

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 37

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., Sept. 11, 2014

Through Thurs., Sept. 11

• The movie "The Hundred Foot Journey" at The Playhouse, 2, 5, and 8p. Coming soon "The Giver." No movies on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Thurs., Sept. 11

• HCLT's Box Canyon Eco Tour 9:30a to 3p. Easy to moderate walk with a picnic lunch. Reservation required. \$10 for Land Trust members and \$35 for others. Call 828-526-1111.

• Rotary Bingo will benefit the Highlands Historical Society. Bingo will be from 6:30-8:30p at the Community Building beside the ballfield.

Sat., Sept. 13

• The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in K-H Park.

• Free wine tastings at MountainTop Wine Shoppe from 1-3p.

Sun., Sept. 13

• At Highlands Inn, Sequoyah Room at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bible Study and Fellowship. Open to all.

• At PAC, Asheville's "Land of Sky Chorus" at 7:30p. 4-part acapella harmony and barbershop harmony. Featuring an eclectic mix of songs from 1850s to today. Tickets are \$17. Call the PAC at 526-9047.

Mon., Sept. 15

• Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men's Weekly meeting at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

Tues., Sept. 16

• Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

Wed., Sept. 17

• First Baptist Church presents a new season of X-treme Games at the Highlands Rec. Park Wednesday nights from 6 to 7:15 pm. To pre-register your K-6th grade child, please call 526-4153.

Fracking is hot topic in Macon County

"... this issue is on the ballot this November because our names are on the ballot and you have the ability to change that. 'As a sponsor of this [fracking] bill, because of the evidence there, I think the rewards are far greater than the risks and I think North Carolina deserves an opportunity to participate in this energy revolution so long as we can do it in an environmentally and consumer friend way ... I am proud to have co-sponsored the bill and I am proud to stand on my record.'" — Sen. Jim Davis

By Gwen Albers
Carolina Public Press

A week before the final and third fracking public hearing, set

for Sept. 12 at Bardo Fine and Performing Art Center, Franklin's forum on the subject attracted hundreds.

According to Sen. Jim Davis the event was sought to correct information on the 'contentious

• See FRACKING page 6

MC Planning Board says no to towns' requests for water line aid

By Brittany Raby

After being tasked with examining the county's infrastructure and possible improvement needs, Chris Hanners, Chairman of the Macon County Planning Board told commissioners this week that no action was needed in that direction.

Over the last several months, the planning board has been reviewing the status of existing infrastructure and the possibility of future expansion throughout the county, Highlands and Franklin included, explained Hanners.

Members of the planning board worked with municipal representatives to identify possible expansions and improvements within both towns. The discussions focused around broad definitions that included; water and

• See AID page 16

Local byways ablaze with Zinnias



NC DOT's work on the 441-By Pass in Franklin. Linda Barden

Meadows & Hill face off

By Brittany Raby

Last Thursday, Congressional candidates incumbent Mark Meadows and challenger Tom

Hill battled it out in an hour-long debate at Western Carolina University. The debate, which may be

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Local and state HS graduation rates on the upswing

Since 2006, the first year the state reported a four-year cohort graduation rate, the percentage of students graduating from high school in four years or less has risen 15.5 percentage points – from 68.3 percent to 83.8 percent.

North Carolina's 2013-'14 graduation rate of 83.8 percent is the highest recorded in the state's history. Macon County's graduation rate for 2013-'14 is 88.2%. Highlands School's is 90.6% -- up from 2012-'13.

The rise in graduation rates has occurred alongside changes that have led to more challenging standards and assessments and increased graduation requirements.

State Superintendent June Atkinson praised educators, students and their families for remaining focused on graduation as a goal. "In today's world,

• See GRADUATION page 14

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY • Travelling the road home

I was not in the office on Friday. Instead, I was traveling through Georgia to attend a family funeral. Sometimes getting away, even in an unfortunate situation, provides one a different perspective.

As I cruised through Georgia, ideas ran through my mind about Highlands and my mayoral duties. I started to connect my thoughts to what I was seeing on the road.

