Old Edwards upcoming projects approved by all

Old Edwards Hospitality Group is on the move – acquiring properties and making improvements and additions to existing properties.

They were the subject of December’s Town Board meeting, and the Zoning Board meeting December 19, the Appearance Commission meeting Jan 7 and the Zoning Board meeting on Jan. 9.

In each case OEI’s plans were unanimously approved.

NC flu at highest level in a decade

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services encourages all North Carolinians to take time to get their annual flu vaccination. According to State Health Director Laura Gerald, flu activity across the state is at the highest levels recorded in the past decade. Twelve flu-related deaths already have been reported in the state.

“It is very unusual for us to see this many deaths so early in the flu season,” Dr. Gerald said. “This year’s vaccine is well-matched to the strains of flu we are seeing in North Carolina so we strongly recommend that anyone over six months old be vaccinated.”

Flu outbreaks have been reported in schools and long-term care facilities across the state. Although everyone is at risk, flu can be especially dangerous for pregnant women, young children and the elderly.

HCP’s Eckerd Living Center

Due to increased activity in influenza in the residents of Eckerd Living Center (ELC), Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is asking that family and friends limit visits to the Hospital, Living Center and the Emergency Department. In particular, HCH is requesting that visitors be limited to only terminally ill patients and residents for a period of 10 days or upon further notice.

HCH has implemented this precaution for the protection of patients, residents, family members, and the public in general.

The decision is based on recommendations from ELC Medical Director Dr. John Baumrucker and Infection Control Specialist, Cindy Barloga, RN.

“In spite of excellent flu shot vaccination rates for both residents and staff, the influenza vaccination has not prevented all cases but will likely lessen the duration and severity of the illness,” said Barloga. “The patients and residents are our first priority and their health and safety is paramount.”

Limiting visits is a standard precaution taken during flu season when flu activity reaches a certain level. In addition, influenza can be controlled by frequent hand washing and the use of proper respiratory etiquette. For more information about visitsations, please call (828) 526-1200.

Town holds firm on utility policy

A couple of weeks before Christmas, area pastors met to discuss the consequences of how the town’s increase in utility rates has affected citizens; particularly the termination of services for many. They formally requested the Town Board to consider reinstating the town’s unofficial policy of accepting what citizens can pay during the winter months.

However Town Manager Bob Frye said he has not been instructed to deviate from the official policy.

No snow but lots of rain

More than 7 inches of rain has fallen since Sunday so area rivers are raging and Lake Sequoyah is full. On Wednesday Superintendent Jim Duncan delayed school countywide for two hours due to water over several roads and the early morning rain. He said the delay promoted safety for student drivers, bus drivers, and bus riders.

County postpones ‘park’ purchase

At the Monday, Jan. 14 continued Macon County Commission meeting, commissioners deliberated long and hard on whether to proceed with the purchase of the Parker Meadows property – a purchase the board voted unanimously to make on Nov. 13, 2012.

The county had 60 days – until Jan. 14 – to do due diligence prior to closing which was supposed to happen Jan. 29.

Since public money is being used, the county must complete an archeological study and commissioners voted to get those results before committing – in case the study unearths something that could increase overall development costs, making the deal fiscally unattractive.

The board OK’d no more than $42,000 to conduct the study which, weather permitting could take six weeks. The seller modified the agreement to purchase and to extend the due diligence time to April 15 with closing April 30.

The 48-acre site on Old Patton Road – the former Parker Meadows Farm – is available in a short sale for $550,000 – approximate
Dear Editor,

I am responding to the article in the Jan. 10 edition entitled “Judge Downs to fight for local magistrate.”

If Judge Downs of the Superior of NC, and Chief Harrell of Highlands Police Department, aren’t able to persuade the elected officials of the State of North Carolina to reinstate our part-time Magistrate’s position into the state’s budget, then the Town of Highlands and Macon County will end up footing the bill for the loss.

At the very least, with no local Magistrate to process late night charges and arrests, Highlands Police Department will have to pick up the tab by adding extra officers to the night shift payroll.

With citizen Patrick Taylor’s steadfast service in that position, the town has been able to get by with only two HPD officers on night duty, with an extra officer or two on holidays and busy weekends. If a single officer has to take at least two to three hours, more in some cases, to transport a suspect to Franklin for processing and appearance before a magistrate for all charges, then Highlands will be left vulnerable and unprotected for those hours unless it puts more officers on the night shift payroll.

It should also be noted that Macon County typically only provides one sheriff’s deputy for night duty for all the areas surrounding Highlands and beyond. That makes a total of only three law enforcement officers for our area on a typical night shift.

Not only did the part-time magistrate’s position give us an officer of the court on standby duty on a 24/7 basis, it was also cost effective. It is short-sighted of the state and will cost substantially more if this position is not situated and staffed in Highlands. Whatever the State of NC erroneously perceives that it may save by this action, the town and county will pay for in spades. This process will also be cumbersome and costly to deliver efficacious law enforcement.

There are other advantages for Highlands, and its visitors, to having one of our own local citizens in this important judicial position for review of HDP cases. The public’s rights and interests are best protected and served by having this important state function conveniently located in town and by having the position filled by a citizen of Highlands. The efficacy of local law enforcement will be diminished if all cases require processing in Franklin, especially minor cases.

Local citizens should contact our state representatives and other officials, in an effort to have the position of a local magistrate reinstated. Having Patrick Taylor in this position locally, has been a vital link in maintaining the peace and tranquility we have enjoyed and that we deserve and will continue to demand.

