

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., March 20, 2014

New Lake Sequoyah intake valve and dam repairs a go

Draining of lake is likely a year out

Now that the financing is attainable, this time next year work will likely begin on repairing the Lake Sequoyah Dam and installing a second intake valve on the lake.

Back in January, the town learned that it had received the long sought after loan from the EPA that will go toward the water intake project.

“Basically for the 2 million

dollar project, the town will put up 468,000 dollars and EPA will give us 1.6 million in a loan with a forgiveness clause. In other words they are giving us the money,” said Mayor Pat Taylor. “This proj-

ect has been a top priority for the town for some time.”

At the February retreat, Town Manager Bob Frye dis-

•See SEQUOYAH page 5

• INSIDE •

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An insider's view of Crimea, Ukraine and Russia's Putin

- Part 1 -

For most of us, the Ukraine dilemma is murky, but for Ukrainian Alexander Kravets who now lives and works in Highlands and Cashiers, the situation is crystal clear.

It may not be what Russian President Vladimir Putin and ex-President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich want, but in Kravets' mind, strict economic sanctions should be levied against Russia by both the U.S. and the European Union (EU) for its actions in Crimea. Furthermore, to ensure Ukraine's economic and financial stability in the 21st century, Ukraine must join the EU.

Ukraine is a large country and in Putin's mind, says Kravets, it has long served as a buffer between Russia and other countries in the EU which are, due to their affiliation, thriving.

“In 1991, when Ukraine split from Russia it had the 4th or 5th strongest economy in Europe. One of the best. It was the breadbasket for the entire Soviet Union. At that time,

Poland was less successful than Ukraine; but in the last 20 years, once they broke away from Russia and joined the EU, its economy grew two and half times more than Ukraine's. Though independent, Ukraine's economic standing decreased two and a half times due to the corruptive influence of Russia. Independent from Russia, it should have grown like Poland but it didn't due to corruption.”

Since 2010, with President Viktor Yanukovich at the helm, Ukraine couldn't trade anywhere except with Russia and money given to Yanukovich by Putin for economic development disappeared.

“Russia gave \$15 billion to bail out the Ukrainian economy but the money disappeared and now Ukraine owes Russia that money and the people never saw it. The money is gone,” he said. “Yet the ex-president's personal assets for the last four years he was president increased by \$12 billion,” said Kravets. “As far as a government employee goes, who make that? The president of the U.S. doesn't make that; not even close.”

To be a part of the EU – something the people have wanted since 2004 – a country has to meet certain standards.

“All Ukraine factories are now at the Soviet level – outdated. That's why when we first join the

•See UKRAINE page 7

It's March 20: Spring is here!



Photo by Linda Barden

Voter registration deadline for the 2014 May 6 primary is April 11

The voter registration deadline to be eligible to vote in this election is April 11 at 5 pm, if mailed must be postmarked by this date. This also includes changes to your party affiliation and address changes that may need to be made to correctly assign you to your precinct on Election Day.

Registration forms are available at the board of election office or online at www.maconnc.org by clicking on the link for the NC State Board of Elections. If you have any questions please call 828-349-2034.

Absentee by mail:

•See VOTER page 4

Work begins on Parker Meadows complex

By Brittany Burns

Macon County is anxious to play ball. County officials have been diligently working to move full-speed ahead with plans to develop the Parker Meadows property into a full scale recreation complex.

After gaining majority approval from the board to develop the entire Parker Meadows recreation facility in one swoop rather than in phases, Macon County Manager Derek Roland has been working to make sure all the i's are dotted and t's are crossed in order keep the project moving forward.

During their continuation meeting Tuesday night, the Macon Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to award local engineer Larry Lackey with CETech Engineering the contract for professional engineering services for the recreation complex project

Lackey's proposal outlines plans for the development of the 47.94 acres of property. Lackey explained that while time is of the essence, a big let date of April 15 was proposed.

While County Attorney Chester Jones said the April 15 date was ambitious, he believes

•See WORK page 7

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Issues to be discussed tonight at the Town Board meeting

Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor



A major agenda item for the March 20th Town Board meeting will be downtown parking and how to provide effective enforcement of the existing ordinance. There has been extensive coverage of this issue in the press. Many of the downtown merchants and Highlands Chamber have expressed their views on this matter. I anticipate these groups will be well represented at the meeting.

Since the town retreat, when problems with the parking ordinance were first brought up, there has been a healthy discussion among all of our stakeholders. Commissioners have listened and heard their concerns. With everyone working together, we can improve the existing ordinance that prohibits employee and employer parking on Main Street. The town will move carefully and deliberately in reviewing this important issue.