Approaching Madison, Georgia, I saw a sign that read Madison By-Pass. I thought, who would want to by-pass Madison? Driving through Madison, with its immaculate, historic homes and business district has always been an aesthetic experience for me that should never be by-passed. So I made the right turn to downtown. The tree lined avenue with striking Neoclassical and Victorian homes did not disappoint me.

Downtown was well ordered and vibrant just as the town's namesake, President James Madison, would have expected. Over the years Madison has changed, but has also remained the same. A couple of years ago the town extended its business district from the square to the westside. The new buildings were architecturally in keeping with the existing buildings around the town square.

Madison also created a large public park in the middle of the new development. Maybe President Madison, the author of our constitution, would have expected a town park, a place of common ground, where residents would gather to discuss their concerns and just enjoy a sense of community.

People want to live and visit Madison because of its tradition, beauty and lifestyle. I thought, the same can be said about Highlands. Like Madison, Highlands has taken great care to preserve the past. Wise decisions have been made so that our town is a wonderful place for people to live, work and visit. By-pass Highlands? Who would want to do such a thing?

I also passed by a South Georgia town where their hospital had closed. The 14-acre campus was for sale. Later I read about their sad loss on the internet. A hospital closing can impact almost every aspect of a community. I thought how



fortunate Highlands is to have a hospital, even if we may have to adjust to impending changes needed to assure its future.

Finally, I found myself relying on a smartphone to navigate through South Georgia. Road maps remained in the glove compartment. On this journey to the funeral of my cousin, I thought how as kids we could not have

imagined the changes that are now taken for granted.

I pulled off the highway to get the exact location of the funeral home. My smartphone, a device no larger than the pack of Lucky Strikes, the cigarettes our fathers smoked in the great war, provided directions to within a foot. Immediately the address and telephone call button popped up on the screen. No need to call, I relied on the navigation map and the little voice that called out each turn.

Highlands, like every community, will have to be responsive to the challenges of this expanding technology in order to attract a new generation of residents. Ignore it under the guise of embracing a fixed tradition assures that our community will regress and not wisely move forward.

• LETTERS •

Sad state of affairs

Dear Editor,

I don't read Fred Wooldridge's column; I wish I had not read his letter in the Aug. 28 edition which was entitled "What If?"

Frieda Bennett
Highlands

• THANKS •

Once again as Luminaria Chairperson, I would like to thank everyone who donated to the American Cancer Society Relay For Life in the form of Luminaria this year. The outpouring of donations given by families and friends to honor and remember those they love who have fought cancer or who are fighting cancer always touches my heart. As I work with the Luminaria, I am very aware that each candle, torch, or balloon has a name that lights up the night with the glow of love.

This year in particular, I would like to say a HEARTY THANKS to Gina Billingsley, sponsor of the Beta Club and teacher of math at Highlands High School, and the Beta Club of Highlands High School as well as the Soccer Team of Highlands High School for all the ways they helped

with the Luminaria. The Beta Club was in charge of designing and implementing the way the names were displayed on the balloon wall in the gym as well as blowing up all of the balloons. The Soccer Team and the Beta Club together put the sand and candles in the bags, placed the bags around the track, and lit the candles. We were fortunate that the rain stopped just in time for all of this to be done outside. I was thrilled with the beautiful glow when I stepped outside to admire their hard work. At the Luminaria Ceremony, the cauldron was lit to celebrate Relay's Honorary Chairperson, Maddie Schandolph, also a student at Highlands High School. The cauldron, as well as the candle bags, torches and balloons, filled the night air with lovely light and love. I also want to thank student Brent Amundrud, for his beautiful rendition of my favorite Relay song "Every Candle has A Name." Highlands is fortunate to have such outstanding young people who are willing to put time and effort into helping Relay become a success.

Martha Hunter

• CORRECTION •

The picture of the plant on the front page of the July 10, 2014 edition of Highlands Newspaper is actually Japanese Spiraea (Spiraea japonica) not a pink milkweed as reported.

This is a non-native invasive plant from Japan, Korea and China and was introduced to the northeast US in the late 1800s as an ornamental shrub.