If this short-sighted approach to the State of North Carolina’s obligations to its citizens isn’t overturned through the much appreciated efforts of Judge Downs and Chief Harrell, then it will prove to be another, exercise of poor economic foresight, as well as, poor administration of state law enforcement policy in our area.

The people of Highlands have reason to ask: Why has there not been more action from local elected officials in an effort to preserve this important judicial function and position of Magistrate? Why has this been allowed to happen without more official resistance from our Town Hall dignitaries?

Charlie Dasher
Highlands

Satire is fiction

Dear Editor,

I can’t believe I’m doing this again. I’m in my eighth year writing satire for this newspaper but I guess someone will never catch on. But I refuse to give up on those who are dense and lack any sense of humor. Nor will I publicly be called out as a racist when I’m not.

Satire is fiction. We take real occurring events and build folly or distortions around it, poking fun. Because the topics are usually sensitive, some readers laugh
Violet Morris Betz, 90, died peacefully on January 10, 2013. She was a mother and home-maker, and the wife of Charles Edward Betz, a musician and music teacher who died in 2002.

She grew up in North Carolina, and met her husband in Chicago during World War II where he was serving in the U.S. Navy. She lived for many years and raised a family in Connecticut, then moved to Florida and to Highlands in 2002 when her husband died; she has lived in Indiana with her daughter since last year.

During her time in Highlands, she was grateful for her friends in the community and in the First Presbyterian Church and the Highlands Roadrunners Club, as well as the dedicated staff at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Health Tracks and the volunteers who faithfully brought her Home Delivered Meals.

She is survived by son Richard Betz and daughter-in-law Martha Betz of Highlands, daughter Lorraine Garrett of Clinton, IN, five beloved grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; her son Frederick, a Marine Corps veteran, died in 1980.

Leesa Lynn Crisp, age 55, of Highlands, NC, died Saturday, January 12, 2013. Born in Marion Co., IN, she was the daughter of James N. Scott and Mary Louise Knight Scott of New Castle, IN.

She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Charles “Chuck” Crisp of Highlands, NC; two daughters, Michele Martin and husband Josh, of Woodstock, GA.; Krista Chapman and husband Justin of Ball Ground, GA.; one son David Crisp and wife Alyson of Asheville, NC; four grandchildren, Rachel and Zachary Chapman and Karson and Emory Martin; one sister, Karin Potts, of Highlands, NC, and two brothers, Lance Scott, of Fort White, FL and Michael Scott of Micanopy FL.

Leesa was a homemaker who loved cooking and singing. She was a loving wife, mother, sister and grandmother.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, January 15, 2013 in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands with Rev. Matt Shuler officiating. Burial will be in the Highlands Memorial Park at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to the ASPCA, PO Box 96929, Washington, DC 20090.

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

Announcing Highland's Travel
For All Your Travel Needs
Land Tours ~ Hotels ~ Flights ~ Cruises
Now located at 2334 Cashiers Road
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in the Meadows Mountain Realty Office
Bryan & Tricia Cox
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828-526-5243 ~ 855-EZ-CRUISE
Your Independent Vacation Specialists in Highlands NC
(It's the winter of 1945. World War 2 has just ended. I am nine years old and live in the Highlands area of Louisville, KY. My parents own and operate a mom and pop restaurant in a working class neighborhood. My best friend is my dog, Frisky, a mutt terrier mix.)

It was just after 2 PM when I noticed a few snowflakes blowing past my classroom window in a strong wind. The skies were dark gray and I knew what that meant. This would be our first snow of winter and I had not even cleaned my sled yet. The last time I saw it, it was leaning against the coal bin in the cellar.

I watched the minute hand inch ever so slowly toward the two o'clock mark and wondered whether Frisky, my loving terrier, would be waiting for me at the school's front entrance. Using the eraser on my pencil as a drumstick, I thumped away as I stared out the window at the blowing snow.

"Fred Cleaver Wooldridge Junior, what are you doing looking out the window? Come up here this instant and show me your paper," Sister Marianne ordered with her stern voice of authority. I slid from my desk, took another quick look outside and headed for her desk with paper in hand.

"You have only answered 12 of the 25 math problems and I can see at least two of them are incorrect," Sister said, shaking her head. "If you ever want to make something of yourself, you had better get to work. You cannot survive in this world without math." She hesitated while deciding what to do with me. "For staring out the window, you will stay after school, finish your paper and then clean the blackboards. Now go back to your seat." I slid into an "A" grade burst into my classroom and announced, "Sister, Frisky is running around in the hallway. Someone let him in. He's looking for Freddy. Can I put him out, please, please, please?"

Sister Marianne looked outside and noticed the wind had stopped and snow was falling harder now. All of Hepburn Ave had a thin layer of snow covering it. "No, bring Frisky in here and he can wait until Freddie finishes his work."

When Frisky arrived, he leaped up for me to catch him. He slammed his body against my clean white uniform shirt. "Holy Moly, he's soaking wet. I'm goin' get killed when I get home," I yelled.

"Settle your dog down and get busy on the blackboards. The snow is picking up even harder now and I didn't bring my galoshes," Sister said. While I worked feverishly on the erasers and blackboards, Frisky sniffed out the entire classroom, looking for any morsel a student may have dropped.