Another important agenda item is the approval of the wayfinding signage. The Wayfinding Signage Project, which came from the Main Street Program, has been in development for over two years. A citizens committee worked with town staff in creating an overall plan and the design concept. A system of blade signs was developed as the primary means of directing visitors to key locations such as The Playhouse, the Civic Center, etc.

When town staff members attempted to locate all the needed blade signs, two problems became apparent. Some of the signposts for attaching the blade signs could not carry the heavy load of multiple signs. Also, at key locations, the numerous blade signs tended to be confusing and cluttered the space with signs. Ironically, an original intent of the project was to eliminate sign "clutter" in the business district.

The solution the town staff developed was to consolidate the multiple blade signs at each key intersection into single trailblazer sign. These rectangular signs will list multiple venues with directional arrows and distances. Many state and na-

tional parks, as well as small towns in Western Carolina, use this type of sign. Blade signs will still be used as directional arrows at turns and to identify destinations.

The town needs to move forward in erecting these signs this spring. If the Town Board gives approval at this meeting, signs will be up sometime in May. I want to thank the Wayfinding Signage Project Committee, led by Ran Shaffner, for its time and energy in developing the foundation for this project. It is now time to see this phase of the project put in place.

On another note, and this is the important news for the record! In the Harlem Ambassadors basketball game on Saturday night, this mayor didn't just play, he scored six big points out of the 30 the home team. I paid for those six points when I woke up on Sunday morning. Worse than a hang-over, 65 year olds should not play basketball with people half their age.

Hope to see everyone tonight at the

Town Board meeting at 7pm at the Conference Center.

• LETTERS •

Right vs. Left in MC's Republican Party

Dear Editor,

Politics does indeed make strange bed-fellows. The recent edition of the Smoky Mountain News (SMN) said this: "Carla Miller, the chair of the Macon County Republican Party, admits there is a right-wing faction of the party, but said that faction does not represent the party as a whole. Miller specifically cited the Freedom Works (sic) group as being outside the mainstream of the local party."

Curiously, unless I am mistaken. Miller and her husband have attended at least the last three FreedomWorks meetings, and I'm sure they are welcome and encouraged to continue. Evidently, they felt attending so worthwhile they invited Commissioner Jimmy Tate to attend the most recent meeting, which he did.

FreedomWorks exists to provide conservative ideas in contrast to the Republican Party, which seems to have strayed from the reservation. I became a registered Republican in 1956 and have voted Republican in every election, national and local, since. Shortly after arriving in Macon County, I was asked to run the Republican Party Men's Club, which I was pleased to do. Later, I was elected Chairman of the Macon County Republican Party. Sometime after I served my term, the principles of the party changed to the extent that I felt compelled to start the Macon County Chapter of FreedomWorks.

Further quoting the SMN, concerning the challenge of Gary Shields' residency: "I see this as being the Freedom Works (sic) people retaliating against moderate Republicans and Democrats, saying you are not going to take away our one candidate." This statement was made by Corey Duvall, Macon County Democrat chair. I am curious how a Republican lodging a challenge against a Republican involves the Democrats in any way. I guess the wisdom of a 22-year-old is beyond my understanding.

I like Gary Shields. We have been more or less friends since I came to Macon County 20 years ago. I hope we continue to be on good terms. I like him and respect him. We just differ in our politics. He describes himself as "purple," I describe myself as "red."

Don Swanson
Franklin

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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NOTICE

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Free car seat safety clinic set for Highlands and Franklin on April 5

The most important job you have as a parent is keeping your child safe. Each year thousands of young children are killed or injured in car crashes. In the United States during 2011, more than 650 children ages 12 years and younger died as occupants in motor vehicle crashes, and more than 148,000 were injured.

The western North Carolina community has come together to help host Buckle Up, Baby!, a free car seat safety clinic to help battle the alarming statistics.

Local law enforcement officers along with Angel Medical Center and Safe Kids NC have teamed up to host Buckle Up, Baby! to provide families in western North Carolina with the opportunity to get their car seat checked by certified car seat technicians.

The Buckle Up, Baby! event will be held at two locations in Macon County on April 5 from 11-2. Checking locations will be at The Franklin Fun Factory and the Highlands Hudson Library.

