

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

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Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013

## Controversy spurs TB to ammend UDO

Following a closed session at the Town Board meeting Jan. 24, commissioners voted unanimously to recommend amending and/or repealing sections of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) regarding changes to approved conditional use

zoning districts.

They sent those proposed amendments to the Planning Board to be heard at its Monday, Jan. 28 meeting. However, due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 5, 5:30 p.m. at the Community

Building. Only three of the seven members attended – Thomas Craig, Glenda Bell and Alan Marsh.

Town Attorney Bill Coward and Town Manager Bob Frye attended the Jan. 28 Planning Board meeting to explain the reason for

the amendments. Commissioners Brian Stiehler, Eric Pierson and John Dotson were also there. Dotson regularly attends Planning Board meetings.

The Town Board's recommendations basically eliminate  
•See UDO page 5

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## Citizens take needs into their own hands

Thursday night citizens announced they were ready to pick up the reins to get projects done – as long as the town both supported their vision and might also help out financially.

During the public comment period, Thomas Craig, owner of The Ugly Dog, asked the Town Board to support a Concert Series in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street similar to Cashiers' "Grovin' on the Green" series which runs throughout the summer.

The purpose is to provide self-sufficient, free entertainment on a regular basis to the residents and visitors of Highlands. However, Craig said like any new enterprise, there are likely be income shortages for the first few years.

"The Chamber of Commerce has committed \$5,000 toward these shortages for the 2013 season. I am asking the Town of Highlands to commit \$5,000 for 2013, \$2,500 for 2014 and \$1,250 for 2015. By 2016 this event needs to be completely self-suffi-

cient, and if it's not we will accept that and move on."

Like the Cashiers series, the project would be nonprofit and the amount of money brought in through sponsorships would be the amount spent on expenditures – mainly the entertainers.

Craig proposed a budget of about \$20,000 a year.

Eleven Saturday evening concerts are planned starting May 25 and ending on August 31. There would not be a concert on Saturday, July 6 and three other dates to be determined later. Concerts would start at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m.

"We are asking that the audience be allowed to bring their own food and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic). Weekly sponsors may serve beer and wine (at no charge) if they so choose. We also ask the Town of Highlands to close off Pine Street between 5th Street and the Bank of America entrance for the duration of the concert," he said.

President of the Chamber Board of Directors, Commissioner Brian Stiehler said the Chamber supports the concept.

Craig said funds raised through sponsorships would be run through the chamber.

Citizen Alice Nelson asked if proceeds would go to the Cham-

•See CITIZENS page 3



Miranda Dotson with her Emmy at the NATAS awards ceremony in Nashville, TN last weekend.

## Dotson wins Emmy

WRAL-TV FOX 50 News Producer Miranda Dotson, daughter of John and Mary Dotson of Highlands, won an Emmy at the Nashville/Midsouth Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences award ceremony this past weekend during the

27th Midsouth Emmy Awards.

Dotson and her associates won individual Emmys in the Newscast/Weekend category for their weekend coverage of Hurricane Irene Aftermath during the

•See DOTSON page 3

## Old delinquent accounts are subject of meeting

The Town of Highlands' mid-year budget report echoes the county's – things are looking up, but a fresh eye on the books indicates the town is plagued with delinquent property tax and utility accounts that have passed the allotted time to collect, as set by the state.

At the Jan. 24 Town Board meeting, Town Manager Bob Frye said property tax collections are up slightly from Dec. 2011 to Dec. 2012 – an increase of \$28,288 – and sales tax revenue disbursements from the state are showing a slight increase from the same period – up \$13,136.

### Utility Delinquencies

In November 2012 town staff was instructed to reduce utility customer delinquent balances by tightening up on it collection procedure. Rather than letting people slide during the winter as in the past, payment is due as indicated or payment arrangements must be made and adhered to or utilities will be disconnected.

•See ACCOUNTS page 9

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTER/THANKS •

### Webcam offers window to Highlands

Dear Editor,  
I just want to thank you for your website, and all the links and videos you provide. I have owned small home in Highlands since 2004, have been coming to the area for over 35 years, and love exploring each time I am there. However, when I am away, I always look at your webcam to see what I can...the sunshine, rain, snow, color of the leaves, etc. I also watch the waterfall videos on your website when I need a little Highlands fix.

Watching your birds and squirrels are fun, too. I have a small deck and porch facing west and overlooking a meadow,

### From Munger family

The family and loved ones of Carolyn Keener Munger wish to thank each and everyone who took the time to call, bring food, send cards, flowers or simply say a prayer during our time of sorrow. She will be greatly missed but remembered by those who loved and shared her

and have birds, squirrels, chipmunks...love the hummingbirds.

This morning I am in Richmond, VA where it is snowing. Next week I will be on the GA coast, so no matter where I am I can always get a small glimpse of my favorite spot in the states, even though it makes me a little homesick. Looking forward to being back soon.

Thanks again for this little window into our wonderful world of Highlands.

Sunny Steele

Highlands second home owner  
[www.highlandsinfo.com/WebCam.htm](http://www.highlandsinfo.com/WebCam.htm)

life, Words are few but gratitude is unlimited. Jesus said unto her "I am the resurrection, and the life: He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

- The Family of Carolyn Keener Munger

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Mostly Sunny High: 35 °F	Chance Snow Low: 21 °F	Chance Snow High: 34 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 19 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 45 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 30 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 47 °F

## • HS SPORTS •

### Highlanders extend record to 11-6

Davis Moore at the Tallulah Falls game.