By the time I finished the last blackboard, the other five were already dry and without a single chalk mark. Grinning, I turned to face Sister, "If your dad has anything to say to you," Sister said. This was definitely not good, I was about to get another lecture on my misbehavior. I slid into an "A" student's seat in the front row.

"I want you to tell your dad that while I appreciate him agreeing with my posters, it is now time to forgive and forget," Sister spoke. "The war is over and fortunately we won the fight to keep our freedoms. Both Hitler and Tojo are dead. They are God's problem and not ours anymore. It's now time for healing. That's why I took the posters down. If your dad has questions, ask him to call me."

I sat quietly for a few seconds and pondered her remarks hoping I would get it right when I passed on the message. When she got up from her desk, I blurted, "My dad is mad at you for taking down the Hitler and Tojo pictures. He thinks they're the devil's helpers just like you do. He says the pictures should stay up for 100 years."

Sister Marianne ignored my remarks and said, "Start on the erasers and I'll get you a bucket of water." Just then a student from another grade burst into my classroom and announced, "Sister, Sister, Frisky is running around in the hallway. Someone let him in. He's looking for Freddy. Can I put him out, please, please, please?"

Sister Marianne walked slowly to the doak room and put on her large black coat. It was a short walk from the school to the conven where she lived. She smiled at me, watching me struggle with my pea coat. Frisky knew the coat well and knew it was time to go out and play. He started doing his typical circles on the floor, whining.

Leaving the doak room, Sister said, "It will take a long time for us to get over this war."


It’s likely Congress will cave when it comes to gun control

I
t has been one month since a shooting rampaged the
lives of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary
in Newtown, CT. Demands for meaningful gun control are
waning. Politicians are sniffing the air and deciding they have
more to lose by supporting legis-
lation than by opposing it.

Gun lobbyists are breath-
ing easier, sensing the will to
impose restrictions on the sale
of assault weapons and high ca-

dacity magazines has lost mo-
mentum. Democrats remember
all to well the political cost of passing sim-
ilar legislation in 1994, the year Republi-
cans, not coincidentally, took control of Con-
gress without firing a shot. Pro-gun voters
are far more likely to punish members for
passing legislation than gun control adva-
cates are to punish them for inaction. The
passion of gun owners, combined with the
resources of the NRA, is a powerful weapon
against Congressmen whose principal in-
terest is reelection.

As each day passes, the visceral horror
associated with the mass murder abates just
a little. The window for reform is narrow
and will soon slam shut. The question re-
 mains, what is the proper response to trage-
dies like this? Mass murder has occurred
and will soon slam shut. The question re-

Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

carried out by the millions of law
abiding American gun owners,
but by mentally ill people. Advo-
cates of gun control ask, it seems
erthetically, why a hunter needs
an assault rifle with a 30-round mag to shoot a deer. The answer
is not that he is a poor shot. The
answer is that he has no need of
such a weapon for hunting. Cit-
izens buy assault weapons for pro-
tection; the more fire power, the
better. There are millions of Amer-
icans who believe their govern-
ment is incapable of protecting
them and millions more who see
their government as the enemy. Even if we
ignore the zombie threat, that leaves a lot of
people who believe they need to protect
themselves.

There has been some thought to trying
to prevent guns from getting into the hands
of lunatics, while preserving the right to gun
ownership for the rest of us (them). The legis-
lation which eventually passes will proba-
ably ban high capacity magazines, but permit
the sale of assault weapons. There will be an
emphasis on expanded background checks
and evaluation of mental health. I have no
idea how a gun dealer will determine the
mental health of a customer. Most of the dealers
are at least a little crazy themselves. Medical
confidentiality would almost certainly pre-
clude access to a buyer's psychiatric history,
and it's probable the mass murderers have
no previous documented psychiatric history
anyway.

Our mental health system in this coun-
try is in a shambles. Some believe the Sandy
Hook shootings were triggered by the shoot-
er's Mother's attempt to have him involun-
tarily committed, but how is a gun dealer to
determine the mental health of a customer?

Guns are sold at gun shops, Walmart, online,
and at gun shows. Congress may approve feel-
good legislation expanding both background
checks and access to psychiatric services, but
that's a net with gaping holes.

I met my first survivalist in 1973. I
thought he was crazy as a coot. He made his
six-year-old twins train with 22-caliber rifles
with life ammunition in preparation for what
he called the "imminent end." It turns out it
wasn't so imminent. The movement has
grown. Once in a while one of them snaps.
Or it may be a kid who's tired of being bul-
lied, or who hates his folks, or who didn't
make the football team. The only possible
chance point is access to weapons, not psychi-
atic histories and background checks. Is it
appropriate to hinder Americans access to
military-style weapons to prevent a looney
from obtaining one? Congress will decide,
with considerable help from the NRA.

... PARK continued from page 1

Commissioners Ron Haven and Paul Higdon
think is too high. The value of the proper-
ty is $750,000 – $800,000 is owed on the property.
Macon County is eligible for a 50% match grant from the NC Parks and Recreation
Fund (PARTF), $500,000 per granting cycle, up to $1 million in total. One cycle ends
Jan. 31 and the next begins Aug. 1.

To get the full $500,000 this go around, the county agreed to present basic facts and
assurances that it will spend at least $500,000.

Consequently, for purposes of the grant, the county is agreeing to spend $617,576
which when added to the PARTF funds of $500,000, will purchase the property, fund
• See PARK page 11
**HS SPORTS**

**Lady Highlanders drop two**

**By Ryan Potts**

The Highlands Lady Highlanders dropped a pair of tough games to Robbinsville and Hiwassee Dam this week.

