There's still hope for Riverwalk

Riverrwalk may be down but it’s not out...at least not yet. "We’re still marketing Riverwalk and will present all offers to the Riverwalk developers until the property is auctioned on the courthouse steps," said Judy Michaud of Meadows Mountain Realty which represents the property.

Macon Bank has just completed the foreclosure hearing on Riverwalk. The foreclosure sale will take place next unless the borrowers bring the debt current or find a buyer prior to the sale.

"If Macon Bank becomes the owner, we will immediately market the property," said president of Macon Bank Roger Plemens.

Available are 62 residential lots and four newly constructed homes in the gated community along the Cullasaja River in Highlands. "The developers did a good job on the development. All the infrastructure is in for the development which makes it immediately marketable," said Plemens. "Highlands is still a very desirable market and we have not seen large loss of value in properties in that area. Two lots in Riverwalk sold in the $360,000 range.

Town to tap federal stimulus package

Town Manager Jim Fatland isn’t wasting any time getting in line for President Obama’s much talked about multi-billion dollar stimulus package.

"The most efficient way to distribute federal funding is through existing federal programs," said Fatland at the January 21 Town Board meeting. "Projects that are within 120 days of construction will be considered for federal funding." Fatland and reported that traditionally Congress responds to economic recessions – which economists claim the U.S. entered into in December 2007 – by passing legislation to stimulate the economy. That’s why the House, Senate and President Obama are considering the stimulus package, he said.

Currently in Highlands there are six projects that meet the 120-day criteria.

Big Creek Arm of Lake Sequoyah Dredging for $2 million; Emergency Generators for Water Pumping Stations for $208,000; Radio Read Meters for Electric and Water whose cost is yet to be determined; Sewer Lines for $9.4 million; Water Line Replacement for $193,650; and Police Station Renovations whose cost is yet to be determined.

Chris Metrick was named “Outstanding Fireman of the Year” at Saturday night’s annual Fire & Rescue banquet. Chief Manley said the honor is given to the firefighter who has shown the most effort over the year.

Firemen honored at banquet

At the annual Highlands Fire & Rescue Awards Banquet Saturday night, the department recognized its own for a job well done in 2008.

Captain James “Popcorn” Manley opened the ceremony thanking his crew of 29 for its dedication throughout the year and he thanked the wives of department members for their never-ending support and patience. "Our wives put up with a lot from us," he said.

Every year one member is named Outstanding Fireman of the Year. This year it was Chris Metrick. Manley said he demonstrated the extra effort and dedication to training needed for the job.

Perfect Drill Attendance certificates were awarded Roger Lee Wilcoxson for a most illustrated use of the combination drill and the Most Improved Fireman award was given to John Roadhouse.

Chris Metrick was named “Outstanding Fireman of the Year” at Saturday night’s annual Fire & Rescue banquet. Chief Manley said the honor is given to the firefighter who has shown the most effort over the year.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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Photo by Kim Lewicki
Critics have already vocalized displeasure with Obama’s policies, even before he is inaugurated. Complaints include his huge deficit spending plans, as well as some cabinet choices coming from the Clinton era. Before we lynch our new President, it is most important to reflect on the situation he is inheriting, and what recent history has shown in similar circumstances.

Our country needs to be employed, as unemployed people do not produce, do not spend, and unfortunately have more difficulty paying off credit card and mortgage debt. While there are many critics of the Clinton administration, the Bureau of Labor Statistics documents that over 21 million net private jobs were created during his 8-year stint. Under G W Bush, we added 2.8 million jobs up to 2008. In 2008, we lost 2.6 million jobs, essentially wiping out all job gains during his administration. While Republicans are often considered friends of big business, G W Bush will be the first president since the Depression to leave office with the stock market lower than when he took office.

Governments cannot continue to spend more than they take in, as is true with any individual, household or company. It is not sustainable. The government has one unique weapon, the rest of us don't have, which is printing more money. Regardless, following the huge deficits of World War II, every President, Republican and Democrat, worked at reducing the federal deficit as a portion of our total GDP. That is, until Reagan took office, and the deficit skyrocketed again. G H W Bush followed the same pattern, spending more than we took in. Under the Clinton administration, fiscal responsibility took hold again, and by the time he left office, he took us from a deficit of $290 billion to a surplus of $237 billion. It took G W Bush only one year to wipe out any surplus and once again spend us into a huge hole even further seven years running. Our estimated deficit in 2008 is $438 billion, and with clever government accounting, that does not even include $80 billion for the war. Let’s not blame the President entirely, but he also had a Republican controlled congress throughout most of his term.

Like father like son, the Bush’s don’t have a good employment and spending record. By the time G H W Bush left office, we had a recession, a huge deficit, and unemployment in 1992 was 7.5%. G W Bush took us from a budget surplus to the largest deficits in history, and unemployment went from 4.0% in 2000 to 7.2% in December 2008, and sadly will continue the downward trend until we can turn around this sinking economy.

Meanwhile, during recessions, particularly one as deep as we are facing, it is not the time to focus on balancing the budget. That was a huge mistake made during the Depression that prolonged the Depression. It’s just a shame we are starting with such a big deficit already from the Bush legacy as we work on this economic recovery. But we need to give our new President a chance to fix this sinking ship before we put nails in his coffin.

Personally, I am glad he is bringing back some experienced people from the Clinton era who presided over a fairly healthy economic recovery from the previous Bush mess.

Don Twardowski
Franklin

... FIREMEN continued from page 1

son and Nick McCall. In 17 years, Wilson has never missed a meeting, this is the first year he’s had a contender.

Jimmy Petrone only missed two drills, Chris and Lenoy Metrick missed four, Bobby Lewis missed one drill since he rejoined June 3 and Gary Ammons, who retired last year, has only missed one drill since he rejoined the department on Sept. 2.

Four members were honored for 20 years of service – Ricky Byron, James Ramsey, John Shearl and Terry Watson. Jimmy Tate and Ryan Gearhart were recognized for 10 years of service and Buddy Miller was recognized for five years of service.

Four men who have retired from the department were recognized – James Ramney, who served as First Lt., retired with 20 years of service; John Shearl, who served as a medical responder and completed numerous fire and rescue courses during his career, served for 20 years; John McColl was recognized for serving another two years after retiring at 20 years for a total of 22 years of service; and Tim Alexander, who was Fireman of the Year in 2001, retired with 27 years of service.

Bob Houston, who has served the department in some capacity for 45 years and who is currently one of the department’s two part-time employees, was honored with a plaque and words of appreciation from Chief Manley. Houston is a part-time office assistant and is responsible for the department’s bookkeeping and record keeping.

The other part-time employee is a firefighter and rescue course during his career, served for 20 years; John McColl was recognized for serving another two years after retiring at 20 years for a total of 22 years of service; and Tim Alexander, who was Fireman of the Year in 2001, retired with 27 years of service.

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Obituary

James M. Strahan, Jr.

Jim was born in Norfolk, Nebraska on June 2, 1926 and raised on the Strahan Ranch, Wayne County, Nebraska, where he developed his love for hunting and outdoor life. He attended the local schools and was an All-State Football and Basketball player. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II and the Korean conflict. Jim attended the University of Nebraska and was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity where he played Varsity Football, Basketball and Golf. Upon graduation he moved to St. Petersburg to pursue a golf career. He worked at the Sunset Golf Club, Congress Lake Club, Canton, Ohio and Palma Ceia Golf & Country Club as a teaching professional.

Jim began working for Guardian Life Insurance Company in May of 1953 which was founded by his father-in-law, Thomas Jasper Miles. Jim was a member of The President Council Million Dollar Roundtable and had many honors in the insurance business. He continued to be active in business life until his death. He was former member of Merrymakers, Ye Krewe of Gasparilla, Exchange Club and was a member of Palma Ceia Golf Club for the past 56 years.

He was instrumental in founding the Florida Golf Association along with George Phelps and others. He could be found on the golf course almost everyday until his recent illness.

He is preceded in death by his parents, James M. and Paula Strahan and son, Thomas M. Strahan.

He is survived by his wife, Suzanne, children Patricia Miles Strahan Thornton and James Michael Strahan, III, grandchildren, Richard L. Errington and Heather Tschonna Satterwhite of Highlands, NC, James Michael Strahan IV of Gainesville, FL and Paige Miles Strahan of Highlands, NC., Thomas Jasper Miles Strahan of Tampa and Taryn Michelle Roberts of Oxford, MS.

In addition, he is survived by three great-grandchildren: Ivy Nicole Satterwhite, Seth Miles Satterwhite and Cole Jasper Satterwhite of Highlands, NC and constant canine companions Ruby and Sam.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Blount and Curry, and funeral services will be held at Bayshore Baptist Church of Tampa on Thursday, January 22.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to the WNC Make A Wish Foundation, 1293 Hendersonville Road, #1, Asheville, NC 28803 in honor of great-grandson, Seth Satterwhite.

RIVERWALK continued from page 1

range just six or seven months ago. We feel we are in a pretty good position as to loan-to-value on the property and see no significant financial impact to the bank.”

After a foreclosure is filed it takes about 30 days for the action to be finalized at which point the property is auctioned off at the Macon County courthouse. Even after an auction there is a 10-day upset period during which someone can out bid the final auction price.

Sources say Riverwalk developers do not intend to file bankruptcy because “that would tie up potential transactions for a long time” which would mean neither Macon Bank or anyone else would benefit.

Macon Bank holds the first and second mortgage on remaining cottage lots and lots along the Cullasaja River. In addition, it holds the mortgage on four cottages.

All told there are five foreclosures – the first and second mortgage that go together and the four cottage foreclosures. The vacant lots will be auctioned separately from the four cottages.

