty in whatever he saw, be it flowers, yards, furniture, or houses. Most notable is the 1797 house in Washington, GA on which he and Sam were completing authentic restoration. Without question, Dave recognized the beauty in people as well, never was heard uttering an unkind word, always a gentleman, known for his imagination, humor, commitment, intensity, and patience. Everyone who knew Dave appreciated these qualities, as noted by his former AT&T senior vice president Jerry Cheadle, "I know you will continue to make significant contributions to the good of our society because that is an important part of who you are."

Services and burial for Dave, took place on December 22, 2012 in Highlands, NC. A later celebration of remembrance will be scheduled in the spring of 2013 for

all who wish to express their thoughts and memories, but were unable to attend at this time.

In place of flowers, kindly consider a donation to Johns Hopkins Pancreatic Cancer Research Center, Kimmel Development Office, 1 Charles Center, Suite 234, Baltimore, MD 21201. Further, please pray that Dave's experience can help to lead down the path to the end of this disease.

Amelia W. Bryson

Amelia W. Bryson, age 96, of Franklin, NC died Tuesday, January 01, 2013 at a local hospital. She was a lifelong resident of Macon County, the daughter of the late Frank and Annie Reece Wright. She was married to Ray Bryson who passed away December 6, 2007. She was a homemaker and a member of Cullasaja Assembly of God Church. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother and friend. She loved farming, gardening and loved her Lord.

She is survived by her daughter, Alice Louise Davis and her husband Roger of Franklin, NC; her sons, James Ray Bryson and his wife Pat of Inman, SC, Charles Frank Bryson and his wife Frances and Ralph Leslie Bryson and his wife Linda all of Franklin, NC. Thirteen grandchildren, thirty-two great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter, Lyla Maxon and a brother, Newell Wright.

Funeral services were held Friday, January 4 in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, with Rev. Alton Dendy, Rev. Albert Gray and Rev. Greg Rogers officiating. Burial was in Salem Cemetery. Grandsons served as pallbearers.

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

Betty Burriss Norton

Betty Burriss Norton, 68, of Greenville, SC, died peacefully at home with her family by her side early Jan. 1, 2013, after a long battle of cancer. Born in Anderson, SC she was the daughter of the late Malcolm and Lula Burriss.

She was a loving wife, mother and nana.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Robert Norton of Greenville; three

sons and one daughter, Robert Norton, Jr. and wife Regina of Waldorf, MD, Randy Norton and wife Evelyn of Mauldin, SC, Ryan Norton and wife Evelina of Coconut Creek, FL, Laurie DeLuca and husband Lou of Myrtle Beach, SC and seven grandchildren, Austin, Hunter, Jessica, and Brian Norton and Louie, Landon, and Lawson DeLuca.

Funeral service were held Saturday, January 5, 2013 in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, Highlands, NC with Rev. Roy Lowe officiating. Burial was in Highlands Memorial Park.

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

Carolyn Janie Munger

Carolyn Janie Munger, age 65, of Highlands, NC died Thursday, January 3, 2013 at her residence. She was born in Rabun County, GA the daughter of the late Isaac N. and Emma Louise Henry Keener. She was a store manager at Bryson's Food Store and was a member of the First Baptist Church in Highlands. She was a loving mother,

grandmother, great-grandmother and sister. She loved animals, gardening, being outdoors and growing roses and orchids.

She is survived by her husband of 47

• See OBITUARIES page 5



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

I would kill for a grinder pump
(Here's the straight poop.)

First off, let me make a bold statement. No, no, no, not about the stupid election. That's history. Yeah, I know,

you're either thrilled or depressed. Either way, get over it. This is much more important. I'm talkin' 'bout grinder pumps.

Next, I must apologize to my readers who hate poop articles. Sorry, but my pro-poop people are crying out for this. Can you say pro-poop-people three times real fast? Is that fun, or what? Besides, what better way to start what will prove to be a crappy (ha) year than with a good poop story? You must admit you haven't seen a poop piece in a while. (Poop piece?)