Thursday evening, the Lady Highlanders hosted the Lady Knights from Robbinsville in a nonconference matchup. Highlands came out ready to play and only trailed 13-9 at the end of the first quarter. A low scoring second quarter for both teams sent Highlands to the half only trailing by 6, and the Highlanders were able to cut the lead to two at one point in the third quarter.

Unfortunately, the Lady Highlanders ran out of gas down the stretch, as Robbinsville outscored them 22-10 in the fourth quarter to pull away with a 57-34 victory. Emily Shuler led Highlands with 9 points.

On Monday, the Highlanders hosted Hiwassee Dam in an important conference matchup, but the experience and depth of the Lady Eagles proved to be too much for a young Highlands squad. Hiwassee Dam used a 12-0 second quarter run to build a large lead and never look back in a 67-29 victory. Ann Marie Crowe, Kirstyn Lamb and Whitney Billingsley all scored 8 for the Lady Highlanders.

**Highlanders upset Robbinsville, crush Hiwassee Dam**

The Robbinsville Black Knights rolled into Highlands on Thursday night ranked 9th in the state, but were upset by a gritty Highlanders squad.

Highlands opened the game on a 10-0 run, knocking the Knights back on their heels in the opening minutes. Even after Robbinsville settled in, Highlands expanded the lead to as many as 18, and led by 16 at the half. In the second half, Robbinsville pushed back hard, getting as close as three in the final minute. However, the Highlanders were 8-8 from the FT line in the final minutes, including 6-6 from sophomore guard Kenan Lewis who secured a 58-51 victory. Lewis led Highlands with a career high 16, and Tyler Munger added 11.

On Monday, Highlands looked for a little payback against a Hiwassee Dam after blowing a 13-point second half lead over at Hiwassee Dam earlier this season. After a tight first quarter that saw Highlands take a one point lead, the Highlanders used an 18-4 run to open up an 18 point halftime lead.

This time would be different for Highlands, as they pushed out the lead further by the start of the fourth quarter to ensure that there would be no Eagle comeback in a 64-35 victory. Tyler Munger had 17 points for Highlands, Taylor Osteen had 14 points and 4 steals and Brent Amundrud added 11. The win puts the Highlanders in first place in the Little Smoky Mountain Conference, and sets up a showdown with Blue Ridge at the end of the season to clinch second straight LSMC Championship.
Many of you have asked about the real estate market on the Highlands plateau. To give you a historical perspective, we put together the stats comparing 2012 for Highlands over the last five years:

We had a three year run from 2005 through 2007 when real estate in Highlands, like much of the country, saw competing offers and significant increases in property values. Looking at 2007 compared to 2012, the median price is down 22% and the average price is down 30% - real declines in values. The list to sale ratio for the median pricing is 86%. The median numbers are the more important ones to consider because the average number is very influenced by the numbers on the extreme. The median number is less influenced. For instance, there are 5 people whose ages are 1, 2, 3, 4 and 55. If we want a single number that represented this group’s age...the average would be 13. Well, 13 is a terrible representation of the set. On the other hand, the median of this group is 3, which is a more accurate representation of the entire group’s age. In real estate, the same principle applies.

Another distressing number is the increasing days on the market for a sold home - an increase of 96% since 2007. Even more alarming is the average days on market for unsold homes currently on the market - 583 days with some homes on the market over 2000 days.

This past week there was a lot of hype in the media regarding the news of home prices up across the country. Only five states reported no increase and of those, only one feeds our market – Alabama. We were behind the curve for the real estate bust – ours came in 2010 instead of 2008, and we believe that we will be a bit behind the curve in our recovery of home prices as well. If Congress and our President keep us from going over the fiscal cliff, we should see buyers coming out of the woodwork, as there seems to be a fair amount of pent-up demand, particularly from the upper end buyers.

Following are the 2012 for residential closed sales compared to 2011, plus an accounting of unsold homes on the market:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$300K &amp; under</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Unsold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$301K-$500K</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$501K-$750K</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$750K-$1M</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1M-$1.5M</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1.5M-$2M</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2M &amp; over</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>121</strong></td>
<td><strong>102</strong></td>
<td><strong>415</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is important for you to have all of the facts which affect your property even if it is not currently for sale. Whether it is your portfolio of stocks or your investment in real estate, we believe that with good information, you can make good decisions for your important assets.

MSN Money and Case-Shiller reports the following Returns on Investment from January 2000 to December 2012:

DOW: +19.1%. S&P: +1.5% NASDAQ: -23.6% REAL ESTATE: +46.2%

The most important factor in selling a property today is to price it “right” in the market over the short term (6 months to a year), which means pricing competitively with other unsold properties. The most important factor in buying a property today is to look over the long term before prices and interest rates increase.

You are invited to visit our user friendly websites at www.MeadowsMtnRealty.com and www.SignatureProperties-NC.com. Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, on Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex and on the Cashiers Road across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com.
**Liberty of conscience under attack**

Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteiside Presbyerian Church

Our nation is under going a philosophical change. When this nation was founded the philosophical line of thought was grounded in the Judeo-Christian tradition. One of the great principles of that tradition, which shaped much of how our nation was built, was liberty of conscience.

Many of the Reformers gave their very lives for this principle. They took a stand against Pope and King that the church nor the government had a right to bind their conscience. They held to what the Scripture taught in Acts 5:29, “We ought to obey God rather than men.”