One of the five cottages, owned by Bank of Barneswell, GA, is not part of the foreclosure proceedings. Nor are the two lots that sold along the river.

An investor in the Riverwalk development, Brooks Pennington, holds a third mortgage on the property which will “go out the window if an foreclosure is auctioned unless he comes up with a bid high enough to satisfy the first and second mortgage.” That’s the only way he can protect his $3 million investment,” said one source. Pennington isn’t part of the development team.

Of the original $12,398,475 mortgaged by Macon Bank, $1.6 million has been repaid.

Though Macon Bank technically “called in the first and second mortgages” all the river lots and the five cottages will continue to be available for sale and are still listed on MLS.

“We are still actively working the property,” said Michaud. “We will continue to take offers to the owners of Riverwalk.”

All zoning and density requirements currently on the property still stand and always will, said Michaud. “In other words, no one can buy the property and build a mobile home park.”

She also said all environmental issues associated with the property in its early days have been rectified.

Riverwalk developers are Bill Turrentine of Marietta, GA, and Don Chandler of Atlanta.

Highlands School was given 22 tickets for the inauguration thanks to the offices of Heath Shuler (D-11th district) and Richard Burr (R-US Senate). Students drew names for the tickets, and those whose name was drawn were allowed a closer look at the festivities from the mall (although still a considerable distance away).

Highlands School was part of history-making inauguration

By Ryan Potts

This weekend, Highlands High School students and six chaperones were not only a witness to history in Washington DC, they were a part of history as they joined an estimated three million people in the District of Columbia to celebrate the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

The trip was the culmination of 14 months of planning, finding chaperones and making tour arrangements. The majority of the legwork for this trip was done by Highlands Civic teacher Chris Green, who also accompanied the group on its journey.

While there were many other school groups that made up a large part of the three million people who attended the inauguration, Highlands is the only school in the area to attend the ceremony.

The trip also gained some local media attention, as Fox 5 out of Greenville, SC sent cameras to record the students departure as well as some of their activities in Washington.

Highlands School was also featured on the

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Early Monday morning, four Highlander students had the honor of participating in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier located in Arlington Cemetery. Josh De La Cruz, Marlee McCall, Robbie Vanderbilt and Amy Fogle took the wreath to the tomb that honors soldiers known “Only to God” on behalf of Highlands School.

Photos by Ryan Potts
Inadequate marketing of the housing units, apartments and assisted living accommodations likely contributed to Sunwest’s inability to “grow” the property.

“The operator was apparently in financial distress and without the resources to continue to provide services,” read the letter to residents. “The monthly expenses and debt service of Chestnut Hill were about twice its monthly income.”

Now it’s Flanagan’s job to safeguard the assets of Chestnut Hill and to maintain their value so they can be sold to repay the bank and entice a new owner.

Dotty Guenther, who is well-liked by the residents and has represented Chestnut Hill well during this latest go around, will be staying on at Chestnut Hill as its Executive Director, as are all but one other employee.

“I’m looking forward to a new owner and I’m very hopeful,” said Guenther.

Until Chestnut Hill stops losing money, Palmetto Bank is advancing money under a loan agreement with Sunwest to pay Flanagan.

**Laughing at Life**

What’s in your bra?

The first in a series of tacky, sexual enlightenment lectures.

No, no, no, this is not going to be real, real tacky. After all, what’s in your bra is a question every Victoria’s Secret designer wants to know. Take your hand off the phone, relax and be enlightened.

First, for me to better enlighten you, let me tell you about Thomas Jefferson, slave owner extraordinaire. With about 400 slaves working on his plantation, Thomas was a real “pickle” when John Adams asked him to write our declaration. I’m sure he was squirming in his seat when he wrote the concept “All men are created equal” while being served tea by one of his slaves.

All men are not created equal and you can take that to the bank, no that you would ever wanna take anything to a bank. Don’t take my word for it. Stop any woman on the street who has slept around a bit and ask her if all men are created equal.

Allow me to suggest all women are not created equal either. If they were, Victoria’s Secret would only design one kind of bra and that would be it. No big study needed here, if there ever is one. I volunteer to be on the team. It’s a visual thing. Women are simply not equal.

Back in my high school days and over 20 years before Victoria’s Secrets existed, girls attending school dances would pad their bras with tissues, lots of tissues. I knew this because the same girls I saw in class day in and day out were showing up at dances wearing low cut dresses exposing 38 D bras and wearing Marilyn Monroe wigs. DUH! Is there a detective that can solve this mystery?

After a couple of jitters, the floor would be covered with tissues and all the girl’s chest would have deflated, except for Maggie O’Leary. She was the real McCoy. That’s right, Maggie McCoy’s slow dance card was full three days before the shindig even started. And it seemed as if all the smart guys were signed up first. Women are not created equal.

And little Ernie McAfee would rush out on the floor between dances and pick up the fallen tissues for his collection. If he knew what bra they fell from, he would label them. I wonder what prison Ernie’s in these days.

When I was a teenager, seeing a bare breast in a girl magazine was considered hard core porn and a big no no. Finding one of those magazines was difficult so I was left with looking through National Geographic magazine and for primitive black women with bones pierced through their nipples. (Ouch!)

Most of those women had navels between their breasts but I didn’t care. It was a bare breast. I was 14 and more lustful than Jimmy Carter in a cotton field on a Saturday night. In those days, I could become sexually aroused reading Macbeth.

I hope you’re not offended by this report on sexual inequality. Part of my job as an investigative reporter is to “do tacky” and keep you abreast of what’s going on.

And here’s another tacky news flash. In sinful South Florida, where anything goes, a motorcyle club decided to raise money for disadvantaged children by motorcycling though town displaying one bare breast for every $100 the club collected. I am not making this up. It was a huge success, and on parade day, the motorcyle club barely had enough hot babe riders to drop their tops and flashing their bras. The disadvantaged children loved the toys even though they weren’t allowed to see the parade. Kinda gives new meaning to the “Toys for Tots” program, doesn’t it?

Maybe Highlands should consider something like this for its Christmas parade...nah, the roar of the motorcycles would scare the camels.

So that’s about the size of it. Next, if I still have a job, I’ll be reporting on the inflatable male appendage explosion of the 70’s. Don’t miss it.
When Barack Obama became the 44th president of the United States, he inherited a mess. It is a mystery that anyone has the self-confidence, or self-delusion, to believe that he can handle the job. I hope that Obama has the right stuff. I believe he does. We are all dependent on him now, those who supported his candidacy, those who voted for Senator McCain, and a surprisingly small number who simply voted against President Obama.

Racism is alive in America, although not nearly as obvious as I would have guessed. In the wake of his historic victory, I encountered several people who clearly hoped that he would fail. A colleague commented, “I hope that boy knows what he’s getting himself into.” Another offered the hope that President Obama could avoid assassination, although I couldn’t escape the feeling that he relished the idea.

It is amazing that anyone would welcome a failed Obama presidency. Our national problems are staggering, and if Obama fails, we fail. We are plagued with a severe economic recession. Who could wish it to continue for another four years?

We are in a morass in the Middle East. Does anyone want us to have combat troops deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan in 2012? We no longer enjoy near universal respect from the world community. Our traditional allies no longer see us as the world’s moral leader, but as a bully nation, using its military might to impose our will on unwilling populations.

We support democratic elections unless those elections don’t do what we think. In those cases we are likely to attempt to destabilize democratically elected governments. It sometimes seems that only newly independent Eastern European nations and unemployed Mexicans still admire America.

We will soon see if Obama’s rhetoric can be translated into effective leadership to battle the nation’s ills. It is possible our problems are insurable, that no leader can restore the economy we enjoyed. I am too much of an optimist to believe that, but I wonder if we can harness the energy that was once an American birthright and start making stuff again.

Will American industry restore American jobs, and are American workers willing to work as hard as their foreign competitors? Is the desire to maximize profits by outsourcing manufacturing to low-paid foreign workers now an inescapable fact of life? Are corporate greed and corporate myopia permanent fixtures?

Are we willing to concentrate on our own problems, allow other nations to deal with theirs, and assist only when others ask for our help and when it is our interest and within our finite resources to render assistance? Can we re-examine the idea that we must export our beliefs and our form of government to others, whether they want it or not? A nation, like a person, is more likely to emulate a hero than a bully.

Only time will tell where Barack Obama wants to lead us and how conditions will limit his ability to transform his vision to reality. For the moment it is enough to celebrate the truly historic event that has taken place and to recognize that America has gone a long way to erase the stains of slavery and segregation. Obama’s election is an example of the hope and dream of America. It represents a reaffirmation of principles enumerated in the Declaration of Independence. It is a statement to the world that the American dream is alive and that the American experiment continues to evolve, that while we have made mistakes, we remain the best country and most generous people on earth.

Barack Obama is a president who can lead America, inspire our allies, and weaken our enemies, for it is our ideals, not our misdeeds, that we must export to the world that the American dream is alive. It is our ideals that we must export to the world that the American dream is alive. It is our ideals that we must export to the world that the American dream is alive. It is our ideals that we must export to the world that the American dream is alive. It is our ideals that we must export to the world that the American dream is alive.

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month and ophthalmologists and optometrists and the Macon County Public Health Center urge all Macon County residents to make sure they get an eye exam in 2009.

Glaucoma is often called “the sneak thief of sight” because it can strike without symptoms and is one of the leading causes of blindness in the United States. Glaucoma is an eye disease in which the internal pressure in your eyes increases enough to damage nerve fibers in your optic nerve leading to vision loss and blindness. Like many diseases, some factors can increase the risk of developing glaucoma, such as age, race or genetics.