OK, here it is. Write this down....maybe on toilet paper for the best affect. First off, the Town of Highlands should stop spending money on trivial crap (ha, again) until every tax paying citizen living within our town limits has been afforded basic services, like electric, water, garbage pickup and sewers.

Second off, these are the basic services a town has an obligation to address before worrying about fluff....like more cutesy signs, fancy studies, trails and the arts, etc. Do we really need a thatch hut and not sewer lines? I'm for all that fluff once basic services are taken care of for all our citizens, not just those with influence. Hello....common sense should kick in here somewhere!

Hey, I'm not even asking for food stamps, a welfare check and free housing



Fred Wooldridge

here, just service I'm willing to pay for and expect as a taxpayer. I want and demand a grinder pump, preferably hooked to a sewer line at my house. Ignoring me on this basic need is worse than a town throwing a marathon race in New York after the area has been flattened by a massive hurricane. Where do we find these lead-

ers?

Some would say three out of four services ain't bad but I say....wrong! Close your eyes and picture this....wait....never mind....don't close your eyes 'cause you won't be able to finish this read.

I have accumulated 22 years....yes, 22 years of poop in my septic tank and the town's sewer line is only a stone's throw from my home. Do you have a visual of what 22 years of poop looks like? If my tank ever splits open from the weight of all that disgusting sewage, Fred poop will flow down the mountain and across the highway, flooding the lower homes. Do they want Fred poop in their living rooms? I think not.

When I see what Highlands spends money on, I become incensed that they won't take care of taxpayers' basic needs and services first. For example, just look at how much money this town has wasted over the years on the parking dilemma and they still don't have it right....and never will. Why,

you ask? 'Cause there is no parking dilemma.

Every time the town orders another study, parking gets worse. For what this town has spent on parking studies, a half dozen sewer lines could have been built. And do you remember the ugly 2-hour parking notices painted on every single parking space up and down Main Street? How stupid was that?


Town Board members are trying to please everyone on every issue (except me, of course) and that will never happen. It's time to upset a few influential folks and concentrate on Fred poop 'cause my tank is about to explode. The homes down the hill from me are in grave danger. It's a public safety hazard.

The huge disadvantage I have is that I have no clout. Most of the boneheaded board members can't stand my satire and know I can't vote them out of office since I have no voting privileges. Illegal immigrants have more privileges than I do. As a part-timer shouldn't I get at least a half a vote?

And it's worse than you think. Are you sitting down? My next door neighbor owns a much newer home and has an in-house grinder pump 'cause some of his toilets are below his septic tank. That's scary in and of itself. Toilet waste is pumped uphill through his personal grinder pump, then on to his septic tank. It's the latest in poop management. But if you build it, it will break. I couldn't sleep in a lower bedroom knowing my grinder pump might fail. All this pumping poop uphill technology could have been avoided with a short sewer line down to the highway. Gravity still works, ya know.

If all this disgusting verbiage is grinding on you, I'm sorry. I'm sure you can feel my pain and desperation. Let's start a "Fred Poop" club and maybe some of you who actually have voting privileges and influence could force the town fathers to send me a grinder pump hooked to a sewer line. Remember, if you live below me, you're in grave danger.

• Read Fred's column on-line all year, than curl up next to a warm fire and read his mystery/thriller Deceived, available as an e-book or hardcopy through Amazon. Also, check with your local book store.



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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Rallying for Hillary

I've recently acquired a lot of respect for Hillary Clinton. The way she handled the whole concussion thing; blood clot, whatever it was.

A lot of people thought she was making it up so she wouldn't have to appear before Congress on the Benghazi incident. The same people, and their dads and grandparents thought the same thing about Richard Nixon when he was in trouble over Watergate. He was admitted to a hospital, and people said, "What a sham!" Turned out he had bloods clots in his legs that migrated to his lungs.

A lot of people die from pulmonary embolism, especially in Canada, more in Canada than in the US. I'm not saying our neighbors to the North ration care, but if you're a 70-year old president whose about to get kicked out of office anyway, wouldn't it be better to let him die before he had a chance to appoint Jerry Ford to serve out his term? If he'd been in Canada rather than San Clemente, his doctor would have told him to take a couple aspirins, but a pair of panty hose and check on his insurance.