The Reformation was not a war with the church and the Pope, as much as, it was a struggle to be witnesses of God for Jesus Christ. Yes, they fought against the Pope and the authority of Rome, and many in the political world liked the idea of weakening the power of Rome. But when they saw that it was not just Rome that the Reformers refused to follow but also the governments that wanted to control religion, they became very strong in their persecution of the Reformers. These Reformers believed that God alone is the Lord of the church and of men’s consciences. They declared very boldly that they were “bought with a price” and they would not be “servants of men” (1 Corinthians 6:23).

I believe that in our day, we face a problem brought on by this idea of liberty of conscience. The principle of separation of church and state comes out of this doctrine. The idea our forefathers had was that the State should have no power to bind the consciences of men. Thomas Jefferson explained that there was a porous wall between state and church. It allowed the exchange of ideas but prohibited the control religion, they became very strong in their persecution of the Reformers. These Reformers believed that God alone is the Lord of the church and of men’s consciences. They declared very boldly that they were “bought with a price” and they would not be “servants of men” (1 Corinthians 6:23).

Today, we see the State trying to control the minds of men with economic slavery through welfare, through the total control of education and now through control of health care. They are trying to remove the church from the public arena altogether. This was never the intention of our forefathers. That is why Jefferson said the wall was porous, the forefathers believed they needed the influence of the religious dialogue on the hearts of men. The church was free to exercise influence on the government through its preaching and teaching but the government was not free to inhibit it. What is happening today is that this whole idea is being turned upside down and with that comes the binding of men’s consciences. Therefore, it is very impor-

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**John 3:16**

**PLACES TO WORSHIP**

**Proverbs 3:5**

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

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

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Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
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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
Worshipping 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.: 9:30am: Sunday School
10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Children’s Program,
10:45am: Worship Service
Wed.: 5pm Dinner ($7 adult, $2 child), 6pm CBC University

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**
Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968
Sundays: Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30 am
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Dr. Lee Boman, 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
Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am
Bible Study – 6 pm

**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
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

**HEALING SERVICE**
On the 5th Sunday of the month.

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor 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
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

**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
worked my way up through the ranks. During those years, I worked for both male and female bosses who were from every ethnic group. I know I don’t have to remind my common sense readers how multi-cultured the Miami area has always been. In time, I watched the city’s power structure slowly change from Jewish to Hispanic. It didn’t matter.

When I finally did retire, I was Chief of the Criminal Investigations Division and the department’s SWAT Commander. I was also the go-to guy the Chief of Police relied on for delicate matters, some of them racial. One cannot achieve what I accomplished by being a racist.

The little missus and I are truly blessed because, during the winter months, we spend our time in a gated community in North Palm Beach that is home to many ethnics. They were here when we moved in but who cares?

I love the Jewish people. I owe part of my success as a policeman to them so I guess my critics can add that to their hate list. More than just a few of our Jewish friends have told us Highlands is anti-Semitic. I know that because I make it a point to ask them. Some report that while it’s subtle, it’s definitely there. That’s a black eye no one in Highlands wants to address. And that’s fine with me as long as I’m not called out as a racist.

The piece I wrote for the Dec 27/Jan 3 newspaper was satire. I was poking fun of the fact that Highlands is incapable of attracting people of color to its town, therefore it would be a great place for an angry old grumpy white man like me to hang out. The spoof was and still is that everyone in Highlands is hanging out with their own kind. Look around, Highlanders. Where are the people of color? I can’t believe I’m having to explain this.

How white Highlanders can sit in their ivory white towers and call me or anyone a racist when they live in an anti-Semitic town with zero black residents goes beyond pompous. I won’t call them ignorant... LETTERS continued from page 6
It’s that time of year, when everyone seems to be either making New Year’s resolutions, or already breaking them. Many rush to join a gym, full of great plans and promises, only to rejoin the ranks of the couch potato brigade a few months later. Statistics show the dropout rate at between 60-80%. Discouraging, isn’t it? If physical activity is high on the list, the #1 New Year’s Resolution is still to lose weight. Most of us could stand to lose a few – or more than a few – pounds, and few times of the year bring this home to us like the end of the old year. After all, we’ve just come off more than a month’s worth of pumpkin pie and stuffing, followed by boozy punch, Christmas cookies and all manner of goodies that have your arteries screaming “enough already!”

I looked at an old photo album last week with dismay. There I was, tall and leggy, and while I’ve never been skinny, there certainly was much less of me than now. My mother was mostly responsible for the good health of the whole household. Her idea of dessert was an apple. We did not drink soda, nor did we snack between meals. We rode our bicycles to school. Unless the weather was bad, my father rounded us up for a weekly hike in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Snow meant sledding, followed by mugs of hot chocolate or cider, and doing jigsaw puzzles in front of a roaring fire. For most of my childhood, the only TV in the house was in my parents’ bedroom. As we were not allowed to eat anywhere but the kitchen and dining room, we didn’t develop the habit of eating while watching television.

