2012 Year-in-Review of Highlands and county

Looking back at the year that was is always fun in addition to being informative. It's easy to forget what happens week to week and month to month. So the 2012 year-in-review is meant to jog the memory and put the year in perspective.

January
- Electric rates may go up 12% -25% in January bill. Residents and business owners are already reeling under the incremental rate hike initiated over the last two years and it’s about to get worse. At a special called Town Board meeting, Monday, January 9 at 7 p.m., commissioners will decide whether to raise rates incrementally over the next two years or whether to raise them in one fell swoop this year. The outcome could be somewhere between 12% and 25% - 12% if done incrementally, 25% if done all at once. Since Duke has already raised its rates to Highlands, the board must make a choice.
- Wayfinding costs OK’d. Tuesday night, the Town Board agreed to spend $27,450 toward

11th Air Force airman from Highlands documents Operation Christmas Drop for the world

The U.S. Air Force's 60th anniversary of Operation Christmas Drop – the longest running humanitarian effort in the world – took place Dec. 11-18.

For the first time ever, the event was documented – not just the drops which have been photographed from the belly of the plane – but the result of the drop.

"I thought it was important for us to see what the recipients on the ground see," said MSG Cameron Leslie, 37, Highlands School graduate Class of 1994. "In 60 years, no one has ever seen the other end and I thought if I could capture that it would be pretty noteworthy."

Little did MSG Cameron Leslie know that a hobby of his would take him across the Pacific Ocean and establish him as the first photo journalist to document the longest running humanitarian airlift mission in the world.

Operation Christmas Drop was first conducted by accident in 1952. The aircrew of a WB-29 aircraft, assigned to the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, formerly assigned to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, was flying a mission to the south of Guam over the Micronesian atoll of Kapingamarangi. When they saw islanders waving to them, the crew gathered items they had on the plane, put them in a container, tied a parachute to it and dropped it to the islanders as they circled overhead. A witness to the first drop on the island of Agrigan said "We saw these things come out of the back of the airplane and I was yelling: "There are toys coming down."

At that time, the island had no electricity or running water and the islands were periodically hit by typhoons. Some of the first con-

What 2012 RE sales mean for the county, citizens

Those who have been keeping up with the real estate market this past year know that sales are on the upswing over the previous year. Our contributing real estate writers who offer their take on the market each week in "Investing at 4,118 Ft." have explained the ups and downs of the market from a professional’s point of view.

While looking over the real estate transactions for 2012, readers will notice that in the majority of the transactions, the price a piece of property sold for is less than its last appraised value, which was in 2007.

Because of that discrepancy, citizens are likely to expect the new reval – which will take

• See DROP page 2

• See YEAR IN REVIEW page 20

• See YEAR IN REVIEW page 20

• See RE TRANSACTIONS page 9
Inhabitants on one of the atols in the Micronesia chain.

tainers didn’t quite land where the crews wanted them to so islanders swam out to retrieve them. Others were discovered months later some miles away.

Today the tradition continues with donations from the residents and businesses of Guam. Boxes are packed with items such as fishing nets, construction materials, powdered milk, canned goods, rice, coolers, clothing, shoes, toys and school supplies.

Each box dropped from a C-130 aircraft weighs nearly 400 pounds. By 2006, more than 800,000 pounds of supplies were dropped.

Volunteers from Andersen Air Force Base, including the 36th Wing, 734th Air Mobility Squadron, and both crew and aircraft from the 36th Airlift Squadron at Yokota Air Base, Japan, joined in. Members of the community also help with the operation. Money is raised by sponsored activities such as golf tournaments and sponsored runs, as well as local businesses sponsoring individual boxes.

The 2006 operation saw 140 boxes dropped to 59 islands. The 2011 operation included dropping 25 boxes of IV fluids to Fais Island to combat a local outbreak of dengue fever.

Hundreds of volunteers are involved in the planning, gathering of donations, fundraising efforts and packing of the items airdropped for Operation Christmas Drop. Very few know exactly who these donations go to. MSgt Leslie finally put a face on Operation Christmas Drop.

MSgt Leslie, son of Frank and Debbie Leslie of Franklin and Highlands (his father is Frank Leslie, Director of Medical Services/Resource & Risk Management/Compliance of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital) was first trained as a flight mechanic, a skill that served him well when the plane he chartered to get to the islands of Micronesia broke down stretching a 3-day jaunt into a 14-day experience.

MSgt Leslie joined the Air Force in 1994 as an aircraft mechanic. He has since held positions as a Flying Crew Chief, Field Training Detachment Instructor, Commanders Executive Assistant, Production Superintendent and is currently the base Career Assistance Advisor.

He is married to his wife Wendy. They have three children, Isabel, 10, Toby, 8, and Winter, 7 and they live together on the base on Guam, where they will be for another two years.

Active in base activities, MSgt Leslie is the Chapel Advisory Council Vice President and leads music sessions for base services. His actions were instrumental to Andersen Air Force Base earning the Air Force “Best Small Chapel of the Year” award in 2011. He and Wendy are avid scuba divers and enjoy nearby dives that other diving enthusiasts have to save months to enjoy.

He and his family moved to Guam in 2010 and were drawn to the Operation Christmas Drop mission. That year, he assisted in collecting and loading 10 tons of supplies on 16 aircraft. This effort provided relief to 20,000 islanders on 55 Micronesian islands.

The following year, he was equally in...
How a drop looks from the air.

She felt this would be best by sending someone to several of the islands where relief supplies were being dropped to document it. That person was MSgt Leslie. Sponsored by Operation Christmas "For a Healthier Life"

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• Obituary •

William Berg, Jr.


Mr. Berg proudly served his country during WWII as a signalman, third class in the U.S. Navy. He was a graduate of Beaumont High School and St. Louis University. William owned Greene Golf Products until his retirement in 1980.

Mr. & Mrs. Berg also have a residence at the Highlands Country Club, Highlands, NC.

Services: No services will be held, however, if desired, contributions may be made to Operation Food Search, 6282 Olive Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130-3300. A service of Schrader Funeral Home and Crematory. Friends may sign the family's on-line guestbook at Schrader
Darn tootin’ I’m angry. I don’t like being a minority in my own country. For whatever time I have left on this sick planet, I want to live with my own kind. Call me a racist … I don’t care! Why are we the only species that demands we cohabit outside our own kind? Do zebras mingle with horses? Do vultures soar with eagles? Even rats don’t hang out with mice. In today’s New America, these kinds of questions are, of course, totally racist. I know, I know; the thought police will soon be knocking on my door. Ask me if I care.

I’m sure Highlanders understand this need to be with my own kind more than most because in our perfect little town high in the mountains the white male still dominates. In Highlands, living only with other white males is OK and not racist. Why is that? A puzzlement. So why don’t I just head back to Highlands, you ask?

My problem is I’m a winter wimp extraordinaire. If it gets below 50 degrees I freeze up and cease to function. Everything shrinks. I get the sniffles 24/7 and really weird stuff pours from my nose. … in a variety of colors. I have samples if you’re interested. Write me at snot.com. Who wants to live with that? What’s an angry old white male to do?

I’m convinced the United States will eventually crash financially, causing misbehavior to flair up among the common people, which includes li’l ole me. Hey, you can’t get more common than me. … right? Sooo where do I hide?

Flash back to last Thanksgiving. The li’l missus and I grabbed her recently baked homemade desserts and we headed for Jacksonville, FL to visit our daughter, her Navy Commander husband and their four small children. We left that back. Her oldest daughter is 12 going on 23. I’m sure some readers know what I mean. Also, we brought our youngest son and his wife who were visiting us from Dubai. It was almost perfect except our oldest son took his family and headed for Auburn, AL to celebrate Thanksgiving with in-laws. That’s OK; 90% is good.

Anyway, it was the perfect time to discuss what each family would do if the pushing and shoving started among frightened Americans who are not on the political gravy train. Where do we hide when the country collapses and street fighting starts?

Our Navy son-in-law will move his family onto the naval base at Mayport. Hey, ya can’t get safer than that. My other son and his wife will continue to live in Dubai, a disgustingly wealthy land where misbehavior is dealt with in the harshest of terms. One does not misbehave in Dubai. And my firefighter son thinks we’re all nuts and says he doesn’t have a plan ’cause it ain’t happening. I hope he’s right….but I don’t think so. But last but surely not least, where does that leave the li’l missus and li’l ole me, the last of the angry white males?

My youngest son had the best idea. “Dad, you’ve got to band with the cops you worked with years ago,” he said. “You guys were some of the scariest people in Miami Beach back in the ’60s and ’70s. Form a union, write a constitution, arm yourselves to the hilt and wait it out. You still have the skills and the mentality but not the badges of authority.”
We as Americans have the power to shape our destiny

When does the act of governing begin? When will ideological purity and self interest become less important than the well being of the United States of America and the economic security of her some 350,000,000 residents?

Why doesn't the electorate, who by now has figured out their Congressman's primary goal is reelection, deny them their gravy train, and chuck them out of office? When Congressional approval hovers below 20%, when Americans clamor for action on the fiscal front, when the President and Rep. Boehner circle around like two hyenas eyeing a rotting carcass, when we are mere days from a vivid demonstration of governmental impotence, why do Americans send nearly all of them, every two years, back to Washington?

Where will we find honest, selfless patriots to lead us to compromise and economic sanity, guys who can sit down, respectfully disagree without rage or rancor, gals who can put aside narrow ideology and self interest, and work out a deal, that is unsatisfactory to both sides, seen as deeply flawed, but ones that give the USA a fighting chance to get back on track?

We can't afford our present commitments, let alone an expansion the Democrats seem to favor. The math, as they say, doesn't work. With a shrinking body of workers supporting a growing aging population, and with the extension of largess to more and more Americans, the money just won't be there. It seems like turning back the clock to a crueler time.

Maybe we could start by turning the clock back just far enough to return to a time when their was a rough balance between compassion and self responsibility. America has never been perfect, and never will be. Depending of which side of the political fence you live on, we were at our best somewhere between 1776 and 2012.

I don't know where you stand philosophically on the question of a graduated income tax, and it doesn't matter because right now, to get the deal done, the wealthy and near wealthy must accept a tax increase. And I think it's fair.

We face an extraordinary debt and staggering interest payments. Even if we don't issue one more food stamp, extend a helping hand to another unemployed worker, and permanently freeze the poverty level, even if the government doesn't take on one more job, without prompt action, we'll pass along crippling debt to future generations.

We need a deal and compromise is the only path to reach it. Everyone knows it, has for years, but in the nation's capitol elected politicians consider their interests above the people who pay them to do a job, the health of America has been of secondary importance.

None of us wants to pay higher taxes. The reason might be purely economic or completely philosophic, but it's a fact. Higher taxes are a bitter, but necessary medicine. Maybe, someday, in some shining America in the future everyone will pay lower taxes, because everyone will have a job and contribute. Everyone will have enough to eat, a decent place to live, and adequate healthcare. The government may find a way to identify the truly needy and help them, while providing inspiration and opportunity for the rest to care for themselves.