Anyway, Hillary no more gets out of the hospital than she demands to be permitted to address Congress on the Benghazi incident. This is the sitting Secretary of State, former presidential candidate, US Senator, and first lady of the United States, standing tall.

Her husband, by contrast, said, "I did



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

not have sex with that woman."

I reluctantly admire Bill Clinton, if not for his honesty, then for his humanitarianism efforts since leaving office.

Bill Clinton didn't say the greatest regret of his presidency was leaving a stain on Monica's dress. He said it was failure to intervene in Rwanda to prevent genocide.

To tell the truth, I've never had much use for Hillary; even though she's supposed to be the smart one in the family. I just never liked her. They say 60% of

Democratic voters would support her in a 2016 presidential run. Joe Biden is second with 14%.

She obviously connects with a lot of voters at some level. And I guess I'll see her differently in the future. When she lost in 2008 to Barak Obama, I thought she'd be too old to run in 2016. I can't explain why. I guess it's sexism. Sixty-eight doesn't seem too old for a man to run, but a woman that age seems ancient. And they outlive us by two or three years, on average.

A lot can change in four years, but it looks like the nomination, and probably the election, are hers if she wants them. And what woman wouldn't; to be the one who breaks the ultimate glass ceiling. Unless the Republicans can get Brad Pitt to run on their side, I don't think there is a woman in America who wouldn't vote for Hillary. It would be one of those rare historic events that not just a few, but every American could attend. Even some men, even those who disagreed with her on

policy, would vote for her, just to be on the right side of history. I might vote for her for a penance.

It's a little early to start handicapping 2016, but Sporting News has her at 7/1, trailing only Mitt Romney at 9/2. I think they are a little low on Mitt and a little high on Hillary, but time will tell. I'm just happy she will make,

or has made, a full recovery, and can pursue the presidency if she wishes. And I'll give you 2/1 she does.

... OBITUARIES from page 3

years, Lawrence Munger, her daughter, Pamela Peck of Highlands, NC and her son, Jeff Munger and his fiancé, Carla Norris of Goshen, Indiana; a sister, Peggy Reese of Highlands, NC; two brothers, Mike Keener and his wife Audrey of Highlands and Anthony Isaac Keener and his wife, Kitty of Enterprise, AL; two grandchildren, Whitney Talley and Bobbi Jo Talley and one great-granddaughter, Aubrie Lynn Potts. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 8 in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands with Rev. Oliver Rice and Rev. Gary McCall officiating. Burial was at Highlands Memorial Park. Pallbearers were Chris Reese, David Reese, Jason Reese, Kenny Talley, Marshall Buck and Isaac Ramey.

The family will receive friends Monday, January 7 from 6:00-8:00PM at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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• COACH'S CORNER •

J's come a long way

I have a signed basketball in my classroom that my brother gave to me a couple of Christmases ago. I always thought my brother gave it to me as a bit of a joke, since for a long time I (along with

many others) considered JJ Redick to be one of the most overrated players Duke has ever had.

Don't get me wrong, Redick was a great shooter, but with an offense tailored to his jump shots and his postseason struggles, Redick

was the poster child for everything people hated about Duke. Redick was this generation's Christian Laettner in terms of individual accomplishments, but without the Final Fours and National Championships to show for it. Redick was celebrated nationally for breaking the long held ACC scoring record of Dickie Hemric, but Redick's record only stood for a few years before it was broken by a similarly overrated player named Tyler Hansbrough.

Redick struggled in the post-season for Duke, and had some maturity issues to work out before heading to the NBA. He didn't see the floor much in his first couple of seasons, but Monday night I was flipping through the channels and saw him playing for Orlando against Portland and I was amazed at what I saw.