Photos by Lisa Osteen



### By Ryan Potts

Just four minutes into the game against Tallulah Falls, it looked as though things were going to be easy. Senior Taylor Osteen had outscored the Indians 11-2 and Highlands looked to be well on its way to an easy victory. Unfortunately for the Highlanders, the offense would struggle the rest of the way, despite limping to a 42-26 win.

While Osteen finished with 18 for Highlands, the Highlanders struggled in all phases on the offensive side of the ball. Highlands finished with an uncharacteristically high number of turnovers, as well as numerous missed layups.

Fortunately, the strong defense of the Highlanders carried them on the afternoon, holding the Indians to just 26 points.

Both Highlander teams will host Nantahala on Friday evening, starting at 6 p.m. Friday's game is Senior Night for the Highlanders, so please come out as we honor our seniors.

Additionally, Friday night's game is also Youth Night at Highlands, and Macon County League players will get in for FREE if they are wearing their jersey. We hope to have a great crowd on Friday night as we move into the end of the regular season.

### Lady Highlanders stop skid with gritty road win

The Highlands Lady Highlanders trav-

•See RECORD page 7



Ashlee Maitland at the Tallulah Falls game.

## ... CITIZENS continued from page 1

ber of Commerce but Craig said everything that comes in will go out as a nonprofit venture.

She also asked how this is different from arts and crafts shows that have been disallowed in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park.

Mayor David Wilkes said Craig's request would be put on the February 21 Town Board agenda and an answer to her question and other issues would be addressed at that time.

Also discussed was a fundraising request from citizens who want to refurbish

the Free Weight Room at the Rec Park.

Spokesman for the project Derek Taylor, said the upgrade – seen as a long-term, likely 20-year solution – would include new flooring, new equipment and new weights.

He said there is a group in town that is ready to begin fundraising, but it would also like the town to commit some funds toward the project. The estimated budget is \$20,030.

Commissioner Amy Patterson and Mayor Wilkes said they had no problem with the group beginning fundraising ef-

forts but a request for financing had to go through the budget process first.

Commissioner Stiehler said the room and the equipment were in bad shape and could actually be considered a liability. "I don't really think people should have to raise all the money. The town should be able to support some of this, as well," he said.

Commissioner Patterson said people raised money for the dog park and she thinks partnerships with government keep government from taking money out of people's pockets who have no interest in something and making them have an interest.

"I have no problem with them raising money and partnering with us, but I also have no problem with them waiting until we go through our budget process so we can determine what the Rec Park needs and what our priorities are," she said.

Mayor Wilkes said prior to the new budget year, which begins July 1, 2013, the group will have five or six months to raise funds which will indicate how much they need from the town.

Frye said any money raised would be given to the town to be used at the board's discretion at the Rec Park. He also said the town needs input from Recreation Director Lester Norris and his staff to see what they want done and whether they want new

or used equipment.

During the public comment period, Debbie Mackey, former owner of The Mountain Fitness Center on Carolina Way that closed in December, supplied a list of used equipment from the center that could be considered for use in the refurbished Free Weight Room.

– Kim Lewicki

## ... DOTSON from pg 1

News at 11 segment.

She said it was a huge honor and she was very surprised to have won. "I was hopeful, of course, but I didn't know what to expect. I was so grateful that my whole family was there to celebrate with me."

The awards ceremony was held in Nashville, TN at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center to a sold-out crowd. Nearly 800 entries were considered in the nomination process.

As nominees, Dotson and other associates acted as liaisons for those nominees from the station who couldn't attend. "There were three nominees in our category so I was focusing on other people's names and awards to see if I had to go up for them so I didn't have time to get nervous until my name was called," she said. "I was immediately shocked, excited and very nervous. It was such an honor. This was my first nomination and my first Emmy and that doesn't happen every time."

Dotson has worked as a News Producer at Raleigh's WRAL-TV since March 2011. The renowned CBS affiliate is the number one station in the 24th largest television market in the country. In all, WRAL accepted 14 Emmys at the ceremony. Miranda previously worked as News Producer for WLOS ABC 13 in Asheville.

"Sometimes the best television coverage comes from tragedies, which is sad, but it's nice that we can tell those stories and let others know what people are going through," she said.

Dotson graduated from Highlands School Class of 2004 and earned a BA in Communication with a minor in Political Science from Wake Forest University in 2008.

The Nashville/Midsouth Region, founded in 1984, encompasses the states of North Carolina (except Asheville) and Tennessee, and the television market of Huntsville, Alabama.

– Kim Lewicki

## • MILESTONE •



Christy Leigh Owens and Thomas Lee Maney announce the birth of their son Zaithan Lee Maney born on January 16, 2013 in Asheville, NC. At birth he weighed 3lb and 11oz and was 17.5 inches long.

Maternal Grandparents are Theresa Zachary and Robbie McCall of Highlands NC.

Paternal Grandparents are Rhonda Edmonds and Carl Ramey of Toccoa, GA.

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• LOOKING AT LIFE •

The greatest generation....the winter of 1945 – Part 3

(It's the winter of 1945. World War 2 has just ended. I am nine years old and live in the Highlands area of Louisville, KY. My parents own and operate a mom and pop restaurant in a working class neighborhood. My best friend is my dog, Frisky, a mutt terrier mix.)