It is spreading and is a threat to natural areas in the mountains of North Carolina. It forms dense stands that displace native herbs and shrubs. This species produces hundreds of seeds that remain viable in the soil for many years and can be dispersed by water and deposited along stream banks.

Our goal is to start managing and controlling the non-native invasive plants along US 64 through the Cullasaja Gorge. Due to traffic safety concerns, it has been hard to treat the non-native invasive plants in the gorge but we hope to treat them with the help of DOT.

April Palette Punsalan
Botanist/Ecologist
Nantahala National Forest

NOTE: We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

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• OBITUARY •

Nathalie Georgia Sato

Nathalie Georgia Sato, of Highlands, NC, died Tuesday, September 2, 2014, at age 90. Born on December 12, 1923, in Ithaca, New York, she was the daughter of the late Frederick Raymond and Lolita Healey Georgia. Her father was one of the founders of Black Mountain College, a progressive liberal arts school with an international reputation for avant garde art, architecture, literature, music, and dance that thrived from 1933 until 1957. At the time of her birth he was teaching chemistry at his alma mater, Cornell University, where his wife was an instructor in accounting. Nathalie lived in Highlands in 1931-'32 when her father bought the Flat Mountain one room schoolhouse and converted it to a summer home for ten years before the U.S. entered the Second World War. The summer home was used again after the war until her father died in the early 1960s.

Ms. Sato received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Cornell University with a major in constitutional law for regional and city planning. She graduated in 1952 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a doctorate in political science, specializing in intergovernmental relations in metropolitan planning. Beginning her career as chief urban planner for the Chicago area transportation studies, she was serving as planning analyst for Pennsylvania's Office of State Planning and Development in Harrisburg when she retired in 1983. She returned to Highlands, having bought her father's Flat Mountain School site where she built her home and spent the last thirty years of her life gardening, hiking, and weaving on the loom her father had built at Black Mountain College. In 1991 she was recognized for her voluntary contributions to the U.S. Forest Service. Ever since her cycling excursions in Europe, she has been an avid outdoorsman, living and walking in the forests and closely observing the wonders of nature. She expressed her lifelong love of Highlands' history by serving as docent at the Highlands Historical Museum and helping to catalog the archives of the Highlands Historical Society.

She was preceded in death by a brother Dan Georgia and son Bruce Sato.

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

...FACE-OFF from pg 1

the only time the two meet face-to-face before the election, was moderated by WLOS-TV's Frank Fraboni and touched on an array of submitted questions from the hot button issue of fracking in NC to how to handle foreign affairs such as relations with Russia.

With each back and forth between the two men, their political views grew further and further apart. By the end, it was evident that the two candidates are arguably polar opposites.

Meadows, who is seeking his second term in Congress, spoke to the audience about the importance of fostering bipartisanship and working across party lines and gave examples of his efforts to do such with several bipartisan bills he introduced during his tenure.

Hill, on the other hand, a retired physicist from Zirconia who ran in the 11th Congressional District Democratic primary in 2012 but lost to Hayden Rogers, built his purpose for seeking office on reform from the destruction caused by the "right-wingers."

Money talk: Candidate's stance on minimum wage and the debt ceiling

Hill was adamant that Meadows and

• See FACE-OFF page 14



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says

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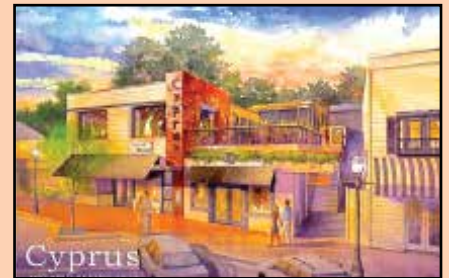
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...FRACKING continued from page 1

subject'

When establishing rules for hydraulic fracturing, North Carolina looked at resources and other states' best practices before determining that extracting natural gas from deep underground could be done safely, an official with the state's Mining and Energy Commission said Tuesday.

"Most problems (with fracking were due to) poor casing and bad cementing, causing ruptures," said Jim

Womack, the immediate past chairman for commission told about 250 people during a forum at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. "We've spent a lot of time on rule-making. We pored over what the other states have done, looking at well casing and cementing. We looked at where Pennsylvania started and where Pennsylvania ended."