Buckle Up, Baby! is not just for parents, but grandparents, aunts, uncles, caregivers, and anyone who transports children will have an opportunity to learn how to properly install a seat. Smoky Mountain Chevrolet will be providing vehicles for certified technicians to give installation demonstrations for individuals such as family members or parents-to-be, who may not have a car seat yet.

Just for attending the event, participants will be given a discount card that will give them a 10 percent discount to more than 30 local businesses in Macon, Jackson, and Swain counties that will be good from April 6-April 12, the week following the event. There will also be a free raffle for attendees that include chances to win prizes from local businesses, a set of event corn hole boards from BKL Boards, a photography session from Ruby Peoples Photography, car seats, and even a two-night stay at Fontana Village Resort valued at over \$250.

Children will be treated to goodies like coloring books from Dnet Internet Services, event stickers, books from Read2Me, and tons of other give-aways.

A free pizza lunch will be provided by Biltmore Baptist Church and all children will be given a free \$5 play card to the Franklin Fun Factory.

Even though car seats are proven to be the most effective way to prevent serious automobile injuries, nearly 75 percent of all car seats are installed incorrectly. The certified technicians will help figure out if a seat is right for the child and right

for the vehicle. If the seat is not correct, you will receive a brand new replacement seat for free.

Using a car seat is the best protection you can give your child when traveling by car. Car seat use reduces the risk for death to infants (aged <1 year) by 71 percent; and to toddlers (aged 1-4 years) by 54 percent in passenger vehicles.

Every state in the United States requires that an infant or small child be restrained. Child safety seats can substantially reduce the risk of a potentially fatal injury, especially for babies but also for toddlers.

Buckle Up, Baby! will be held April 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be two locations, one at the Franklin Fun Factory and an additional site the Hudson Library in Highlands. For more information contact Brittney at bparker.maconnews@gmail.com or 828.508.3003.

• ENGAGEMENT •

Floyd and Williams



Susan Floyd, a reservationist with Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals in Highlands, NC is to be married to James Williams, a senior network administrator with Macon Bank of Franklin, NC.

Susan is the daughter of Tucker and Jeannie Chambers of Highlands. James is the son of Robert and Karen Williams of Franklin. An early May wedding is planned.

Republican Forum

There will be a Republican Candidates Forum with meet-and-greet and Q & A on Saturday, March 29, at 2 PM in the Community Building on Hwy 441 in Franklin. The forum is open to the public. For more information: www.macongop.com.



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• HIGHLANDS DINING •

...VOTING from page 3

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Absentee by mail request period begins Monday, March 17 and ends April 29 at 5 pm. All requests for a civilian absentee ballot by mail must be made on the State Absentee Ballot Request Form. Forms are available online www.maconnc.org, www.ncsbe.gov or at the board of elections office at 5 West Main Street, Franklin, NC.

One-stop Voting:

One-stop early voting begins on the second Thursday prior to the date of an election instead of the third Thursday prior to the date of the election.

One stop early voting begins April 24 and ends May 3.

Now, Highlands will have an early voting site as well as the One Stop Voting site in the Macon County Courthouse. Any registered voter in Macon County may vote at the Highlands site during the hours of Monday-Friday 9 am to 5 pm and on Saturdays during this period from 9 am to 1 pm. The Highlands Civic Center is at 600 N 4th Street,.

The hours for the MC Board of Election voting site on the first floor (basement of courthouse) are 8 am to 6 pm Monday – Friday and 9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays during this period. One-stop voting will end 1 pm May 3, at both sites



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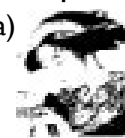
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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

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**By Jennifer Blake
Broker-in-Charge
Highlands Cove
Realty**

one of our surrounding lakes or go for a hike to see the hidden waterfalls that reveal the true untouched beauty of nature.

Highlands and Cashiers are known for their boutique shopping where one can find unique antiques, fine linens, and attend designer trunk shows throughout the season. One-of-kind boutiques are abundant in Highlands as well as a wide variety of farm fresh dining. Appreciate live music and enjoy a drink or revel in the farm-to-table meal options at the Four-Diamond Awarded Madison's restaurant. Blissful from a day of outdoor activities, sight-seeing, great food and great company, you can now retreat to your home in the mountains, light the fireplace, and envision

• See **INVESTING** page 14

...SEQUOYAH continued from page 1

discussed the details of financing the project and suggested using funds the town had in reserve for dredging Big Creek – a project that isn't in the works. That amount is about \$640,000.