Today we have a crisis. Unless we act, and act decisively, we need look only at our European neighbors today to see our future tomorrow.

We can't grow our way out of this hole, and we certainly can't tax our way to solvency, but working together, Left and Right, Democrat and Republican, we can begin the task of making America once again the model for the rest of the world, better than in earlier decades.
Drop, he took leave, packed up his personal photography equipment and jumped on a commercial plane to the island of Yap. From there, his travels became more of an adventure.

Boarding a small aircraft owned by a missionary organization he headed for the outer islands.

At their first stop, the aircraft had a major maintenance problem. MSgt Leslie had to lean on his training as an Air Force aircraft mechanic to fix the aircraft himself. While waiting for parts to arrive, he could finish repairing the aircraft, he ventured out in small boats to islands even further away from civilization. This boat island-hopping campaign lasted for 10 days.

During those 10 days, MSgt Leslie lived like the natives. He fished for his food, ate locally grown fruits and even scaled coconut trees for something to drink due to the lack of fresh water. Living in simple huts, MSgt Leslie found out firsthand what it was like to live in such an isolated community. Over the course of his journey through the islands of Micronesia, MSgt Leslie captured over 2,000 photos.

“This is the soft side of what we do,” he said. “We don’t just position for war. We have the logistical power to be able to help and this shows we aren’t just big and bad but soft, too.”

Leslie joined the Air Force and left Highlands three weeks after the Saturday he graduated from Highlands School.

His first stop was boot camp in Oklahoma, then it was on to Fayetteville, NC. In his 18 years of service, he’s been deployed all over the world and has worn many hats in the Air Force. While in the force, he has earned a BA in Education Development, associate degrees in law, aviation maintenance, IT and is currently working on his Masters in Community Leadership.

He said it was his small town upbringing in Highlands that propelled him to see the world, and his ticket was the Air Force.

“Being from a small town really contributed to my curiosity about the rest of the world,” said Leslie. “I wanted to branch out and see and do everything.”

Though he misses Highlands, round trip airfare from Guam is about $2,200 per person so he and his family don’t get back here much...

Christmas is all about giving and that’s what Operation Christmas Drop has been doing for 60 years. MSgt Leslie not only gave to others, he shared a story that will energize more to do the same for years to come.

The operation is the oldest ongoing U.S. Department of Defense mission which remains in full operation and is the longest running humanitarian airlift in the world.

— Kim Lewicki in collaboration with the US Air Force writers
Every year at this time many Americans look forward to a new year by making some resolutions to follow during the new year. In that respect, I am looking forward to a terrific 2013 and have made the following resolutions to adhere to.

I resolve to continue hating the Yankees with every fiber of my being. (and by hate I mean “sports hate” not “I hope something bad happens to them” hate) Not only did they completely embarrass themselves this year with their lackluster performance on the field, but they also continue to spend money like water. Same goes for the Angels and Dodgers.

I resolve to no longer feel empathy for UNC fans, despite the fact that they have been slaughtered by the only three decent teams they have played. Note to self UNC fans: you aren’t supposed to throw Roy under the bus until AFTER he goes 8-20 like Matt Doherty did. UNC will be a force by the end of the year, and most of the bandwagoner UNC fans will jump back on the high horse but the ones who stuck by their team all along will be the ones who feel most vindicated. (And rightly so.)

I resolve to watch as much of Blake Griffin as possible. Seriously, do yourself a favor and go youtube some of Blake Griffin’s highlights. The man is not just a dunking machine (although he is on par with guys like Vince Carter and Dominque Wilkins in that department) he plays with an energy that is not often seen in the NBA these days. Griffin has the Clippers in a must see category on national television, and they have won 12 straight games as of this writing.

My final New Year’s Resolution is to continue to hate on the BCS with every fiber of my being as it fades into Bolivian (to quote Mike Tyson). It is absurd that a team like Alabama can play three decent teams all year, only beat two of them, and still play for a national championship. I mean, I guess it could be worse, you could be Florida State and only play one decent team all year at home and lose to them (and lose to a horrible NC State team as well). Still, it seems pretty ridiculous that Alabama has crapped the bed in their toughest home game in each of the last two seasons and still managed to end up in the National Championship. Even more ridiculous are the circles that Nick Saban has managed to turn himself in explaining this special brand of “luck” to the media.

Ryan Potts
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WED
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THURS
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This is a perfect home for anyone needing live in help or a mother-in-law suite. 4/4 Highlands Falls. Just reduced $397K. MLS#72929. Call 526-1717.

Great remodeled one level home close to the Highlands Falls clubhouse. $597,000. 3/3. MLS#69375. Call 526-1717.

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HIGHLANDS FALLS CC. Best value in the club. 3/3 plus den, cathedral ceiling, stone fireplace, screened porch. $349,000. MLS #75839. Call 828-421-8193.

Custom 3/3 home on 1.3 acres between Cullasaja Club & Wildcat Cliffs. For sale, lease, or lease-purchase. $587,000 MLS#72321 Call 828-526-1717.

Wonderful mountain cottage on a mostly level lot with a great view of Whiteside Mountain. 2/2 $387,000 MLS#73448 Call 828-526-1717.

3 BR 2 Bath historic Highlands designer home featured in VERANDA magazine. Offered for $375,000. MLS 76151

HIGHLANDS. Historic Farmhouse on 6.4 +/- acres, 4/2, offers mountain views, old log barn, pond, pasture, stone cellar. $397,500. MLS #74058. Call 828-421-7241.

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MIRROR LAKE AREA. Charming Old Highlands cabin on 1.59 +/- acres bordering Moon Shine Creek, stone fireplace, knotty pine, 2/1. $277,000. MLS# 76247. Call 828-526-4101.


HFCC masterpiece. Private drive, lower level guest suites, master on the main. Amazing mountain, golf course and waterfall views! Offered for $1,400,000. MLS 76138

Charming creekside home in downtown Highlands. Great rental history. Offered for $550,000. MLS 76130

Flat Mountain with view. 2 acres, garage, sunroom and 6 bedrooms. Hardwood floors. Grand home! Offered for $975,000. MLS 75804

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place in 2014 and will be reflected in the 2015 tax rate – to mean a
decrease in property taxes.

However, Macon County Tax Appraiser Richard Lightner says there
is a lot that goes into devising a tax rate.

“What citizens will see in this year’s real estate transactions is the
difference between the market conditions in 2007 (assessed value)
and present conditions (sale price). Normally, the assessed value
would be lower than the sale price this late in an assessment cycle. However,
the recession has taken a toll on pricing and also on the number of
foreclosures. Many sale values are the results of forced sales and thus
are not arm’s length market sales as defined by all appraisal standards.

“What does all of this indicate? The market values have dropped on
vacant land the most and next on moderately expensive homes. This
decrease in value by law cannot be recognized in the assessed
value until the reassessment of 2015. At that time we will consider all
of the qualified market sales through 2014 and apply them to the values
for 2015.

“Many people believe that a drop in value equals an equal drop in
taxes; that may or may not be true. By law, the county has to have a
balanced budget and in order to get that, the county adds all of the
revenue up from all sources and subtracts it from the needed revenue.
The difference is then divided by the total assessed value and a tax rate
is determined. Once the tax rate is applied to each individual property,
a tax bill can be calculated. If the change in an individual property is
less than the median property change, the property will have an in-
crease tax bill. The opposite is true. If the change is more than the
median value change, the property will have a lower tax bill. If the
overall assessed value of the county drops, the new revenue neutral tax
rate will be higher than the present tax rate, as defined by general
statutes,” he said.

The following transaction are from Jan. 1, 2012 through Dec. 6,
2012 for the Town of Highlands and the townships of Highlands and
Flats/Scaly.

**Town of Highlands**
Jan. 1, 2012 - Dec. 6, 2012

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**In-Town, Pristine Gem**

3BR/3BA less than mile from Main St.! Upstairs master suite or retreat for grandparents! Open living/dining room and granite-countered kitchen. Large deck in canopy of trees with outdoor dining. New roof, floors, paint & updates. Lower level for storage/more living space. Offered at $369,000. MLS #75156.

**Historic Highlands Estate**

Escape to this 1920s Highlands private estate on 7.27 +/- acres, a short walk to Main Street. The 4 BR/3 BA main house features gorgeous woodwork, stone fireplace in the living & dining rooms, large country kitchen, and library. The charming, 2 BR/1 BA guest house has wood floors, a claw foot tub/shower in the bathroom, and an open deck. Expansive slate patio, walking trails, perennial gardens, and lawns. Offered at $2,650,000. MLS #75971.

**Ideal Harris Lake Cottage**

2 BR/1.5 BA cottage with Old Highlands charm and view of Harris Lake. This lake cottage features a granite fireplace (wood burning), pine walls, open floor plan, eat-in kitchen, tile countertops, new appliances, metal roof, and outdoor living space. A short walk to Main Street. Offered at $645,000. MLS #73401.

**2BR/2BA Charmer in Mirror Lake**

A 2BR/2BA, Mirror Lake area cottage loaded with charm, character, custom details and unique features. Covered and open decking, hardwood flooring, custom doors and carpentry. Completely rebuilt in 2006 (new pillars, kitchen w/handmade cabinets, siding, double pane windows, as well as new plumbing & electrical service). New roof in 2003. Turn-key! Offered at $274,000. MLS #73401.
FALLING WATERS
...is a newer 52-acre community with 8 homes all built after 2000, just 2.5 miles from Main Street, Highlands. Secluded but not remote, no road noise, underground utilities, paved roads, well maintained ... peaceful, quiet & private.

Gentle land makes for easy building and fewer erosion problems. Plenty of parking, child friendly; a great place to walk.

Come Visit!

From Main St., take Hwy. 106 (The Dillard Road) 1.8 miles just past the Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3 tenths of a mile turn left on Moonlight.

The entrance is on the right.
www.highlandsnchomesites.com
Contact (onsite owner) or your broker for plats, prices & a guided tour.
828-508-9952.