While Womack said he believes the state has developed rules stricter than any of the 34 states practicing fracking, environmental watchdog Therese Vick has her doubts, with exploration in North Carolina set to begin in one year.

"Studies are coming out showing different issues (about the detriments of fracking)," said Vick, the North Carolina Healthy Sustainable Campaign Coordinator at Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League. "The gas has been in the ground for a long time. There's no hurry. Saying our rules are as good as anybody in the country - that's not saying a whole lot."

Hosted by state Sen. Jim Davis, R-Franklin, the forum involved a presentation from Womack, followed by a question-and-answer session. Davis co-sponsored a bill that allows the process of finding natural gas to begin.

He said he sees fracking — the process of injecting liquid at high pressure into subterranean rocks and boreholes to force open existing fissures and extract oil or gas — as part of an energy revolution. Davis also said he believes the likelihood of finding natural gas in the mountains is extremely low, and it would be a waste of money trying

to find it here.

The Mining and Energy Commission will conduct its final public hearing on rules proposed for fracking at 6 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Liston B. Ramsey Regional Activity Center, 92 Catamount Road, at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee. Public comment will be received at the hearing, but questions will not be answered that night, Womack said.

Womack, who serves on the commission that developed rules for fracking, explained that it's likely to occur in the central part of the state.

"(There are) 14 or so counties that have the greatest potential for shale energy development," he said.

Womack pointed to Lee County, where he serves on the board of commissioners. A number of core samples have been taken there since the 1970s.

"They showed at a depth of 2,400 feet, oil and gas were found in the layers of the rock," Womack said.

The 60,000-acre rural area near Sanford is thought to have the richest deposits of hydrocarbons.

Womack noted that a lot of time was spent on establishing well-site safety standards. Officials also considered what had occurred in Pennsylvania. One of the first to begin fracking, Pennsylvania has seen negative impacts on 243 water wells due to fracking, according to that state's Department of Environmental Resources.

"It can be traced back to an old (fracking) well that predated the current standards," Womack said. "When they (Pennsylvania) got started, they didn't put rules together. They had poor construction on wells. When rup-

• See FRACKING page 9



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• THE FREDSTER •

Naked pictures of 'The Fredster'

Yep...you read it right, Highlanders. Soon I'll be selling naked pictures of li'l ole me. And yes, I'm totally "in the buff" wearing nothing but...well, nothing. They'll be on sale butt (ha) only for the rich 'cause they're not cheap. Hey, read the papers, folks! Hackers are selling pictures of nude celebrities and making a fortune. So I'm thinking why can't I? I'm definitely a hacker and ain't I a celebrity... kinda...sort of?



Fred Wooldridge

to the idea, I did get her approval for a trial run. She still doesn't believe I'll get \$10k per picture. Wadayathink? I'll be taking personal checks.

To give you a preview of your purchased picture so you won't get blind sided, the photograph is of me lying on my stomach and up on my elbows. It may look like I'm having a

hard time keeping my head up but I promise I'm not drunk. At only one-year old, it was tough keeping it from wobbling about like a drunk. Oh, and you'll immediately see I have the cutest little pink butt one could ever imagine, sparkling blue eyes and over-the-top blond hair, all thanks to major touchups.

There's a good reason I'm not using a more current picture. Ya see, three quarters of a century have taken a toll on my body parts. You should see my butt now. It's scary! It looks like two biscuits hanging on a broomstick, giving new meaning to the term "ugly." And everything is sagging; yes, everything. What happened to all my muscles?

But don't let my current physical condition distract you from your purchase. And since color photos had not yet been invented when my picture was taken, I've taken the liberty of having it air brushed by a pro. Also, don't be discouraged by a small blemish on my butt. I fired an arrow

• See FREDSTER page 22

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A Streetcar Named Desire

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The Enchanted Island

National Theatre: Friday, September 19, 7pm *Medea*

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• TELL TALES •

Interview with Elmer Schmidlap

What an opportunity! To be invited to interview Elmer Schmidlap was something even a talking head from CNN or Fox would die for. And here I, a non-descript old goat, was about to interview one of the world's greatest philosophers since Plato.