"The \$640,000 could be used to pay off the low-interest loan for \$468,000 which we can get for 2% to 2.5% which represents the the 20% the town is responsible for. Then we can put the remaining amount of the \$640,000 toward dam repairs which are estimated to be about \$300,000. This way we would only need to allocate approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000 from our fund balance reserves to finish the dam," said Frye.

He said the financing will be discussed in more detail at the April Board meeting when the loan documents come in from the state.

With the estimated 4.9 acres of silt in Big Creek, the town's drinking water supply is in jeopardy but dredging discussions have stopped due to property rights issues. Consequently, the town turned to Lake Sequoyah as the place to build another intake valve.

The valve will be built upstream from the dam on town property and will supply two million gallons of drinking water day.

To both build the intake valve and repair the dam – something that needs to be done regardless of the intake valve – Lake Sequoyah will have to be drained. According to Public Service Administrator Lamar Nix, that process could take about six months.

"We will have to drain it slowly to keep sediment from moving, and of course this will be closely regulated by the Fish and Wildlife Department. It won't drain all the way – there will be four or five feet near the dam that will have to be pumped out," he said.

He said part of the process is to determine the best methods to drain the lake and prevent the silt from leaving the impoundment.

"We are still working on that and don't have all the final answers, yet. At this time we think the process can take up to six months. Some of the remaining permits will address the timing and methods."

Frye said the town won't begin draining until everything else is in place and it could begin in the summer, the winter or somewhere in between. He said once it's drained the lake could be down for about six months.

According to Nix the construction of coffer dams at the dam and around the intake valve site are not an option because building two coffer dams would be cost prohibitive – so draining is a must.

As to dam repairs and additives, according to McGill Associates, the engineering firm on the job, the rectangular plug visible on the Cullasaja side of the dam that has been there since 1926 has to come out to be repaired and at that point a bottom valve for cold water release could be installed.

– Kim Lewicki

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...UKRAINE continued from page 1

EU, the Ukrainian people are going to suffer because everything needs to be upgraded. Billions and billions of dollars need to be invested and have been promised through the EU to make that happen," he said.

Efforts to join the EU have stalled but the people are demanding movement in that directions. In fact, on March 21 Ukraine is taking its first baby step to becoming a part of the EU. This involves the laying out of a plan for entrance. Kravets says it will be a long road and initially the people will suffer because money has to be invested so the country – its factories, industries, businesses and products – meet EU standards.

Why the EU?

"First of all within the EU there is freedom of speech, something we should have as an independent country anyway except that the Ukraine government is corrupt and basically under Russia's rule. The second is when you look at prices for milk, eggs, chicken in the EU and look at Ukraine prices they are the same, except that as far as sala-



Alexander Kravets

ries go, salaries in the EU are at least 10 times higher. In Ukraine, the average government employee makes \$100-\$200 a month. Due to Ukraine corruption, people are barely making it. We need more freedom, decent wages for standard of living so we can move toward a true democracy without corruption."

He claims once all the building blocks are in place, salaries in Ukraine will increase as trading between countries increases and economic stability is achieved.

"Ukraine is a rich country as far as natural gas, charcoal and other natural resources, go. If we can have an open market between the EU, Ukraine life will be better and it will be the final break away from Russian rule."

About Putin

Kravets is adamant about Putin's intentions.

"President Putin is a nationalist who wants to restore the Soviet Union's power. There used to be two super powers in the world, the U.S. and the Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union fell apart, Russia became nothing so now the one super power militarily and financially is the U.S. He is trying to restore it to its former glory," said Kravets.

And he's afraid Putin does have a chance.

"Back in 2008 during the Georgian war he took two parts of Georgia that are now part of Russia. Before that there were the Chechen wars in 1995 and then in 2000. It is a Muslim country and didn't want to be part of Russia. But he took all his forces and made them Russia," he said. "And there are others."

• See more on Putin next week in Part 2

...WORK continued from page 1

that if things go smoothly with the Local Government Commission as well as completing the required paperwork to be in compliance with the state allocated Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) monies, the project can begin before summer.

Lackey, who is based in Franklin, beat out Mike LoVoy of Civil Engineering Design out of Asheville. LoVoy has been the engineer on the project since the beginning and currently has a contract for engineering services for Phase I of the preliminary site plans. LoVoy bid the remaining portion of the project at \$49,500, which doesn't include the cost of travel and other associated expenses such as printing fees. Laskey's bid proposal was slightly higher at \$49,750, but incorporated factors left out by LoVoy.

Roland explained that the county's currently contract with LoVoy is coming to a completion, and the remaining \$8,000 left on LoVoy's contract will go back to

the county.