The doors to my parents' restaurant were unlocked promptly at 7 a.m. each morning, excluding Sun days. There were always several customers huddled together in our outside vestibule, trying to stay warm and wanting to grab a quick breakfast.

After eating a hot, delicious breakfast cooked by Lucinda, my workday started when I turned on the red neon OPEN sign and unlocked the door. Stomping snow from their boots, customers headed in to be seated. I knew most of the early morning group by their first names, as they were regulars. Once seated, all I had to do was point to

them and ask, "Same thing?" They would nod and I'd write the order, turning it in to my dad.

One customer laughed and remarked, "Tell your dad the war is over," pointing to the sign in the front window depicting Santa stomping Hitler, Tojo and Mussolini.

I laughed and said, "You tell him."  
Another customer blurted, "I love that poster. Leave it up."

My weekday morning job usually came to an end at exactly 7:30 a.m. when it was time to head for school. But on this day, with snow a foot deep, there was no school. My usual replacement, my older sister, called from a pay phone to say her car wouldn't start after stalling in the middle of the street. By 8 a.m., the restaurant would be full of hungry customers and I would have to handle the load with my mom, a major task for a nine-year-old.

"Freddy, you work the counter and your mother will work the booths. When your sister gets here, if she ever does, you can go and play," my dad ordered. Hey, I was making 50 cents an hour and it was still too early to head out sledding.

"OK, Dad, but can I turn Frisky loose?" I asked. "I just know he has to pee."

I headed for the storage room, opened the door and Frisky completely ignored me, bolting past me and out into the deep snow. As I watched him attend to his duty, I remembered what a buddy jokingly told me. "Never eat the yellow snow."

"Go play, boy, go play," I ordered. Nose buried in the snow, Frisky headed out across the vacant lot behind our restaurant, eager to sniff whatever he could find not covered with snow and maybe even meet up with another friendly dog. He had several girlfriends who lived in the neighborhood.

When I got back inside the store, three customers were standing at the front register waiting to pay their



Fred Wooldridge and Frisky

bills. "Where's your sister?" a customer asked.

"Broke down with a dead battery," I shot back, pushing hard on just the right keys of our mechanical cash register.

The register bell rang, the amount owed popped up in the window at the top of the register and the cash drawer flew open. 'What technology,' I thought as I took the money and made change, amazed at how it all worked. As I handed the customer his change, I remembered what Sister Marianne had said about the importance of math.

I guess I was a pretty good waiter, as my tips were always abundant. The reason I remember this particular morning was because it was our first big snow and I earned over four dollars in tips plus my salary. I was

a rich little boy.

My sister finally arrived just before 10 and I lit out for home. I found Frisky sitting on our covered front porch, high and dry. When he saw me, he jumped to his feet and headed toward me. "No, Frisky....no, boy....down....don't trash my school clothes again....down," I ordered, pointing my finger. Frisky knew the "no" word and decided to obey.

After changing clothes, I headed for the cellar to find my sled. It was covered with coal dust, as was most everything in that cellar. When the coal truck came to dump a full load of coal through a trapdoor just off the sidewalk, you didn't want to be anywhere near that cellar.

After cleaning my sled, I headed for Tyler Park about a half-mile up Baxter Ave. from my home. Once the sled hit the snow, Frisky hopped on, knowing I would give him a ride to the park. It was hard going through the deep snow so I headed out into the street and used tire trails that cars had made in the snow. Usually I didn't even have to get out of the way for an approaching car as the driver

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 11



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# • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

## The popcorn revolution



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.  
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are at the the opposite end of some ideological spectrum from the people who still buy Jiffy Pop.

Orville Redenbacher was a genius. He created a brand in a commodity that was in America before Europeans. I can imagine Cortes saying, "Man, what a treat." All of a sudden people were passing up the Safeway store brand and paying a premium for one that claimed, "You'll like it better, or my name isn't Orville Redenbacher." Orville didn't rest

there, didn't stretch out under a palm tree and relax. He brought out microwave popcorn. Then he brought out flavored popcorns; kettle and cheddar, and others. "Movie Theater" is hard to beat.

Orville wasn't done. About two years ago, Orville introduced the pop-up bowl. It's a bit of packaging magic. The corn pops in the bag, like any other microwave corn. However, there is a plastic film top. When the popping is complete, one need only turn the bag upright, remove the plastic, and enjoy straight from the bowl, without oil up to the elbow. It's a marvelous invention, and if I didn't know better, I might think popcorn couldn't get better than this

### ... UDO continued from page 1

the Planning Board's power to make changes of any kind to the conditions assigned a conditional zone by the Town Board. Instead, any changes would go to the Town Board and be treated as any other ordinance change or change to the Zoning Map.

According to Commissioner Amy Patterson, the proposed changes were suggested by Attorney Coward because there is no place in the NC General Statutes that allows anyone other than an elected board to make zoning changes.

A change to the conditional use plat at Town Place Condominiums initiated the amendment.

At the November 2012 Planning Board meeting, adjoining neighbors to the Town Place Condominium parcel objected to proposed changes to the district that changed a single-family structure to a multi-family structure and moved that structure closer to adjoining boundaries.