The first thing I noticed about Redick was that after 7 years in the league, he has really changed his body. The guy looks nothing like he did at Duke-he is ripped. Secondly, his handle has improved tremendously since he was at Duke-he was attacking the rim with abandon. Third, it became pretty obvi-



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

ous that his teammates trust him, as he hit two straight threes to give Orlando a lead in the fourth quarter and has closed out several games this year from the FT line. Despite a tough road loss to Portland, Redick finished with 29 points and 8 assists, and is averaging 15 points and 5 assists on the season.

Not only has Redick's overall game improved enough to where he is in the conversation for 6th man of the year, he is also one of the hottest commodities in the NBA trade market. Redick's name has been linked to Minnesota for a while now, but he could also be picked up by Chicago, Golden State, Boston or perhaps the most intriguing of all options, the LA Clippers. Regardless of where he goes, it will be interesting to see what contributions that Redick makes to a contender in the second half of the season.

Redick was once seen as the poster boy for entitlement and overratedness at Duke, but now, he is an excellent example of just how far hard work can go in changing perceptions.

... LETTERS from
page 2

Cartoon said it all

Dear Editor,
Karen Hawk hit the nail on the head with her cartoon about "Power OFF" in Highlands in the Dec. 27/Jan. 3 edition. Keep up the good work!

J.C.
Highlands

Disclaimer not enough

Dear Editor,
I am writing in response to the "Laughing At Life" column dated December 27, 2012. I was surprised and disappointed to read the comments of Mr. Woolridge, so filled with fear and hatred, in the usually positive and community oriented Highlands Newspaper. His comments asking seemingly innocently ... "Why are we the only species that demands to cohabitate outside our own kind? Do Zebras mingle with horses? Do vultures soar with eagles?" are the kind of outdated, racist, hate filled language that has lost its place in public discourse decades ago.

You print an interesting point on page 2, "Views expressed are

• See LETTERS page 9



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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

Highlanders, Lady Highlanders drop two to Andrews and Cherokee

By Ryan Potts

Both Highlands teams came back from Christmas break and dropped two tough road games to Andrews and Cherokee, respectively.

The Lady Highlanders traveled to Andrews last Friday to face a Lady Wildcat team who had given them fits in Highlands earlier this season. Friday night was no different, as Andrews jumped out to an early 15-6 lead. However, the Lady Highlanders fought back in the second quarter and went into halftime only trailing by 9. In the second half, Highlands was unable to put together enough scoring to stay in the game, and Andrews pulled away for a 53-29 victory. Rebekah Parks led Highlands with 8 points. Things did not get any easier for the Lady Highlanders on Tuesday, as they traveled to Cherokee to face the #2 NCHSAA ranked Lady Braves. The high powered Lady Braves proved too much to handle for Highlands, and they pulled away for a 71-26 victory. Emily Shuler led Highlands with 10 points.

The Highlanders traveled to Andrews to face a Wildcat team that they had handled easily at home earlier this season, but the long Christmas layoff proved to be a bane to the Highlanders shooting. Poor shooting from both teams led to a 12-9 Highlands lead at the end of the first quar-

ter, but the home team began to warm up from the field during the second half and the Highlanders could not find their range. Despite only trailing by 4 at the half, the Highlanders could not mount a comeback in the second half as they continued their poor shooting, and fell by the score of 61-45. Despite taking 17 more shots than the homestanding Wildcats, the Highlanders shot a frigid 26% for the game. Taylor Osteen led Highlands with 20 points, and Davis Moore added 13 in the loss.

Tuesday, the Highlanders traveled to Cherokee and were faced with the task of slowing down a Braves team that averages over 65 ppg on the season. The Highlanders played very well early in the game, executing on offense and hitting shots to build an 11 point first half lead. However, just before halftime, the young Highlanders lost their composure, and 4 straight turnovers contributed to a 12-0 Cherokee run that gave the Braves a one point halftime edge. The second half proved to be a back and forth affair, but the Highlanders were again plagued by poor shooting and missed layups.

Those factors, combined with the Braves going 7-8 from the FT line in the final minute and a half doomed the Highlanders to a 61-56 defeat. Tyler Munger led Highlands with 17 points, and Osteen added 12 for Highlands.