Highlands Township
Jan. 1, 2012 - Dec. 6, 2012
PIN, PROP_ADDR, OWNER_NAME, DATE_REC'D, SALESPRICE, ASSED_VAL

- 7540665494, 93 ROLLING WOODS DR, JONES BARBARA E, 5/3/2012, $512,500, $514,830
- 7540760630, ROLLING WOODS, FISHKIN STEVEN L TR, 4/4/2012, $107,440
- 7540760703, 112 ROLLING WOODS DR, FISHKIN STEVEN L TR, 4/4/2012, $0, $467,450
- 7520355475, TURTLE POND RD, MACON BANK INC, 7/24/2012, $555,000, $73,380
- 7520396155, DENDY ORCHARD RD, NIMMONS KENNETH M, 4/30/2012, $265,000, $67,320
- 7520397294, DENDY ORCHARD RD, NIMMONS KENNETH M, 4/30/2012, $265,000, $46,910
- 7540966204, 28 WINTERBERRY CT, AMAN SALLIE S., 10/5/2012, $578,210
- 7459178636, 3380 HORSE COVE RD, LEIZE R SMITH REVBLE TR, 3/26/2012, $0, $283,880
- 7520540985, MOUNTAIN BROOK WAY, REDDICK TATE, 6/1/2012, $10,000, $77,630
- 7520541686, MOUNTAIN BROOK WAY, FRYE ROBERT AJR, 5/3/2012, $345,000, $438,750
- 7520541766, MOUNTAIN BROOK WAY, REDDICK TATE, 6/1/2012, $10,000, $77,630
- 7520541865, MOUNTAIN BROOK WAY, REDDICK TATE, 6/1/2012, $10,000, $77,630
- 7520550037, 48 MNT BROOK WAY, MACON BANK INC, 7/24/2012, $200,000, $468,860
- 7429976078, 3061 DILLARD RD, EUSTIS HERBERT LEE, 4/12/2012, $1,059,530
- 7520451900, 2792 TURTLE POND RD, ADAMS JOHN S, 5/16/2012, $0, $250,840
- 7540939763, 1050 FALLS DR W, CHITTY, RICHARD L TR, 9/7/2012, $630,000, $1,094,670
- 7520543867, TURTLE POND RD, DUPUIS, MICHAEL L, 4/4/2012, $10,000, $68,400
- 7520552073, TURTLE POND RD, DUPUIS, MICHAEL L, 4/4/2012, $10,000, $72,960
- 7530785569, 206 HAMMOND RD, DANGIOLELLA FRANK, 5/23/2012, $212,500, $390,360
- 7449005198, 1384 CLEAR CREEK RD, BUNNELL BRUCE THOMAS, 5/14/2012, $315,570
- 7449006074, RD 1613, BUNNELL BRUCETHOMAS, 5/14/2012, $0, $31,250
- 7541035949, HEDDEN LANE, CHAMBERSOVERTON II, 4/5/2012, $0, $231,270
- 7551318425, APPLE MTN CIRCLE, DEVRIES ROGER WILLIAM, 9/26/2012, $0, $142,040
- 7530890496, 715 VIEW POINT RD, WILLIAM G HAMMOND REVOC TR, 7/20/2012, $0, $805,420
- 7459376807, HILLCREST DR, MANGUM MICHELE, 10/15/2012, $0, $102,000
- 7551414129, OFF HWY 64 1404, WEAVER HERBERT B JR TR, 8/27/2012, $0, $712,800
- 7520199852, 111 ANCIENT WAY, MANGASARIAN JUDITH W, 10/25/2012, $0, $555,510
- 7550894549, RD 1600 , THOMPSON MARY N, 4/24/2012, $435,000, $880,470
- 7520357540, TURTLE POND RD, MACON BANK INC, 7/24/2012, $555,000, $82,450
- 7520359905, TURTLE POND RD, MACON BANK INC, 7/24/2012, $555,000, $67,320
- 7520399089, 119 DENDY KNOB, NIMMONSKENNETH M, 4/30/2012, $265,000, $352,840
- 755139923, 276 HIGHLAND MEAD. RD, FERRISKELLY ELIZABETH, 4/3/2012, $120,000, $390,210
- 7541040188, HEDDEN LANE, CHAMBERSOVERTHAM, 3/28/2012, $0, $112,760
- 7459277607, 14 & 38 COUNTRY SQ LN, MCCORY RICHARD J, 10/29/2012, $0, $787,940
- 7459278547, 172 HILLCREST DR, YOUNT BRADLEY, 5/15/2012, $755,000, $169,460
- 7438889968, CHEYENNE DR, HOUSTON BARBARA A TR, 8/17/2012, $0, $592,570
- 7520721030, TURTLE POND RD, KILLEBREW ROBERT BRUCE, 10/12/2012, $40,000, $77,520
- 7459374480, 29 HILLCREST DR, MANGUM MICHELE TRUSTEE, 10/15/2012, $0, $405,630
- 7540678496, 44 ROLLING ACRES DR, FIRST CITIZENS BANK & TRUST CO, 9/12/2012, $37,000, $388,910
- 7551012599, 3645 CASHIERS RD, COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH, 8/6/2012, $0, $56,110,580
- 7540788284, 36 ROCKY RIDGE RD, REED GERALD, 6/25/2012, $464,000, $759,520
- 7551052931, 290 FOREST TRL, BRADWELL PROPERTIES INC, 8/22/2012, $450,000, $504,700
- 7540882091, 282 SKY LAKE RD, HOLLOWAY PATRICIA W TR, 3/12/2012, $0, $461,050
- 7551212072, LOT 272 CULLASAJA A CL, BBW OF CASHIERS LLC, 8/28/2012, $56,000, $302,050
- 7438773982, 777 CHEYENNE DR, INTERNATIONAL GREEN LABS LLC, 6/7/2012, $143,500, $230,330
- 7541047543, HEDDEN LANE, CHAMBERSOVERTON II, 4/5/2012, $0, $241,430
- 7530893561, OFF RD 1544, THE WILLIAM G HAMMOND REVTR, 9/6/2012, $100,000, $225,840
- 7438898438, 313 CORNET LN, BUNNELL KARLE E, 2/3/2012, $0, $247,390

*See RE TRANSACTIONS page 15
Highlands View. Affordable home with a mountain view. 3BR, 2BA with a bonus room. Vaulted living room with fireplace, deck, lower level bonus room. Paved and only minutes from town. Offered at $299,000. MLS #60760

Two acres in neighborhood just two miles from Main Street. 3BR 3BA, open living area with wood burning fireplace and screened-in porch. Broker owned and offered at the substantially reduced price of $545,000. Owner wants offers!

Mirror Lake. 2BR, 2BA summer cabin on Cullasaja River. Close to town. Offered at $195,000. MLS #75232

Commercial office. Great location on Harris lake features reception and waiting area, with 2/3 offices and bathroom. Room for expansion and a wonderful setting. Offered at $550,000. MLS #67077

Great open plan with passive solar heating, large stone fireplace, and native landscaping. Kitchen and master suite totally renovated in 1999. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, with a wrap-around deck to enjoy mountain views. Garage with workshop and storage. Within walking distance of trout fishing lake, and tennis courts. Offered at $375,000. MLS #74035.

Highlands View. Affordable home with a mountain view. 3BR, 2BA with a bonus room. Vaulted living room with fireplace, deck, lower level bonus room. Paved and only minutes from town. Offered at $299,000. MLS #60760

Stone house. 3 BR 4 BA, stone fireplace, updated kitchen with granite and stainless appliances, renovated baths. One mile from Main Street. Large 1.4 acre level yard with mature landscaping. Offered at $985,000. MLS #71611

Great family retreat with large rooms, loads of outdoor living spaces, southern exposure, ponds, creeks, well established organic garden. Includes apartment with both inside and outside entrances. Offered at $285,500. MLS #70915

Priced to sell! Spacious living, dining, kitchen, 3BR; 3 sets French doors to deck; 2011 new roof; granite countertops; 2-car garage with shop area. $299,000 mls #75684

Historic Highlands home circa 1937 3BR/ 2.5 BA home at the base of Satulah Mountain on 1.53 acres. Clear chestnut paneling and a granite stone fireplace. Craftsmanship throughout. One-car garage, and a spring fed pond. MLS # 76313 Offered at $975,000.

On a pastoral lot in town. 3BR/3BA home on one floor. Vaulted ceiling, wood floors, central heat and air, walk in closets. Large partially covered and screened porch. Totally updated. Fully furnished. Offered at $449,000. MLS #75793

Cullasaja Club Fairway Cottage on the 10th tee. Loaded with upgrades. Soaring, vaulted ceiling in the great room. Stone fireplaces in great room and on screened porch. Huge master bedroom suite. Offered at $795,000. MLS #65523

2 BR/ 2BA cottage on Oak Lane. Open kitchen/dining/living area, stone terrace with outdoor fireplace, two levels of decking. 7-year rental record. Offered at $299,000. MLS #75486
W easel’s two week reprieve was bit tersweet. Faced with a tuna diet, her appetite improved. She ate slowly, and it was an adventure finding new places to feed her. Otherwise, Orion would push her out of the way, and take her food. Orion’s actions were disappointing. I hoped he’d be loving and supportive of Weasel, but he found each hidey hole, chasing her away and stealing her spot. The law of animals is the survival of the fittest. Yet, that last night, something changed. I watched in amazement as Weasel and Orion crept toward each other. They touched noses, and nuzzled, trading a few tentative licks. The cats nestled down in front of the fireplace, basking in its warmth, and each other’s company. It was a bittersweet moment.

Two weeks after Dr. Brad’s sad diagnosis, I loaded Weasel back into her cat carrier. This time, she was quieter, perhaps because she knew the routine, perhaps she was simply resigned. I held the carrier on my lap, speaking quietly to my sweet girl, as my friend Jane drove us to the vet. A call to Animal Wellness Clinic had alerted them to our arrival. We were the first appointment. What a way for those poor employees to start the day!

I was ushered into the examination room, and opened the cat carrier. Lindsay sat down at the computer, briefly typing in Weasel’s details before she left the room. Weasel walked over to the computer. There it was, written on the screen: Weasel (deceased): euthanasia. I rushed to hide the screen from Weasel. “What if she reads it?” I thought, and then stopped myself. “Of course she can’t read. She’s a cat!” Dr. Brad came in, and explained the procedure. First, he’d give Weasel an anesthetic, as if he were preparing Weasel for surgery. I could hang out with her as long as I wanted. Then he would administer the second shot, which would stop her heart. It was all sadly simple. I knew how much my crying distressed the cats after John died, and vowed to be strong for Weasel’s sake.

Dr. Brad asked if he could take Weasel into the back for her first shot. I agreed. He returned shortly, praising my sweet girl for her bravery. Neither of my cats liked being held, so I waited until Weasel became groggy before picking her up. I held her as you’d hold a baby, cradling her in my arms. I talked to her softly, telling her how much I loved her, how much happiness she’d given to John and me. “You have a bad boo boo, Weasie. You’re not going to get better. Mama doesn’t want you to hurt anymore, Sweetie.” I stroked her beautiful fur, kissed her forehead, and hugged her to me. And then, as I’d done hundreds of times before, I told her the story I’d made up just for her, when I arrived in Highlands.