Their pleas fell on deaf ears, and the Planning Board voted unanimously to allow the changes. The board saw the changes to the plat as "administrative" in nature, which according to the UDO is within the purview of the Planning Board.

The situation was compounded when Stephen Ham, owner of an adjoining property, appealed the Planning Board's deci-

sion to the Town Board on Dec. 6, 2012, but the Town Board upheld the Planning Board's decision 3-2.

Commissioners Patterson and John Dotson voted not to uphold the Planning Board's decision because they thought the changes to the plat were substantial and not

• See UDO page 11

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## • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

### Hibernation

Highlands is a wonderful seasonal town. It's getting less seasonal every year, but the majority of home owners go back to warmer climates, and put their Highlands home to sleep for the winter. Hibernation. Just the very thought of hibernation gives me a warm snuggly feeling, what about you? In fact, it's far from warm and snuggly- it can be down right brutal.



**Jeannie Chambers**  
The Chambers Agency  
REALTORS  
jsc@chambersagency.net

Hibernation can be defined as a state of inactivity. It is often associated with cold temperatures, and its purpose is to con-

this winter:

1) For Sellers: Avoid 'closing down' your home. It's OK to turn the water off (either by hiring a plumber to winterize or making sure the water is turned off 'at the street', but remember to leave the utilities running, and the heat on low. Make sure if your water has been turned off, that you let your Broker know. It's OK to have nice looking signs taped to the toilet to let people know NOT to use the facilities. (I just wonder how many Brokers after spending the day with clients; have had to return to the scene of the crime with gallons of water to be able to flush.)

2) For Sellers: Make sure your home doesn't look like a 'ghost town'. I've shown some homes that looked like the owners had left for greener pastures- a very long time ago. If your home is for sale, it needs to continue to be 'staged for sale' even during the winter. If the Broker has to go in with a flashlight and hunt for the main breaker, or the prospects have to crawl over outdoor furniture that's been brought in for the winter- the first impression will not be a good one.

3) For Sellers: You don't have to take your home off the market for the winter. Many Sellers think that if they take their home off the real estate market for the winter, that it will appear like a 'new listing' when they re-list in the Spring- not so.

4) For Buyers: if you are coming to Highlands to look at real estate- keep an open mind regarding number 1 and 2 above. Plan your trip around Highlands's weather if possible, and be flexible. Just because there aren't residents in the home you want to see, doesn't mean it's avail-



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# • COACH'S CORNER •

## Hurricanes make statement against Duke



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

sentence intentionally.) Miami has all of the pieces necessary to be a great team, and the experience that many teams lack in the current college game. Scott is a knockdown shooter and Johnson provides interior beef, but it is the emergence of waterbug PG Shane Larkin and 6'11" swiss-army man Kenny Kadji that has made Miami offensively balanced. Larkin, the son of MLB shortstop Barry Larkin, was in the paint the entire night against Duke and provides the dribble penetration that current offenses need in today's

game. Kadji is a matchup nightmare because he shoots over 40% from the three point line and yet is 6'11. Julian Gamble gives the Canes an additional rebounding presence and high quality defender to compliment the other Miami players.

While the Miami offense gets the publicity, it is the improvement on defense that has propelled Miami into the front of the ACC. The credit for that goes to new Miami coach Jim Larranaga. Basketball fans may remember Larranaga from his Final Four run with George Mason, and his hire to replace Frank Haith has given the Hurricanes a new identity on defense this season, and have held all six ACC opponents below 63 points. Larranaga's presence gives the Hurricanes a veteran coach who has been to the Final Four and his knowledge combined with the experience and senior leadership that Miami has make them the new favorite to win the ACC this season.

## ... INVESTING continued from page 6

able to see without effort. We may live here year round, but we may also forget about possible treacherous access to the home you want to see.

5) For Buyers- please don't think that because there is a slightly less inventory of listings (see #3 above) shown in the real estate magazines, that there is a shortage of inventory. Also, don't think for a second that the Highlands area is depressed in the winter and Sellers are willing to accept anything.

6) For Prospective Sellers: Winter is a great time to list property! The brokers may even have a little more time to devote to marketing and staging for 'the season', but don't think they wait until Spring to market your home. Highlands brokers have already been active in 2013 holding 'Open Houses' so all Brokers have the chance to see their listings. Most Brokers check the local MLS listings daily to check for

price changes, new listings and homes that have sold. Information from our local market gives us the information we need to make sure your home is priced according to the current market values right here in Highlands.

It may appear that some of the Brokers in Highlands are hibernating (they're in a state of inactivity) because of the lack of food supply (buyers), but that couldn't be further from the truth. The stats have shown productive real estate activity in the Highlands - Cashiers area already for 2013. If you are interested in Highlands real estate (either buying or selling), call a Broker today, we can 'bearly' wait, and we promise - we won't bite!

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are Broker/Owners of The Chambers Agency, REALTORS and specialize in investment sales and vacation rentals.

828-526-3717 401 N. Fifth Street www.chambersagency.net

## ... RECORD continued from page 2

eled to Tallulah Falls on Saturday needing a win, and they were able to get one after a thrilling comeback victory.

The Lady Indians from Tallulah Falls played Highlands tough in Highlands earlier this year, and they used hot three-point shooting and some sloppy play from the Lady Highlanders to build a two-point halftime lead. That lead would balloon to as many as seven in the third quarter, but the Lady Highlanders were able to mount a furious comeback on the strength of a 1-2-1-1 press and some clutch free throw shooting.