Glaucoma usually affects one in 200 people by age 50, but as many as one in 10 people by age 80. The risk is also much higher among African Americans over age 40 and ones with a family history of glaucoma.

Local optometrist and chair of the Macon County Board of Health, Dr. Ronald Campbell, O.D., explained that “elevated eye pressure can be treated with eye drops or surgery once or twice a day; however, sometimes laser surgery or glaucoma surgery are needed to lower the pressure even more.” Dr. Campbell said, “All these treatments tend to be very successful.”

Glaucoma begins by attacking your peripheral vision, typically causing objects to appear less clearly. At first, it is possible to compensate by squinting or turning the head to focus better. These changes may seem minor, but glaucoma can accelerate quickly, causing eyesight to rapidly deteriorate.

According to the National Eye Institute, more than 2 million Americans have glaucoma, but only half of them actually know it. A quick trip to an optometrist where the health of your eyes and vision will be evaluated can be “sight-saving.” Glaucoma cannot be prevented, but if diagnosed and treated early, it can be controlled. Regular eye examinations and eye pressure screenings are the best way to diagnose glaucoma in its earliest stages.

So start off the New Year right! Take better care of yourself and set up an appointment for an eye exam. For more information about glaucoma, call the Macon County Public Health Center’s health education section at 349-2438 or visit www.glaucomafoundation.org
At approximately 8:15 p.m. on Sunday, I knew the column I had written for this week’s paper, which I had already finished, was going to have to wait another week. I had just turned on the television 10 minutes before to watch the Obama inaugural celebration at the Lincoln Memorial, and I was already crying, watching Garth Brooks sing.

I didn’t want to watch this concert. We have had our TV turned off since last June, except for a period of time just before the election; I watched both of our presidential debates and election night. Last Friday we switched it on again so we could watch the inauguration. I was deeply cynical about Sunday’s program. I thought this would be a sham, a boring bore, but my husband Arthur wanted to watch so I decided to check it out.

We turned it on at about the halfway point. A woman I didn’t know (Renee Fleming) was singing a song I didn’t know with the Navy Glee Club, then an announcer’s voice boomed out introducing two people walking towards podiums and I thought, “Just what I expected, this is going to be American pops meets Oscar night.”

But the two people talked about Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, preserving some of our great national treasures, and I started listening. Then a man walked on stage with a guitar. It was Garth Brooks singing “American Pie” and within seconds the tears started to flow and I didn’t stop for an hour.

I dimly knew from looking at the computer screen when Arthur was checking out the TV schedule online that this program was called “We Are One,” but that message was instantly clear to me as Garth Brooks began that song—a country star singing a pop song of my generation, then moving straight into the Isley Brothers’ soul classic “Shout”—this program was a message to the nation, an encapsulation of what this moment in history is all about. President Obama was saying to us: First there must be healing of the divisions that have torn us apart. Then we can move forward as one people.

It was a message of transcendence. Maybe more than anything else, the program said this to me: we are one humanity. Oneness would be sung by multiple voices, male, female, black, white, a harmony of our nation’s musical talent. The interludes between the music consisted of (mostly) actors speaking the words of some of our greatest Americans including presidents both Democrat and Republican.

The second to last song, the one that brought tears to my eyes is the beauty of a nation based not on shared ethnicity or religion, but solely on ideas. That we, with all our differences, can stand together in one people united by philosophical principles of freedom and equality and opportunity.

This program was about uniting us as a people around these great founding principles. It spotlighted workers, soldiers, the environment, arts and civil rights. It promoted inclusiveness, love, responsibility, and service. And it said: the future is up to us—that is the magic of our republic, it is made by ordinary people like you and me.

I had a few criticisms. I was shocked by the socialism I wrote about last week (“Self-Destruct Mechanism”), where we help each other because we realize our lives are intertwined. “So just call me brother, when you need a hand/We all need somebody to lean on/Just a little love, and we’ll make it through/Somebody to lean on.”

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I had a few criticisms. I was shocked and disappointed that there wasn’t a traditional spiritual sung by an awesome black choir. I wished that they had included some ordinary people in the line-up of speakers, not just celebrities. It could have been a little less polished.
Warming up

While a number of people are currently "chilling out" all over the United States, I am doing just the opposite, and warming up. No, I haven't bailed out because of the cold. Maman just had her second cataract surgery, and I'm the official seeing-eye daughter. My primary function is to look stern at regular intervals, and produce the dreaded eyedrops – 11 per day in the operated eye. Honestly, Maman is a trooper, but by evening, I'll admit that we sometimes call it a day, and skip the last few drops. My feeling is that every drop we get is a bonus, and I leave it at that.

I have become of my mother as she gets older. The difficulty lies in realizing that she is still perfectly capable of making most of her own decisions, and letting her do just that. Perhaps the hardest thing for me is to watch her doing things – sometimes slowly and even painfully – and realize that I have to stand by and let her do them. Otherwise, she will lose the ability to do anything at all, and that's not the direction to go.

The surgery was less frightening than the last time. After all, we knew the routine – no food or fluids after midnight, show up at the ambulatory patient entrance, check in, fill out the forms, and most of all, wait, wait, wait. The hospital staff was kind and helpful, but there is a lot of hanging around, simply waiting for the previous surgery to be completed and the doctor to become available.

This time, I was parked in the waiting room while they prepared my mother for surgery. It's a good thing too. Last time, it took four tries to get a line into my arm, as she's so tiny – 100 pounds, soaking wet. (Let me hasten to insert a comment here – I take after my 6'3" father, who was a big guy. When we go into Talbots, my mother and I split up – she takes off for the Petites and I head off for Women's.) Each time the nurse tried in vain to find a vein (ouch!), my mother let out a yelp, and I could feel the tension in my arms as I suppressed the urge to punch someone.

For this surgery, I was stuck in the Waiting Room for the most part, a fascinating place if you are a keen observer of human nature. Whole families were camped out in a number of comfortable chairs and sofas, sometimes even spilling out onto the floors. A refreshment station at the end of the room provided coffee and fruit punch, as well as peanut butter crackers, which I imagine are a no-no now, with the recent salmonella outbreak tracking to peanut butter products.

I was briefly allowed in to see my mother, who still manages a certain amount of Parisian chic, even wearing a hairnet and hospital gown (why didn't I inherit this gene?). Then she was whisked away for her eye surgery, and I was back with my nose in a wadudinit. Someday, I really should figure out why my reading material leans so heavily toward investigations of murder and mayhem.

Finally, Maman was out of surgery and we were headed back to Summit Square. The eye patch added a rakish air – arriving too late, alas, for Talk Like a Pirate Day (yes, there is one, check it out on the Internet). We took it easy for the rest of the day. Maman was even well enough to go to dinner in the dining room, sporting a pair of oversized sunglasses, and looking rather like a movie star incognito.

Still, it's hard to sleep looking like Long John Silver, and neither one of us had an easy night. We were looking forward to getting that patch off, and getting the all clear, heading back home to start my eye test.

Maman got her patch off, and we got the all clear, heading back home to start the tedious ritual of the eyedrops. I'm happy to do them, but it's hard to do something so loved one that hurts them. It made me realize how difficult it must be for husbands and wives to care for a sick spouse. Day after day, inflicting pain must be so devastating, and surely takes its toll on the caregiver.

So, here I am, hanging out for a while in Waynesboro, while John cools his heels (and everything else!) in Highlands. Our house has no central heating, and warmth is provided by two stone fireplaces, a bunch of log-burning Franklin stoves, some space heaters, and of course, our two cats. Here at Summit Square, I just walk over, and turn the dial when it gets a bit chilly. I'm getting spoiled! The Highlands way seems so complicated; the Waynesboro way seems almost too easy.

The television is an endless stream of comments about the upcoming inauguration. Here at Summit Square, the residents will be watching on a nice, large screen television. I imagine the comments from the watchers will be mixed. Most of the residents here did not vote for Obama, and many have serious concerns about the direction the country will take under his presidency.

We planned to hang out here, and watch with everyone else. These are exciting times. I'm feeling particularly lucky. The plane that crashed into the Hudson last week was my old standby when John and I were still dating. I'd hop
What’s mine is mine and what’s yours is mine

The government cannot give anyone anything that it does not first take from someone else.” Who said that anyway? I’m not sure, but I am sure that Gerald Ford said “A government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take it from you.” Pity. Who knew the president the media loved to denigrate had such a profound grasp on reality?

We find ourselves somewhere in between the two statements. It’s too late to whine about it. The people have spoken and it is what it is. President Obama is the man, Speaker Pelosi is the woman and it is what it is. President Obama is the whine about it. The people have spoken between the two statements. It’s too late to say that the media loved to denigrate had such a big enough to take it from someone else.” Who said that anyway? I’m not sure, “T

The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public’s money.”

So what does it feel like to live in a Socialist society? Most of you all under 60 will doubtless find out in the next 20 years. I can’t answer from personal experience however I did live in South Florida for 25 years and saw dozens if not hundreds of news reports of flimsy rafts, leaky overcrowded boats and inner tubes loaded with Cubans risking their lives to escape the glorious Republic of Cuba.

Socialists advocate the creation of an egalitarian society (political, social and economic equality), in which wealth and power are distributed evenly. To achieve this, obviously, the haves must give up some of what they have so that it can be given to the have-nots. Who orchestrates this transfer, you ask? Why, the government, of course. And we all know how efficiently the government handles wealth and property.

I suppose the socialist theory has a certain appeal to those who are on the receiving end of such unmerited goodies and don’t know they cost them their freedom. The biggest threat to the free market economy that has prospered for us since our beginning used to be the government taking over the healthcare system. While this country (“under” Obama’s radar), the activities of recent months put our entire economic system on the block.