“Once upon a time, there was a beautiful princess named Louisa, but her family called her ‘Weasie.’ She was the most gorgeous princess in the whole kingdom, with her marvelous hair and big green eyes. Princess Weasie was as smart and clever as she was beautiful, and everyone loved her. Everyone, that is, except for a wicked witch, who was jealous of her. In her rage, the witch turned her into a cat, an exceptionally wise and pretty cat. At first, the princess had trouble getting used to walking on all fours, and licking her food from a bowl, but she was so kind and gentle that eventually the other animals took pity on her, befriending her. The great part about this story is that you could make it as long or as short as you wanted, depending on how much time you had.
Weasel seemed to listen as I told her story, perhaps because she enjoyed hearing her names spoken over and over. By the way, the story ends when a cure comes up for restoring Princess Louisa to human form, but she enjoys being a cat so much, she chooses to stay one. Some women will do anything to avoid dealing with Prince Charming.

I concluded Weasel’s story as Dr. Brad came in. He asked if I was ready, and I was. I picked up Weasel’s little white paw, held it in my hand, and kissed it. “Oh, Wease! I’m so sorry, if it’s not your time, please forgive me.” Dr. Brad shaved a section on Weasel’s arm, put on a tourniquet, and gave her the second injection. Shortly after, he leaned over and placed his stethoscope on my precocious cat’s chest. “She’s gone,” he said, simply. It was so quiet you could hear a heart breaking. “Go find Papa, Weasel,” I said, kissing her one last time. “It’s time to go find Papa.” I stood up, and handed Weasel over into Dr. Brad’s gentle care. I walked out into the waiting room, and threw myself into Jane’s arms, sobbing. Her eyes were already red. I checked with the front desk about picking up Weasel’s ashes, and walked out into the bright sunlight with my empty cat carrier.

I got home, finding Orion asleep on the couch. He looked up, yawned, and then smelled the front of my sweatshirt. I hadn’t realized that Weasel had peed on it. His eyes opened in horror, and he bolted off the sofa, hiding for hours until nightfall. For days, Orion slunk around, either dingy and affectionate, or sullen and aloof. He looked for his Sissie everywhere, exploring every hidey hole, sniffing for any trace of her, in vain. I went to the kitchen, and put Weasel’s bowl in the dishwasher. Running the vacuum cleaner on the porch, I found Weasel’s favorite toys, and burst into tears. It was awful finding the toy mice, the El Gato cigar, and the plastic balls with the jingle bells inside. “How do you survive the death of a child?” I thought. How does anyone come home to a child’s empty room, a bike ridden only days before, a beloved doll propped up on a pillow? If losing a beloved pet is so hard, how does one ever cope with the loss of a child?

Friends have been kind and supportive. No one has said to me, “Oh, she was just a cat.” I don’t know if I could forgive them if they did. To make me feel better, folks have assured me that just as John is now in a big celestial pub, sharing a pint with Ben Franklin, Weasel is now chasing mice in heaven. Well, it’s hardly heaven for the mice, is it?

It’s going to be a sad Christmas. Every year, I get a special ornament to remember the year by. I have my Paris Eiffel tower, my New York Statue of Liberty, my wooden buffalo from Colorado. For 2012, I have a special ornament, which just arrived by mail. It’s a little angel girl, holding a cat in her arms. I checked out the box to see if the cat has a name. It doesn’t, but I’ll bet you all the catnip in the world that her name is Weasel.
**SUN.**: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun 8:30 a.m. communion service June-Labor Day; 
**TUES**: 8 a.m. Men’s Cursillo Group; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Reverend
**THURS**: Women’s Prayer Group – 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church;
**WED**: Men’s Bible Study – 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**
Sky Valley, GA
Church: 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
Worshiping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers
Sun.: Holy Communion - 9 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45 at Buck’s Coffee
Cafe, Cashiers
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8-30 a.m., First Baptist Church
Thurs.: Women’s Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church;
Healing Service at noon

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays – 7 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Children’s Program., Worship Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts Group, 5 p.m. HS
Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**
526-2968 • Reverend Bruce Walker
Sunday: Education for children & adults and choir rehearsal beginning at 9am. Holy Eucharist Rite I & Holy Eucharist Rite II–10:30 am in the Main Nave of the Church.
Monday: 4 p.m. Women’s Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men’s Cursillo Group; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Reverend Howard L’Enfant
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**
Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 5 p.m.

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

**GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH**
(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Rev. Carson Gibson

**GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS**
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
Randy Reed, Pastor
828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Sundays: Worship – 11

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

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30 & 10:50.; Youth Group 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper; 6: 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs: 12:30 – Women’s Bible Study (nursery)

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA**
Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Roy Lowe, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

**MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH**
Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704
Independent Bible Church
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge Road
(4.5 miles from NC 107)
Wed: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor – Parish office: 526-2418
Mass: – Sun: 11 a.m.; Thurs & Fri.: 9 a.m.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Dwight Loggins
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 Sizemore • 526-3212
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

**SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Youth 8th – 12th grades meet the 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m

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

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**SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING**

It is hard for me to believe that Christmas 2012 has arrived and we are standing at the eve of another New Year. So I guess we will talk about what we did or didn’t get for Christmas, and we may even begin talking about what we are going to differently in a New Year.

Whatever the case might be, the fact is simple, we are going to talk about what could have been or what will be. As I write this article, the country has just witnessed the horror and tragedy of the events in Newtown, Connecticut, and I want to focus on some lessons we can learn and take into a New Year.

First of all, I know that we still are in shock over the events of a gunman walking into a school and killing 27 people, and 20 of them children who had not yet lived life to their potential. We ask ourselves how this can ever happen in our country? There are no words really to write or to say that will ease the pain for hurting families. But I want to reflect on that event and hopefully remind myself of those things that are important and real in life as we move into a New Year.

One of the first questions we always ask is “Why?” “How could a loving God that preachers talk about all the time allow this to happen?” “Why are so many innocent children taken away from loved ones before they even began to live their lives?” “Where was God when the gunman was shooting?”

Now let me assure you there is no easy answer to the question “Why?” They did not teach me the answer to this at Duke, and I really wish they had. But what I do know is this: We live in a world where we are given the freedom to make choices, and we live in a world where there is darkness and light. And for years we in the church have equated darkness with evil and light with good. (The proverbial good versus evil.)

There are times when it seems that darkness is overwhelming the light, but there was a book written long ago that proclaims that darkness can never overcome the light, and that book is the Bible.

On December 14th, for a few minutes darkness was all around in the town of Newtown, and in our country, but that darkness did not last. In fact, when light came fast, and it came with grace, comfort and peace.

Again, I firmly believe that God gives us the choice to do good or to do bad. God gives us the choice to love or to hate. The choice is ours, and as we move into this New Year, let us choose well.

**See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 15**
... RE TRANSACTIONS continued from page 10

- 753091315, VIEWPOINT, BROWNE JAMES, 5/31/2012, $37,000, $120,640
- 7551548853, 11 RIDGE LN, STUTZMAN PAMELA, 5/1/2012, 0, $372,680
- 7551613970, 506 LAKE VILLAS WAY, ANDES JERRY M., 7/27/2012, $430,000, $752,060
- 7551518730, OFF 64 & 1404, GRIFFIN HIGHLANDS PR LLC, 10/9/2012, 0, $534,600
- 7541305576, FLAT MOUNTAIN, MCKENZIE CARRILL D. TR, 8/16/2012, 0, $102,000
- 7439075291, KETTLE ROCK RD, SULLIVAN CLAUDET, 10/17/2012, $196,500, $539,780
- 7439075965, 421 KETTLE ROCK RD, SULLIVAN CLAUDET, 10/17/2012, $770,000, $1,116,290
- 7449319485, 335 SATULAH FALLSLN, MOYE WILLIAM A., 10/9/2012, $560,000, $737,800
- 7551627520, 21 HEMLOCK LN, GOOGE ELISE WHITAKER, 1/10/2012, 0, $647,330
- 7541410620, HENRY WRIGHT DR, KENT PETER E., 6/20/2012, 0, $376,990
- 7541412134, LOT 10 PRIMEVALEST, TAYLOR NANCY B TRUSTEE, 8/30/2012, 0, $158,060
- 7541420196, 365 HENRY WRIGHT RD, KENT STEPHEN W., 6/20/2012, 0, $2,064,860
- 7449421623, SATULAH FALLSRD, HARBISON ANN, 10/5/2012, 0, $753,840
- 7459674546, HORSE COVE RD, MCCALL CAROLYN, 3/12/2012, $125,000, $241,130
- 7459675949, 400 COVE DR, MCCALL CAROLYN, 3/29/2012, $135,000, $217,290
- 7551717594, 396 AZALEA LN, FRANKLIN ANDREA W., 7/12/2012, $300,000, $340,190
- 7551301178, 330 CRESCENT TRL, BOLLINGER PATRICIA STR, 5/7/2012, 0, $1,050,530

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from 14

hate, and God gives us the choice to help others or to be self serving. The point is we have a choice, and there are those who will choose to bring harm to others and those who choose to bring healing. That gunman chose to bring harm, but there were many who chose to bring healing.

I do believe that I saw a lot of light in the midst of darkness in Newtown when I saw people willing to risk their loves to save others. I saw light in a teacher who when interviewed said she gathered all her children in her class and told them she loved them and their parents loved them, and she would be there with them, no matter what. She told a news reporter that if that was the last thing those children were to hear, she wanted them to know they were loved.

I saw light in the face of a first-grader who, when interviewed, said, “I didn’t know what was happening, but trusted the teacher knew what to do;” then she smiled and was missing her two front teeth.

I saw light by all the people who came to help, firefighters, officers, EMS workers, doctors, counselors and clergy, who were willing to be there with hurting families and offer support and comfort.

What lessons can we take into the New Year from this tragedy? I hope that in a New Year filled with new potential and possibility that we will choose to live our lives bringing hope and grace to others. I hope that in a New Year we will choose to tell others we love and appreciate them. I hope that in a New Year we will take every opportunity to bring light and love to others. Because it is easy to look at the world and say, “there is nothing we can do to overcome darkness.” But there is. We can make a difference one person at a time. Remember, we all have a choice to bring hope or to give up, we have the choice to love or hate, and we have a choice to bring light or darkness.