A 17-2 run put the Highlanders up eight and allowed them to escape with a 38-30 win. Kirstyn Lamb led all scorers with 16 points for the Lady Highlanders.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Let's go  
people  
fishing



**Pastor Paul Christy**  
**Highlands United**  
**Methodist Church**

I learned a new term this past week. I think it is good to learn something new each and every day, but this was a term I had never heard before in the context that it was used. The term is called Catfishing.

I grew up here in these mountains and when I heard the term Catfishing I knew what that meant. In fact, there were two kinds of fishing; trout fishing and cat-fishing. But the media has coined the phrase Catfishing to mean an internet hoax or a person taking advantage of another by social media. And who hasn't seen the Manti Te'o story? This seemingly strong, confident, and smart young football star hoaxed over someone pulling a hoax over the internet. This is called Catfishing. Seemingly there are a lot of folks who have suffered a hoax over the internet.

Now you may wonder why we begin here this week. I want to share a story with you.

I had a man in the church I was serving years ago who seemed to have everything going for him. He had a great job at a furniture plant and a family. From the outside looking in, he would have been considered successful. Yet, one day he came to the church to seek me out so we could talk. He began by saying, "Paul, I am so lonely. I come home from work each and every day and after supper my wife cares for the kids and I sit in den and think there has to be more to life than this.

After the kids are in bed my wife comes in to tell me how tired she is and she goes to bed and I sit there all alone. I get on the internet and try to find some old college friends. I have more conversations with people on the internet than I do with my own family.

Sometimes I sit in the den all night on the internet talking with people in chat rooms. It is sad that I am more comfortable talking with people in cyber space than I am talking with my own family.

I just sat and listened and he continued; "You see Paul, I am afraid I have more trust in a chat room than I do in real life. I find truth in my relationship online and I know is not a great thing so I know I need help."

I tell you that story to remind us all that sometimes it is easier to talk online than face-to-face. It is easier to text someone than it is to simply call them on the phone. I am also convinced that when it is all said and done, at the end of the day, what matters are the relationships we have with one another face to face.

I want to encourage us all to nurture the relationships we have with family and friends face-to-face be-

•See SPIRITUALLY page 11

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

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Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.  
Wed.: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church  
Thurs.: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian  
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Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.  
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10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Children's Program.,  
10:45am: Worship Service  
Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC University

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II, (sanctuary), 10:30 am  
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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 526-4153  
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.  
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m.,  
Choir – 5 p.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor • 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. 8:30a communion service June-  
Labor Day; School – 9:30  
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast  
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

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Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am  
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Randy Reed, Pastor  
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Sundays: Worship – 11

**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376  
Sun: School 9:45a.; 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: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

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Rev. Dwight Loggins  
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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

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

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**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

## ... ACCOUNTS continued from page 1

As a result, Frye said the total balance of current delinquent accounts on active accounts has dropped from \$85,717 to \$38,433 in the first month.

There were 129 people on the disconnect list for December and 48 for January. "We currently still have 27 from the past two months who haven't settled their accounts and who are still disconnected but we are assuming the remaining ones are out-of-town residents as we have not heard anything regarding them. As you can tell the disconnect policy has helped as the numbers have dropped a good bit," said Town Clerk, Rebecca Shuler.

The town runs a delinquent report every month for the people who don't pay their bills by the due date and they are sent a Disconnect Notice.

In December there were 520 delinquents and for January the number is 276. The next cutoff date is Feb. 7.

Though in November 2012 Frye outlined a procedure including contacting people by phone and not just by mail prior to disconnection, so far that hasn't hap-

pened.

"We have not started courtesy calls yet. That will come in the next month or so. The new staff person is being trained on the system. Once that is complete we will start the courtesy calls," he said.

#### Old Property Tax & Utility Delinquencies

The town has \$34,998.85 in un-paid property tax bills that day back to 2000-'01.

This happened when the town transitioned from collecting its own taxes and began contracting with Macon County for property tax collection services.

Under State Law, the town can only attempt to collect an un-paid property tax bill less than 10 years old.

"As these bills are all older than the 10-year limit, they are uncollectible and there is no reason for us to continue to carry them on the books as an encumbrance. Our auditors recommend that we write these bills off so we can clear up the books," said Frye. The board voted unanimously to do so.

•See ACCOUNTS page 11

## On Carolina Way ....

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# • JUST HERS •

## The Agony and the Ecstasy

In Britain, they are often referred to by the colorful term “agony aunts.” In America, we call them advice columnists, and they’ve been around for years. These confes-sors have been looking into our souls for years, providing us with entertaining, thoughtful, and often hilarious, commentary on the hu-man condition.

We recently lost one of our most famous advice columnists when Pauline Friedman Phillips – better known as “Dear Abby” – died last week. Interestingly, she had an identical twin sister, Esther Pauline Friedman, who was better known as the columnist Ann Landers. For years, the two sisters were engaged in an often bitter rivalry, each accusing the other of having stolen the idea of writing their col-umn.