With the recent bailouts, and with those to come, the government has and will continue to take “a piece of the action” from businesses they “help.” They will insist on having representatives on the boards of directors. They will be involved in determining executive compensation and dividend policies. In time, labor unions will be reinvigorated, and will play an increasing part in management policy and decisions.

Cuba’s plight is a matured story. The U. S. assisted Cuba in its liberation from Spain in 1902. U. S. businesses invested in Cuba’s economy and, along with a strong agricultural sector, a healthy middle-class developed and things were pretty good in Cuba.

Fidel Castro, and his small band of malcontents managed a successful takeover of U. S. businesses and installed a socialist society. The U. S. threw up an economic embargo, and Russia stepped in to help Cuba’s economy, now starting the inevitable downward slide. With the collapse of the USSR, assistance to Cuba declined and additional misery ensued.

A more current example of evolving socialism is Venezuela, where Hugo Chavez is desperately trying to get the people to allow him another term as president since a term limit would end his reign before he could complete his social reform.

His opponents are calling his re-election proposals “anti-democratic, unconstitutional and against the national interest.” Chavez answer is to order them tear gassed and beaten – “the government cannot look weak.”

So now we have an ultra liberal president, an ultra liberal House Speaker, a liberal Senate majority leader and many far left members of the new cabinet and presidential advisory committees, not to mention liberal committee chairs.

No checks, no balance, a liberal press to add to the tsunami – can full-blown socialism be far behind?

Just in case you doubt the politicians have the nous to pull it off, remember Obama’s campaign rhetoric about the need for an inanimate police force “at least as large and well funded as our present military?” What do you suppose he had in mind when that was proposed?

The country wanted change – well get change all right: $150 million for his inauguration vs. $40 million for Bush’s? Mmmm. Just imagine the party when he is ultimately declared the deity. They’ll have to exhume Samuel Goldwyn to orchestrate that one. And the people will wonder why so much is being spent while they go hungry.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

on the USAirway plane at LaGuardia, and fly to Charlotte. Then, I’d take the puddle jumper from Charlotte to Asheville. If I’d had a few years ago, I might have had to test my wing walking skills, not to mention my Red Cross Lifeguard Training. Fortunately, those commuting days are over, and I’m not risking life and limb to go see John and the cats.

Last night, another invitation came in which we were seriously considering. The Democratic Party is having an Inauguration Party tomorrow, and we’re invited. Folks are going to be watching on a large TV screen. Both my mother and I are registered Independents, not Democrats. Just for the record, my father was a dyed-in-the-wool Republican, so political discussions at home ranged from lively to heated, depending on the issue. We’re considering our viewing options, delighted to have the choice. One thing may sway our decision. The Democrats are providing food.

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. Michelle is considering amending the comment “Home is where the heart is” to read “Home is where there is ice on the inside of the windows.”
Community Bible Church welcomes Senior Pastor, Gary Hewins

Gary and Angie Hewins

Gary Hewins felt God call him to the ministry at the age of 25 years. After attending the University of Georgia and graduating from Georgia State University, Gary joined the pastoral staff of Mount Paran Church of God in Atlanta, GA. While at Mount Paran, Gary led Church Programs to a new level.

Beginning with the Youth and Christian Education, Gary used his innate enthusiasm to build disciples for the future. He implemented evangelism that stretched to guest services and assisted new members in assimilating into the church, helping them discover and use their God given gifts in service within their own church. God’s hand blessed Gary in his ability to recruit and train volunteers to serve God within the Church. Missions is deeply embedded in Gary’s heart. He has overseen and provided direction for missionaries on five different continents, as well as leading short term mission teams in training and mobilization. Gary has provided pastoral instruction and support in numerous Third World Nations.

He and his wife, Angie, also frequently lead Christian tours to the Holy Land, as well as to Italy. In addition to implementing an accountable stewardship ministry at Mt. Paran, Gary was also responsible for the direction and oversight of all Church Ministries. Gary was a key force in the preaching and teaching ministry and is known for providing spiritual nourishment to those whom God calls him to minister. Gary leaves Mount Paran as their Assistant Pastor to come alongside Community Bible Church and bless them with the gifts and talents that God has given to him.

Gary and Angie have been married for 16 years and have four children. Angie leaves Mt. Paran as their Director of Childhood Ministry and in her spare time enjoys gourmet cooking. Gary enjoys golfing and basketball, having played for the University of Georgia. The Hewins children are gifted in music and drama and were part of Mt. Paran’s highly acclaimed Praise Band. As a family, the Hewins love to travel and relax by playing board games. They are looking forward to becoming a part of the Highlands/Cashiers community.

Pastor Hewins’ first service at Community Bible Church will be held Sunday, January 25 at 10:45 am. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. The community is invited to attend. Call the church office at 526-4685 for further details.

Places of Worship

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH  
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Sundays night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
First Sunday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY  
Sky Valley, Georgia  
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding, Pastor  
Church: 706-746-2999  
Pastor’s residence: 706-746-5770  
Sundays: 10:45 a.m. - Worship  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS  
NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329  
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH  
Office - 526-2320  
Sunday: Holy Communion - 11 a.m.  
(Williams Community Center on U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands  
Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.  
Wednesday: Men’s Bible study at 8 a.m.  
Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH  
Pastor Everett Brewer  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Prayer - 6:30 p.m.  
Evening Service - 1st & 3rd Sunday - 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
Pastor Gary Hewins  
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands  
Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School for all ages; 10:45am Worship; 6pm High School Group  
Tuesdays: 10am Women’s Bible Study; 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:30

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION  
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School  
Monday: 4 p.m. Women’s Cursillo Group  
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men’s Cursillo Group  
4:30 PM. Education for Ministry  
Wednesday: 6:30 PM. Choir Practice  
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)  
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King  
• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.  
FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN  
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor: 828-369-9797  
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6 p.m. (nursery provided)  
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.  
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children’s  
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;  
Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.  
Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153  
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30 a.m.; Youth - 6:30p.m; Choir - 7:15  
Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.; Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship - 10:55 a.m.; Sun/School - 9:30 & 9:45.  
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Mens Bible Discussion & Breakfast  
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers Choir - 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
Sixth Street  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Pastor Paul Chritsy  
526-3376  
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;  
5 p.m. Youth Group  
Wed: Supper; 6:15 - children, youth, & adults  
study; 6:15 - Adult choir  
(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)  
Thurs:12:30 - Women’s Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA  
Chaplain Margaret Howell  
2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741  
Sunday, Dec 28, Service at 10:30 AM  
Sundays: Sunday School 9:30 a.m; Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m; Worship/Congregation - 10:30  
HEALING SERVICE on the 5th sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH  
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOUE  
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin  
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNT CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor  
Parish office, 526-2418

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH  
Rev. Clifford Williams  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7  
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD  
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Szemore  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;  
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD  
85 Sierra Drive ¦ 828-524-6777  
Rev. Clifford Willis  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.

SHORT OFF BAPTIST CHURCH  
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
8th Street, Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Westside Presbyterian Church  
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Bryson’s Food Store

We have everything you need all year long!

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Don’t miss our ONE DAY SUPER BOWL SALE

Thursday, January 29

Featuring beer, wine, snacks and prepared foods from our Deli Department

At Bryson’s Food Store, you’ll find everything you need

Located in Highlands Plaza • 828-526-3775 • Fax: 828-526-0430

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**Cooking on the Plateau**

**Delish game-day dishes**

Savor the Super Bowl with a game day party that really scores with guests. Keep them cheering with finger-friendly food such as sausage roll ups, cheesy dip and delicious, hot subs and hoagies. And introduce a new all-star to the menu with a football pancake that’s sure to earn some extra points!

The entertaining experts at Johnsonville Sausage have come up with a game-winning strategy that will help you make your big game party a champ.

**Brat Super Party Sub**

**Prep:** 30 minutes
**Grill/Bake:** 35 minutes
**6 servings**

- **Sauce:**
  - 1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream
  - 1/2 medium cucumber, peeled, seeded, and finely chopped
  - 2 cloves garlic, minced
  - 2 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley
  - 1/4 teaspoon salt
  - 1/4 teaspoon cracked black pepper, optional

- **Sub:**
  - 1 package (19.76 ounces) Johnsonville Original Bratwurst
  - 1 loaf (1 pound) French bread
  - 1 small onion, thinly sliced
  - 1 medium tomato, thinly sliced

In a bowl, combine sauce ingredients. Cover and refrigerate until serving.

Grill brats according to package directions. When cool enough to handle, cut into 1/4-inch bias slices. Slice bread lengthwise and transfer to baking sheet. Arrange brat slices on bread bottom. Bake at 350°F for 10 minutes or until bread is lightly browned. Remove from oven. Top with sauce, onion and tomato. Cut sub and serve.

**Cheesy Cheddar Roll-Ups**

**Prep:** 20 minutes
**Bake:** 15 minutes
**6 servings**

- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tube (8 ounces) refrigerated crescent rolls
- 2 tablespoons coarse ground mustard
- 1 package (16 ounces) Johnsonville Beddar with Cheddar Sausage
- 1 loaf (1 pound) French bread

In a skillet, sauté onion in oil until light golden brown; cool slightly. Unroll crescent dough and separate into triangles (bake or discard two extra triangles). Spread each with mustard and top with onions. Place one sausage on wide end of each triangle roll up. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350°F for 15 to 18 minutes or until golden brown and crispy.