Who knows, maybe sometime when others may ask “Why?” you might just be the light that shines in darkness.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and may we all be a light to others we meet.
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Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy, Holiday Season

Your friends at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital wish you Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year. ‘Tis the season to be reminded of safety and health tips that keep you well:

- Obtain Your Flu Vaccination
- Use Proper Hand Washing Techniques
- Practice Respiratory Etiquette (cover your cough)
- Maintain Low Stress Levels
- Remember Food, Toy, Fire, and Tree/Light Safety
- Drive and Travel with Care

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... RE TRANSACTIONS continued from page 16

2012, 0, $510,300
    7459559965, 4265 HORSE COVE RD, RICHARDS CHARLESE JR, 6/1/2012, 0, $1,481,700
    7551616103, 206 LAKE VILLAS WAY, WILLIAMS LAGENE C, 6/28/2012, 0, $1,103,190
    7449401705, 444 OLD ORCHARD RD, COPELAND JAMES R, 6/15/2012, $450,000, $667,370
    7459666753, HORSE COVE RD, MCCALL CAROLYN, 2/17/2012, $135,000, $21,410
    7531260085, FLAT MOUNTAIN RD, CURRY PAULINE D, 9/18/2012, $315,500, $359,100
    7551713133, 214 OAK PT, PURDUM ROBERT, 7/3/2012, $450,000, $441,710
    7550063688, 105 RIVER CT, LAMIER JAMES A JR, 2/29/2012, 0, $861,930
    7541745771, 420 SHORTOFF RD, EDWARDS MOZELLE D, 1/4/2012, 0, $421,940
    7541744137, 365 SHORTOFF RD, SICKINGER CHARLENE F TR, 1/3/2012, 0, $717,950
    7439579299, 76 LOG BRIDGE CIR, DYKES BROOKS CUNNINGHAM, 9/7/2012, $397,500, $619,230
    7541834156, BUCKBERRY, CHANCY MARK A., 8/17/2012, $64,000, $123,380
    7439589094, 200 UPPER CAR HILL DR, BONHAM JAMES D., 10/29/2012, $1,750,000, $1,13,350
    7551736665, 240 HICKORY LANE, WILDCAT CLIFFS CC INC, 1/13/2012, 0, $10,135,310
    7439279810, 31 CABE P, FREEMAN CENTER CONDO ASSO, 3/12/2012, 0, $108,400
    7550046817, 1427 FALLS DR E, ELLIOTT RONALD E, 2/24/2012, $750,000, $1,284,210
    7550047565, 1441 FALLS DR W, NEALE CHARLES A., 9/4/2012, $425,000, $592,730

• See RE TRANSACTIONS page 18
... RE TRANSACTIONS continued from page 17

- 7550158567, 1513 FALCON RDG, HAMRICH ROBERT H, 6/27/2012, $625,000, $1,003,110
- 7550177110, 115 FALLS CT W, RAJCZAK WILLIAM MICHAEL, 9/28/2012, $725,000, $1,671,510
- 7439464363, 59 THORNHILL RD, CHAMPION THOMAS DALLIS, 4/3/2012, $385,000, $701,980
- 7541750432, 188 NORTON RIDGE RD, NAYLOR KEVIN M, 8/28/2012, $1,867,670
- 7550272345, 150 RIVERVIEW CT, RAYMOND CRAIG W. TRUSTEE, 9/21/2012, $878,980
- 7541911194, 268 WOODLAND RIDGE RD, BRADSHAW CHARLES A, 6/29/2012, $780,810
- 7541911194, 268 WOODLAND RIDGE RD, BRADSHAW CHARLES A, 6/29/2012, $630,000, $910,890
- 7541911194, 268 WOODLAND RIDGE RD, BRADSHAW CHARLES A, 6/29/2012, $174,170
- 7429449697, BLUE VALLEY FALLS DR, REPLOGLE MARK, 1/13/2012, $227,500, $251,600
- 7551943001, 111 WHITESIDE MTN RD, MCGARITY JOHN MICHAEL, 10/8/2012, $1,223,770
- 7449540996, 900 SATULAH RD, BALDWIN BRYAN L, 2/16/2012, $7,704,750
- 7439377488, 445 GLEN FALLS RD 22, WILLOUGHBY KATHERINE S, 2/14/2012, $1,215,500
- 7550489549, 95 WEST VIEW WAY, LATHEM WILLIAM C, 9/7/2012, $1,102,750
- 7531803573, 579 FLAT MNT EST. RD, EUSTIS HERBERT L. III, 8/24/2012, $1,048,700
- 7541911657, CASHIERS RD, DYER CHRIS TOWNSEND TR, 8/8/2012, $45,000, $174,170
- 7541536528, 104 CHENEY LN, ARNOLD DAVID G, 9/14/2012, $221,000, $295,460
- 7449540996, 900 SATULAH RD, BALDWIN BRYAN L, 2/16/2012, $7,704,750
- 7439377488, 445 GLEN FALLS RD 22, WILLOUGHBY KATHERINE S, 2/14/2012, $1,215,500
- 7550496935, 709 CULLASAJA CLUB DR, MCLAUGHLIN EDWIN JOSEPH, 8/14/2012, $446,500, $1,454,780
- 7550497022, 864 CULLASAJA CLUB DR, MANGUM CHRIS D, 7/30/2012, $1,250,000, $1,215,500
- 7540272831, 386 BONNIE DR, GAMBLE JAMES E TRUSTEE, 10/5/2012, $463,000
- 7458512272, ROCK HOUSE RD, WAY, TJAMEST, 9/25/2012, $23,000, $193,310

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See RE TRANSACTIONS page 19
### Flats/Scaly Township

**Jan. 1, 2012 - Dec. 6, 2012**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PIN, PROP_ADDR, OWNER_NAME, DATE_REC, SALES_PRICE, ASSED._VAL</th>
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<td>7419439482, 21 EASTVIEW RD, LADD CHRISTINE ROBITSCHER, 9/21/2012, 0, $341,600</td>
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[See RE TRANSACTIONS page 20]
... YEAR IN REVIEW continued from page 1

the improvement of Highlands’ Wayfaring signage system.

- Board OK’s 21% electric rate hike effective immediately.
- USFS closing Dry Falls for repairs April-Sept 2012
- Saturday, Jan. 21, was the annual Fire & Rescue Dept. Awards Dinner held at the Community Building and catered by The Sports Page. Fire Captain Matthew Wilson, was named Fireman of the Year and also recognized for perfect attendance.
- Form of government discussed... again. At the Tuesday, Jan. 3 Town Board meeting, the issue of Highlands’ form of government was brought up again, almost a year after it was first brought up in 2011. Based on the information presented by Carl Stenberg with the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government at the Jan. 8 special Town Board meeting, the easiest way to align Highlands’ current form of government – hybrid Council-Manager — with the state charter, was through a Local Act. The board takes the information under advisement and asks Town Attorney Bill Coward to investigate further.

- 7-Station Dialysis Unit OK’d for Macon County
- Signature Properties joins Meadow Mountain Reality
- A Greenway boardwalk is proposed through Mirror Lake. Hillrie Quin, the face and voice of the Highlands Plateau Greenway, proposed a boardwalk complete with “classroom” hubs, a canoe dock and storage area constructed along the part of Mirror Lakes surrounded by Cullasaja Drive. He gets tepid response from the Town Board.
- The NC Small Town Main Street Program for Highlands is asking for public participation in its Branding and Wayfinding project for the Town. Participation involves filling out questionnaires.

February
- After 7 years USFS decides to allow boating on Upper Chattooga corridor. This begins a year-long volley between those for boating and those against boating.
- Saturday night, Highlands School Basketball and Golf Coach Butch Smart was thrown a community-wide retirement party in between the girls and boys basketball game in Highlands School gym. Current and alumnae players and coaches were there to honor him, as were players and coaches he worked with in Louisiana prior to coming to Highlands 16 years ago. Smart is retiring at the end of this school year and he and his wife Judy will move to Ruston, LA, where they are building a house to fit the leather recliner the Highlands School Booster Club gave him as a parting gift – an easy chair.
- Conservation groups claim Chattooga River at risk from U.S. Forest Service decision on boating on Upper Chattooga, and so the debate goes.

- A passionate discussion initiated by Commissioner Amy Patterson, asked why the subject was being discussed 11 months after the 3-2 vote on March 16, 2011 to keep the hybrid form of the Council-Manager where the Police Chief and Zoning/Planning Director were hired and fired by the board rather than the manager. Commissioner Gary Drake, who has made no bones as to which form of government he wants, said the reason the issue was being discussed again was because the town is operating illegally under the town’s current charter. On Commissioner Drake’s motion, the board voted 3-2 to repeal the amendments made to the town’s ordinance concerning the Police Chief and Zoning/Planning Director so the ordinance is aligned with the state charter. Commissioners John Dotson and Patterson voted “no.” At this point, the board must decide if it wants to keep the Council-Manager form of government. The final vote would be taken in March.
- Macon County Sheriff’s officers were dispatched to a residence in Highlands on February 2 at approximately 6 p.m. regarding two unattended deaths. The bodies of Kenneth Simmons, age 71, and Frances Harriet Simmons, age 71, were discovered in the residence on Hog Back Road. The Macon County Sheriff’s officers were dispatched to a residence in Highlands on February 2 at approximately 6 p.m. regarding two unattended deaths. The bodies of Kenneth Simmons, age 71, and Frances Harriet Simmons, age 71, were discovered in the residence on Hog Back Road.

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... RE TRANSACTIONS continued from page 19

- 7418026102, NIX RD, NIX JEFFREY NEAL, 5/16/2012, 0, $112,050
- 7408114896, CREEKSIDE COVE, B&D INDUSTRIAL & MINING INC, 9/4/2012, $55,000, $100,000
- 7409958146, 881 BUCK KNOB RD, DRYMAN TIMOTHY WARREN, 6/19/2012, 0, $55,580
- 7419010723, OFF BROWN LAKE RD, BARNASKEY JUDITH C., 8/17/2012, $70,000, $70,000
- 7419031602, ON RD 1622, BILLINGSLEY CHARLES DARRELL, 3/8/2012, 0, $243,000
- 7419132383, OFF RD 1622, NEUMANN JEANNIE, 5/14/2012, 0, $55,080
- 7409275671, NATURAL BRIDGE RD, SICILIANO GERARD M, 5/15/2012, 0, $199,670
- 7419541760, 315 KING CIR, BARNETT C KEITH, 2/10/2012, $580,000, $788,810
- 7409338073, HIGHLAND GAP RD, SCOGGINS KENNETH W., 10/22/2012, 0, $111,380
- 7409276789, NATURAL BRIDGE RD, KABBENJIAN HOVANESS, 5/15/2012, 0, $199,670
- 7419535128, 551 KING GAP RD, WALKER JANETT, 8/8/2012, $560,000, $955,020
- 7419554520, 66 GALAX CIR, GAFFEY JAMESE., 8/8/2012, $283,500, $357,900
- 7416649899, 1135 KING GAP RD, SCHENCK DAVID TUTTLE TR, 3/12/2012, 0, $466,320
- 7409240887, 580 NATURAL BRIDGE RD, CAMPBELL CHARLES RAY TR, 8/16/2012, 0, $1,336,720
- 7419480382, 555 BOB LONG MTN RD, LARSEN CHRISTIAN PETER, 8/30/2012, $635,000, $464,050
- 7409647472, ON RD 1622, JOHNSTON NAOMI, 8/21/2012, 0, $88,880
- 7409711212, 724 BROWNS MTN RD, TUBRIDE DAVID B, 5/31/2012, $237,000, $181,690
- 7418249675, 515 HIGHPOINT DR, OUTSTANDING PROPERTIES LLC, 8/1/2012, $122,500, $489,030
- 7409757184, 251 SHOAL CREEK RD, AULISIO BRIAN, 7/2/2012, 0, $152,220
- 7409757317, 26 RUNKEN LN, HENDERSON ERNEST R, 6/28/2012, $75,500, $114,080
- 7418367745, 149 OSAGE LN, GUTHRIE ANDREW, 5/11/2012, $70,000, $170,000
- 7408739828, OFF RD 1626, LANDERS ANNE J, 9/27/2012, 0, $81,500
- 7408716849, OFF RD 1626, LANDERS ANNE J, 9/27/2012, 0, $61,300
- 7418367745, 149 OSAGE LN, GUTHRIE ANDREW, 5/11/2012, $70,000, $170,000
- 7408739828, OFF RD 1626, LANDERS ANNE J, 9/27/2012, 0, $81,500
- 7408864865, 10 RITCHIE RD, BILLINGSLEY CHARLES DARRELL, 3/8/2012, 0, $145,600
- 7419121209, 7441 DILLARD RD, RABUN COUNTY BANK, 1/11/2012, $240,000, $348,920
- 7419640237, 41 ROCK HILL RD, SCOTT NANCY J TR, 4/5/2012, 0, $712,900
... YEAR IN REVIEW continued from page 20

Mountain Lane by two family members who also reside at the residence. It was a murder/suicide.

