

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, March 14, 2013

Police dept. policies, conduct subject at retreat

The Highlands Police Department conduct and its policies were discussion points during the town's retreat Feb. 14.

Mayor David Wilkes opened the conversation.

"Here is an example of the

type of statements that come to us," he said. "I was sitting with a group and one person said, 'I had something come up and I couldn't find a policeman anywhere.' Another person said, 'Every time I turn around there is a policeman

on top of me. How many policemen do we have in this town?'"

Wilkes said different people have different perceptions of police department actions at different times.

"I don't give a lot of legitima-

cy to any one complaint anyone has about our police department and I have gotten a lot of comments," he said. "But one of the things that comes to me and other board members, is that people

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Macon County schools evaluated for their safety, found lacking

By Davin Eldridge
Contributing Writer

Local officials are taking steps to ensure the safety of Macon County Public Schools.

At the Board of Education-County Commission joint meeting last month, county educational consultant Terry Bell, along with Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland, gave a presentation on the current state of safety in area public schools. The evaluation called for more than \$363,000 worth of work.

The evaluation came at the beckon call of local and state officials. Last month, county commissioners asked Bell and Holland to evaluate school safety in light of the Sandy Hook shooting.

"You're not going to make schools 100% safe," said Bell at the start of the presentation. "There is no way in doing that

but you can make them safer."

New security measures

According to Bell and Holland it mostly boils down to one thing — the control of the schools' main entrances and adequate school surveillance. In essence, each school basically requires the presence of a School Resource Officer (SRO) surveillance cameras and the construction of additional walls to common areas within each school.

Highlands School's main lobby entrances must be locked and include cameras and devices to allow the main office to control entry, along with such locks for all classrooms, an enclosed walkway to the high school science room and an enclosed walkway to the middle school. However, Bell said those additions to the school would be included in its current renovations.

South Macon and Cartoogechaye Elementary Schools are basically the same schools due to layout, Bell explained. Their biggest flaw is the open entrance and lobby to the schools. Anyone can enter the school through the lobby and gain immediate access to student areas. The evaluation concluded that the main entrances be locked with cameras and devices to allow the office to control en-

HS Baseball ushers in spring



Highlander Matt Rodriguez catching the ball at the Tamassee-Salem away game.

Photo by Lisa Osteen

try, and to construct walls and doors at each side with remote locking devices.

Like in Highlands, additionally, the cafeteria has two walls of glass exposing students visually to anyone outside the building, which could be remedied by applying a reflective film to the glass.

While Union Academy may be considered one of Macon County's 'safer' schools, as its entrance is always locked and visitors must be buzzed in, Bell explained all exterior door hinges could be replaced to provide better closings. Additionally, he suggested that cameras be placed at its entrance.

Bell recommended that East Franklin have equipment installed to allow control of entry to the facility, along with more secure interior doors and keypad

door locks to teacher-workroom areas.

While Iotla Valley, the district's newest school, is considered the safest school in the county, there is still a need for at least eight extra cameras and a SRO.

Mountain View Intermediate, although a safe school, requires an electronic door lock with a control panel at the reception desk, a main doorbell with speaker box and an enclosed reception area, as it is currently open.

Macon Middle School has an electronic door lock with control panel at the reception desk, though it needs to be upgraded. Also, the open areas between each wing require walls, and doors that lock, as they are currently set up to

• See SAFETY page 14

Town budget may include intake valve and Big Creek work

At the town's February retreat, capital projects which have been discussed for years were again on the table. Some are closer to reality than others.

Mike Waresak with McGill Associates outlined the scope of each project including estimated costs.

The Lake Sequoyah Raw water intake project partners with Lake Sequoyah dam repairs. The new intake valve at the dam on town-owned property will have the capacity of two million gallons a day (mgd).

Estimated construction of the intake is \$2 million with up to 80% "principal forgiveness." The town would pay 20% of that. The funding application has been submitted and is pending approval.

As required, water quality testing is completed and design plans and the permit application have been submitted and are also waiting on approval.

Dovetailing with that is repairs to the Lake Sequoyah dam.

• See BUDGET page 4

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Fred will be missed

Dear Editor,

Too bad about Fred. I'll miss his humor and sarcasm and the bees he put in people's bonnets, in letters-to-the-editor. I wish him well and look forward to "The best of Fred."

Jed McClure
Marietta, GA

from his critics was so much fun especially when not a lot was going on around town.

I can't imagine how our little town will ever find someone else with his ability and sense of humor.

Fred, thank you for years of enjoyment and Kim, thank you for being strong and brave enough to ruffle some feathers.

I'll read "The Best of Fred" in the coming months but I'll miss having Fred stir things up. I hope a new book is in his future.

Deborah Nelson
Silver Eagle
Highlands, NC

Will miss Freds 'tickling'

Dear editor,

I read about Fred Wooldridge's decision to stop writing for the newspaper. I will truly miss his wit, courage, writing talent and ability to tease, mock, tickle and anger just about everyone. Reading letters

Nix 'Best of Fred,' too

Dear Editor,

My family and I are not without a good-hearted sense of humor. And we encourage the exposure to opinions not necessarily our own. Unless someone reads and listens to

various opinions, the truth, such as it is sometime, gets lost in the minutia.

Fred seems to have lived the good life; to have had the good fortune to always be on the winning side. That is where the problem starts. The problem is not being rich or well off. The problem is not having compassion, and the ability to have empathy with those for whom life has not been so good.

While, not everything he ever wrote was truly mean-spirited, the last year or so his efforts turned SOUR. This is not my original thought, but I will share it. "When a businessman finds a way to cut his taxes or make even greater profits by adjusting the figures, etc., he is to be praised for his resourcefulness, and intelligence. But when a struggling man finds a way to get more food on the table for his children by adjusting his Food Stamps, or Medicaid or some such, then he is called a moocher or criminal, and his efforts are considered disdainful."

It is not a matter of feelings, it is a matter of concern for our fellow travelers on the road to eternity. To be able to provide most of what we require is a great blessing and demands our concern for the disenfranchised among us. I have known many struggling families. No one I ever met was happy being on the short end of life. They may act off-color, etc. but when you really speak with them you can see the real hurt and sadness they experience in their daily lives.

So Good Riddance! Let Fred go the way of Swanson who was the pits. Sad how one apple does ruin the barrel. Old nasty gentlemen need to be put on the shelf when they begin to be vulgar, hateful, and judgmental without full knowledge.