The only time we were allowed to eat in our rooms was when we were sick. I seldom remember my brother ever being ill, except for the three Christmases in a row when we both came down with the mumps, measles, and chicken pox. On one occasion Dr. Anderson paid my mother a house call, as I stood in the hallway sobbing, convinced she was dying. Years later, my father went to GE with walking pneumonia. No, the “sickie” in the family was almost always me, plagued with enlarged tonsils and chronic sore throats. Illness meant being moved to my parents’ room, for the special privilege of watching TV during the day – something normally forbidden in our household. I was propped up with pillows, lost in what seemed to be the biggest bed in the world. It almost compensated for being alone for six hours, since neither parent ever took time off to stay with me. In those days – the late 50s and early 60s – women in the workforce had to fight to stay in their jobs, and taking time off for their families was discouraged. I watched the clock, waiting for 3:30pm, when my mother would come home from teaching. She usually treated me to all my favorites – Campbell’s cream of mushroom soup, Canada Dry ginger ale, and Sealtest chocolate ice cream.

I don’t object to resolutions on principle, but rather dislike the timing. If a great idea comes to you on April 17th that might change your life for the better, why wait until next January 1st to implement it? For those of us who live in areas where January usually means bad weather, why compound the winter glum with unreasonable demands, like starvation and Spandex? Perhaps the negative attitude of “giving something up” should be replaced with a more positive one of taking on something fun. Surely change is more palatable when it doesn’t feel like a “timeout” in the corner imposed by a stern and humorless teacher or parent.

This year, I listened to many of my friends complaining about the holiday weight gains they were expecting. Already, their Thanksgiving plans were tainted by the pie they would avoid, the gravy they wouldn’t slather on the dressing they wouldn’t take. Christmas was even worse! No matter how much people would try to force them to eat or drink, they would be strong! They would prevail. If someone held a cookie swap, they would say they were going to Asheville for an appointment with a specialist. Office parties? Charity events? They would limit themselves to seltzer water and celery. Taking the “Christ” out of Christmas? They’d already taken out the “Merry.” Every time I ran into my friends at the post office or the library, they would mournfully wail about how much fun they weren’t having. “Oh, come off it!” I chided. “Live a little! You can always get serious about your weight in January. What will you do when you’re dying for eggnog, and it’s July?” But, no; they were adamant; they could not be deterred.

I, on the other hand, decided to take a different approach. Not limiting what I ate; I just tried to eat smaller bits of everything. After all, life is not a “onesizefitsall” deal, so why should food? Coming from a background of c Negoti, croissants, and camembert, however, I’ve always thought that diet foods – string cheese and rice cakes – were as exciting as eating grout or industrial waste. Surprisingly, giving up on this dieting obsession meant I rarely thought about food at all. I stopped dreaming about my next meal, and the one after that. Visions of sugar plums did not dance in my head, nor did visions of cheesecake, foie gras, and marzipan stolen.

The holidays over, I reconnected with my friends who had spent their time with family and friends. Their days had been hectic, full of presents and visiting. Mine had been spent mostly hunkering down with Orion, listening to Christmas music, watching TV, and chilling out. And their diets, so dearly fought for? Most admitted gaining between 5 and 10 pounds. And me? A whole pound and a half. Resolutions? I don’t really go in for them, but if I did, I know what would be at the top of my list. To be kinder to folks, myself included. Life is short, and asthesayinggoes, uncertain. R.I.P.? It may mean “Rest in Peace” to you, but for me, it’s “Relax, it’s pizza!”

... FLU from page 1...
... PROJECTS continued from page 3

After a short discussion regarding height and construction materials, the commission voted unanimously to approve the plan.

Jimmy Teem, the county fire inspector, requested that the structure be tall enough to handle emergency vehicles, including fire trucks, so the porte-cochere is 13 feet, 4 inches high.

On Wednesday, the Zoning Board made quick work of the request, too, OK'ing the project and issuing the required SUP.

Monday night the Appearance Commission also considered a change to OEI's spa facility on the main campus at Main and South 4th Street. No other board was required to visit the plans.

OEI is enclosing the two terraces—the upper terrace adjacent to the spa and the terrace next to the spa relaxation room so both can be used during the latefall and winter months which will make the area usable all year long.

The panels used to enclose the upper terrace will match the panels below and will be finished to match.

The second enclosure will be on the terrace next to the spa relaxation room. The space is partially covered with a timber-frame roof. The new design will extend the roof over the balance of the terrace and door panels will be installed into the side walls. The panel stacking system design will enable them to be opened when weather permits.

OEI CEO Richard Delaney said both these projects will enable the inn to make use of all of its square footage all year long.

Though the subject was initially contentious both at the November Planning Board meeting and the regular December Town Board meeting at the Dec. 19 special-called Zoning Board meeting, at which Commissioners Gary Drake, Brian Stiehler and John Dotson were present, the board unanimously approved OEI's special use permit to develop the property at 594 Main Street into a small event venue.

The following conditions were attached to the SUP:

A 40-ft. buffer maintained around the perimeter of the property with the buffer on Horse Cove Road maintained at all times; no amplified sound; a maximum of four musical instruments; a maximum of 40 people attending per event; events cease at 10 p.m.; a maximum of 12 people staying overnight on the property; that the tree-top walkway be removed; that no additional buildings, except the 30'x30' pavilion be built; and that the property maintain its residential feel and character.

... LETTERS continued from page 9

because! I don’t know them.

Highlands is so bigoted it even harassed and drove away the only Mexican female police woman it had. Unable to continue to work or live in Highlands, she eventually turned in her resignation. What shame!

Since childhood, all that lady ever wanted to be was a Highlands’ police officer. But she had three strikes against her. She was female and Hispanic. The third strike was the ugly rumors started by white male officers about her and our current chief of police. What trash! And I’m being called a racist? This takes hypocrisies to a new level!