- Town Board discusses right-turn only lanes at Third and Main Streets.
- Highlands School basketball teams win Conference Championships.
- 100 citizens turn out for historic county commission meeting on Valentine’s Day to about two hot topics which were amendments to the county’s Planning Board and Subdivision ordinances.
- Highlands gets new fire rating which might decrease insurance premiums for certain homeowners.
- The Presbyterian Church’s memorial garden/park is in progress. At the Feb. 7 Town Board meeting, both commissioners and First Presbyterian representatives agreed to “sleep” on the 99-year lease option versus abandonment of the triangular piece of property left when Fifth Street was moved from its original position to its current position – property the church has already been using with permission from the town. In the end commissioners agreed to abandon the property.
- The Macon County Schools’ calendar continues to be a point of contention between some parents and school board members. At the Monday, Feb. 27 Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Dr. Dan Brigman presented the proposed calendar which he said was picked by staff and stakeholders and includes the new mandated 185 school days – up from 180 school days. Those opposed to the calendar don’t like the early start date – the first day of school would be Monday, Aug. 6 and the last day would be Friday, May 24.

- On Tuesday, March 6, Hillrie Quin was recognized for his work on the Highlands Greenway system over the past five years. Over the years Quin and his crew of volunteers have resurrected and expanded the Greenway system by improving trails, building bridges and steps thereby making the system safe and passable.
- Highlands School students take on Boston for a hands-on American History lesson.
- Citizens living in the vicinity of Chowan Road will have to change their routines as of Friday, March 23. The road will be closed – possibly for as long as six months – while town officials find out what it’s going to take to repair the embankment which is falling away. The road is still closed.

- The public is invited to the Police Department Open House and Tour located on Oak Street near The Highlands Playhouse Saturday, Feb. 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The story-and-a-half, 3,000 sq. ft. building with a conference/training room, interview rooms, a locker room, evidence vault, kitchenette, administrative offices and public areas.

- Candidates line up for 2012 race-Primary is May 8. Candidates are: Macon County Commission; Jim Tate, Kevin Corbin, Paul Higdon, Rick Higdon, Bobby Kuppers and Rick Snyder.

March
- Jury finds former Old Edwards Hospitality Group’s CEO Mario Gomes guilty on wire fraud charges.
- Hybrid form of Highlands Town Government where the Town Board has hiring and firing authority over the Police Chief and the Planning Director is on block March 20. Highlands’ form of government continues to be a controversial issue between commissioners and among the citizenry. At the Tuesday, March 6 Town Board meeting Town Attorney Bill Coward walked commissioners through the process to align Highlands’ government with the state charter for the Council-Manager form.

- On Tuesday, March 6, Hillrie Quin received the Duke Volunteer of the Year award from Fred Alexander of Duke Power. Quin was recognized for his work on the Highlands Greenway system over the past five years. Over the years Quin and his crew of volunteers have resurrected and expanded the Greenway system by improving trails, building bridges and steps thereby making the system safe and passable.
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April

- Macon County’s Board of Education braces for more funding cuts from the state. USFS does Dry Falls up until September while it repairs and renovates the pathways down to the falls.
- The 2012-’13 Macon County school calendar is adopted. School starts first week in August and is out in May.
- At its March 8 retreat where a course was set to cut costs and raise revenue for the town, commissioners discussed the likelihood of doing away with 100% family insurance coverage for employees in 25% increments over a four-year period. The issue was discussed at subsequent Town Board meetings.
- It’s official: NO BOATING allowed on Upper Chattooga
- Macon County’s Board of Education faces funding challenges for FY 2012-’13 due to state cuts.

May
- Philanthropist Jane Woodruff keeps citizens updated on new Post Office progress.
- Highlands Playhouse gets $100,000 from the Winkler family. Money is earmarked for physical repairs and renovations. By year’s end that changed. About half the money was used for other things but a local, unnamed builder came to the rescue offering to repair and renovate the structure for free so Playhouse can use remaining Winkler money and other funds for other things.
- Unsightly fencing that popped up along Highlands’ corridors initiates discussion and finally an ordinance regulating fencing. Lighting is included in discussion and ultimate ordinance.
- Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Dan Brigman announces his resignation as of June 30, 2012. He accepted a position of Superintendent of Schools for Catawba County.
- MC Commission incumbents take race. This year’s primary election was full of contenders, and at the county level the incumbents won out – Rep. Kevin Corbin, Dem. Bobby Kuppers and Rep Jim Tate. The only commissioner to face an opponent Nov. 6 will be Kuppers who campaigned against Rep. Paul Higdon.
- Ex-police officer Erika Olvera was glad to be moving on after 2010 sexual harassment case against the town. Citizens won’t be hearing anymore concerning the messy and very public 2010 sexual harassment, gender and race discrimination case against the town. The town of Highlands, agreed to the settlement paid to Erika Olvera by Traveler’s Insurance – the town’s insurance company – for $30,000. This officially closes the discrimination case filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission by former police officer Olvera.
- Macon County Superintendent Dr. Dan Brigman’s interim successor in Dr. Jim Duncan.

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... YEAR IN REVIEW continued from page 21

June
- Now that the referendum allowing for the sale of alcoholic beverages in Jackson County passed, grocers and restaurateurs agree there are potential ramifications for Highlands as the town was an option for many Cashiers residents who were looking to purchase spirits, but say it will take at least a year to judge.
- Beginning June 11 or 12, patching will begin at the Franklin-end of the High-lands Road at Walnut Creek utilizing one-lane closures a lead truck and flagmen to direct traffic. Patching crews will skip the 1.1-mile narrow part of the gorge and patch and pave that all at once when the section will be closed to through traffic for 3-5 days.
- For years there have been talks, studies and cost estimates compiled on dredging Big Creek of silt – silt that continues to plague the town’s water intake valve and the “health” of Big Creek. Big Creek and Lake Sequoyah are Highlands’ two Class I water sources so silt and the turbidity associated with it affects Highlands’ water distribution system. Citizens along Big Creek urged town officials to restore Big Creek rather than adding another intake valve at the Sequoyah Lake dam. They got little feedback from Town Board.
- Macon County Commissioners have decided to take a “wait and see” attitude concerning sweepstakes regulations in the county.

July
- At the June Town Board meeting, citizens learn that the town has no plans to develop Kelsey-Hutchinson Park.
- At the June 25 Planning Board meeting, members began discussing a Comprehensive Plan for Highlands – which is a step up from the Land Use Plan on the books which was completed a decade ago. It will likely take a year to complete the plan.
- Citizens learn that 2-member meetings of Town Board commissioners is allowed by law. Over the past few years, citizens have routinely asked Highlands Newspaper if daily meetings between two elected officials in Town Hall is legal. It is.
- Three Macon County School Board candidates will be on the November ballot – incumbent Stephanie McCall, District I – Highlands’ and incumbent Jim Breedlove, District IV who are running unopposed. Incumbent Tommy Baldwin, District III, is being challenged by Melissa Bateman Evans.
- The Town of Highlands Zoning Board of Adjustment overturns administrator’s ruling. The Zoning Board of Adjustment has entered a new era. Not only was the Zoning Administrator’s ruling overturned Wednesday, July 11 – the third time in 10 years – but protocol and procedures leading to that vote were handled in a lax, almost offhanded way by Chairman Steve Chenoweth. R.L.R. Investments plans to renovate both floors of the building into professional office space – real estate rentals downstairs and

• Bear visits are on the rise threatening homeowners. Events explaining how to live with bears and discussions are had between those who are wary of bears and those who encourage their visits by feeding them.
• Candidates for NC Congressional District 11 Mark Meadows and Vance Patterson face off at debate sponsored by FreedomWorks in Franklin.

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... YEAR IN REVIEW continued from page 22

real estate sales upstairs. There are 2,323 sq. ft. downstairs and 2,627 sq. ft. upstairs; a total of 4,950 sq. ft. and the lot is zoned B-2 commercial. The problem: Not enough on-site parking to be in compliance with the town’s ordinance. One spot for every 200 sq. ft. is required, so 23 spaces were needed but there’s only room for 13 spaces on the lot which abuts Helen’s Barn Ave. According to the Zoning Department brief, the request to allow a maximum of four spaces on both sides of the lot was a request to “allow for a reduction in required parking.”

The FDIC took enforcement action with Macon Bank in a Consent Order issued March 26, 2012 which outlines verification of management practices required to take place within a 90-day window.

NC DOT closes 1.2-mile-long section of U.S. 64 (The Gorge Road) from the Highlands subdivision entrance to the Jackson Hole parking lot starting the morning of Monday, July 23. The closures will take place on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for a period of 1-2 weeks. All work must be completed by Aug. 3 in time for school bus rerouting.

Commissioner Gary Drake blasts Highlands. “The County-wide Macon County Schools End-of-Grade and End-of-Course test scores for 2011-12 show math, reading, language and English proficiency up in Macon County Schools — something administrators attribute to the Lindamood-Bell reading program, the nontraditional calendar and the intercessions for remediation and enrichment held this past school year.

LaCrosse Encephalitis hits Highlands — the Moore family is affected.

A “Once in a Blue Moon rising” is Aug. 31.

September

Highlands passes its Relay for Life goal and raises more than $105,000.

Merchants gamble on Cashiers market. Over the last year or two, several merchants have either expanded their businesses to include a shop in Cashiers, or after doing business in Highlands for years decided to close their shop and give Cashiers a try, or when it was time to open a business for the first time, just plain opted for Cashiers over Highlands.