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

First Baptist Church
Highlands welcomes Dr.
Mark and Teresa Ford



On November 18, 2012, the congregation of First Baptist Church Highlands called as their senior pastor Dr. Mark Ford.

Dr. Ford and his wife Teresa, long-time residents of Pickens County, SC, come to Highlands from Cross Roads Baptist Church in Easley. During their time of ministry in several South Carolina churches, both Ford's worked to further their education with Mark receiving a degree from Southern Wesleyan University and a Master of Divinity degree from Erskine Theological Seminary. He finished his doctorate at Princeton Theological Seminary with a focus on leading a church into missional thinking and ministry.

Teresa returned to school after raising their two children, Raquela and Paul, and earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in biological sciences from Clemson University. She has taught physical, agricultural and food sciences, and biology in South Carolina high schools and recently became a Master Gardener.

The Fords love that their four grandsons live within a short driving distance. Hiking and the outdoors are mutual activities for their family. Both Mark and Teresa share a love of reading — Teresa collects cook books but has yet to match Mark's library of 2,000 plus volumes.

Most of all, Mark and Teresa Ford love the Lord and look forward to serving God's people here on the Highlands Plateau.

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

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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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Wednesdays – Choir – 7

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

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Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09 & 10:50.; Youth Group 5:30 p.
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... LETTERS continued from page 6

not necessarily those of the Highlands Newspaper." While it would certainly be concerning if Mr. Woolridge's comments WERE the views of this newspaper, this disclaimer does not permit the editors to publish this form of fear-based racist nonsense.

It is important for Mr. Woolridge and your readers, to remember that we are all privileged to live in this amazing country, founded on the ideals of freedom and built from its earliest days as a nation of immigrants. Whether early settlers coming to New England, Virginia, or North Carolina from Great Britain, or later waves of immigrants from countries across Europe, Asia and Africa, this country has always been viewed as a land where generations of immigrants have sought to find their "American Dream!" In contrast to Mr. Woolridge's thoughts, I am hopeful that our country will continue strive to live up to the famous lines inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty,

"Give me your tired, your poor,

Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,

I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Bill Levisay
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... SAFETY continued from page 1

ally a parent who had entered the school to pick up his child and who got into a confrontation with a pregnant woman who had just shot two people. He wrestled the gun from her but since he witnessed the shooting he was going nuts screaming and not recognizing anyone

coming in. "I can't speak for the commissioners, but I'm against teachers having guns in our schools. There has been a lot of talk about that since Sandy Hook, but we need our teachers to be teachers and our law enforcement officials to be law enforcement," said Holland.

Right after the Sandy Hook shootings, Sheriff Holland met with the Macon County Commission Sheriff Dept. liaison, Ronnie Beale, and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jim Duncan, to go over the safety plan in place in each school and to see what needs to be improved and to make sure checks in place actually work.

For starters, he has been sending deputies to schools throughout the county at different times of the day, has increased SRO training and has been conducting random security checks at schools.

Plain clothes deputies have entered and walked around five of the county's 10 schools and happily, in each case they were stopped by school personnel and asked what their business was and told to go to the front office to sign in.

His department conducts mock training exercises for dealing with active shooters going into schools but he doesn't use

students or teachers because "I don't want bad guys to know our routine."

"We will continue to come up with ideas to maintain and increase security in the schools. In my opinion we need a SRO in every school not in response to Sandy Hook, but for the purpose they serve," he said. "They aren't armed guards harassing kids as they come in, they are role models. They go into classrooms and talk about drugs, fire arm safety; a wide variety of issues."

He said funding for system-wide SROs needs to be discussed, not just by the Sheriff's Dept. but by the Board of Education and the county commission.

He said he is aware of the budget crunch and realizes this can't happen overnight, but it needs to be done.

There are four SROs employed by the Sheriff's Dept. - two are stationed at Franklin High School but Sheriff Holland didn't want to disclose where the other two were stationed.

Highlands School has its own SRO who is a member of the Highlands Police Department, paid for by the Town of Highlands.