What draws us to these advice columns? Without a doubt, there is a certain schaden-freude – pleasure derived from the misfor-tune of others – involved. But I think there’s more to it than that. The universality of bratty children, hateful in-laws, and cheating hus-bands comforts us in the knowledge that we are not alone in dealing with these issues. It’s human nature to give advice to others, but to be blind to one’s own foibles and failings. Seeing others in situations similar to our own can bring clarity and reason to our personal lives. And if they don’t bring enlightenment,

they can certainly make us smile. To critics who claim that some letters must be fiction, I reply that you can’t possibly make

A case in point was the troubled widower whose beloved wife had died sev-eral years before. Her dying wish had been to be cremat-ed, and her ashes dumped into paint used to cover the walls of the marital bed-room. That way she would always be with her hus-band. The problem? Well, it seems that several years later, the widower had decided to start dat-ing again, and he did not feel comfortable bringing ladies into his bedroom with Ethyl still on the walls. The advice was brief and to the point. “Repaint the walls. Ethyl will understand.”

Another column was written by a wom-an who enjoyed fixing the morning meal in the nude, to the embarrassment of her spouse. Dear Abby’s advice was succinct and practical. She didn’t see any problem with breakfast in the buff, but “if you’re frying bacon, you might want to wear an apron.”

When I lived in Manhattan, circumstanc-



**Michelle Mead-Armor**  
**michiamead@aol.com**

es put a very famous advice columnist in my path. As I sat in a communal waiting room, arriving early for an appointment with my pri-mary care physician, I did a double take as a tiny (4’7”), energetic woman breezed out of her office, and wait-ed for the elevator. It turned out that my doctor’s next door neighbor was Dr. Ruth Westheimer, the famous Dr. Ruth. As chance would have it, I had recently watched an A & E Biography of this very same woman! From the

program, I knew that Dr. Ruth had lived in Paris for years, and had a degree from the Sorbonne. “Bonjour, Madame!” I called out. She spun around, and flashed me the most marvelous smile, coming over to exchange a few words. I mentioned the television pro-gram, and how I’d chuckled at her husband’s comments. The interviewer had said to her husband that it must be marvelous to be mar-ried to a famous sex therapist. He shook his head in dismay, muttering “The cobbler’s chil-dren have no shoes!”

It almost makes you wonder if history wouldn’t have been different if advice col-umns had existed years ago. Let me give you an example:

Dear Michie,

I am a normal girl from an otherwise ordinary family. Recently, however, I have

started hearing voices telling me to form an army, and throw the English out of my coun-try. I have also noticed an increasing desire to wear men’s clothing. Do you have any advice?

Joan, the Maid of Orleans

Dear Joan,

Have you considered therapy? Serious-ly, Joan. There’s a difference between mak-ing history, and being history. You might want to find a nice boy, and settle down. Otherwise, I think this is will all end in tears.

We might even find useful advice in more modern situations:

Dear Michie,

I am a popular college football player, and have recently found out that I have a non-existent girlfriend. People are laugh-ing at me, and think I’m dumb. What do you think?

Manti

Dear Manti,

I know you must be feeling pretty stup-id right now, but look on the bright side. As a professional football player, you are still going to be making millions of dollars in the future. No successful football player has ever been rejected for being too stupid. After all, nobody was counting on you to come up with the cure for cancer. You might want to try having a relationship with a real person this time, however. You might even like it. And don’t worry! Things could be worse. You could have had a fake marriage, and then you’d be a Kardashian.

Why, I might even write a letter my-self. Why knows?

Dear Advice Columnist,

I write a column every other week for a local free newspaper. My late husband was very political, and loved to write controver-sial columns. Some people want to write the Great American novel. I don’t. I grew up on Erma Bombeck’s books, and all I’ve ever wanted to do was to entertain and amuse. Some folks think I should be more edgy and put my opinions out there more. While I’d love to get more letters from fans, I real-ly couldn’t handle hate mail. Any advice?

Michie, from Highlands

Dear Michie,

Opinions are like butts. Everyone has one. If you don’t want to make an ass of yourself, keep doing what you’re doing.

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## ... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

would honk, wave and go around me.

As expected, several adults had lit a large fire with wood they had brought from home. Once we reached the top of the hill where the fire was crackling away, Frisky hopped off the sled and took up a sitting position near the fire where he would remain most of the day. I went right to work on my Flexible Flyer sled, checking the steering and getting the ropes just right.

The first run of the day was always the best. I decided since this was my first trip for this winter, I would avoid the hidden dip

## ... ACCOUNTS continued from pg 9

Commissioner John Dotson was not present Thursday night.

Similarly, under state law, the town can only attempt to collect an un-paid utility bill that is less than three years old.

"We currently have \$36,076.77 that is uncollectible due to having passed the three-year collection window so our auditors are recommending we write them off to get them off the books, as well," said Frye.

The Town's inactive utility accounts have a delinquent balance of \$152,616 which town auditors want sent to Debt Setoff for

in the hill halfway down that would throw me into the air, slamming me into the deep snow as my empty sled continued its journey to the bottom. I hated it when wet snow went down my coat collar and onto my bare skin.

Hours later, I was cold and wet from the many trips down the Tyler Park slope. The fire had dwindled to just glowing coals and most all the adults had gone home. I always seemed to play too long and by the time I was exhausted and freezing wet, I still had the half-mile journey home. The trip home was always miserable.

Just as I left the park, a truck

to be recorded as an expense and a liability on the balance sheet. Frye said it may be necessary to appropriate additional funds from fund balance to cover these expenses.

Of that, \$25,878.06 worth of bills are in bankruptcy, \$90,691.28 are in the Debt Set Off Collection Program for recovery and \$36,076.77 have passed the three-year collection window.