New State food rules in affect as of Sept. 1.

The USFS Dry Falls park opens Sept. 21.

The USFS Dry Falls park opens Sept. 21.

Tax reports show economy on the mend. According to recent reports at both the county and town level, sales tax reports indicate that the economy in Highlands and Macon County are on the upswing and in some cases doing better than neighboring counties. Superintendent charges school district to do better.

October

October

Highlands named 2nd Annual Best Town in America by AAA Carolinas Foundation for Traffic Safety Awards by Triple A rewards Highlands Carolina Outstanding Traffic Safe Community by AAA Carolinas Foundation. The $5,000 grant is the largest online data system investigators use to solve crimes from burglary to identity theft, to homicides and narcotics.

City Council names Highlands CCCM. The Town of Highlands was named General Manager of the County’s landfill.

H-C Hospital joining Mission Health. The dual commitment of moving health and wellness forward in Western North Carolina is the idea behind the recent affiliation of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Mission Health.

Highlands to promote its unique traits through logo and signage through its wayfinder project.

The Macon County School budget is tight but in the black.

Macon County Sheriff’s Office to track crooks with LeadsOnline. LeadsOnline is the largest online data system which investigators use to solve crimes from burglary to identity theft, to homicides and narcotics.

Congressional District 11 candidates Mark Meadows and Hayden Rogers face off at League of Women Voters Q&A.

New donors step up to ‘save’ Highlands Playhouse."

See YEAR IN REVIEW page 24
November

- ‘Perfect Storm’ brings winter blast to Highlands. Highlands was spared the brunt of weather caused by the three converging weather systems that blasted the northeast seaboard Monday and Tuesday, but still its effects were felt. Winds of 25 mph-35 mph with gusts much higher, brought down trees and power lines causing numerous power outages scattered across the power grid.

- The Town of Highlands and Lupoli Construction have won an award by the Main Street Program of the State of North Carolina for the Town Square Renovation and Revitalization project.

- Snow on Election Day. Election results bring local changes. Incumbent Republican commissioners Kevin Corbin and Jim Teter ran unopposed and so held onto their seats; incumbent Democrat Commissioner Bobby Kuppers lost to Republican Paul Higdon – 42.92% (7,069 votes) to Higdon’s 57.08% (9,400 votes). Incumbent Macon County School Board members Jimmy Breedlove from District 4 and Stephanie McCall from District 1 ran unopposed. Incumbent Macon County School Board member Tommy Baldwin of District 3 lost to Melissa Bateman Evans, 52.93% (6,426 votes) to Baldwin’s 46.65% (5,663 votes). Mark Meadows beat Hayden Rogers.

- At the Macon County Board of Education meeting Thursday, Nov. 10, the board voted unanimously to hire current Franklin High School principal Dr. Chris Baldwin as Macon County’s next superintendent for $105,000 per year, effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2017.

- Highlands U12 soccer team wins championship.

- Solutions sought for parking woes. Town extends restricted parking on Main, 2nd and 3rd streets when commissioners learn employees are parking in the vicinity in nonrestricted spots. They also ask the planning department to scout out spots for 15-minute parking all over town.

- There’s a new Santa Claus in town! After a lap-numbing 20 years as Highlands’ official Santa, Allen “Buck” Trott, is handing the reindeer reins to another Highlander. Allan Dearth will be filling out the Santa suit for this season and far into the future.

- Highlands School impacted by state budget cuts. At the Macon County Board of Education meeting held on Monday, Nov. 19 in Nantahala, the board of education voted not to fill the vacant teacher’s assistant (TA) position at Highlands School resulting from the retirement of longtime Highlands TA Brenda Keener. Due to state budget cuts, the board agreed to not fill positions vacated by teacher assistants for FY 2012-13.

December

- Town gets tough on overdue electric bills. As of Tuesday, Dec. 4, town employees were instructed to turn off electricity to 200 homes and businesses in Highlands. The 21.6% hike on electricity as well as the 15% hike for garbage pickup and 20% increase for water/sewer has made it difficult for many citizens and businesses to keep their utility bill current.

- A new 43-acre park off 441 in Franklin which will include two tennis fields for baseball and softball will put the county in line for travel tourism money which will be a huge boon to Macon County’s economy.

- Utility policy change roils community. Citizens brace for January’s 6% rate hike. Town Manager Bob Frye explains town’s position while church representative urges officials to be more lenient and allow citizens to pay what they can during the winter – as in years past – until spring comes and full-time employment resumes.

- Fire Chief James “Popcorn” Manley announced his retirement affecting Dec. 31, 2012. Ryan Gearhart, 35, as chief and Robbie Forrester, 39, as assistant chief each to a two-year term as dictated by the department’s new by-laws that went into effect last year.

- State cuts to education to the tune of about $500,000 have the Macon County School System scrambling to make up the difference through utility cuts and teacher costs. For starters, the budget adopted for the 2012-2013 school year included decreases in the utilities budget. Principles were asked to try to cut their utility bills and openings created by teachers who retire, transfer or resign will be filled with interim teachers at a lower pay scale and without benefits.

- Pastors urge town to rethink its utility policy. Last week five pastors met to discuss the consequences of the town’s increase in utility rates which resulted in termination of power to many. The pastors of the Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran and Presbyterian churches of Highlands are concerned about the change in the Town of Highlands enforcement policies regarding the termination of electric service. The most criti-

- At its November meeting, the Zoning Board of Adjustment OK’d a subdivision variance for 560 North Fifth Street. The 1.11-acre plot, owned by the Bryson Family, is zoned R2, and currently houses three homes – two that front Fifth Street and one that fronts Laurel Street – all on one lot with one tax bill. They Planning Board subsequently OK’d the subdivision plat and the Town Board will give the final OK at its January meeting.

- Highlands School Homecoming King and Queen, seniors Taylor Osteen and Hayden Bates.

See YEAR IN REVIEW page 25
ical concern is that those who are most at
risk may suffer grave consequences if they
have no heat for their homes in subfreez-
ing weather. They ask that the town allow
old "pay what you can" policy until spring.

- With the county refinancing its big-
gest debt service—a $16 million loan with
BB&T for Mountain View and East Frank-
lin schools—it will save taxpayers $2.15
million over the course of the loan.
- Highlands United Methodist
Church offers its historic Apple Tree Cot-
tage between Spring and Church Street
Alley free for the taking to make room for
expansion.

Some 2012 changes to the Highlands
landscape: Renovations to First Bap-
tist Church, completion of the Log
House on the corner of Maple and US
64 east and the addition to Chill

2012 a good year for
preservation in Highlands

Remote waterfall on the Downes property.

By Julie Schott
HCLT
With the help of many members and
friends throughout our community, in
2012 Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust
(HCLT) helped land donors to conserve
even more of the pristine waters, lush for-
est and scenic vistas we call home.

By the end of this 2012, HCLT con-

H-C Hospital Plant Manager earns certification

H-C Hospital’s Plant Operations Manager and Safety
Officer, Terry Winn, was recently named a Certified
Healthcare Engineer (CHE) by the North Carolina
Healthcare Engineers Association (NCHEA). This
prestigious, professional certification signifies Winn’s com-
mmitment to the safety and well-being of all patients,
staff, volunteers and residents of the Fidelia Eckerd Liv-
ing Center. As a part of Winn’s CHE designation, he was
required to meet state mandated specifications and stan-
dards. He scored optimal points in four major sections
of the CHE application with scores based on education,
years of service, educational programs attended, and in-
volveinent in NCHEA. The hospital congratulates Winn
for his years of service and dedication to fulfill the Hos-
pital’s mission of providing the best possible quality
healthcare to all.

Gingerbread house fun at The Bascom
Annual Event a Big Hit with Families—and the Winners!

Families from near and far look for-
ward every year to The Bascom’s Ginger-
bread House Workshop, held on Novem-
ber 23 and 24. More than 159 attendees
participated in the event over the course of
the two days. Thirty people entered their
gingerbread houses in an optional contest.
The public cast their votes between No-
vember 25 and December 7.

By popular vote, first place for favorite
gingerbread house was awarded to Taylor
Wacker. Second place went to Ford Wag-
nery, and third place to Freda Olalde, as
announced by Youth and Outreach Coor-
dinator Will Bard of The Bascom. In ad-
dition, Victoria Gentry, Mary Childs Hall,
Alexandra Langlais, and Abby Olvera re-
ceived Honorable Mentions for their gin-
erbread houses.

Moms, dads, grandparents and chil-
dren of all ages enjoyed decorating ready-
made gingerbread houses with an array of
confections supplied by The Bascom.

Lacey Hamrick served as instructor to help
spur the creativity of all involved. It’s a
wonderful, no-fuss, no-mess way to cele-
brate the holiday with the camaraderie of
old and new friends. Mark your calendar
for next year’s decorating workshop, held
annually during the weekend after
Thanksgiving. What a fun way to kick off
the Christmas season—without disrupt-
ing your own kitchen!

- The Bascom is open year-round,
Monday through Saturday, 10am to 5pm,
and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. Enjoy work-
shops, exhibitions, special events and qual-
ity programs throughout the year at The
Bascom. For more information, to regis-
ter for workshop offerings or for more
details on all Bascom activities, visit
www.TheBascom.org or call (828) 526-
4949.

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healthcare to all.
Patient heart attack survival is remarkable

Thanks to H-C Hospital and Mission Health collaboration

Celebration Luncheon Held December 17

On November 2, 78-year-old Nancy Temple sat with her husband, Bill in the parking lot of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) debating whether the “indigestion” she was experiencing warranted emergency care. Moments later she was experiencing a heart attack in the HCH emergency room that stopped her heart. HCH emergency staff revived her through CPR and shock treatment, not once, but four times in a two-hour period. When stabilized, Mrs. Temple was air-lifted to Mission Hospital and survived. Mrs. Temple’s remarkable survival story was celebrated on December 17 at a luncheon in her honor attended by both Mission and HCH staff members who were involved in her life-saving care.

While this is certainly not the first patient to benefit from the teamwork of HCH and Mission Health, Mrs. Temple’s case represents many key factors that increase survival rates for heart attack victims: timely emergency treatment at HCH; safe transport by MAMA; successful catheterization and implementation of a new protocol for therapeutic hypothermia at Mission Hospital.

During the luncheon Mission representatives praised HCH for the skilled emergency care provided at our hospital. "Timing is of the essence when administering heart attack treatment,” said Eileen Lipham, Chief Nursing Officer and Administrator of Clinical services at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. “In cases like our patient, who was just moments away from a heart attack, those crucial first hours mean the difference between life and death.”

The MAMA pilot and paramedic reminisced how they noted the stamina of this patient and spoke of their attentive monitoring during the 22-minute air transfer. “I kept my finger on her pulse every second of the flight,” stated Chuck Paris, MAMA flight nurse.