We do not really need, "The Best of Fred." In my opinion he lost that consideration by his last years' behavior. Your admirer and grateful reader,

Westley Jacomino
Franklin

be they are congratulating themselves, believing their letters of complaints (did I say whining?), detailing how he offended their delicate sensitivities on just about everything, were the case of his demise. Somehow, I don't think so.

Coincidentally, their complaints and frailties segue perfectly into the current national discussion about gun violence and gun control, because apparently malevolent people have been holding loaded guns to the heads of our OSIP friends and neighbors, forcing them to read Fred's odious columns and thereby outraging their moral chastity. On one hand, I can almost sympathize with the OSIPs. I mean, surely it is our God-given and constitutional right not to be confronted with ideas, beliefs and tasteless situations that are in direct conflict with our own. Why should we be unwillingly exposed to different points of view? And weekly, no less!

On the other hand, I am compelled to defend not only Fred's right to write his column; to defend not only his basic right to freedom of speech; but most critical of all, I am determined to defend MY right to be regularly exposed to any and all ideas, beliefs, situations, religions, politics ad infinitum that are diametrically opposed to my own. After all, I'm already intimately familiar with my own points of view; why do I need to see them in print? I'd rather read something different; it might even make me think something different, God forbid. Since I am not normally insulted or threatened by opinions other than my own, I guess that excludes me from the OSIP's club. Darn.

Last but not least, a word of respect and admiration for you, Ms. Editor, for not surrendering to the relentless pressure from the OSIPs; for not basing your newspaper's policies on what is or is not popular at the time; and for standing firmly in favor of freedom of expression.

Alice Nelson
Highlands

'Fred' epitomized freedom of speech

Dear Editor,

Well, our local chapter of Overly Sensitive Insecure People (OSIP), plus a few random members scattered around the area, are doubtless delighted and rejoicing that Fred Wooldridge has called it quits and will no longer write his insufferable weekly column in Highlands Newspaper. May-

Thinking of you, Fred

Dear Editor,

Fred and Maddy moved to Highlands about the same time we did and I am very fond of both, but he never could tempt me to try rappelling, even though he tried!

Fred is one of the funniest people I know and I will miss his humor. Best of luck in whatever you do next!

Joy Johnson
Dillard, GA

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 •

Judy Galdon

Judy Galdon, 54 years old, died Friday, March 1, 2013. Judy took her own life after a life-long struggle with alcoholism. She was born April 26, 1958 in Galveston, TX. She grew up in Gamboa, Canal Zone, Panama, C.A. Judy was a graduate of Decatur High School in Georgia. A life-long chef with a fine understanding of food, Judy was also a skilled wood carver and an artist in several mediums. She loved camping and being with nature. She was a past resident of Highlands, and lived in Doraville, Georgia for the last five years. Judy is survived by her sister Nancy Arias of Doraville. Judy, with her amazing talents and great sense of humor, will be missed dearly.

Harold Lewis Dorn



Harold Lewis Dorn, 96, died on March 5, 2013 in Hospice care at Highlands Hospital. He had been living at Chestnut Hill Retirement Center since May 2009 after a serious accident.

Born on December 27, 1916 in South Miami, FL, he was the eldest child of Harold Wesley & Mabel White Dorn, South Dade County pioneers who moved there from Chicago in 1913. From 1947 they were Highlands summer residents.

Graduating from the University of Miami in 1941, Lew went into the US Navy at the beginning of World War II. He was a Naval Intelligence Officer on the flagship Enterprise in the Pacific Theater during most of the war and advanced to the rank of Commander. After the war, he continued in the Naval Reserve until retiring as a Captain in 1982. At that time he moved his residence from Miami to Highlands, next door to the family summer cottage.

During his earlier years, Lew worked at his father's tropical fruit shipping company. Afterward, he had a varied career reflecting his many interests: In the 1960s he was involved with the Dade County

Youth Fair; during the 1970s he was Director of the Museum of Science in Miami. He was also the founder & editor of The Village Post, a local South Miami editorial & cultural weekly newspaper. He later worked for Joe Hill Nursery in the plant nursery trade. He was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity, the Kiwanis Club in South Miami, and was a Mahi Shriner. His life-long hobbies included tropical plants, reading, politics, Oriental collectibles and classical music.

After moving to Highlands, he was employed by his friend Ralph deVill at The Stone Lantern for over 25 years, retiring after his accident at the age of 92. Always active, his extra curricular activities in Highlands included a position as Co-Chair of the Local Chapter of the Western North Carolina Alliance in the 1980s. And true to his appreciation of classical music, he was a founding member of the Highlands Chamber Music Festival. Lucas Drew, the founding director, was quoted as saying "Lew was a loyal supporter of the Chamber Music Festival from its earliest concerts. He helped in so many ways, from putting the program together to ticket sales. He was a true music lover."

Lew was also a member of the Highlands United Methodist Church where a celebration of his life took place on March 9, 2013.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Philip & Kenneth of South Miami, an aunt, Mary Wheeler Dorn of South Miami and Highlands, and a niece, Katherine Dorn Evans of Dahlonga, GA. He is survived by a sister and long-time summer resident, Alice Dorn of Central, SC; nieces, Pamela Dorn Brown of Highlands, Kristin Davenport Koepenick, Decatur, GA and a summer resident; cousins Suzanna (Norman) Mosely of Highlands, and Robert (Evy) Buzzell of Groton, MA, also a summer resident. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and other cousins in GA, CT, FL and WA.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to: The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, PO Box 1702, Highlands, NC 28741, Highlands United Methodist Church Bolivian Mission, PO Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741, Cashiers- Highlands Humane Society, PO Box 638, Cashiers, NC 28717 or to the charity of your choice.

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

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• BEST OF FRED •

Bears “R” Us

The little missus and I took a small army of grand-kids to Lion Country Safari in Florida, three hundred acres of fenced property which allows you to drive around in your car while African critters run wild. At one point we had six giraffes resting their tiny, goofy looking heads on our tall motor home.

Apparently giraffes have a hard life, having to support their heads on the end of 10-foot long necks all the time. When they spot a camper, they come over and rest their heads on the roof. Of course, the male giraffes take a power nap. Inside, the kids (that would include me) were bouncing off the walls with excitement.

Later, we dropped off the kids, took our medications to calm us down and headed for Highlands. That is when it hit me. POW; why hadn't I thought of this before. I will open a bear country theme park right in Highlands. I just might call it Bears “R” Us. Here is how it will work.