"It may prove necessary to write some of the above mentioned past due bills off at a later date," he said.

— Kim Lewicki

## ... SPIRITUALLY continued from pg 8

cause what we find online may or may not be true. So what, right? I want to challenge us all to text less, Facebook less, chat online less, and meet face-to-face to establish personal relationships with one another.

So this week, I want you to take a friend out for coffee or a coke, and I want you to just sit and talk. I want you to turn off the TV at home and sit and talk

## ... UDO continued from page 5

administrative and as such should have come to the Town Board.

However, since definitions of "administrative" and "substantial" aren't outlined in the UDO they are left up to interpretation.

Ham had 30 days to appeal the Town Board's decision and on Jan. 4, 2013, he filed a suit against Mayor David Wilkes in Macon County Superior Court al-

to your spouse and children. It is amazing how a little face-to-face time will change your perspective and your attitude.

That is what I loved about Jesus. He went around meeting people face-to-face.

So go fishing; not catfishing, but people fishing. Try it and tell me how it works. It is amazing what human contact can do for your soul.

leging "errors in legal procedure occurred."

He alleges the Town Board wrongly took action when it upheld the Planning Board's ruling without holding a public hearing on Dec. 6 which meant elected officials didn't have the benefit of public input prior to making their decision. The court date is in February.

— Kim Lewicki

pulled over to the side of Baxter Ave. The male driver leaned over, cranking down the passenger window. He called out, "Hey, throw your sled in the back and I'll give you a ride home." Without hesitation, I did as he ordered and jumped in the front seat.

"Can my dog sit up here with me? I'll keep him on the floor," I promised. The driver nodded.

The heat inside the truck felt so good. I thought it would take a week for my toes to thaw. Never in a million years did I recognize the danger of my actions. Who knew? Halfway home, the driver said, "Your name is Freddy, right? You've waited on me several times. Your parents have good, inexpensive food. I should eat there more often."

As the truck turned onto Hepburn Ave., I pointed to my house, thanked the man for the ride and hopped out. As he pulled away, I remembered I had not gotten his name. My dad always told me to ask the name of any person who does you a favor. Since I forgot, I won't tell him about this.

The End



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# Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, Feb. 5**
- The Highlands Dialogue Winter-Spring discussion series continues on Tuesday at the Hudson Library from 10–11:30 a.m. The topic: "Jefferson, Militias, the Second Amendment and its Possible Irrelevance for Private Gun Ownership." Handout available at the Library. Coordinator: Rodney Roe.
- 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.
- 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.
- Saturday, March 23**
- At The Bascom, Barn Dance from 7-10 p.m. Call 526-4949 for information.

**HCP's 'Social Security' cast hard at work**



The Highlands Cashiers Players (HCP) will present their winter play, "Social Security," February, 21-24, and March, 1-3, at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. This appealing comedy, directed by Mary Adair Leslie, has been popular with audiences ever since it opened on Broadway in 1986 and will provide enough laughter to warm up the coldest winter season. Tickets will go on sale mid-February. Now in rehearsal, the cast includes Marsha Shmalo, Stuart Armor, Lance Trudel, Jennifer Royce (standing left to right), and Dean Zuch (kneeling) next to Nancy Gaddy (seated in chair.)

**Exhibitions, after-school activities, workshops at The Bascom**

A sure cure for the winter doldrums is a visit to The Bascom. Whether for young or old, Highlands' innovative visual arts center offers creative stimulations for everyone. And, before March 31, for members only, there's an early bird discount of 10% off regular registration fees for all adult workshops and classes. Classes going on now through March include ceramics, creative writing, painting, print-making and mixed media. Check out all of the possibilities at our updated website, [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or through the beautiful new 2013 catalogue, available free at The Bascom.

Mark your calendar for the always-popular Barn Dance on Saturday, March 23, from 7 to 10 pm. There will be country, contra, square dancing and more, complete with live bluegrass music and a world-class caller!

On view through March 10 is Polly Knipp Hill: Marking a Life Through Etching. This fascinating collection of works shows architectural scenes of Europe and glimpses of ordinary folks in the mountains and in Florida.

Also, enjoy the art created by members of 14 arts organizations in Regional Arts Organizations: Selected Works. These groups foster artistic excellence and professionalism by promoting support of their members.

The Bascom is open year-round, Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, noon to 5 pm. Visit [www.TheBascom.org](http://www.TheBascom.org) or call (828) 526-4949.

**• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •**

Highlands PD log entries from Dec. 29. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

**Dec. 29**

- At 5:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at 1st and Main Street.

**Jan. 1**

- At 8 a.m., officers investigated a call about 24-hour parking on Main Street

**Jan. 3**

- At 11:45 a.m., officers responded to Perquin Road regarding the death of a woman who appeared to have died in her bed.

**Jan. 4**

- At 11:59 p.m., two worthless checks in the amount of \$230 and \$260 were presented at the Farmers Market at Main and NC 106 by a 31-year-old male.

**Jan. 6**

- At 1 p.m., a burglary with forcible entry was reported at a home on Upper Brushy Face Road.
- At 10 p.m., nonpayment of a bill for \$97.35 was reported at The Lost Hiker.