**Cheesy Game Time Sausage Dip**

**Total Prep:** 25 minutes
**Yield:** 6 cups

- 1 package (16 ounces) Johnsonville Italian All Natural Ground Sausage
- 2 pounds Velveeta processed cheese, cubed
- 1 jar (16 ounces) chunky salsa
- 1 tablespoon fennel seed, crushed
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon anise seed, crushed
- 1/4 teaspoon dried basil

Garlic toast

In a skillet, cook and crumble sausage until no longer pink; drain. Place cheese in a large microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high for 6 minutes or until melted, stirring every 2 minutes. Stir in salsa, seasonings, and sausage. Microwave 2 minutes longer or until heated through.

Garlic toast

Serve with garlic toast.

To serve in a bread bowl, cut off the top of a round loaf of bread; carefully hollow out bottom, leaving a 1-inch shell. Cube removed bread. Spoon cheese dip into bread shell. Serve with bread cubes.

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... RIVERWALK continued from page 3

Other foreclosures involving Macon Bank

Titan builders in Franklin, has been in
bankruptcy for some time and Macon Bank
holds the paper on that development, too.

A judge recently denied Titan's bank-
ruptcy request so Macon Bank is moving for-
toward liquidating the holdings.

"As we received relief from stay from the
bankruptcy on the property, we started the
tore sale process," said Plemens. "We took
title to 14 lots in Sunset Mountain on July 21,
2008 and sold the property on Sept. 19, 2008.
We also foreclosed on three houses that were
not complete. We have elected to complete
the houses before we market them. They are
nearing completion. The final Titan property
foreclosure should take place in the next
few weeks."

Plemens said if Macon Bank is the high-
bidders on the Titan property, it will immedi-
ately begin to market it. The Ellis family owns
a 63-acre farm with three dwellings on it. "This is
a beautiful piece of property and there should
be no issues selling it in a reasonable time
period," he said.

Plemens blames the construction slow-
down for both Riverwalk and Titan woes.

"With the slowdown, borrowers whose
income is directly tied to real estate sales and
construction, real estate agents, builders, and
developers are affected the most. Many bor-
rrowers in those lines of work are struggling
right now," he said.

Comparative Data on Building Permits

Issued Jan 1-Sept. 30, 2008

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<th>County</th>
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In Highlands 2008, there were 97 sales
compared to 165 sales in 2007, a decrease
of 41%.

"This slowdown in the Florida and Atlan-
ta markets has had a great impact on West-
ern North Carolina," said Plemens.

Comparative Data on Building Permits

Issued Jan 1-Sept. 30, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
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<td>183</td>
<td>-32.2%</td>
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"Though Macon Bank is holding millions
in bad paper, Plemens said the bank is solid.

"When many banks are losing money the
yest year we had net income of $7 million.
Because we are a mutual institution, all of
that $7 million went straight to capital which
makes us a stronger bank. We have been very
profitable over the last several years building
an excellent capital position. We have over
$30 million in excess capital above the regu-
lar guidelines for a well-capitalized bank,
the FDIC's highest rating," he said. "In addi-
tion, to adding $7 million to capital last year,
we increased our allowance for loan losses
by 38%, which we believe will help us have
some losses.

Plemens said it will likely take 18-24
months before the area sees any significant
economic turnaround. "During this time
earnings will be depressed compared to rec-
tant years, but Macon Bank is in an excellent
capital position that allows usto weather this
economic downturn."

Plemens said despite the turn of events,
its has $1 billion in assets and has always had
conservative underwriting standards.

"The issues we are dealing with here are
based on the economic downturn and not
related underwriting standards. Unfortunately,
good people through no fault of their own
have been caught in a bad economy." - Kim Lewicki

... CHESTNUT continued from page 1

Residents who live in houses put money
down — like a down-payment — in the vicin-
ity of $200,000 and agreed to pay a monthly
fee in the range of $3,300 upwards depend-
ing on the size of the house.

Residents who live in the independent
apartments pay a monthly fee in the vicinity
of $2,600 a month on a month-to-month
basis.

Residents in the assisted living facility
also pay month-to-month upward of $4,000
a month depending on services rendered and
how much individual care is needed.

In the short-term, the monthly service
charge may increase modestly to a level
that will allow plan monthly operating expenses,
less cost-cutting measures can reduce ex-
enses sufficiently without unduly affecting
the quality of services to residents," reads the
letter.

"However in the long term, the cost to
residents may increase because incoming
buys can provide services and pay back a
loan to buy the facility unless it increases fees
to pay costs and deliver a small profit to the
buyer. That increase amount will be decided
by the buyer." 

Though not a norm, just recently, two
apartments were "sold" like the houses — that
is a down payment was given with a month-
ly payment to follow.

Repayment of a percentage of down-pay-
ments — also known as entrance fees —
to their heirs upon their deaths is what many
residents in the homes are worried about.

Currently, Highlands Senior Living LLC
(Chestnut Hill) — part of Sunwest Manage-
ment — doesn't have money to refund en-
trance fees to residents' heirs.

Upon entrance into Chestnut Hill, a
down-payment was taken with the promise
to return a percentage of it to heirs depend-
ing on individual contracts.

Just recently, Sunwest could only return
$8,000 in entrance fees to Flanagan because
no reserve or escrow accounts belonging to
Sunwest or Highlands Senior Living have
available funds.

Evidently, Sunwest assumed refund ob-
ligations after its purchase but didn't receive
any money from the previous owner to pay
back old entrance fees.

This specific issue is being looked into
by independent counsel.

Once a new owner buys Chestnut Hill,
residents will need to sign new contracts with
the new owner to stay. It's possible, new con-
tracts will include higher monthly fees to
provide services to maintain the facility and
to service the debt.

However, it's also possible the new own-
er will decide to charge less to existing resi-
dents to maintain occupancy levels.

"This will be a business decision for the
new owner," reads the letter.

"Fresh marketing" may involve renting
some houses that now stand empty on a
month-to-month basis rather than requir-
ing an entrance fee before — but there is no
final word on that at this time.

Residents or their representatives should
contact Palmetto Bank's counsel, Neal T.
Johnson, Smith Moore Leatherwood, LLP at
336-378-5319 or fax to 336-433-7442.

Questions relating to past practices or
entrance fee refunds should be directed to
Sunwest Management.

-Kim Lewicki

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... FIRE & RESCUE continued from page 2

In 2008 the department responded to 62 calls fire and related calls inside the town limits and 144 calls outside the town limits. Estimated fire loss inside the town limits was zero; outside the town limits it was $670,000.

Fire & Related Calls Included:
- Fire alarms, 69; mutual aid to other departments, 32; wrecks with hazardous conditions, 56; investigations, 18; structure fires including chimneys, 17; brush and woods fires, 12; and vehicle fires, 2.
- Rescue and First-responder calls totaled 66 calls inside the town limits and 110 calls outside the town limits for a total of 178 calls – an increase of 18 calls over 2007.

Specifically they included: first-responders to assist EMS, 157; wrecks other than fire calls, 8; falls, injuries of hikers and construction workers, 4; miscellaneous, 4; search for missing person, 3; dive team, 1; and plane crash, 1.

Major Equipment Purchases & Improvements
- New tanker fire truck, $148,000; balance due on new rescue truck, $20,861; new roof on department building, $10,389; radio equipment, $4,060; uniforms and turnout suits, $3,915; laptop computer and update fire program, $1,495; all purpose rescue saw,

For the latest, most up-to-date information on physicians and services, visit us on the web at highlands-cashiershospitals.org

Retirees this year are from left: John Shearl, 20 years; James Ramey, 20 years; John McCall, 22 years (not pictured) and Tim Alexander, 27 years. Each man received a plaque and a watch.
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... FIREMEN continued from page 12

$1,338; fire equipment, $1,303; pick-up truck cover, $1,237; gas heater for the locker room, $1,020; thermal imaging camera, $930; printer/copier/fax machine, $930; 2 GPS instruments, $830.

Training & Manhours
18 firemen completed a total of 11 area fire and rescue schools at several different community colleges for a total of 443 hours. For local training/meetings 1,469 man-hours and 2,204 man-hours were spent on fire, rescue and first-responder calls. These hours don’t include travel time to schools, meetings and calls.

In addition, the department held open house celebrating 55 years of service assisted with trick-or-treating; stood by and assisted during the fireworks display; participated in the Christmas Parade; assisted with SOAR; assisted with the Christmas lighting ceremony; participated in a disaster drill at the hospital; conducted several tours of the fire station with safety demonstrations; and conducted several fire safety classes at the Highlands School.

– Kim Lewicki

Commissioner Buz Dotson and Mayor Don Mullen attended the ceremony Saturday night. Pictured with them is Chief James Manley.

Service pins and certificates were presented to (front from left: Buddy Miller for 5 years; John Shearl for 20 years; Jimmy Tate for 10 years; (back from left) Terry Watson for 20 years; James Ramey for 20 years; Ricky Bryson for 20 years. Also pictured is Tim Alexander who retired after 27 years of service. Not pictured is Ryan Gearhart who has been on the department for 10 years.

Newly elected “Officers for 2009” are from left front, Terry Watson, Treasurer, Lenny Metrick, 2nd Lt., Roger Lee Wilson, Captain, James Manley, Chief. From left back are: Trevor Gibson, 1st Lt.; Jim Tate, Rescue Captain; Eric Pierson, Rescue Lt.; and Ricky Bryson, Assistant Chief.

Bob Houston, who has served the department in some capacity non stop for 45 years, received a plaque of appreciation from Chief James Manley.
Winter roads, a new president and upcoming performances

There has been much concern over the care of our roads during icy conditions so far this winter. Among other problems the budget of NCDOT in Macon County for this year has been cut from 13 million to 10 million and just the cost of salt has tripled in the past year.