Lackey's bid breakdown includes \$28,700 for the development of site plans such as paving, grading, and on-site wastewater system. Lackey included \$3,500 for fees associated with bidding and bid documents. The remaining portion of the funds cover clerical and design hourly fees associated with the project.

Roland explained to commissioners that his recommendation to go with Lackey came after consulting with County Planner Matt Mason and County Recreational Director Seth Adams. Roland assured commissioners that each of the proposed bids were kind of like buying a car. "We did a lot of back and forth to make sure everything we needed were covered in the bids," said Roland.

"I really think having a local engineer is going to benefit us in the long-run," said Roland. "He has an office right here in town, so if we have any questions or concerns, we can just stop in."

Commissioner Ronnie Beale requested that the bid include a projected time and anticipated completion date. Roland and Jones said that they had plans to meet with Lackey this week to finalize the plans and will develop a timeline as well.

In addition to awarding the engineering bid, commissioners also unanimously voted to allocate \$16,000 to local architect Tom Ritter for the design rendering of park building facilities.

Ritter's bid proposal includes comprehensive architectural and engineering drawings for a concession/scorer's building, ADA compliant restrooms, and a covered patio surrounding the building. Ritter will also develop design plans for a picnic pavilion for the area.

Roland noted that from talks with Adams and Lackey, he hopes that the entire project will be completed and ready for play nine months from the day crews break ground.



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Garden Color

When planning your garden, one of the first decisions you need to make is what colors you will choose. Since the amount of sunlight varies throughout the day, take into consideration how the flowerbed will look in the morning, mid-day and early evening. Also think about the amount of sunlight the planting area receives.

Shaded areas can appear brighter by using light-colored plants. Consider using light pink, light yellow, lavender, pale blue or white flowers in your shade garden. Dark plants in the shade can disappear into the background. You can still use dark colors in the shade garden, but be sure to surround them with lighter-colored plants.

Full sun garden areas can handle brightly colored flowers. This garden area will draw attention and stand out when you use reds, oranges, bright yellows, deep blues and purples.

Pastels in bright sunlight will appear faded and washed out.

For best results, stick to one, two or three colors. Repeating the same colors, even in different shades, gives a unified look to the garden.

Repeating the same colors in different varieties of plants not only challenges your

imagination, but also results in a garden that is uniquely you.

In addition to sunlight, basic color theory comes into play when selecting plants for your garden. You will need to decide if your color selections will be harmonious, complementary or monochromatic. Color choices include bright or pastel and warm or cool. Harmonious colors are next to each other on the color wheel and have a soothing effect. These softer color combinations include blue and violet, orange and red, and orange and yellow. Using harmonious colors unifies a garden while still allowing a range of color.

Complementary colors are opposite from each other on the color wheel. These are high in contrast and add drama and excitement to your garden. Combinations of yellow and violet, orange and blue or green and red varieties are examples of complementary colors.

A monochromatic color scheme is composed of plants of the same color. You may have an all-white garden or a garden that is "in the pink." Create extra interest in a monochromatic garden by using a mix of tones or shades of the same color in addition to various textures, shapes and sizes.

Foliage color should



be considered in any color scheme. Foliage with green and white or green and yellow variegated leaves adds interest to the garden. There are also plants with chartreuse, lime green, bronze or reddish/purple leaves that add a bold element to your garden.

Pastels and muted colors set a peaceful and tranquil mood. These colors include soft pink, lavender, lilac and peach. When using pastel colors, consider where the flowers will be planted. Pastel flowers look best when viewed from a short distance and tend to look washed out in the bright, mid-day sun. Pastel colors can be used in distant parts of the garden to give the illusion of being even further away.

Bright or primary colors include red, orange,

magenta and bright yellow. These colors are guaranteed to energize the garden. The color will show well in the bright sunshine and also attract your eye from a great distance. Do not combine bright colors with less intensely colored plants — the brightly colored ones will steal the show.

White flowers are in a class by themselves. They blend well with every color and can also be used as a transition between colors that do not normally work well together.

Warm colors include red, orange and yellow. They tend to make flowers appear closer than they really are.

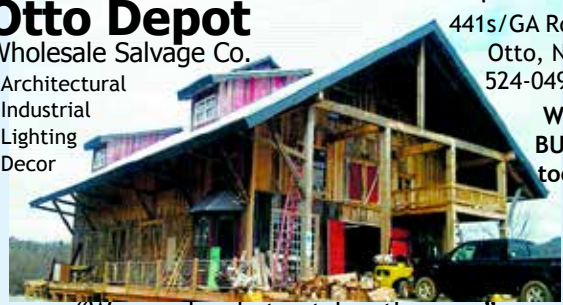
Cool colors such as blue, violet, silver and white lend a calming effect and make plants appear farther away in the garden.