The Sheriff Department's first two SROs were funded by a federal grant in 2001 that eventually went away, so those and two additional SROs have been hired by Holland by eliminating positions in his department.

He needs six more SROs. Commissioner Ronne Beale said this and other issues concerning school safety will be discussed at length during the bud-

get process which begins this month. "It's very expensive to put SROs in the schools and as we work on the budget we can have that discussion. But there are things we can do that are low cost," he said.

One thing is making sure all doors in every school can be locked from the inside. This is the case in the new schools, but not the older schools.

"We certainly don't think what happened at Sandy Hook can happen here; we pray that it doesn't; but the folks at Sandy Hook didn't think it could happen there either and this is the 40th time it's happened in the U.S. It's something to be aware of," he said.

Superintendent Duncan said the school system has to be prepared and the issue can't be taken lightly. "But education is what we are about. We don't carry guns," he said.

School Board member Gary Shields who was Franklin High School's principal through 2010, and who described the safety plan put in place throughout the school system years ago, said teachers are nurturers who would give their lives to protect their children but he said he's not sure teachers can take a life to protect their children.

"It's a different psychological thing when you take someone's life. You look into those eyes. We can talk about it, but when it comes down to it, it's a different thing."

- Kim Lewicki



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... MAGISTRATE continued from page 1

"Highlands is unique and it's why we love serving here, but what this does is cause us to pause as to what our next steps are after an enforcement action takes place," said Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell. "That pause, causes me to shudder because of how much can happen in those next seconds."

Even if the road to Franklin was straight and flat, it's still more than 20 miles away but to legislators, that's not a big deal – cutting costs is all they thought about. But Chief Harrell disagrees.

"The cost of a half position to the state is ridiculous when considering the cost effectiveness of having a part-time magistrate versus replacing the position with multiple officers on a force," he said. An option not being seriously considered at this time, he said.

The state has 61 magistrate positions – 42.5 of which are filled – the rest were vacated with a voluntary Reduction in Force that began in 2010. Magistrates who were in the position to do so, took retirement to do their part to help cut costs statewide,

said Clerk of Court Vic Perry.

"I was told to cut 1.5 positions from our 4.5 magistrates," said Perry. "Highlands is the .5 position, so that went, along with one other down here."

Perry said not having a magistrate in Highlands places undue hardship on Sheriff deputies and Highlands Police officers as well as on the three magistrates on staff in Franklin.

Regardless of the time day or night, law enforcement in Highlands will have to leave their posts to drive down the mountain which takes them off the streets.

"This also means the three magistrates on staff who are on a straight salary and don't get overtime, will be working 70-80 hours a week because they are always on call," said Perry.

Legislators used a 2007 Workload Study to determine need across the state. The 2007 figures determined no more than three magistrates per county.

"According to Workload Study formula, Macon County only needs two magistrates so they figure we already have one too many even with the cut," said Perry.

ry.

The fact that 2013's workload might be different from the 2007 workload doesn't seem to matter, he said, even though the population and demographics in Macon County has clearly changed over the years.

Chief Harrell said there are a lot of reasons it doesn't do the community or his department any good to lose a magistrate, one being that it changes the dynamics of the department and its ability to due its job.

"Do I have another officer available to answer calls? If so, they are there by themselves. There are so many different things that compound losing a local magistrate, some of which I can't disclose due to the advantage certain citizens will take."

Before 2011 was out, county commissioners and the Highlands Town Board signed resolutions pleading for the Highlands magistrate position, but to no avail.

"I am still battling with the state and exhausting every re-

source I can to get this changed," said Chief Harrell.

On Wednesday, Jan. 9, he met with 30th Judicial District Supreme Court Judge James Downs who has vowed to exhaust every effort he can to re-enact the Highlands magistrate position.

"County commissioners are

supportive, our Town Board is supportive, so only those who live down east and have no real concept of the effect this will have on us aren't supportive," said Harrell. "We are on an island that poses so many different concerns."

– Kim Lewicki

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... DEPUTY continued from page 1

ing both incidents.