I am sorry to publicize this bit of information. Highlands’ dirty laundry exists but this is a fight I did not want or invite. I know the bigotry only involves a handful of white males with poison pens but I cannot stand by and allow them to publicize and call me a racist. I must stand and fight back and that’s what I’m doing.

Fred Woolridge
Highlands and No. Palm Beach.

Hawk cartoon was misleading

Dear Editor,

I have pondered Karen Hawk’s cartoon in the Dec. 27/Jan. 3 issue.

I’m not sure what she had in mind, except to help those who might have their power shut off.

However, it did not paint a true picture of the generous people who live here.

They are constantly helping the needy with food, funds, services, and support the arts. In fact, we recently raised a lot of money for a family in Scaly who lost their home to fire (thanks to some bright young people in the high school for a very successful spaghetti supper).

All spring and summer there are fundraisers. We can’t let one cartoon mislead the image of the people supporting all the programs we support with love.

I’m proud to live here and feel we are a caring community and need to celebrate once in a while, with Thanksgiving.

Marian Becquie
Scaly Mountain

Is he really OK with spending that much money for all of the unrelated pork? If so, why?

Thanks Congressman Meadows for watching my money.

Patce Thornton
Highlands, NC

Commissioner Dotson regularly attends zoning and planning board meetings but rarely participates. At the Dec. 19 Zoning Board meeting, however, Commissioner Drake testified that given the success of OEI’s Piedmont House on South Street, the venue planned on Main Street will likely be successful, too, which will be a “win-win” for everyone.

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– Kim Lewicki

Wilhtes of Walhalla

Upholstery, drapery and apparel fabrics, notions, trimmings, upholstery foam & batting

Entire stock is 20% off!
In-house trims & remnants are 30% off!
Special orders are 25% off!

Take out the pork

Dear Editor,

In response to Jim Hartje’s letter to the editor in the Jan. 10 edition entitled “Remember this…”, Did Mr. Hartje really want our Congressman Mark Meadows to vote for all of the $23.8 billion dollars of pork included in the Federal Flood Insurance program for the victims of Hurricane Sandy?

Take out the pork – you’ll get the vote.

Fred Woolridge
Highlands and No. Palm Beach.
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!

Richard Betz 828-526-5213
Martha Betz 828-200-1411
Country Club Properties
betzrealtor@gmail.com
Highlands PD log entries from Dec. 31. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Dec. 31
At 10:17 p.m., officers responded to a call about a missing person from a residence on Lucerne Dr. A 62-year-old man had fallen and cut his head and had wandered off.

Jan. 1
At 11:54 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at Spring and S. 4th Street.

Jan. 3
At 1:54 a.m., officers were called about an 81-year-old man who was missing person.

• During the week 6 citations were issued.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Jan. 9.

Jan. 9
• At 10:25 a.m., the dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence at Highlands Mountain Club.

Jan. 11
• At 11:51 a.m., the dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Hicks Road.

Highlands Police Department

Jan. 12
• At 11:23 a.m., the dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Mirror Lake Road.

Jan. 13
• At 6:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital. It was false.

...SPIRITUALLY from page 8

tant that you as a believer understand correctly this principle of liberty of conscience.

Liberalism has worked tirelessly to change this philosophical concept. It has tried to block the church from any influence in the secular world. It has sought to silence any who would claim the right of the church to work in the political realm. There are even suggestions today that the church should not be allowed to speak out against such open sins as abortion and homosexuality.

But it is not just the secular world that has been changed. Many in the church have bought into such wrong philosophy. There are two violations occurring in this. The first is when men add commands that must be followed that are not from the Scripture. The second is when they ignore commands clearly given in Scripture. Christians in order to be salt and light must be true to God’s Word. They cannot add to it or take away from it. This new philosophy says you don’t need God’s Word, men can best make their own laws. This will lead, to a time, where every man is doing what is right in his own eyes. This will be a time of utter chaos, leading to an absolute tyranny.

This is the great danger we face today, there are men who think they know best how we should all live. Their desire is to become the guide and to make us follow through the laws they pass. G. I. Williamson says, “It has been said that there is ‘a pope in every man’s heart.’” We are all tempted to think that we could improve our fellow men, if we had charge of their conscience.

We are likewise all liable to imagine that we are doing much better than others in the use of our cherished liberty. We would restrict others and relax strictures against ourselves. But the Scripture requires the reverse: charity towards others, and carefulness in the use of our own liberty.

We ought to give our brother the benefit of the any doubt. We should esteem others better than ourselves. And even where it appears that our brother has abused his liberty, we should correct in meekness taking heed to ourselves. Meanwhile, we should guard against the abuse of our liberty, taking heed that we do not make it an occasion of the flesh, and exercising care that we do not make it an occasion of the flesh of liberty of conscience.

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Positions Now Available

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Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-3376, or apply online at www.bchospital.org.