First I will rent a massive plot of land from the US Forest Service. That should be easy as we all now how

generous they are in living away their land. Look at how much they have and are doing nothing with it. No need for fences in my park since bears are already running amuck here anyway, plundering and looting at will.

After paying an outrageous entrance fee, tourists will pull their cars into my park and be greeted by a friendly host wearing a bear outfit. He will slap a six ounce slab of oily salmon on their windshields which will guarantee that, before the tour is over, a four hundred pound black bear will be sitting on their hoods eating salmon. As an added feature, they get their windshields licked clean.

Next, the tourists will drive into my bird feeder sanctuary. Here, our customers are treated to a real show. The bears walk up, snatch the feeders from their holders and rip off the lids. Standing upright, the bears tip the feeders upside down causing seeds to pour into their mouths, ears,



Fred Wooldridge

eyes and several up their noses. But most of the seeds wind up on the ground where a small contingent of squirrels, chipmunks, birds, raccoons, opossums and other critters will scarf up the fallen remains while dodging a very grouchy bear who has just spilled his dinner. This show will equal the giraffes on the roof trick and have everyone wanting to pay to see it again, which, of course, is OK.

Now on to “toothpaste park” where our tourists are treated to the garbage can show.

Hundreds of garbage cans, filled with garbage, are set out for our customers' entertainment. The performing bears tip over the cans, pounce on them with all their weight and squish, out comes the food, like toothpaste out of the tube. Later, tourists can purchase these totally demolished cans, which are now only four inches in width, as souvenirs. I predict that they will be waiting in line to pick up these \$30 keepsakes.

And finally, everyone is herded into the “bear jambo-ree” show. Adults will be asked to hold small children and shield their eyes. Mechanical devices, carrying fake people who look like they are from New York City, are rushed toward the bears while saying “shoo, shoo, go away.” These completely shredded dummies will also be on sale after the show. Since bears are very dangerous, we will be unusually strict about everyone obeying our rules. Violators committing unbearable (ha) acts, like rolling down their windows, or worse, exiting their cars will be required to drink three full glasses of Cullasaja River water as their punishment.

After leaving the park, tourists will be led into a safe area where we will attempt to relieve them of even more of their hard earned cash by offering them additional mountain junk, like authentic plastic Cherokee Indian tomahawks, made in China, and other related stuff, like dried bear chips, not to be confused with potato chips. (This is very important) Also, our customers will be astounded to learn that their entrance fee included one free coupon to visit the restrooms. As our very happy customers drive away, they are greeted by another waving host in a bear outfit who is wearing a sign which says, “Thanks for visiting, bear with us again sometime.”

... BUDGET from page 1

Concrete repairs are needed and installation of a drain valve has been suggested. Estimated repair costs are \$500,000 and they lake would need to be drained.

Waresak said repairs to the dam could be done during construction of the new intake valve.

Before repairs can be done, an environmental assessment update is needed. Waresak said meetings with state agencies are ongoing.

Since the reason for an additional raw water intake valve was perpetrated by silt build-up in Big Creek, dredging of Big Creek and upstream's Randall Lake was also discussed.

Waresak said the sediment in Big Creek is significant

•See BUDGET page 14

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Thanks for keeping it interesting, Fred

My knowledge is never deep enough. I know it, and I suspect most of you know it too, at least those of you read my columns all the way to the end. And that's a real problem -- maintaining interest to the end.

One solution is to write short, pithy columns. Why not? I don't get paid per word. The problem with short columns is they acknowledge I know so little. Now that I've admitted it, I can write any length I want. I felt guilty when Bull asked me, just the other day, how I knew so much.

Today I want to write about retirement in general and Fred in particular. I don't think it'll be very long. Let me get "general" out of the way.

I know nothing about retirement, but it terrifies me anyway.

Now About Fred. I don't know Fred very well. As far as I know we've never met or even talked on the phone. We did swap a couple emails through the years. Fred said I used the word "that" too much. I'm sure I responded as cleverly as I could but I can't remember a witty retort. I couldn't compete there and I can't compete here.

I admired Fred's ability to hold a reader. I think I hinted earlier I think that's the most important measure of a writer. Even



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

when Fred ran a little long, people finished his columns. You can't make a point if the reader has already gone back to his picture puzzle.

I'll miss having Fred as a teammate. He was one of the reasons people picked up Highlands Newspaper. Several years ago, shortly after I started writing for the paper, back when I read my own column, I noticed that my name was missing from the legend on the front page. I asked Kim about it. She said she

rotated subjects in the legend. I was writing for pride. I wasn't getting paid, so seeing my name was a big thing. I persisted, and pointed out that Fred didn't seem to be in the rotation. His name appeared every week. That's when she took the wind out of my sails. Kim said Fred had been writing since 2003, had a large following and that advertisers even requested to be on his page.

Fred gave me exposure to readers I couldn't have earned on my own. He kept it interesting, and Highlands will be a little less interesting for his retirement.

Mostly I admire Fred's willingness to risk retirement. It takes courage. Fred has done it three times. And I suspect has managed to grow in the process. With Fred as an example, the thought of retirement may be a little less frightening.

Do you know this guy? Police ask for help



Suspect wearing a knapsack entering Paoletti's back door.



Suspect leaving Paoletti's through back door.

The Highlands Police Dept. is requesting the community's assistance in the recent breaking and entering within the Highlands business district. (See front page story in the Feb. 28 edition of Highlands Newspaper at www.highlandsinfo.com click local news and scroll down to archives.)

If anyone recognizes this suspect or has information, please contact the Highlands Police Dept. at 828-526-9431. All information may be shared with the Investigating Officer or Chief and anonymous tips will be kept confidential! Anonymous text information can also be sent to 828-743-8365, then followed by @hs with the message in the message body.



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... POLICE DEPT. continued from page 1

feel like the police are just waiting and looking for a good reason to pull them over and make them take a breathalyzer."

Police Chief Bill Harrell said that's not true and though breathalyzer tests have increased year to year, he estimated only 50 were administered in 2012. "It is not the department's objective in any shape, form or fashion to try to catch people for those things. And though I have heard people say they are afraid to sit down and drink two glasses of wine, that won't make you impaired," he said.

Wilkes said another thing he is asked is, "How come every time I come into town there is a police car behind every Welcome to Highlands sign?"

He admitted that some of this is due to perceptions but said the department has to "cure the perceptions."