**Jan. 9**

- At 8 a.m., officers responded to a call about a burglary with forcible entry and larceny from On The Veranda restaurant on US 64 west where handtools valued at \$200 was taken in addition to \$60 cash.

**Jan. 15**

- At 8:40 a.m., Joshua Warren McDowell, 31, of Highlands, NC, was arrested for failure to appear concerning an insurance violation for a previous drug charge. A secured bond of \$500 was set. His trial date is March 6.

**Jan. 16**

- At 11:15 a.m., a breaking and entering of a residence on N. 4th Street was reported.

**Jan. 17**

- At 1 p.m., fraud/impersonation was reported when a woman's sales tax number was used at 21 Steps Steakhouse to purchase \$50,000 in items.

**Jan. 18**

- At 12:50 p.m., Tawny Perez, 20, of Scaly Mountain, NC, was arrested for possession of stolen property, accessory after the fact. An unsecured bond was set for \$6,000. Her trial date was Jan. 28.
- During the week 3 citations were issued.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Jan. 16.**

**Jan. 16**

- At 9:51 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a call at a residence on Sassafras Gap Road.

**Jan. 18**

- At 1:52 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Hudson Road. It was false.
- At 1:33 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD and stood by at their station while they fought a structure fire on Lost Trail.
- At 12:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

**Jan. 19**

- At 9:45 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Clubhouse Trail to assist EMS.
- At 11 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Wood Lily Way to assist EMS.

**Jan. 20**

- At 9:40 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD while they fought a structure fire.

**Jan. 21**

- At 10:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the Eckerd Living Center. It was a false alarm.

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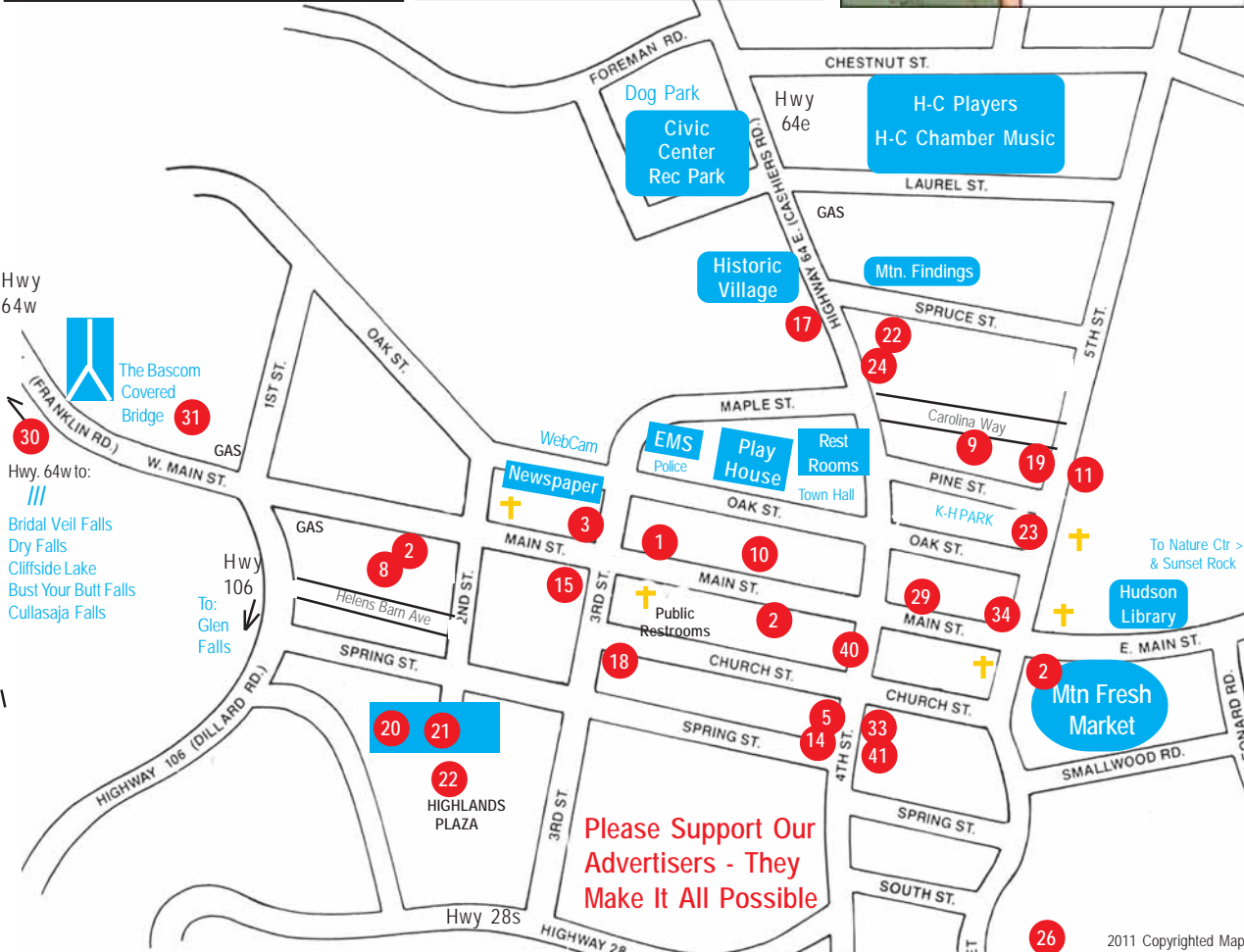
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