Therapeutic hypothermia, also known as “Code Freeze” was explained by William Hathaway, MD, Chief Medical Officer of Mission Hospital. The procedure was introduced at Mission in 2007 and has demonstrated a significant increase in survival rates as a result. Therapeutic hypothermia involves infusing intravenous ice-cold saline and using chilled water blankets to lower body temperature after a cardiac arrest. When administered within six to eight hours after a cardiac arrest, therapeutic hypothermia significantly increases a patient’s chance of survival and reduces the risk of neurological damage often caused by the sudden rush of blood back through the body after resuscitation.

“Providing this protocol to patients in rural communities that Mission Health serves will not only increase their chance of survival after a heart attack but also prevent permanent brain damage,” said Hathaway. The chance of survival after cardiac arrest in rural North Carolina is about five percent. Since implementing the therapeutic hypothermia protocol, Mission Hospital’s survival rate in heart attack patients has increased to 35 percent, according to Hathaway.

Also crucial to survival is recognizing the symptoms of a heart attack and seeking emergency treatment, as almost half of sudden cardiac deaths happen outside a hospital, according to the CDC. Most heart attacks start slow, with mild pain or discomfort in the chest, one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach. Other symptoms like shortness of breath, breaking out into a cold sweat or experiencing nausea or light-headedness can occur with or without discomfort in the chest. Women are more likely than men to experience some of these heart attack symptoms without chest pressure. These symptoms can be hard to distinguish, causing people to wait too long before getting help.

These hard-to-diagnose symptoms nearly caused a tragic event for Mrs. Temple who was experiencing “indigestion.” Choosing to go into the emergency room and, ultimately, receiving therapeutic hypothermia was a precaution that saved her life.

At the conclusion of the luncheon Nancy and Bill Temple were tearful and could not thank the Hospital enough. Mrs. Temple is currently enrolled in the certified cardiac rehabilitation program at HCH, continues to play bridge and thankful to be alive, and looks forward to a happy and healthy new year.

“This is a fine example of the teamwork and dedication of our staff members who continually demonstrate that by working together, we can provide the most excellent care. I am very proud of our patient care achievements,” said Hospital President, Craig James.

“The Story of Nancy’s dramatic life-saving experience is inspirational and gives powerful testimony to the skill and determination of our dedicated staff in the HCH Emergency Department and in the tremendously effective relationship between HCH and the outstanding cardiology staff at Mission. We thank everyone involved,” said Hospital Board Chair, Charlie Sheehan.

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) is a not-for-profit community hospital serving Highlands, Cashiers and the surrounding mountain communities, located on Highway 64 between the two towns. Established during the early 1950’s, the hospital has grown to provide the facilities, staff and support services to offer diagnostic, surgical and acute patient care through on-site professional services or as a referral to other regional healthcare systems. HCH emergency care is physician-staffed 24/7 and treats patients promptly, with personalized care and attention. HCH has 39 board certified physicians representing 15 medical specialties on its medical staff. Altogether, with its 24-bed acute care services, outpatient and imaging services, 84-bed skilled nursing facility, and four hospital-owned physician clinics in Cashiers and Highlands, HCH employs 250 full and part time employees.
US Forest Service report forecasts natural resource management trends and challenges for next 50 years

Study projects significant forest loss due to suburbanization and land fragmentation

A comprehensive U.S. Forest Service report released today examines the ways expanding populations, increased urbanization, and changing land-use patterns could profoundly impact natural resources, including water supplies, nationwide during the next 50 years.

Significantly, the study shows the potential for significant loss of privately owned forests to development and fragmentation, which could substantially reduce benefits from forests that the public now enjoys, including clean water, wildlife habitat, forest products and others.

"We should all be concerned by the projected decline in our nation's forests and the corresponding loss of the many critical services they provide such as clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, forest products and outdoor recreation," said Agriculture Under Secretary Harris Sherman. "Today's report offers a sobering perspective on what is at stake and the need to maintain our commitment to conserve these critical assets."

U.S. Forest Service scientists and partners at universities, non-profits and other agencies found urban and developed land areas in the U.S. will increase 41 percent by 2060. Forested areas will be most impacted by this growth, with losses ranging from 16 to 34 million acres in the lower 48 states. The study also examines the effect of climate change on forests and the services forests provide.

Most importantly, over the long-term, climate change could have significant effects on water availability, making the US potentially more vulnerable to water shortages, especially in the Southwest and Great Plains. Population growth in more and regions will require more drinking water. Recent trends in agricultural irrigation and landscaping techniques also will boost water demands.

"Our nation's forests and grasslands are facing significant challenges. This assessment strengthens our commitment to accelerate restoration efforts that will improve forest resiliency and conservation of vitally important natural resources," said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell.

The assessment's projections are influenced by a set of scenarios with varying assumptions about U.S. population and economic growth, global population and economic growth, global wood energy consumption and U.S. land use change from 2010 to 2060. Using those scenarios, the report forecasts the following key trends:

* Forest areas will decline as a result of development, particularly in the South, where population is projected to grow the most;
* Timber prices are expected to remain relatively flat;
* Rangeland area is expected to continue its slow decline but range land productivity is stable with forage sufficient to meet expected livestock grazing demands;
* Biodiversity may continue to erode because projected loss of forestland will impact the variety of forest species;
* Recreation use is expected to trend upward.

Additionally, the report stresses the need to develop forest and rangeland policies which are flexible enough to be effective under a wide range of future socioeconomic and ecological conditions such as climate change. The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Planning Act of 1974 requires the Forest Service to produce an assessment of natural resource trends every 10 years.

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Forest Service lands contribute more than $13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at $27 billion per year.

... PRESERVATION continued from page 25

NCDOT looking for public input on future of walking and biking in North Carolina

The N.C. Department of Transportation is in the process of developing a new state wide pedestrian and bicycle plan – and it is seeking the public's help to craft a vision for the future of walking and biking in North Carolina.

The plan, which will be developed in collaboration with state agencies and regional, private and industry stakeholders, will examine how to create a safer pedestrian and bicycle network that also benefits the state's economy, public health and environment.

When completed, the plan will be among the most comprehensive of its kind in the nation.

Learn all about the plan at NCDOT's website, and share your thoughts and ideas related to pedestrian and bicycle transportation at the plan's online community forum – www.walkbikenc.com

This is the end of year combination issue for Dec. 27/Jan. 3. The next edition of Highlands Newspaper will be on the streets and on the web at www.highlandsinfo.com click Local News on Jan. 10.
You know us as RUNNERS, but don’t forget we are also NC REAL ESTATE BROKERS.
You can count on us every step of the way to get you to the finish line. We train hard for races, and we will work equally hard for you!

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2851 Cashiers Rd, Highlands • highlandsautomotive.com  
Russell Marling & Chris Hall, owners, welcome Tudor Hall, service manager
Resolve to meet your financial goals in 2013

(StatePoint) Achieving your financial goals can sound like a daunting New Year's resolution if you aren’t organized when it comes to your money. But by planning ahead, you can more easily improve your financial situation.

If you’re new to money management – don’t stress – new tools are making it simple to stay on top of your finances, allowing you to pay down debt and save for the future.

Here are some foolproof ways to achieve your financial goals this year:

Short and Long-Term Goals
Whether you dream of owning the latest iPhone, a home, or you're planning for retirement, identifying your goals is the first step to making them happen. Without goals, it's easy to spend too much money on the here and now without thinking about the future. Figure out what portion of each paycheck you're willing to divert to a goal-designed savings account. This will give you a realistic idea of how long your goals will take to achieve.

Talk to your employer's Human Resources department about how to set up a 401(k) or 403(b). Not only are your contributions to your account tax-free, but many employers will even match your contribution, which is an offer that should be impossible to refuse.

Tracking Finances
Tracking your finances can help you make smart financial decisions that won’t put you in debt. But before you clear off your desk and buy file folders, consider this: electronic money management can save you the mountain of paperwork. Free online resources can help you manage all your financial accounts in one place. For example, personal finance website Mint.com, allows you to categorize your spending, create budgets and savings goals, and set up bill reminders and alerts. Available for Android and iPhone phones and tablets, you can manage your spending on the go and in real time.

Or try Quicken 2013 from Intuit, which gives you access to checking, savings and credit card account information, automatically syncing your information across your mobile devices so you can keep your accounts up-to-date by entering transactions as they are made. The bill reminder tool, budgeting features and debt reduction tool make it easier to eliminate debt in the New Year and plan for the future. You can learn more by visiting www.quicken.intuit.com.

New Avenues
Not all your goals will be achievable with assets you have today. Luckily, there are new, lower-cost ways to pay off debt. For example, borrowers using Lending Club can qualify instantly with a simple online application. Unlike a traditional bank loan, Lending Club enables dozens or even hundreds of people to seamlessly invest in the loan, resulting in lower costs for borrowers and consistent returns for investors.

For more financial advice to carry you through a new year, visit www.mint.com/blog.

Without help, New Year's resolutions can be tough, if not impossible to achieve. Innovative tools can give you a leg up toward your goals.

Resolve to Quit Smoking in the New Year

(StatePoint) It's at the top of many New Year's resolution lists -- quitting smoking. In fact, 15 million people try to quit smoking cigarettes yearly. Only 5 percent succeed when they use no support or go cold turkey. Moreover, the average smoker will attempt to quit up to nine times before successfully quitting.

Luckily there are new tips and tools that can help smokers kick the habit this year.

In an effort to empower the more than 45 million current U.S. smokers to call it quits, GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare has launched Quit.com, a free, total quitting smoking online resource with tools to help smokers quit their cigarette addictions and stay smoke-free.

Every smoker is different; therefore every smoker's approach to quitting may need to be different. Quit.com houses personalized tools in a central location to help smokers navigate quitting smoking, no matter where they may be in their quit journey.

Here are some tips from the experts at Quit.com to help smokers quit their nicotine addiction in the New Year:

• Preparing to Quit: First pick your quit date. By having a day you're reworking toward, you'll be able to prepare mentally and physically to quit. Do your research on how to be prepared before getting started.

• Ready to Quit: Support your quit by reducing your body's physical cravings so they don't get in the way of your willpower. Consider using a nicotine replacement product that fits your lifestyle, such as a gum, lozenge or patch.

• Currently Quitting: Celebrate every little win and stay focused on the positive benefits of quitting and why you decided to quit in the first place. If you get a strong craving, change things up to throw your urge to smoke.

• Post-Quit: Surround yourself with inspiration to stay smoke-free -- your family, your pet, your health and your finances -- and remember you have everything to gain by quitting.

More tips on quitting smoking can be found at www.Quit.com.
Positions Now Available

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56 ACRE SCALY MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY. Septic in, Well permit in hand, Nice private lot with no restrictions, Cleared site, Trees surround. $39,000 Tonvaughn@aol.com or (850) 363-1436. (ST. 10/11 - 11/28)

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ITEMS FOR SALE

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