Palms sweaty, I wondered about whether or not I should greet him as Dr. Schmidlap or do something stupid and call him Elmer. I was careful here because I also knew about his equally famous brother, Homer, who invented a diaper for dogs with weak bladders and was afraid I might mix the two of them up.

Mr. Schmidlap, I began.

Interrupting he said, "Just call me Elmer, sonny, and have a seat." Obviously he had detected my sweaty hand shake.

Elmer, sir... I inquired, what's your opinion on the disappearing middle class?

"Well, son, it appears to work like this: Give everyone a raise so they can make more money."

Yeah, I replied, but won't that create inflation?

"Of course it does. But, then we can give everyone another raise to offset the cost of inflation. Only retirees get screwed but who cares about them."

Tilting my head, I tried to comprehend what Mr. Schmidlap was telling me. Was this dude for real?

"I'm being funny. From the expression on your face, you apparently were beginning to think I'm some sort of nut case."

Actually, yeah, I replied.

"By any chance do you remember back in the 1950's when the so-called middle class made

\$125.00 a week. That was \$500.00 a month. Cars cost under \$2,000 and you could buy a decent house for \$5,000.00. Inflation is eating everyone alive and that car may now cost \$35,000 and the house \$200,000."

And yes, of course, I remember hamburgers were 15 cents. So what you're saying is that the middle class have simply been buried under massive inflation.

"Precisely."

So what causes inflation, I asked?

"Obviously, higher wages is a major cause. Companies charge more for a product when there is more demand which becomes a catch-22 because with increased wages, people buy more, driving up the price of products. There is a yet more insidious problem while our current administration palavers about needing to help the middle class yet turns around and

prints more money and hurts the middle class."

What's wrong with printing more money, I asked?

"Sonny, were you born yesterday? When you print more money you devalue the dollar which means your dollar buys less. That's inflation, sonny. Wouldn't you say that a 17 trillion deficit is a little over the top? We're spending our grandkids money like it was water. Another problem is the cost of complying with government regulations so companies spend as much on compliance as they pay in taxes. Guess who pays for that?"

Elmer, what do you think our future is? (Still nervous addressing him by his first name.)

"If we keep going the way



Bob Wilson

we've been going, the nation will be divided into the rich political elite vs. the rest of us. Just look around you. Bill Clinton earned \$48 million making speeches while Hillary was Secretary of State, and I have no doubt that President Obama will be able to do the same when he leaves office."

And?

"Obviously, we will end up with a very, very rich political class with everyone else dependent on the government. History tells us when this happens you inevitably end up with a police state.

Are you disappointed with President Obama?

"I honestly would hate to be in his shoes right now. When he came into office he wasn't educated in worldly matters. Law degrees do not impart education or wisdom. He is a charismatic speaker, but he doesn't have that magic touch needed to lead.

My major disappointment is that he didn't try to lead the black people living in drug infested ghettos out of their mess. Instead, he offered them more welfare rather than spending time in high school classes lecturing kids on the need to graduate and take technical courses. He missed a wonderful opportunity to help black people but virtually ignored them. Not to mention that he has allowed so many illegal Latinos in who compete with the black community for jobs."

Thanks, Elmer, I've learned a lot.

"Come again, sprout. Oh, by the way, did I tell you about Homer's device for tipping your hat in the presence of ladies?"

Bob plays a game of imagining he is from another planet and simply visiting earth to see how things are run here. He is the founder of the "Reason and Logic Party" of which he seems to be the only member.

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...FRACKING continued from page 6

tures occurred, contamination occurred. They tightened up on construction standards."

He said that North Carolina's standards for well construction are top-notch.

"I'm not saying they are the best in the nation, but they will be a heck of lot better than the wells in Pennsylvania that are leaking now," Womack said.

He also spoke about the myths behind fracking, including concerns about chemicals used in the process.