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Is it Time to Replace Your Home's Windows?

(StatePoint) Looking for a home improvement project that is both a short- and long-term investment? One easy upgrade that can help you save money on your energy bills today, as well as increase your home's value in the future, is to replace your windows.

But how do you know it's time to give your current windows the boot? An annual performance check is good practice, say experts.

"Virtually every building component in a home needs to be replaced at some point, and windows are no exception," says Matt Miner of Simonton Windows, a leading vinyl window and patio door manufacturer.

With that in mind, Miner is offering some do-it-yourself tips to discover how well your current windows and patio doors are functioning:

- Examine the inside of your windows and patio doors for hot and cold "drafty" spots or areas. This indicates air infiltration, which can

lead to reduced energy efficiency.

- Check every window for adequate weatherstripping and caulking around the units, which help eliminate air infiltration and ensure a weather tight, secure seal.

- Look for "burnt out" or faded areas on your furnishings and carpeting. This could indicate that harmful, damaging UV rays are entering your home through windows and glass doors. You may want to consider more energy efficient options containing Low E, which is a special glass coating designed to reduce heat transfer.

- If your windows no longer open or close easily, or if they need to be propped open, it could mean key components within the units are damaged or need adjustment. It could also mean the unit needs to be replaced entirely.

- If you have wood windows, look carefully at the frames for signs of rotting, warped wood or other problems with the frame itself. These are an



indication the window has exceeded its lifespan.

Should your evaluation turn up one or more problem areas, and it's time to replace your windows, do your homework. While price is important, it shouldn't be a sole decision factor, as functionality is a critical consideration.

Look for low-maintenance materials that offer energy efficiency. For example, vinyl is an excellent insulator and many people

choose low-maintenance vinyl frames with a Low E glass coating and an Argon or Krypton gas fill. These harmless gasses are denser than air and serve as an excellent thermal barrier.

More information about energy-efficient glass options is available at www.Simonton.com

When the time is right, consider replacing your windows for a home with great long- and short-term returns on investment.



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Lenten Discipline: Let's stand for life

By Reverend Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church

Say what you will about General George Custer (and there is much to discuss) it is an undeniable fact that he stood, he took a stand, he made his life count for something he believed in.

During the summer of 1876 at Little Bighorn, SD Custer took a stand for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, for country and for honor, as he understood them and was commissioned to fight for them.

While we may debate the propriety of Custer's mission and or tactics, what is not up to debate is that he took a firm stand. He was willing to die for something he believed in. So was God. In a cause more noble than any other—the cause of life and love—Jesus took his last stand for us. He stood, nailed to the cross at Calvary and gave up His life for us. The Author of life, the God who is Love took his stand as, "...he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Corinthians 5:15, NIV, emphasis added)

While the Lord of life took his stand at Calvary, rather than at Little Bighorn, his stand was far more momentous for us than Custer's. His sacrifice provided life for us—real, abiding and eternal life—and calls us all into the life promotion business. We're all called to protect and promote life. Not just the passing life of our mortal bodies but also and more importantly the true life that is available to all, life beyond human limitations, life eternal as the Father's children.

Jesus gloriously took his stand. Custer bravely took his. What about us? How about you? Do you promote and protect life? Do you really sacrifice on behalf of love for others, so as to "...love your neighbor as yourself?" (Leviticus 19:18, NIV) All are called to do so. Are you willing to let personal convenience or preference die so that others might live?

It is a conundrum for most that some groups purportedly support life while they commit violent acts that minimize and or take away life? Animal rights zealots, lifestyle rights activists, and abortionists, to name a few, claim that they stand squarely on the side of life. However, as actions speak louder than words, often times they violently and grossly diminish the lives of the many while they support only the small slices of life that measure up to their convenience, preference or ideology. That's not standing for life, it's a hypocritical stand against life, a demonstration on behalf of what the late Pope John Paul II called "the culture of death."