Commissioner Gary Drake asked why two police cars suddenly appear when someone is pulled over? "It's two cars with flashing lights behind anyone that's pulled over and it looks like a major drug bust," he said. "What's the purpose of this and why do we do that?"

Concerning two vehicles at traffic stops, Harrell said statistics show the largest number of officers shot comes from traffic stops.

"Once the backup officer sees that ev-

everything is in order, and their backup isn't needed they leave. But if they see something going on in the vehicle or they hear a comment from a party in the vehicle, then for safety or liability sake the assistance stays," said Harrell. "Officers backing each other up, is a public safety and officer safety matter," he said.

Wilkes said another question is "Why aren't there more officers downtown on the streets?"

Chief Harrell preceded to explain police procedure to the board stressing that the department is a complaint-driven agency.

"First of all, if we are being seen a lot, then we are doing our job because there are only two officers on duty at any one time," he said. "The fact that people are commenting on that speaks to what our mission is -- which is to increase visibility to deter criminal behavior -- which means the objective has been accomplished."

He said sitting in plain view isn't to catch people, but to rather to deter them from driving if intoxicated, for instance. "So if they see us and don't drive, again, our mission was accomplished."

But Wilkes said the perception is the police are waiting for people.

Harrell said many times his officers

• See POLICE DEPT. page 9

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Home ownership Tax Tips

(Disclaimer#1- While I'm NOT a CPA, tax expert, or frequent flyer (and I don't even play one on TV OR in the newspaper), it is that time of year again. I got most of the following information from a site linked to the National Association of REALTORS - www.houselogic.com.

Disclaimer #2- Tax laws change, and over the past few months, any of these 'rules' could have changed or may be obsolete; another reason to seek professional advice.

Before we get into the IRS tax mistakes, I want to bring to your attention a local tax mistake that many homeowners are making. If you are renting your home as a vacation rental, you are required



Jeannie Chambers
The Chambers Agency
REALTORS
jsc@chambersagency.net

to pay a 3% Macon County Occupancy Tax. (Any rental less than a 90-day period to one party is considered a vacation rental). For more clarification, call me (526-3717) or the Macon County Tax office at (828) 349-2144.

According to the source houselogic.com, there are nine common tax mistakes homeowners make that could cause red

flags to the IRS or be costing you money. While some of these are common sense, others could easily be deemed as a 'whack to the side of the head - a true V-8 moment! Even if these examples do not apply to you, remember to be prudent when filing taxes and always seek the advice of a professional in that field. As a REALTOR, we often refer others to a CPA or attorney.

Common mistake #1: Deducting property taxes. While they are deductible, many people claim the wrong amount. You can only deduct the amount of property taxes you paid for the year you're filing. In Macon County our tax bill arrives in July/August for the current year. You can pay your property taxes without interest until January 5th of the next year. For example, if you received your 2012 tax bill and paid it in 2012, you would claim that on your 2012 taxes. If you make a habit of paying your property taxes in January, you can't claim that amount until the next tax year rolls around.

Common mistake #2: Claiming escrow funds. If your lender escrows funds for your property taxes and home owner's insurance, you don't necessarily claim the escrowed amount. You claim only the amount that was paid during the year you are reporting.

Common mistake #3: Deduction points on your mortgage loan. You may deduct points you paid your lender to secure your mortgage in full for the year you bought your home. If you refinance though, you can only deduct points for the life of the new loan, as in prorated funds. For example, if you paid \$2,000 in points to

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#11 vs #14

Thursday:

#8 vs #9

#5 vs #12/#13 winner

#7 vs #10/#15 winner

#6 vs #11/#14 winner

Friday:

#1 vs #8/#9 winner

#4 vs #5/#12/#13 winner

#2 vs #7/#10/#15 winner

#3 vs #6/#11/#14 winner

Saturday:

#1/#8/#9 winner vs #4/#5/
#12/#13 winner

#2/#7/#10/#15 winner vs #3/
#6/#11/#14 winner

Sunday:

Championship game

As you can see, finishing in the
top 4 of the league provides a huge
leg up in terms of only having to win

3 games to win the tournament (which is the way it is now, but a bottom feeder would need to pull 4 straight upsets to make the Championship game instead of 3, which lowers the possibility greatly).

Additionally, the new members of the conference are going to force teams like Wake Forest, Florida State and NC State to seriously evaluate their basketball programs if they want to remain competitive. In recent years, the third spot in the conference has been up for grabs behind Duke and UNC, and teams like Miami, Maryland, Wake Forest, NCSU, Florida State and Georgia Tech have all had time in the upper echelon of the conference. However, the historical strength of Syracuse and Notre Dame, combined with the resurgence of Pittsburgh and Louisville mean that those top spots will be dominated by the most consistently excellent programs. It will be interesting to see what changes these other ACC programs make to keep pace with the new programs.



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• HS GIRLS SOCCER •

Lady Highlanders tie Brevard

The Lady Highlander Varsity Soccer team earned their first accolade of the season, working their way to a gritty 1-1 tie at class 2A Brevard on Friday. The lone goal from the Lady Highlanders came off the foot of Hayden Bates, as she finished off Mary Gillan Renfro's rebound off the post.

The Lady Highlander defense made the goal stand up with a strong performance. Friday marked the return of Sweeper Ellie Cate Beavers to the lineup, as she had been out with a knee injury for the first two games of the season. "Our defense had a great performance," said midfielder Kirstyn Lamb, "right now it is def-

initely the strength of our team and they did an awesome job shutting down shots." 2nd year goalkeeper Ashlee Maitland also had a strong performance, but feels like the best is yet to come for the Lady Highlanders. "We are still getting into the season, just trying to get the ball on our foot and get some time working together," said Maitland, "once we start to gel things are going to get even better."

The Lady Highlanders host their first home match of the season today versus the Tallulah Falls Lady Indians at 5pm. The Lady Highlanders will also host Towns County on Saturday at 1pm at the Highlands School Soccer Field.

• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

Monday & Wednesday

• Hatha Yoga – Body n' Soul. 7:45a at First Presbyterian Church. R.Y.T and Y.A. (828) 482-2128. (8/29)

Monday & Thursday

• Hatha Yoga – Body n' Soul. 10:45a at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. R.Y.T and Y.A. (828) 482-2128. (8/29)

Through Friday, March 15

• Highlands School Scholastic Book Fair in the Media Center. The Book Fair will be open during school hours, 8 am to 3pm. Everyone is welcome to come and shop. All proceeds benefit the Highlands School Media Center.