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CLEAN DUPLEX, close to town. 2 bed, 1 bath. Appliances, garage, $750/month plus utilities and security deposit. Nonsmoking. Pets? Call 828-508-0664. (st. 1/10)

DOWNTOWN CONDO FOR RENT, Spacious 2 bedroom, fireplace, wood floors and a great deck to enjoy the views. 6 month minimum call 828-421-4681. (st. 11/28)

LARGE 4B/3BA HOME – Close to town. Handicap accessible with large circular drive with ample parking. Long term lease. Furnished or unfurnished. $2,000/month. Call 804-443-7353. (st. 11/15)

BEAUTIFUL OFFICE NEXT DOOR TO THE SCALY MOUNTAIN POST OFFICE (CAVE REALTY OFFICE), Great parking, great highway frontage and exposure for your business. $1,300 per month, plus utilities. Call Becky 526-2475. (st. 9/20)

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE RENT, Includes broadband internet, off street parking easy access. Color copier scanner fax. $250 per month. Call 828-342-1621. (9/6)

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES, Three bedrooms plus den with three full baths, an open living area, two stone fireplaces, three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Rate dependant on term. Non smokers only; no pets. Deposit required. Weekly, monthly or yearly rental. Call 678-358-9675 or 770-639-2682. (st. 9/25)

3 BED, 2 BATH HOME ON LAKE SEQUOYAH, Unfurnished. Dock and boats. Nonsmokers. $1,000/month plus utilities. Pets? Call Tony 828-332-7830. (st. 7/12)

COMMERCIAL MAIN STREET LOCATION with plenty of parking. Great for retail or office space. For more information call 828-342-1915. (st. 7/12)

3 BED, 1 BATH, IN TOWN, Wilson Road. $750 per month plus utilities. Call 421-1779. (st. 6/7)

WANTED

LOCAL BUILDING COMPANY needs framing and finish carpenters or crews. Call 828-200-0949. (1/24)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Saturday, Jan. 19
• Highlans Plateau Greenway work trip. Anyone interested in participating, please register with Ran Shaffner by emailing highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leaving a message at 828-526-5622. We will begin work on the Mill Creek Trail from the Creek to Oak Lane. Meet at the large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Rec Park at 9 AM for a brief orientation session. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Bring water, rain gear, and a day pack to hold them. Wearing clothes that can get dirty is advised. Please register since lunch will be provided by funding from the Cullasaja Women's Outreach.

Sunday, Jan. 20
• Pizza delivery fundraiser for HUMC youth going to Bolivia in March. On Sunday from noon to 8PM during the NFL divisional championship games pizzas will be delivered with prior order. Call HUMC at 526-3376 during church hours or on Sunday the 20th from 11AM to 7PM. The pizzas can be picked up at the church or delivered to you door by one of our volunteers. The popular toppings include pepperoni, beef, sausage, black olives, green peppers, onions, mushrooms and three kinds of cheese. 1-2 toppings costs $25 for a large pizza and three or more toppings costs $35. Order forms are available at the Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church.

Monday, Jan. 21
• Winter birding for waterfowl and other species at Lake Junalusalu. Meet behind Wendy’s in Cashiers to carpool to the Lake at 7:30 sharp. Dress warmly, including gloves, bring binoculars, scopes (if you have them), cameras and a good sense of humor, please! In case of rain/snow/wice, we will try the following Monday, Jan. 28. We will find a good, warm place for lunch following our birding before heading back to Cashiers. Questions? Call Romney at 526-1939 or email her at crof tess-brmemc.net. Please let Romney know if you plan to participate, so that no one will be left behind.

Tuesday, Jan. 22
• The Highlands Dialogue discussion is “Free Will and the Anders Brevik Trial” by Sarah Lucas and “Is Freedom a Mistaken Idea” by Frank S. Robinson. Handout available at the Library. Coordinator is Karen Hawk. Hudson Library from 10–11:30 a.m. For more information about the Highlands Dialogue or if you desire to be added to our mailing list, please e-mail John Gaston johnaston@aol.com or Karen Hawk hwkncred@earthlink.net.

... WOOLDRIDGE from page 4

but time is kind and patient. Time has a kind way of healing emotional wounds. Tell your dad I understand his feelings and I will pray for him. Now go home before the snow is so deep you’ll have to carry Frisky.”

To this day, I have a vivid memory of the three of us walking out the front doors of the school and then turning in opposite directions. After walking 10 feet or so, I turned to Sister Marianne and called out, “Goodbye, Sister. See you tomorrow.” She didn’t respond.

On the short walk to my parents’ restaurant, I thought about the Germans and the attack on our ships at Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. When my parents discussed the war, I made it a point to listen, even though I didn’t fully understand much of it. I also thought about forgiveness and what Sister Marianne said but decided I would still play, “kill the Japs and Krauts” with my friends in the alley behind my house.

... PARK from page 13

million by refinancing, and even though everyone knows it takes money to make money if the county wants to host the annual multi-million dollar travel league business.

“We are looking to make a decision to encumber Macon County for $5 million,” hesaid. “If voting on this – as bad as Macon County needs it, and as bad as our children need it – in the middle of a bad recession, my vote would be a resounding no.”

Other commissioners said that vote wasn’t the needed, yet. “We aren’t voting to spend $5 million and I don’t think it’s going to cost near that anyway,” said Corbin. “We could develop in the future, or we could do the whole thing and get PARTF grants to do it, or anything in between.”

Higdon said grants are taxpayers’ money. “This is not a private grant, it is funding by tax dollars.”

Corbin said PARTF has already been allocated the money. “They are going to give it to someone. It’s my tax money, too, and I’d like to get some back. Very little comes to Macon County. I view this as a moving forward with the project but moving forward cautiously,” he said.

Commissioners said they would discuss the issue further at the continuation meeting Saturday, Jan. 19 at 9 a.m. at the SCC campus on Siler Road.

Kim Lewicki