I have talked to the DOT manager for our area and he assures me that the main roads are their priority. US 64 between Highlands and the Jackson County line has been particularly dangerous with many accidents on that road. The manager assured me he would look into this and try to improve the situation. It behooves us all to call both our police department and the dispatcher (9-1-1) if you see problems so they can relay the problem to the highway patrol and DOT.

Unfortunately, the secondary roads also are not getting the attention they need this winter. That is a real concern, and I addressed these concerns to both our State Senator John Snow and the DOT.

It is certainly great to see The Bascom art center campus making fast progress and planning a spring opening. This is going to be one of the best attractions in Highlands once it is completed. Great art teaching and exhibitions on and within this beautiful campus with its grand entrance from US 64 will be enjoyed by people from all over the south. There will be nothing in Western North Carolina to compare to this incredible facility. We all look forward to it and compliment their staff, board, volunteers and workers on a job well done.

We certainly are all distressed to hear about the foreclosure of the Riverwalk development in Highlands. Those folk have had difficulty from the very beginning, having to put large amounts of money for erosion control as demanded by both the town and the state, and this was not a good beginning. But just as they got that all straightened out, the economy tanked, credits evaporated and few people were buying. A combination of events did them in. It is certainly our hope that this property will ultimately be utilized and will become a pleasant area for people to live.

As we have gone through this week, most of us look forward with great hope for this new beginning in our country with the inauguration of a new President and the beginning of a new administration in Washington. Certainly change is in the air. Our country is at its lowest point economically certainly in my memory. At this point we do not need to look backwards at what could have been done but must begin to look forward positively knowing that we have come out of recessions in the past and we will come out of this major downturn.

Let us all hope and pray that the new administration and congress can come together, stop the partisan bickering and do the right things. Consumer confidence needs a big boost, and the new administration must start off in a sprint to get the job done. Whether Republican or Democrat we must all work together, even on the local and state levels, to instill the confidence which is needed to come out of this situation in flying colors.

On a lighter note, the Highlands Cashiers Players rendition of “An American Daughter” will be performed for two weeks beginning February 26 at the Performing Arts Center. It certainly looks as though they have another great cast, and we all look forward to seeing that performance over that two weekend period. Lots of time and work are necessary to put together a play like that. We all appreciate this theater group for keeping us in good entertainment during the winters in Highlands.

And do not forget the Highlands Cashiers Players mystery presentation, first performed down in Sapphire Valley on January 30th and 31st, “Final Reunion” which will also be held at the PAC Feb 6 and 7, and will be presented as a Carolina Murder Mystery Dinner Theater. Sounds exciting enough to keep us warm for the winter. Let’s all support our theater performances.
Volunteers make a difference through Hospital's gift shop

Although it isn’t very big in terms of square footage, the gift shop at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital returns big dividends.

In the nearly 16 years since it opened (when the new hospital opened in 1993), the gift shop has generated tens of thousands of dollars for operations and much needed equipment, thanks to the dozens of volunteers who keep it open, and an attractive selection of merchandise — everything from greeting cards to fashions — on the crowded, but carefully arranged shelves.

“Over the years, the gift shop has probably raised well over $100,000 for the hospital. That’s quite an accomplishment, since it has all been done with volunteers and without any money for fixtures, stock, or expenses from the hospital,” observed hospital President and CEO Ken Shull. “Even in the context of the hundreds of volunteers who have served the hospital over the years, the dedication of the gift shop folks is exceptional.”

In large part, the gift shop is the product of energy and determination of Joanna Baumrucker, wife of long-time area family physician John Baumrucker, MD. Her flair for buying and merchandising has made the hospital’s gift shop a shopping destination in its own right, not just an afterthought for family members and friends of patients. From travelling to the wholesale Atlanta Gift Mart, or perusing merchandise catalogs, to organizing the shop’s famous holiday 50 percent off sales, Joanna’s gift for retailing is one of the reasons the shop has been so successful for a decade and a half.

Another reason is volunteers such as Elaine Reynolds, of Highlands, who has worked the shop since the day it opened. In addition to working her own shift at the “register,” (actually a vintage metal cash box), Elaine also coordinates the other volunteers. Currently, those volunteers include Evelyn Byrnes, Debbie Coffeen, Corinne Cooper, Barbara Cusachs, Mary Ann Creswell, Polly Dean, Melba Egan, Marcie Henderson, Gay Kattel, Sally Maloney, Kathie Marsh, Jody Read, Mary Ann Ray, Ann Schneider, Linda Shearon, Gay Spencer, Polly Touzalin, and Judy Williams.

However, Elaine says more volunteers are needed, especially during the winter, when some staff members are away. There’s a special need for folks willing to fill in when others can’t make it, she says. “We can always use more volunteers,” says Elaine. “For one thing, none of us are getting any younger.”

And never one to miss an opportunity, Joanna says she’d like to see some new volunteers willing to work weekends, particularly Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon.

“I love to have the gift shop open on the weekends. Every time I happen to be here on a Saturday unpacking merchandise, I always have people coming by to shop,” she says. “That represents that much more we can give to the hospital.”

Open to the public Monday through Friday, the gift shop stocks a variety of merchandise that appeals not only to patients, family members, and visitors, but also to regular shoppers — particularly to hospital staffs. Many a birthday, Christmas, for graduation gifts have come from the shop’s shelves. Shoppers can find a diverse selection of stuffed animals (a major favorite), jewelry, watches, special bath and body items, seasonal decorations, sweaters, ladies’ jackets, candles, and a host of other items — even candy and snacks.

In addition to purchasing equipment, such as surgical instruments for the hospital’s operating room or carts for the dietary department, proceeds from the gift shop support the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation in other ways. Unrestricted contributions have frequently been made in honor of an employee group of employees, mothers of hospital employees, and gift shop volunteers who have passed away during the year.

“The level of dedication of all the volunteers who make the gift shop what it is has always set the gold standard for unselfish service to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. If it weren’t for the hundreds of people who volunteered at the hospital in some fashion, going back more than a century — from those who served on the board, to the ladies of the Auxiliary, to those who put up mail, to those who work in various departments and at the Eckerd Living Center — this hospital would not be here,” said Shull. “Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is a reflection of the extraordinary spirit of service that abounds in our communities.”

To volunteer at the gift shop call Elaine Reynolds at (828) 526-3997.

Learn to grow Shiitake mushrooms

NC Cooperative Extension will hold a class on “Growing Shiitake Mushrooms” from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5 at the Macon County Environmental Resource Center.

Pre-registration is required. There is a $10 materials fee due at registration. Each participant should bring two hardwood logs (oak is preferred), 4 to 6 inches in diameter and 3 to 4 feet long.

This will be a hands-on workshop. A classroom session will explain Shiitake mushroom cultivation and participants will then drill their logs and inoculate them with Shiitake mushroom “seed.” Participants will take the class with two inoculated Shiitake logs and the ability to inoculate more.

The program is geared toward those who want to grow Shiitake as a serious hobby or small sideline business. Most of the program will be outside, so dress warmly.

If you have an extra log to donate, we would like to build a Shiitake demonstration area at the Environmental Resource Center. Please register at the Macon County Cooperative Extension Center by Friday, January 30. Call 349-2046 if you have any questions.

Channel 14
Highlands’ own TV channel!

Heart of the High Country
weekly show about Highlands

Mountian Home Showcase
home tours, design tips, and cooking classes

Visitor Information Program
hosted by Blackberry Bear

DVDs of Heart of the High Country available at the Hudson Library and Movie Stop

Northland Cable Television
2009 marks the 10th anniversary of Highlands Historical Society

In 2009 the Highlands Historical Society will become ten-years-old. Throughout the year, the Society will be celebrating its progress. At a meeting of the Society’s board of directors recently, members were reminded of the progress that has been made and were challenged to keep the momentum going.

In 1999 Dennis DeWolf and Ran Shaffner suggested to other residents of Highlands that the Highlands Historical Preservation Society, which had become inactive, be reorganized. This was done, and arrangements were made for the Old Jail to be used as a repository for historical documents and artifacts. Shortly thereafter the oldest residence in town, now known as the "Prince House," was made available to the Society for $275,000. A down payment of $25,000 was made, and a mortgage obtained for the remainder of the purchase price. Several public spirited citizens agreed to cosign the mortgage.

The house was given a coat of paint, a new roof and other repairs, and chestnut paneling was added to two of the rooms. Before the Prince House had been completely restored and furnished, the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation offered the original Hudson Library building to the Historical Society, on condition that it be moved off the property of the church, which was ready to begin an expansion program. Donations were quickly solicited for the cost of moving the building. The old library sat while funds were raised for the installation of concrete walls and floor as a foundation that now houses a temperature- and humidity-controlled area for historical archives. Funds were solicited from foundations, governmental agencies, and individuals.

Leadership Highlands members learn about county’s human services

The 2008/2009 Leadership Highlands class kicked off the New Year with their Third Focus Day on January 9, 2009. The Old Edwards Inn and Spa graciously allowed the class to meet in the Williams Board Room where the topic of Health and Human Services was discussed. The presenting group chose to focus on the topic of narcotics and the services available to combat the negative effects.

Guest speakers included Sheriff Robert Holland, Macon County Sheriff, and D. Wesley Price, Supervisor of Child Protection Services for Macon County DSS. Sheriff Holland educated the class on different drugs, drugs are made, used and sold, and the impacts it has on the children, mentally, emotionally and physically. Mr. Price also discussed the protocol for removing a child from the home and the steps they take to ensure the safety and well being of the child.

• Leadership Highlands began in 1999 as a partnership between the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the Peggy Crosby Center, and Center for Life Enrichment. The program is designed to identify existing and emerging leaders from various segments of the community who have a sincere commitment to remain in the Highlands area. Leadership Highlands provides a comprehensive program for selected participants to gain the skills and knowledge to become a community leader.