Thurs., March 14

• The Rotary Club of Highlands and the Literacy Council of Highlands will join forces to benefit a mutual goal: Literacy. Literacy Rotary Bingo on Thursday, 6:30-8:30p at the Highlands Community Building.

• Franklin Community Blood Drive to be held at First Baptist Church of Franklin (69 Lotta Street; Franklin, NC) 12:30 pm – 5 pm. Please contact First Baptist Church of Franklin at (828) 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

• Macon County Beekeeping School. Learn the basics – hive construction, honeybee biology, colony management, handling bees and harvesting honey crops. Also pest management. To register contact Janet Hill at 828-369-9819 or janet28734@gmail.com

• Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center in Franklin. Special guest will be Stephany Smathers, Certified Mastectomy Fitter and owner of Pink Regalia in Clyde, NC. Stephany will be speaking on Medicare & Mastectomy products. She will have sample bras and accessories and will provide private free fittings with a prescription from your doctor. Every lady in attendance will receive a free gift. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 828-369-9221.

• The March meeting of The WNC Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville, N.C. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday at 6 p.m., March through November.

Sat., March 16

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway work trip. Anyone interested in participating, please register with Ran Shaffner by emailing highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leaving a message at 828-526-5622. Work will be on the Mill Creek Trail to Oak Lane. Meet at the large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Rec Park at 9 AM for a brief orientation session. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Participants should bring water, rain gear, and a day pack to hold them. Wearing clothes that can get dirty is advised. Lunch will be provided courtesy of funding from the Culla-

saja Women's Outreach.

• Macon County Beekeeping School. Learn the basics – hive construction, honeybee biology, colony management, handling bees and harvesting honey crops. Also pest management. To register contact Janet Hill at 828-369-9819 or janet28734@gmail.com. This session includes special presentations by MC Cooperative Extension Director Alan Durden and NC State Honeybee Inspector Jack Hanel. Lunch included.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 9-mile moderate-to-strenuous hike, elevation change 1200 ft., along Palmer Creek Trail with opportunities to see elk, other wildlife, and early spring wildflowers. Meet at Ingles in Waynesville at 9 a.m., drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Keith Patton, 456-8895, for reservations.

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, March 15th at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30 to 9 PM. Richard Smith from Gainsville, GA will be the caller for the special "ST. PATTIE'S DAY DANCE." We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. There will be a Plus Workshop from 6:30 to 7. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an 11-mile strenuous loop hike with elevation change of 500 ft. to Pumpkin Town-Savannah Ridge, a 1/4 mile bushwhack, then a FS road along the Savannah Ridge with great views of all surrounding ridges. Meet in Franklin at the Holly Springs Plaza near KFC at 8 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Don O'Neal, 586-5723, for reservations.

Sun., Mar. 17

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile easy hike up the Skitty Creek Trail from Hwy. 64 (elevation gain 300 ft.) to the Cliffside Lake loop trail around the lake, returning by Skitty Creek Trail. Meet in Franklin at the Bi-Lo parking area at 2 p.m. Call leader, Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or for alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands.

Tues., March 19

• At Highlands Dialogue, 10-11:30a at the Hudson Library, "Politically Correct Language." Gender neutral language, as well as politically correct speech. Links to some excellent articles are available at the Library but you may bring a favorite article to discuss. Coordinator: Michelle Mead Armor.

Thurs., March 21

• Taize at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church at 5:30p.

Friday, March 22

• The annual Jackson County Republican Party Convention at the Sylva Center for the Aging, March at 5:45 pm. The featured convention speaker is District 11 Congressman Mark Meadows. Delegates to the District and State Republican Conventions and new officers will be elected at the convention.

Saturday, March 23

• At The Bascom, Barn Dance from 7-10 p.m. Call 526-4949 for information.

• Reception/fundraiser for Senator Kay Hagan from 2-4p at the Best Western in Dillsboro, NC. Tickets are \$100. For more information contact Phil Haire at 828-586-1771 or phaire@dnet.net.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 7.6-mile

strenuous hike on the Appalachian Trail, with elevation change of 1500/2100 ft. Half the group will begin at Moon-e-y Gap, the other half at Rock Gap, meeting in the middle to exchange car keys to return in each other's cars. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 9 a.m., drive 36 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Rain date April 6th.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-mile, easy-to-moderate hike to Martin's Creek Falls on the GA Bartram Trail, beginning at Warwoman Dell Picnic Area on Warwoman Rd. near Clayton GA, passing Becky Branch and remnants of an old fish hatchery, crossing a creek to a viewing area of the falls. Hikers may bring a lunch if desired; appropriate footwear and a hiking stick to cross the creek are necessary. Meet at the Smoky Mountains Visitors Center in Otto at 9 am, drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Nancy Falkenstein, 369-9052, for reservations.

Sunday, March 24

• Screening of Girl Rising at 3 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Story of school age girls across the world who are demanding to be educated in cultures where only boys are allowed to go to school. Free those under 16. \$10 for tickets. Call 526-9047

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2-mile easy hike with a gentle climb to Mud Creek Falls, a beautiful, high narrow falls where we'll take some time to enjoy the view, then return to see an interesting old covered bridge near our parked cars. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center at 2 pm. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Joyce Jacques, 1-410-852-7410, for reservations.

Monday, March 25

• Franklin Health and Fitness Blood Drive (1214 East Main Street; Franklin, NC) 9 am – 1:30 pm. Please call Rodney Morris at (828) 369-5608 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Sat., Mar. 30

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile easy hike with elevation change of 500 ft., on the NC Bartram Trail at Wallace Branch to a loop trail with a pretty waterfall. Bring lunch. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 10 am. Drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Kathy Ratcliff, 349-3380, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-mile moderate hike on the Bartram Trail from Jones Gap to Whiterock Mountain, elevation change of 400 ft, for a great view from the top of the mountain. Meet at the Blue Valley Overlook on Hwy. 106 at 10 am or at Jones Gap at 10:20 am. Bring lunch and water. Drive 10 miles round trip. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904 for reservations.

Wed., April 3

• Kindergarten registration at Highlands School for the 2013-14 school year will begin, for parents, at 10 am in the school's media center, 10:30a for children. Please call the school office at (828) 526-2147 for more information.

Thurs., April 4

• Taize at HUMC at 5:30p.

Thurs. April 18

• Taize at Holy Family Lutheran Church at 5:30p.