This "culture of death" is all around us. Just last week the father of the boy who committed the Newtown, CT massacre said that his son was always evil and he wished that he had never been born. That young man destroyed and minimized many lives. But we shouldn't be surprised in this "culture of death." Indeed, we should probably expect more. We murder children by the millions. We euthanize those who become inconvenient. We enthusiastically support a right to suicide. We celebrate violence in many forms of the media. We glorify death in video games. And the list could

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Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

Wed.: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church
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pm; Choir 5 pm
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p.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09 & 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper 6; 7:15: children, youth, & adults studies;

6:15: Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs: 12:30: Women's Bible Study (nursery)
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Classics for the Park Matinee Soiree set for April 6th to benefit Kelsey-Hutchinson Park

On Sunday, April 6th the Founders Park Coalition will host Highlands' first ever "Classics for the Park Matinee Soiree" at the Highlands Playhouse. Proceeds will help raise funds to complete Kelsey-Hutchinson Park.

Your \$50 donation includes a showing of *West Side Story* shown on the big screen with big sound, the way classics were

Revival at Scaly Mtn. Church of God

There will be a revival at the Scaly Mountain Church of God from Sunday, March 23 through Wednesday, March 26.

The special minister will be Rev. Jackie Jenkins from Franklin, NC. The first service will start at 6 p.m. on Sunday night and the rest of the services will be at 7 p.m. nightly. The pastor, Al Sizemore and the congregation extend a welcome to all who would like to attend.

For further information, call the church parsonage at 828-526-3212. The church is located at 290 Buck Knob Road in Scaly Mountain, North Carolina.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from 10

go on. Why should it surprise us when our children show so little regard for life? We teach them to disdain it!

Since all life comes from and belongs to God, and furthermore, since he sacrificed his life that we may live—and in so doing called us all to sacrificially promote life—should we not all at least take an un-hypocritical stand for life? Custer did. Jesus did. We're all supposed to.

During this season of Lent let us all resolve to take a stand. A stand to maximally promote human life or at least a stand to lovingly expose the hypocrisy of those who say they support human life while working to minimize it.

meant to be seen, a tasting of heavy hors d'oeuvres from Cyprus International Cuisine, Fresser's Eatery and The Ugly Dog, two glasses of wine and a treat from Kilwin's Chocolates.

All proceeds will help with the completion of Kelsey-Hutchinson Park.

Festivities begin at 12:30p and the movie starts at 2p.

Stop by just for the pre-party or stay for the full classic movie experience.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Highlands Playhouse box office at 526-2695 or at the Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

Founders Park Coalition was formed to work with the Town of Highlands to see Kelsey-Hutchinson Park completed

according to an agreed plan so that it can be enjoyed by individuals, families and large gatherings, both now and for generations to come.

The Coalition is composed of representatives from many community organizations, including The Rotary Club of Highlands, Mountaintop Rotary Club, The Laurel Garden Club, The Mountain Garden Club, The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, The Highlands Plateau Greenway, the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the Highlands Historical Society, and the Highlands Botanical Station.

To learn how you can be involved, contact Coalition President, Nick Bazan at nicholas.bazan@gmail.com.

March 'Senior Lunch' is Friday, March 21

The next Senior Lunch will be Friday, March 21st at noon in the Meeting Room at the Highlands Civic Center. The Menu will be Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Salad, roll and Cookies.

'New Artists Series' kicks off at PAC on March 29 at 7:30p



The Malpass Brothers, Chris and Taylor: "Music is what we love and it's what we do. Traditional country music is the heart and soul of what makes us who we are." Malpass Brothers. The New Artists Series: Saturday, March 29 at 7:30pm Tickets are \$20 and are available online at highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047.

Talk with the mayor at 'Community Coffee'

Community Coffee is held on the last Friday of each month at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11am til Noon, w/ Mayor Patrick Taylor presiding. This month's date is Friday, March 28th. The topic: Utility Rates. Refreshments provided by the Mountain Garden Club.

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands PD log entries from Feb. 12. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 12

• At 11 p.m., officers responded to a call about snowmobiles being driven into the creek on Horse Cove Road near Trillium Place condominiums.

Feb. 22

• At 11:24 p.m., Matthew Richmon Keener, 26, of Highlands, was arrested for driving left of center with an open container in the vehicle. He was held at the MC sheriff's office on a \$4,000 unsecured bond.

Feb. 27

• At 9:38 p.m., officers responded to a shoplifting incident at the Farmers Market where a juvenile attempted to steal 4 pints of Bush Light in a back pack.

March 1

• At 10:41 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

March 6

• At 7 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106.

March 8

• At 9:37 p.m., Thomas Michael Chatlos, Jr., 38, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI on US 64 west. He was held at the MC detention center on a \$2,000 unsecured bond.