The new class is selected in June and has their opening retreat in September. Classes meet for one full day a month from November through April. Class members receive leadership skills training by faculty members from Western Carolina University and discuss salient topics such as health care, government, cultural arts, the environment and others. For more information, contact Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

Food drive for Pantry on

The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary has started a monthly food drive for the Food Pantry. Rotarian Debbie Grossman, owner of Fresser’s Eatery, is shown here with some of the staples that the food Pantry donates weekly to families in the community. The staples include vegetable oil, sugar, rice, beans and canned fruit. The Food Pantry is run by the Highlands United Methodist Church in conjunction with the International Friendship Center. Donations are always needed. Drop off points include Fressers Eatery, the IFC office at the Peggy Crosby Center and the Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Baptist and Community Bible Churches. The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am at the Highlands Community Center. Visitors are welcome.
HCP to present ‘Carolina Murder Mystery’
Feb 6-7

Virginia Talbot and Stuart Armor rehearse for the upcoming Highlands Cashiers Players Dinner Theater production of a Carolina Murder Mystery: “Final Reunion.” “Final Reunion” will be presented at PAC on Friday and Saturday, February 6 & 7. Wine, Dine and Solve the Crime, fun begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information and tickets please call: 828.526.8084. “Final Reunion” is directed by Jody Read and is fundraiser for HCR.

On-going Events

The Bascom is offering a host of art classes for preschoolers to pre-teens from now through the end of the school year. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext. 258).

Collections for men and women overseas at Chestnut Hill Retirement community. A wide variety of items currently is needed, including books and magazines, CDs and DVDs, and small pocket books, which fit neatly in the BDUs (Battle Dress Uniforms). The drop point for all items will be under the flagpole at the Chestnut Hill Clubhouse on Clubhouse Trail. For any questions, or to schedule a drop-off call (828) 787-2114.

• Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month (time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext. 258).

• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A $5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9654.

• Refuge Youth meets every Sun. night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God. If you are in grades 6th-12th then this is the place to be! The church is located at 6201 Highlands Rd. next to Exxon. For more info call youth ministers Matt and Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 203.

• Raffle of handcrafted Stiefel Botanical Book to benefit The Bascom. To purchase a raffle ticket, call 526-4949, ext. 8.

• Yoga at the Rec Park, 7:30 a.m Monday and Wednesdays. Call 526-4340 for information.

• Yoga in the bottom floor of Jane Woodruff Building, 10:30 a.m. Thursdays. Call 526-4340.

• NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

- “The Circle of Life” support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodruff room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

- The English Patient (1996), directed by Anthony Minghella and based on the novel by Michael Ondaatje, is set in the last days of World War II in an Italian monastery. The nurse Hana (Juliette Binoche) is caring for a badly burned man thought to be English. The mystery of the man is revealed in flash backs. He is the Hungarian Count Laszio de Almsy (Ralph Fiennes) who meets an English woman (Kristin Scott Thomas) in Cairo. The story is about how they fall in love and how he became “the English patient.” The movie won nine Oscars and is in the Library Meeting Room, hosted by the Friends of the Albert Carlton – Cashiers Community Library.

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Playing

Jan. 23-29

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON rated PG-13
Friday: 7
Sat & Sun: 7
Mon – Thurs: 7

INKHEART rated PG
Friday: (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:10

GRAN TORINO rated R
Friday: (4:30), 7:00, 9:30
Sat & Sun: (2:00), (4:30), 7:00, 9:30
Mon – Thurs: (4:30), 7:00

HOTEL FOR DOGS rated PG
Friday: (4:10), 7:05, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:10), 7:05, 9:10
Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7:05

BRIDE WARS rated PG
Friday: (4:15)
Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:15)
Mon – Thurs: (4:15)
One FREE Classified Ad for ONE item less than $1,000 (Not animals).
ONE AD PER FAMILY otherwise:
20 words for $5; $2 for each 10-word increment.
Email copy to: highlandseditor@aol.com
or FAX to 1-866-212-8913
Send check to: Highlands’ Newspaper
P.O. Box 2703
Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-0782

L LOST PET
BLACK MALE KITTEN. 8 months old. Fixed.
Name is Einstein. Last seen near Wolfgang’s Restaurant. Reward offered. Call 828-200-0711.

PUPPIES
FREE PUPPIES to a good home. Lab mix.
1st shots already given. 2 females 6 months. Mostly black a few of them have some white paws. Born Nov 17th. Call 526-2787 or 421-3969 if no answer leave message and we will return your call. Pictures available on request.

HELP WANTED
Part-time cleaners needed to clean banks in the Cashiers-Highlands area. Call 828-691-6353. 2/12
MLT or MT needed in the laboratory at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Second and third shifts available with an occasional weekend and holiday rotation. Registry of ASCP or equivalent is required. Must be able to work alone. 3-5 years experience as a generalist with blood banking is preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT
ONE BEDROOM/ONE BATH partially furnished apartment, 6 miles from Highlands. No smoking/no pets. $450/mo (negotiable) 828-787-1518.
TWO BED ON BATH CABIN AT LAUREL FALLS. Minutes from hospital and a few minutes from town. Fully furnished. $850 a month. Please call 787-2423. st. 1/22
APARTMENT FOR RENT in Scaly Mountain. 2 bed, 1 bath, unfurnished, no pets, no smoking, $600 a month includes utilities. Call Becky @ Cabe Realty 828-526-2475. 2/12
2 BED, 1 BATH HOME FOR RENT in Scaly Mountain. Furnished or unfurnished, no pets, no smoking, $750 per month plus security deposit and utilities. Call Ann @ Cabe Realty 828-526-2475. 2/12
LEASE HOUSE WITH OPTION AVAILABLE. Remodeled. Between Highlands and Cashiers. 3 bed, 3 1/2 bath and bonus room. No smoking, $1,000 a month. Call 828-371-1609 or 828-743-1108 1/29
HOUSE FOR RENT, YEAR-ROUND, walk to town. 3/2, oil heat. Hardwood floors, small pets ok. $1,275 includes electric. 526-5558.
HOUSE FOR RENT AND SALE, 3/2 wi office, great room plan 1600 sqf, gated community, Scaly Mt. half way between Highlands and Clayton. Access to 17 acre lake and hiking from 424 sq ft porch or watch sun rise from 424 sq ft deck. $1,200/mo plus utilities. Internet and satellite available. No children, pets, or ATVs; house actively being shown for sale during rental. Call Pat 828-243-9646 or Becky 828-526-2475 re sale. pherrer@mindspring.com
DOWNTOWN APARTMENT RENTAL. One bedroom (Queen), one bath, vaulted ceiling in great room, heat and air with gas fireplace. Fully furnished with WiFi, cozy and comfortable. Reduced to $550 a month plus utilities. Call 526-4983 or 421-3614.
1 BED, 1 BATH and small room with bunk beds on Lake Sequoyah. Furnished, two boats. $1,000 a month including utilities except phone. Call Tony at 828-332-7830.

SAPPHIRE NC – 2 Story 3bed/3 bath, Yr round views, 2 decks, remodeled, Furnished, 2 car garage. Available yearly or seasonal. 561-626-9556
FURNISHED 3BD/2BA HOUSE IN MIRROR LAKE area available for 6-12 month lease $1200+ utilities. Call 770-977-5692.
3BR, 2BA, COTTAGE NEAR MIRROR LAKE – In town. $1250 per month. Very clean. 770-977-5692.
COTTAGE FOR RENT – 1BR, 1BA in town @ Chestnut Cottages. Private, screen porch, Heat/AC, FP, extra sleeping loft, furnished or unfurnished, 6 month lease - $750. monthly plus utilities. Call 526-1684.

VACATION RENTAL
HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB – Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. $2,495 a week. Call 912-230-7202.
THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE – Fish or canoe from dock. Available weekly, monthly. No min. Call 828-342-2302.

ITEMS FOR SALE
HONEY FOR SALE – Blue Valley honey, perfect amber color, 3/4 lb. bear, $5 each. Work in town. Call Bruce at 526-0921.
GENERAL ELECTRIC GAS STOVE – Four burner, White, 30-inch slide in insert. New condition, never used. $100. Call 706-746-2129 Rabun Gap, Ga.
GE PROFILE WHITE COUNTERTOP GAS RANGE WITH DOWN DRAFT. Like new. $185 Call 787-2232.
KOLCRAFT JEEP WAGONEER TANDEM DOUBLE STROLLER. Used rarely. Basically brand new. $100 or OBO. Call 526-2536.
125-GALLON ALL-GLASS AQUARIUM – over 6 feet in length, was a salt-water shark-only tank. Comes with Eheim Pro series-2 external canister filter, and optional mahogany base. Will settle for $500; base, extras and help moving it are excluded. Call cell: 828-342-2809
HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB – Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. $2,495 a week. Call 912-230-7202.
REDUCED! 52” BIG-SCREEN TV RCA Home-Theater edition, with guide-plus gold. Moving and its too big to take. $375 or OBO; this TV is in great condition and has a perfect picture, purchased at Circuit-city. Allows for 480P HD through Direct-tv. Call cell: 988-342-2809
YARD MACHINE LEAF MULCHER – purchased at Lowes. Used only a few times $350. 526-5056.

SIX CEDAR ADIRONDACK CHAIRS – custom made. $100 each or all for $500. Call 526-3824.

LENOX CHINA “AUTUMN” PATTERN – $125 for 5-piece place setting or sell by the piece at 20% below store prices. Call 526-0498
3 PIECE BEDROOM SET – Oak veneer. one dresser, one desk, one chest. $300. Call 526-5772.
STONE AVAILABLE – Assorted. 14 pallets. $200 per pallet. Call 526-9532

BEAUTIFUL, KNOTTY PINE WOOD ENTERTAINMENT CENTER WITH POCKET DOORS. Will hold up to a 31” TV. $100. Call 369-5863.