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... POLICE DEPT. continued from page 5

park and then go eat but since the places to eat in Highlands are centrally located it may look like they are in front of a certain establishment. Regardless, he's asked them not to park right out front of where they eat but instead to park the cruiser down the street and then walk back to the cruiser. "This way they walk off the meal and the perception is there is an officer on foot in the downtown district."

Wilkes said he understands that a police department's job in a town like Highlands is doubly difficult.

"But you have to be aware of the perception of what's going on in a hospitality-driven town, which means your officers have two duties," he said.

Chief Harrell said like it or not law enforcement officers are charged with being disciplinarians.

"And people don't like that," said Commissioner Amy Patterson, smiling. Harrell agreed.

Harrell said the department's record can prove that the Highlands Police Department isn't a heavy-handed department.

"Our verbal and written warnings far outweigh the actual penalties that we could

assess," he said.

Commissioner Brian Stiehler said he feels that the relationship-building and customer service the department has done is good.

"People are comfortable with them.



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The students picked Officer Jolly to do their graduation speech. That's impressive," he said.

Harrell said the community asking the police to be involved in that way doesn't happen in communities elsewhere.

"Anything we can do to become more

user-friendly we are open to," he said.

One call that keeps officers busy is false alarms. Consequently, commissioners recently voted to raise the charge for false alarms. Now the first false alarm is free and each one thereafter is \$100.

- Kim Lewicki



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

In what do you place your confidence?

By Father Mike Murphy
Christ Anglican Church



My daughter has recently been commissioned by the state as a driver with her first official license. She currently runs around town in a car that has about 140,000 miles on it. This particular vehicle has served our family well since 2003. Because I have personally attended to a regimen of regular maintenance for it, I have confidence that the car is in good shape and safe. Nevertheless, despite that confidence, I am sure that at some point this car will fail in one respect or another. I am certain that one day "old reliable" will succumb to the inexorable march of time and age. Won't we all?

With those inevitable facts (vehicle age, wear and tear) in mind, along with a similar realization that even the healthiest of the physically fit will likewise someday succumb to the march of time (bodily age, wear and tear), I listen to the apostle Paul's words from the 3rd chapter of his letter to the Philippians a little differently. There he writes, "...put no confidence in the flesh." (Philippians 3:3, ESV). While Paul lists quite a few excellent reasons to put confidence in his pedigree and the things of this world, he refuses to place his trust in such. Instead, he places his confidence in God, specifically, in Christ Jesus and in him alone. Anything outside of God Paul considers trash, unworthy of his confidence. Why does he encourage his audience in such a manner?

The answer is really quite simple, as highlighted in both the car and body analogies above: they're going to wear out. Anything and everything in this world is wasting away. The tide of time is unstoppable. Therefore, Paul would ask us, why would you or anyone want to place confidence in something that's on its way out? It matters not whether you are an evolutionist or a creationist, we all understand that it is only a matter of time until anything and everything (including us) passes away.

Earlier in his life, Paul admits that he had tried to live with confidence in his experience, education and pedigree. His hope was in this world and his flesh. However, living or hoping thusly led to nowhere that he was interested in going and to nothing of lasting value. He was not about to make the same stupid mistake again. Indeed, Paul had witnessed his one-time nemesis, Jesus Christ, refuse to put confidence in the flesh. Why would he, Paul, put confidence in the flesh if the Son of God resisted the temptation to do so? The world and flesh are wasting away. God alone is eternal. God alone is not wasting away.

A friend of mine is fond of saying, "You're gonna be dead a whole lot longer than you're gonna be alive. Therefore, you had better start planning for all of that dead time!" In a matter of speaking, my friend was saying the same thing that Paul was attempting to communicate to the Philippians, "Put no confidence in the flesh," because it is wasting away and will some day soon be over and gone. It will not get you anywhere of lasting value.

If we are all undeniably wasting away, along with the world in which we live, then we have a decision to make. Will we put confidence in ourselves and our resourcefulness, a.k.a., the flesh and the world? Or, will we place our confidence in the only person or thing that is not wasting away, in God?

Paul and Jesus show us the only ultimately profitable place or person in whom to place our confidence, the Lord God. Let us join them, taking both their example and advice, and put our confidence in God. Then and only then we can more fully appreciate the everlasting miracle of his resurrection.

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

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Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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• JUST HERS •

The Woman in 7A



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiamead@aol.com

When did traveling stop being fun, or at least, as much fun as it was? The mere sight of a plane ticket or suitcase used to fill me with delight and anticipation. New places to see, new people to meet! There was a minimum of hassle involved, and hours of stimulation and excitement in return. You know you're becoming old when you start to think – and talk – in terms of “the good ole days.”

Perhaps it was growing up in a small town and seeing the same people every day, perhaps not. I just remember the sheer delight of pulling out of the driveway, not knowing what was coming next. We waved at truck drivers, and got them to blow their horns for us. We recited the Burma Shave signs, and competed to see who could spot the most exotic license plate. We watched enraptured as towns turned into countryside and back again. At truck stops, restaurants, and fast food joints, we spoke respectfully to waitresses, who told our proud parents what a pleasure we were to be around. Driving for hours allowed us to develop that special place that only a child can find – that wonderful place of imagination where your mind can wander and grow and thrive.

Things are different today. Children are most often strapped into a back seat, as an adult pops a DVD into a machine to keep them quiet for the duration of the trip. Conversation is not encouraged, nor is imagination. Older children are given electronic gadgets. What is on a screen is more important than being in the here and now. And woe betides the innocent adult who waves at a child in a car or a pack of school children in a bus as they ride by. If they notice you at all, they have been warned by their parents and teachers that you are a potential axe murderer. Their reaction to you is somewhere between stark terror and total indifference.

It was with mixed emotions that I viewed my seat mates on the return trip from Denver to At-

lanta. The girl was about 15; her younger brother about 10. As expected, they both came armed to the teeth with electronic devices. When you travel next to kids, you never know what you're going to get. I introduced myself to both young people, extending my hand to shake. I treat children of any age with courtesy and respect, never talking down to them or using a silly sing song voice when addressing them. Children can spot a phony from a mile off. I asked the kids where they lived, what year of school they were in, if they had any pets waiting for them at home, how their family and school had fared in the recent Northeast snow storm. Did they feel more comfortable speaking with a stranger since their parents were sitting in the row in front of them? Certainly, as was I in making conversation with them. I let them know that I might doze off, but if they needed to use the bathroom, they were not to hesitate to wake me.