While a crime has been alleged, this is also a personnel matter and the Sheriff's Office is limited to what can be said regarding the incident and the alleged crimes.

"I was made aware of the situation that night and have taken and will continue to take appropriate action," said Sheriff Holland. "I have taken several steps to address this issue and have initiated an internal investigation into the allegations and will take any additional actions I deem necessary."

Sheriff Holland met with school officials and made them aware of what actions he had taken thus far and also informed them of what he was requiring of Detective Stewart.

"At the time of this press release, I have not received any formal complaints concerning the actions of Detective Stewart or

any other officer that may have had contact with the complainants," he said.

According to the summonses two court dates have been set for hearing, one being for January 10th and the other for January 24, 2013.

"While a crime has been alleged, in fairness to all parties involved I will not make any final decisions until a full investigation has been conducted," said Holland.

Meanwhile, Detective Stewart will remain an employee of the Macon County Sheriff's Office and will be assigned to administrative duties until the conclusion of the investigation and until the Sheriff makes his final decision.

"Stewart has been an asset to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens we serve. Just as any other individual, she deserves a full and impartial investigation," said Holland.

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Highlands PD log entries from Dec. 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Dec. 7

• At 8:30 p.m., a case of vandalism to property at a home on Laurelwood Lane where a light was broken was reported.

Dec. 18

• At 11:07, a resident reported her credit card being used fraudulently at an ATM where \$345 was withdrawn.

Dec. 19

• At 11:37 p.m., a case involving fraud and impersonation that was reported Oct. 27, was finalized. The victim's social security number was used to file a false tax return.

• At 7 p.m., Jose M. Arriaga, 26, of Franklin, NC, was arrested for driving while his license was revoked when he was pulled over for failing to burn headlights on US 64 west.

Dec. 21

• At 1:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Sagee Drive and Split Rail Road.

Dec. 23

• At 7 p.m., a citizen reported a missing purse which was left in a shopping cart at Bryson's Food Store and not turned in. It contained a wallet and a cell phone.

Dec. 27

• At 3:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Pinecrest Road and 4th Street.

Dec. 29

• At 5:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at First Street and U.S. 64.

• At 12:30 p.m., a larceny from a motor vehicle was reported at the Farmers Market where a wallet and GPS was taken from an unlocked vehicle. \$260 in cash, the wallet and debit/credit cards, a social security card a check for \$571.65 and a GPS valued at \$350 was taken.

Dec. 30

• At 11:45 p.m., Nilson Ridley Cain, 22, of Alabama, was arrested for DWI and failure to burn white light on registration number plate as well as

misdemeanor drug violations when he was pulled over on Cobb Road.

• At 2:15 p.m., officers responded to a shoplifting incident at Highland Hiker where ports and recreation equipment was taken.

Dec. 31

• At 9:02 a.m., Chad Dale Taylor, 42, of Franklin, NC, was arrested for careless and reckless driving and for possession of 1/2 oz. of marijuana when he was pulled over on US 64 west

Jan. 1, 2013

• At 2 p.m., larceny of a cell phone valued at \$100, a hoody valued at \$160 and three pills -- Celexa, Terazadone and Zanex -- were reported stolen by a patron of the Lost Hiker.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Dec. 26.

• At 9:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Big Bear Pen Road, but there was no problem.

Dec. 27

• At 9:56 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to the police dept. on Oak Street. There was no transport.

Dec. 28

• At 12:05 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to Hicks Road. EMS transported.

Dec. 31

• At 10:53 a.m., the dept. was called to assist Scaly Fire Dept. with a structure fire. But it turned out to be a controlled burn so the call was cancelled.

• At 2:17 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to Holt Road. EMS transported.

• At 6:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Horse Cove Road which was set off by burning food.

• At 10:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical/rescue call at a residence on Lucerne Dr. where a 61 year old man had fallen and cut his head. He walked away and was located about an hour later.

• At 10:24 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Cherokee Drive. EMS transported.

Jan. 1, 2013

• At 9:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Crowe Drive. EMS transported.