ANTIQUE WOODEN ROCKING CHAIR FROM LATE 1800’S. Fully refinished. $100. Call 369-5863.

AVON CAPE COD RED GLASS – 8 piece place setting. 44 pieces. $385. Also, accessory pieces available. Call 828-524-3614.
DESK (LARGE) WITH MATCHING CRE-DENZA, oak, leather chair. $850. Call 743-6869
4 BOARD PINE DINING TABLE – $300. Early American New England spinning wheel - $225. 526-2671


MR. HEATER – 75,000 BTU. Forced Air Heater. Like New, $110. Call 526-3206.

TABLE SAW – 9” with 4” Joiner. All one stand. $75. Call 526-3206.

PFALTZGRAF “HEIRLOOM” DISHES. Complete service for 8 plus numerous serving pieces, extras and accessories. Too much to list. $300 Call (828) 631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.


8 SOLID OAK, LADDERBACK, dining room chairs with woven seats. $800 for set. Call 526-3048.

LOW BACK SOUTHWESTERN-LOOKING UPHOLSTERED CHAIRS, $400. Call 526-5056.

RED WICKER CHAISE LOUNGE WITH PAD. $250. Call 526-5056.

5-PC BEDROOM SET C.1920 Bed/Chest of

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... INAUGURATION continued from page 3

Monday morning broadcast of Fox 5, as the studio called to speak with chaperones each hour to update the progress of the group. Students were able to watch the inauguration and witness the peaceful transfer of power from one person and one party to another in what is currently the most successful democracy in history, as well as a part of what was an unbelievable crowd. On Wednesday, the Highlands School students stopped at Mount Vernon to tour the grounds of our first President's home before making the 12-hour drive back to Highlands.

Overall, students were appreciative of the experience, but were also thankful to be headed home. Chaperone Chris Green was pleased with the outcome of the trip, and felt that things went as well as could be hoped for with such a momentous occasion.

“This trip took a lot of planning,” said Green, “but the kids were great and I hope that they can look back on this in the future and see just how fortunate they were to be a part of this historic event.” Also pleased with the results of the trip was Highlands Principal Brian jitter, who said “This particular inauguration has meaning on many levels. At its foundation, these students will see our government at its finest — the peaceful transition of leadership in, arguably, the most powerful country in the world. On another level, these students are seeing history in the making, and by being there, are participating in history itself. Learning by doing is the best kind of learning.”

While there were some frustrations involved with the trip such as traffic, lines and general fatigue, the trip was well worth it for students who will one day read about this inauguration in history books.

Perhaps the most impressive about the event was the genuine excitement and goodwill showed by the majority of the people in what was by far the largest crowd in inaugural history.

As President Obama stated in his inaugural address, this could be a moment that defines a generation, particularly for those Highlanders that will be able to tell their children and grandchildren about the time that they witnessed history.

While only time can tell us what the Obama administration will bring, onething remains certain, Highlands School students will have witnessed those potential changes from the very beginning.

Students who did not draw one of the 22 tickets were still able to view the inauguration on a screen that was set up in the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian, adjacent to the National Wall in downtown Washington.
... FEDERAL from page 1

terminated.

At Wednesday night's meeting, commissioners unanimously approved three resolutions authorizing application for federal funding and will discuss a fourth at its Jan. 29 retreat.

Fatland said previous stimulus bills have proven effective if legislation is enacted soon after the recession is identified; if funds are spent quickly while unemployment is high and new jobs are created; and if funds are spent before the economy recovers.

Lake Sequoyah Dredging

Altamont Environmental, Inc., completed a Sedimentation Evaluation and Repair Estimate for the Big Creek Arm of Lake Sequoyah this past March and this fiscal year the town began putting aside $150,000 for the project. The estimated cost is $2 million.

The resolution says that the town will request 75% from the federal government — $1.5 million — with a town match of 25% or $500,000.

Emergency Generators for Water Pumping Station

The town is also requesting funding for six water pumping stations — Little Bear Pen, HCC Moorewood Circle, Subway, HCC Tower Site, Ravenel and Holt Knob. The 75% amount is $156,000 with the 25% balance of $208,000 coming from the town. Bylaw sewer systems have to have backup generators and Town Engineer Lamar Nix said it's just a matter of time before the same is required at water pumping stations. “I'd rather be proactive on this,” he said.

Big Bear Pen Water Improvement

The existing water system on Center Drive and Margaret's Lane of Big Bear Pen are shallow and freeze in extremely cold weather, interrupting services to residents and jeopardizing sufficient water flow for fire protection.

The total cost is $195,000 with 75% of that or $146,250 coming from the stimulus package and 25% or $48,750 coming from the town.

Other grants

The board voted 4 to 1 to apply for three, state-funded grant programs for the Police Department. Commissioner Buz Dotson voted against the motion.

The first grant is to buy a speed trailer for $8,160 with 75% coming from the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program at $6,120 and 25% or $2,040 coming from the town. Currently, Highlands shares one with the county and Franklin.

The second grant is to buy modern equipment for fingerprinting from crime scenes. The cost is $5,190 with 75% or $3,892.50 coming via the grant and 25% or $1,297.50 from the town.

The third grant is to buy an imager. The cost is $18,950. The grant would cover 75% or $14,212.50 with the town committing 25% or $4,737.50.

The total local cost for the three police department grants is $8,075 which represents 25% of the total cost,” said Fatland. “Sufficient funds are included in the 2009-2010 Police Department budget.”
The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for Jan. 12-15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 12
- Officers were flagged down by a resident at the Farmers Market and asked for a ride home.
- At 10:45 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Wahoo Trail about a domestic disturbance.

Jan. 14
- At 8:35 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 west and Raoul was cited for driving without registration or proof of financial responsibility.

Jan. 15
- At 2 p.m., officers were called to Wahoo Trail on a domestic disturbance.
- During the week, officers responded to 3 alarm activations and issued 3 warnings.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Jan. 13-18.

Jan. 13
- The dept. responded to a call of an accident on U.S. 64 east near the Jackson County line but it was unfounded.

Jan. 14
- The dept. responded to a call of a roll-over accident on Whiteside Cove Road. It was unfounded.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Mirror Lake Road. EMS transported the victim to the hospital.

Jan. 15
- The dept. conducted a search for an Alzheimer patient who wandered away from the Eckerd Living Center. She was found inside the main part of the hospital.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hickory Lane. It was false.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence but the call was a mistake.

Jan. 17
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Carl Chastain Lane. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- Twice on Jan. 17, the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hickory Lane. Both times they were false. Chief Manley later visited the home to see if the faulty alarm system could be fixed.

Jan. 18
- The dept. responded to an accident on N.C. 106 south. there were no injuries.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Jan. 24
- The Church Communication Network (CCN) and First Christian Church of Franklin brings Managing Your Money to Franklin on Saturday from 11:30 to 3:30. People across North America will crowd auditoriums, church sanctuaries and halls to learn to walk steadily amid the financial chaos of today’s economy! Managing Your Money gives people the practical tools and strategies vital to establishing and maintaining financial health. Live via satellite on CCN. First Christian Church is located at 156 Belleview Park Rd. in Franklin, just past the intersection of U.S. 441 Bypass and Highlands Rd. For information and directions, please call the church office at 828-526-6840 or visit the church website at http://www.fccfranklin.org.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike from Sloan Bridge to Upper Whitewater Falls. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 14 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 742-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, Jan. 25
- Blood Drive at the Otto Community Building. Contact Phyllis Castle at 524-9307 for an appointment.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 27
- There will be a 10-week Beth Moore Bible Study, “Esther: It’s Tough Being a Woman,” in the Highlands School Media Center at 3:45 pm. Going up against heavyweights bent on her destruction, Esther trusted God and landed a blow that saved her people. The Old Testament story of Esther is a profile in courage and contains many modern parallels for today’s woman. The cost for each member book is $16. Carol Bowen is the facilitator. Contact her at 526-5168 to reserve a book.

Tuesday, Jan. 27
- Nancy Reeder will be performing The Resilient Moon on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. Through poetry, folklore, and women’s experiences, Nancy fuses together a storytelling concert that explores the feminine. Admission is free. PAC is located at 507 Chestnut St. Highlands. Call 369-1927 for more information.

Wednesday, Jan. 28
- Storyteller Elizabeth Ellis will hold a storytelling workshop in Highlands focusing on taking memories to story. Elizabeth, a nationally acclaimed storyteller, who often graces the stage at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN, has been telling stories for over 40 years. The workshop will guide participants through the process of taking personal memories and putting them into a form suitable for telling a story. Whether you want to shape memories into story for writing or telling, this workshop will provide guidance. The cost is $30. Time is from 9 am until 1 pm. Place TBA. Please call Nancy at 369-1927 for more information.

• Audition Notice for “Rumors” by Neil Simon

HCP’s ‘American Daughter’ opens Feb. 26

The Highlands Cashiers Players announces the cast of “An American Daughter” by Wendy Wasserstein. The cast includes: (seated) Virginia Talbot and Dean Zuch, Stevyn William Amari, Chad Lucas, Carla Gates, Kirk Howard, Marlene Alvarez, Marjorie Fielding. Not pictured: Sandi Trevathan. “An American Daughter” opens Thursday, February 26 and runs, the 27th, 28th and March 1 and continues the next weekend, March 6th, 7th, and 8th. All performances will be at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. Evening performances begin at 7:30pm and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 pm. “An American Daughter” is a political satire and contains adult language.
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