I'd never seen many of the features of an electronic reader, so I watched in fascination as the young woman read Orwell's *Animal Farm*, highlighting passages in yellow and even typing notes in a kind of comment bubble. Her younger brother had a harder time of it when the flight attendant told him he would have to power down the game he was playing until we reached altitude. I'd watched in disappointment as he'd slid down the window shade

to better see the screen of his game. Still, it seemed like a small price to pay for a contented little boy, who later in the flight politely asked to use the rest room.

Before I knew it, we were landing in Atlanta. It was the most pleasant flight I'd had in a long time, due to my young companions. As we taxied toward our gate, the large woman across the aisle reached for her cell phone, and began a conversation as amusing as it was bewildering. “And then I said to him, ‘I need respect, I need to be my own person, you know what I'm sayin’?’” We had landed back into the real world, where the person at the other end of the phone line is infinitely more interesting than the person sitting beside you. I stood up and collected my bag from the overhead bin, catching the eyes of my companions' parents. “You have good kids,” I said. They smiled to each other, looking over their seats at their kids and laughing. “No, really!” I continued. “They know how to behave in public, how to speak to grown-ups. They are good company!” We shared a brief moment of mutual appreciation. I hope they got home safely.

Still in this little bubble, I disembarked and glanced up to see where I had to go for my connecting flight to Asheville. Of course, it was in another part of the airport, at the far end of the building. How I missed those heady days, post knee replacement operation, when kind attendants picked me up in golf carts and whisked me to my next destination. I trudged to the gate, looking for a place to sit. As usual, the seats that weren't taken up by actual people were taken up by their hand luggage. At last, I spied the only empty seat at our gate. The lady next to it was a sad-faced woman in her late 40s or early 50s, with long brown hair and glasses. On her lap was a folded American flag. She clutched it the way you would hold on to a life raft, slowly running her thumb back and forth across it, methodically. I sat down, and looked up at

her. Our eyes met. “I have one of those,” I said, pointing to the flag. “Husband or son?” she asked. “Oh, no!” I stammered, suddenly embarrassed that I had implied the death of an old Army veteran was in any way the same as losing

a young man in his prime. “Look, there's nothing I can say that will make this any better,” I said, so I just reached over and took her hand. She began to speak, telling me about the ser-

• See JUST HERS page 14

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... INVESTING continued from page 6

refinance into a 15-year mortgage in 2012, your tax deduction is \$133.00 (per year for the life of the new loan)

Common mistake #4: Home office tax deduction. Whether you send your taxes to a CPA or accountant in a shoebox, or you self file with programs like TurboTax you will want to heed their advice on this deduction if you work from home. The idea of the home office tax deduction sounds resplendent, but may be a little like The Wizard of Oz. Before you go traipsing down that yellow brick road, you'll want to be sure you really are the wizard of your home occupation. There are rules on top of rules for that deduction, and red flag warnings at every turn.

Common mistake #5: Failing to repay the first-time homebuyer credit. This one doesn't apply to a lot of people in Highlands, but you may know of people that could be affected by this one. The original first-time homebuyer credit was for up to \$7,500 for those eligible. If you bought your first home after April 8, 2008, and before Jan. 1, 2009, and took that credit, it was not a gift, it was a loan, and must be repaid over 15 years starting when you filed your 2010 taxes.

... CLASSIFIEDS from 13

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... BUDGET continued from page 4

- an estimated 42,400 cubic yards over 4.9 acres.

The sediment causes treatment issues and over the years has clogged the intake valve - Highlands' drinking water supply.

Besides the cost of dredging, easements on private property on each side of the creek is necessary and that could be a big roadblock.

The cost to dredge Big Creek is estimated at \$2.1 million but McGill believes the town should address Randall Lake, too, as lake sediment has been released into Big Creek in the past and could happen again.

The estimated sediment in the 2-acre Randall Lake is 8,000 cubic yards. The dam is severely deteriorated and leaks significantly.

Common mistake #6: Don't forget to track your home related expense deductions. The article suggests you keep all manufacturers' paperwork claiming energy savings, and save any government tax bills. In other words, if you are claiming a deduction, have a paper trail that would easily lead an IRS representative to the source.

Common mistake #7: Capital gains. If you sold your main home last year, don't forget to pay capital gains taxes on any profit. You can exclude \$250,000 (or \$500,000 if you're a married couple) of any profits from taxes. So if your cost basis for your home is \$100,000 (what you paid for it plus any improvements) and you sold it for \$400,000, your capital gains are \$300,000. However, rules and time limits apply. It is suggested you seek advice and take a look at IRS Publication 523

Common mistake #8: Energy tax credits. (Briefly mentioned in #6) You may be eligible to take up to a 10% tax credit for home improvements made in 2012, but it's a lifetime credit. IRS form #5695 should answer most eligibility requirements for that deduction.

Common mistake #9: Mortgage interest tax deduction. Some people claim too much interest paid. You can only deduct up to one million dollars of mortgage debt. For example, if your mortgage is for 1.5 million dollars, you can only deduct the interest paid on the one million. (This shouldn't be a problem, because if you can afford a mortgage over a million dollars, you can afford to hire a good tax attorney)

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners and brokers at The Chambers Agency, REALTORS, specializing in second (and third) home investment sales and vacation rentals. Their office is located at 401 N. Fifth Street in Highlands, NC. 526-3717.

The problem is Randall Lake is privately owned so legal access is needed before anything can be done. In addition, approval would be needed by the Army Corps, NCDWQ, NCDENR and the NC Wildlife Resource Commission.

Preliminary estimates are \$400,000 for dredging and \$800,000 for dam replacement. Not including property acquisition the total for both Big Creek and Randall Lake would be \$3.3 million.

Town Manager Bob Frye said he is waiting on engineering estimates for each project.

"Once I get them, which should be by the first of April, I'll see if we can incorporate them into the 2013-'14 budget," he said.

- **Kim Lewicki**

... JUST HERS continued from page 11

vices she'd attended, the kindness and support of the military and strangers alike. She told me about her family, in which serving in the military was a time-honored tradition. An older woman walked past, and nodded. "I have one of those," she whispered. What a sad sisterhood, all of these grieving women! We finally boarded our plane. The woman with the flag took her seat, 7A, on our flight to Asheville. The flight attendant came down the aisle, checking all of us. She stopped to hug the lady in 7A. Upon arrival in Asheville, we collected our luggage, preparing to enter our own worlds again. My last sight of the lady with the flag was sit-

ting on a bench outside the airport, smoking, while a family friend sat with her, holding two beribboned bibles. They say that travel broadens the mind, and if you are lucky, it broadens the soul, too. Sometimes the air miles you put on your heart are the biggest reward you can get, and fortunately, those are the ones that never expire.

• Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who was born in Key West, and grew up in a small town in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. She has lived in Highlands since 2006.

... SAFETY continued from page 1

be unlocked to allow students to pass through. Additionally, Bell explained that all classroom doors cannot be locked from the inside, while other exit doors do not shut completely when opened.

Franklin High School (FHS) has eight separate classroom buildings, each with numerous entrances. "Our evaluation is that it would be impossible to control the movement on this campus," said Bell. FHS currently has a limited number of cameras, of which several more should be added. Bell said that any significant solution would require a new FHS campus.

Nantahala School requires an electric lock on the door next to the office, a buzzer and speaker box for the receptionist, cameras and a SRO.

Macon Early College, like all the other schools, would require the same basic additions, however the county can do little to increase the safety of the students, who walk freely to the adjacent Southwestern Community College and the public library.

Need for SROs

While there are things which can be constructed to protect schools from potential threats, the need for security personnel is also a deterrent, according to Holland. However with budgetary restraints, a significant increase in such personnel is unlikely.

"My stance is still the same. I support School Resource Officers," said Holland, who indicated that six additional officers for each Macon County school would be

ideal. "Six positions is a lot of money... "I know we won't be getting six SROs and we'll be lucky to get two SROs with all the budget restraints."

With benefits and the proper equipment, Holland estimated the cost would be \$507,000, with a reoccurring cost of \$316,950 each year. He indicated instead that his department would continue to increase their school security measures and would ask the county in the future for an additional two officers.

Schools in other counties have a comparable SRO presence. According to Holland, Swain County currently has two SROs for all four of its schools, while Jackson County has three SROs for its nine schools. Clay County has one officer for all three of its schools, which are all located on one campus. Transylvania has eight for its nine schools.

Meanwhile, Rep. Mark Meadows has introduced H.R. 175 Protect America's School Act. This measure would revitalize the Cops in Schools (CIS) grant program, which has not been funded since fiscal 2005, and fund it at \$30 million annually. The CIS program is specifically designed to assist local law enforcement agencies in the hiring of officers with the primary goal of policing and providing education to schools. The bill is in committee.

Commissioners will consider requests while they work on the 2013-'14 budget.

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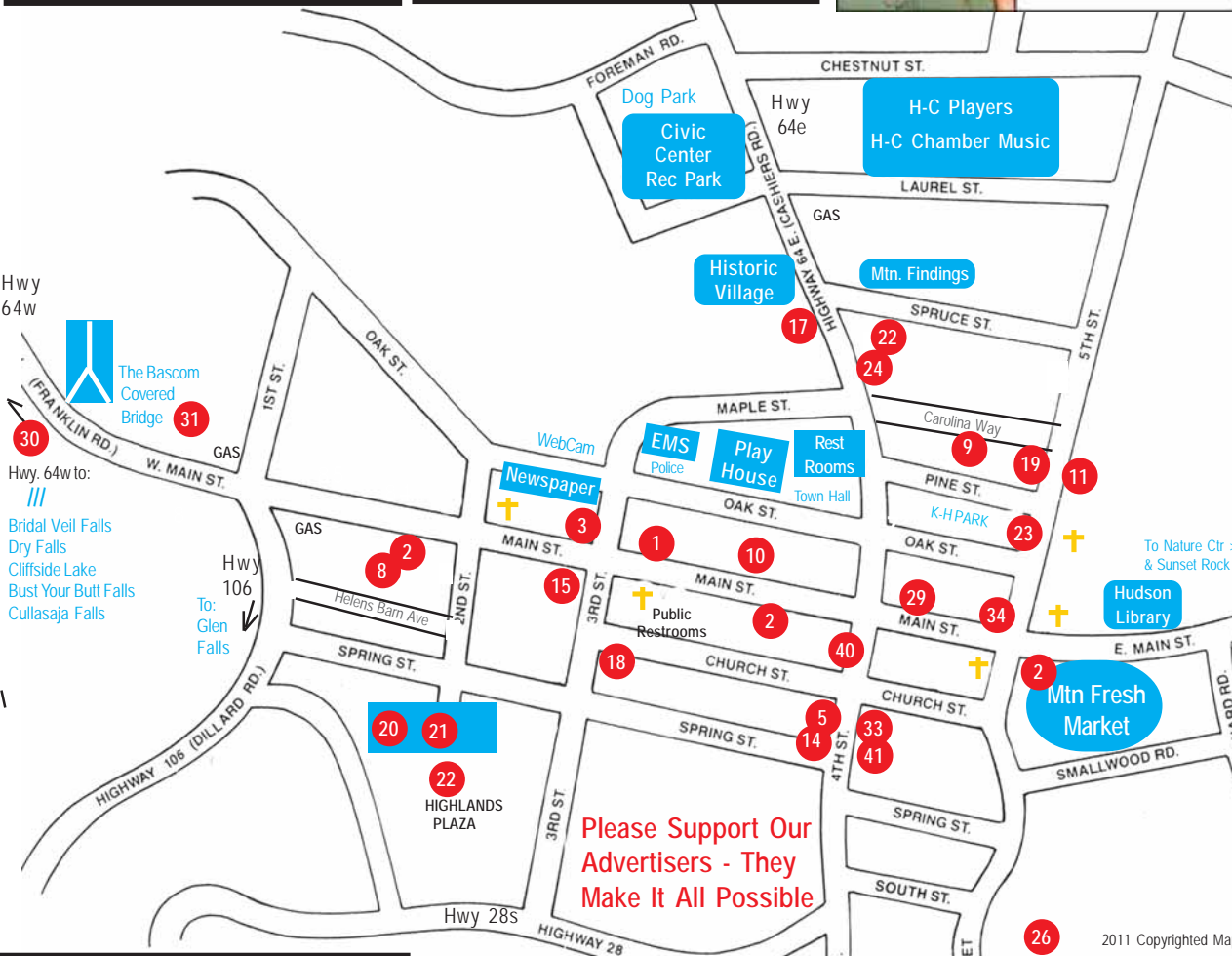
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