• At 12:33 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Cowee Ridge Drive. EMS transported.

• At 1:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Cherokee Drive.

• At 5:53 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Cherokee Drive. EMS transported.

Jan. 3

• At 1:46 a.m., the dept. responded to a single-vehicle accident over an embankment where the driver was pinned in.

• At 1:28 a.m., the dept. searched for an intoxicated male who wandered off from a home on Sassafras Lane. A sheriff's deputy located the man and escorted him home.

• At 11:59 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Perquin Road. EMS transported.

Jan. 4

• At 1:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Clubhouse Trail. It was false.

• At 4:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire on Satolah Falls. There was a small amount of electrical smoke caused by the heating element in the dishwasher which was on but without water in it.

Jan. 5

• At 6:29 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Joe Pye Trail. EMS transported.

Jan. 7

• At 1:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm set off by workers at a residence on Mirror Lake Road.

Jan. 8

• At 8:08 a.m., the dept. stoodby for Scaly Fire Dept. while it responded to a fire alarm in Sky Valley.



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Upcoming Events

Thursday, Jan. 10

- The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center. Special guests will be Margaret and Theresa Ramsey speaking on Pancreatic Cancer. A \$50 Gift Card will be given away. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call 828-369-9221.
- The League of Women Voters of Macon County will sponsor a program on recycling at noon at Tartan Hall in First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. Bring Your Own Lunch.

Monday, Tuesday, Jan. 14 and 15

- PAC Youth Theater auditions information meetings: Summit Charter: Monday, January 14, 1p; Highlands School: Tuesday, January 15, 9:30a; and Blue Ridge School: Tuesday, January 15, 11:15a

Wed., Thurs, Sunday, Jan 16, 17, 20

- PAC Youth Theater Auditions: Blue Ridge School: Wednesday, January 16, 2:45p; Summit Charter: Wednesday, January 16, 12:30pm and Thursday, January 17, 12:30p; Highlands School: Thursday, January 17, 3p; For All Students: at Highlands PAC, Sunday, January 20, 3p. Home Schooled students are invited to attend at any location.

Monday, Jan. 21

- Winter birding for waterfowl and other species at Lake Junaluska. Meet behind Wendy's in Cashiers to carpool to the Lake at 7:30 sharp. Dress warmly, including gloves, bring binoculars, scopes (if you have them), cameras and a good sense of humor, please! In case of rain/snow/ice, we will try the following Monday, Jan. 28. We will find a good, warm place for lunch following our birding before heading back to Cashiers. Questions? Call Romney at 526-1939 or email her at croftess@brmemc.net. Please let Romney know if you plan to participate, so that no one will be left behind.

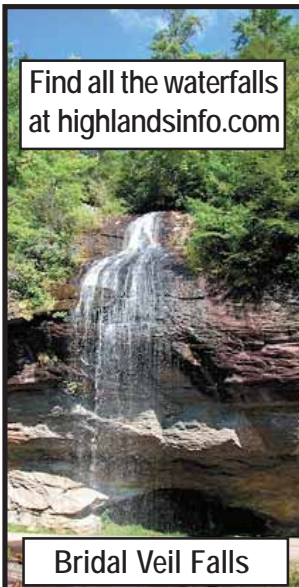
Monday, Jan. 28

- Mirror Lake Improvement Association meeting at the Civic Center at 6 p.m.

Tuesdays, Feb. 12 to April 30

- A 12-week course designed for family members of individuals with serious mental illness. It will help you learn to cope successfully with this major challenge in your life, and that, in turn, will help your love one as he/she works toward recovery. Topics include facts about brain disorders, medications, communication techniques, problem-solving, stress reduction, community services and advocacy. Trained volunteers with lived experience teach Family-to-Family. All materials are provided free. Class size is limited. Free for families & friends of individuals with: Clinical Depression, Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Panic Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, PTSD, Borderline Personality Disorder and Co-occurring Addictive Disorders. 6:30 to 8:30p. Pre-registration required. Call Ann 828-369-7385 or Mary Ann 828 524-1355

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