• At 2 a.m., officers responded to a call about a broken window at the Main Street Inn that was possibly broken during a fight in the room.

• At 2 p.m., officers responded to a call about items being stolen from the saddlebags of a motorcycle on Main Street.

March 9

• At 3:50 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US. 64 west.

• At 4:37 a.m., Jose Martin Feria, 21, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI and traffic violations on US 64 west. He was held at the MC Detention Center on a \$2,000 unsecured bond.

March 10

• At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to a call about someone trespassing on property on NC 106.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from March 7.

March 7

• At 4:32 p.m., the dept. stood by for MAMA at the hospital.

March 8

• At 11:02 p.m., the dept. stood by for MAMA at the hospital.

March 9

• At 3:58 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on US 64 west. There were two people injured.

• At 11:50 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Pierson Drive.

March 10

• At 7:52 a.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Netsi Place.

• At 12:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Split Rail Road.

March 11

• At 7:46 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on US 64 west. There were no injuries.

March 13

• At 9:21 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on US 64 east near the Community Bible Church. There were no injuries.

March 14

At 8:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a brush fire on Cherokee Drive. It was an illegal burn.

March 16

At 1:16 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sassafras Gap Road.

• OBITUARY •

Sarah Ethel Talley Davis



Sarah Ethel Talley Davis, age 95 of Otto, died Saturday, March 15, 2014 in a local hospital. She was born in Transylvania County, August 18, 1918, the daughter of the late Marcus Leonard and Charlotte Lydia Keener Talley. Mrs. Davis was first married to Theodore Crunkleton who died in 1976 and second to Charles Holt Davis for 15 years. She was a homemaker and a member of Newman Chapel Baptist Church. She was a loving wife and friend and enjoyed feeding and watching birds.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by three sisters, Eva Marshall of Mt. Kisco, NY, Berta Lee Durci of Mtn. Home, AK and Beatrice Ruhl of Newbern, NC; two brothers, Charles Talley of State Rd., NC and Clifford Talley of Highlands, NC; loving niece and caregiver, Sherry Reese of Franklin, NC and nineteen additional nieces and nephews; three step daughters, Mary Owens of Greenville, SC, Nan Strickland of Pell City, AL and Jackie Reinheimer of Charleston, SC.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by one sister, Martha Reese and two brothers, Gordon and Lewis Talley.

Funeral services were Tuesday, March 18th at Newman Chapel Baptist Church with Rev. Roy Lindsay and Rev. Alton Dendy officiating. Burial was in Highlands Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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...INVESTING continued from page 5

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These opportunities along with competitive building prices make 2014 a great time to build! The National Association of Homebuilders is forecasting 1.15 million total housing starts in 2014, up 24.5 per-

cent from last year's total of 928,000 units. National Mortgage Professional Magazine firmly believes that "consumer confidence has returned to pre-recession levels and household balance sheets are on the mend". NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe states, "My single-family forecast for 2014 is pretty aggressive — 822,000 starts which is likely 200,000 more than 2013".

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• Jennifer Blake is Broker-in-Charge at Highlands Cove Realty at Old Edwards Club. Contact her at (828) 226-3030, (828) 526-8128 or by email jennifer@highlandscove.com.

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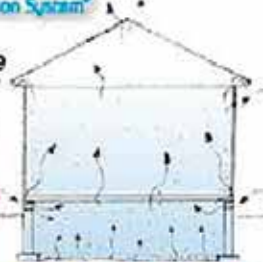
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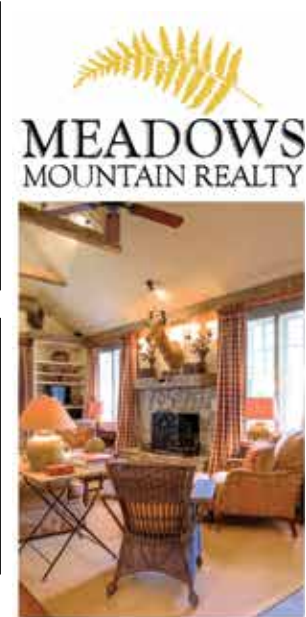
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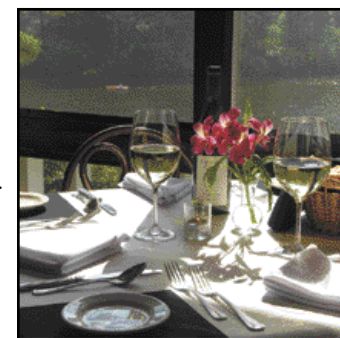
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