"Ninety-nine percent of the chemicals poured down bore holes are water and sand," Womack said. "Most of the (other) stuff that goes down a hole is under the sink in your home. The things that are the most sinister are in such small quantities or are so diluted that they do not pose a health risk."

Companies that drill must share a chemical list with the state Department of Natural Resources 30 days in advance.

"If there's something (out of the ordinary), we will know about it before it goes down the hole," Womack said.

He said, too, that with more than 1 million wells drilled, there is not one case documented that involves chemicals getting into surface water.

"That's a fact," said Womack, who has an engineering degree from West Point. "There have been spills on the surface and leakages where a cement job went bad. But there has never been a case

of fracking resulting in (chemicals) coming to the surface water."

During the question-and-answer session, prewritten questions from the audience were randomly drawn. Womack, Vick, state Sen. Andrew Brock, R-Davie, and Jeffrey Warren, science and energy adviser for the Office of the President Pro Tempore of the North Carolina Senate, fielded responses.

Some expressed concerns about health effects of fracking, particularly on children and studies indicating that infants born within 1.6 miles of a fracking site are likely to have low birth weights or birth defects.

Womack said he has read exhaustively on the matter.

"I'm familiar with two studies," he said. "In both cases, the research was brought into serious question because of the research techniques. They did show birth defects could be associated, but did not say they were conclusive. The researchers admitted there were flaws in the study."

Vick noted that even in areas that don't have huge explosions of well development, there have been air quality issues.

"One report said urine (in well workers) is being tested and they are finding benzene," she said. "Benzene causes leukemia and a host of problems."

As for the benefits of fracking, Womack credits the shale industry with pulling the nation out of the 2008 recession.

"There are great economic benefits or

there would not be 34 states doing this," he said. "This country would not be experiencing an economic renaissance if not for shale industry. The country is now close to becoming energy independent."

"We are late to the game, but we are doing it the right way," Brock added. "Arkansas had 100 drills in the ground before a rule was passed. Not in North Carolina. We are pretty strict."

Vick agreed it's hard to argue the economic benefits.

"We do need the jobs, but at what cost?" she said. "There's a growing concern for how much methane is being released from this process. It's a real concern that

this could be very bad for the world climate."

Editor's Note:

Though it wasn't mentioned at the Tuesday, Sept. 2 fracking presentation, according to a memo obtained by the Sylva Herald from Donald van der Vaan, chief deputy secretary of DENR written to Timothy Dale, fiscal analyst for the Natural and Economic Resources team of the General Assembly, all sampling and analyses for shale gas during fiscal year 2014-2015 will be focused downstate on the Deep and Dan rivers and proposed Cumberland-Marlboro basins.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men's Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

Tuesdays

• Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

Tues. & Thurs.

• Aerobics at the Rec Park with Tina Rogers 5:15. \$5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5.

Wednesdays

• First Baptist Church is happy to present a new season of X-treme Games at the Highlands Rec. Park. The games will be held

Wednesday nights from 6 to 7:15 pm, starting September 10th. For more information or to pre-register your k - 6th grade child, please call 526-4153.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• General Audience Movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• Free local ongoing support group for caregivers. Are you involved with the care of a loved one who is physically or mentally facing challenges? Sponsored by The Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands and the Highlands United Methodist Church, this group meets at 4PM at Room 203 at the Peggy Crosby Center. Facilitated by Bonnie Gramlich, a licensed professional. Drop in or call for

further info, 828.342.0546.

Thursdays

• Storytimes with Miss Carol at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.

• Highlands Writer's Group meets every Thursday from 1-3:30 pm at Hudson Library. Writers of all genres welcome. For info call 526-8009 or 526-2295.

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555 Last Fri. of each month.

• Free wine tastings from 5-7p at MountainTop Wine Shoppe.

• NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers a peer support group for individuals that are dealing with depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members or friends of loved ones dealing with these challenges. Join us in a safe, confidential environment to share concerns and gain insight. Join us for our Weekly Support Group from 7 - 8:15 pm @ 14 West Palmer Street in Franklin NC, email dcwith-nami@yahoo.com, Donita (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Newcomers welcomed.

Fri.-Sun.

• Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge during dinner and Sunday brunch.

Fri. & Sat.

• The Historical Society Museum is open.


Saturdays

• The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in K-H Park. Organic vegetables, eggs, honey, cheeses. home-made food and hand-made items. For information call 482-0555 Maxine Davidoff.

• Cashiers Local Farmers tailgate mar-

• See **EVENTS** page 11

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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

ket through October at the Anglican Church Parking Lot Hwy 64 E next to Macon Bank.

- Free wine tastings at MountainTop Wine Shoppe from 1-3p.

Sundays

- At Highlands Inn, Sequoyah Room at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bible Study and Fellowship. Open to all.

Through Thurs., Sept 11

- The Hundred Foot Journey at The Playhouse, 2, 5, and 8p. No movies on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Thurs., Sept. 11

- HCLT's Box Canyon Eco Tour 9:30a to 3p. Easy to moderate walk with a picnic lunch. Reservation required. \$10 for Land Trust members and \$35 for others. Call 828-526-1111.

- The League of Women Voters of Macon County will host a forum for Jim Davis (R) and Jane Hipp(D), candidates for NC Senate District 50. The forum will be held in Tartan Hall in Franklin at noon. The public is invited and attendees will have an opportunity to question and speak with candidates. The LWV is a non-partisan organization.

- Rotary Bingo will benefit the Highlands Historical Society Bingo will be from 6:30-8:30p at the Community building beside the ballfield.

- The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. In the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center on Riverview Street. By the group's request, Jane Spottedbird, author, former educator, and stage 4 cancer survivor will return as guest speaker. Come hear her inspiring story. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone welcomed.

Fri., Sept 12

- Lunch and Learn at the H-C Hospital. "Estate Planning and Health Care Directives" 11:30a to 1p. Registration is at 11:30a in the ELC Conference Room. Lunch and presentation is at noon in the ELC activities room. Please RSVP Pamela Harris at 828-526-1325.

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 13-14

- Carolinas Dahlia Society Annual Show at the Cyde National Guard Armory, 1824 Jones Cove Road. Admission is free. Sat. 1-5p, Sund., 11a-3p. Cut flowers for sale Sat. and Sun.

Sat., Sept. 13

- Land of Sky Chorus presents Kings of the Road at PAC on Chestnut Street at 7:30p. Tickets are \$17. Call 828-526-9047.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike with elevation change of 900 ft. on HOLLY SPRINGS RIDGE. Meet in the old Walmart parking lot at 9:30 a.m., drive 3 miles round trip. Call leader Kathy Ratcliff, 349-3380, for reservations. Friendly dogs on leash o.k.

Sun., Sept. 14

- The Highlands Summer Ringers present their end-of-summer handbell concert, Summer Ring, on Sunday, September 14 at 4PM at the Highlands United Methodist

Church. The Summer Ringers are an ecumenical group composed of handbell enthusiasts from Highlands United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and Cashiers United Methodist Church. The concert is free.

- Complimentary Luncheon to raise funds for the Highlands Emergency Council's Fuel Fund, 11:45a to 1:45p in Coleman Hall of the First Presbyterin Chruch. Roasted Pork Tenderloin, Poppy Seed Chicken, Potato Casserole, BBQ Green Beans, rolls, dessert. Prepared by Joel Porter. RSVP by Fri., Sept. 12. 828-526-3175.

Sept 15-30

- Join Highlands Plateau Audubon with a Hawk Watch on Whiteside Mountain. Call Brock Hutchins (828-787-1387) to get on his contact list for this walk. These walks are weather dependent. Come see this Fall Migration of various kinds of hawks.

Mon., Sept. 15

- A Gathering of Eagles of Eagle Alumni in Macon and Southern Jackson counties at the Highlands Community Center at 6p.m. All Eagle Scouts from the 1950s and '60s will hear about current scouting activities, accomplishments and challenges. RESVP by Sept. 14. The event is free. Call 828-550-7865. or email kirby.thompson@scouting.org.

Tues., Sept. 16

- At PAC, the Live in HD Series featuring National Theatre's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Call 828.526.9047 for info and tickets.

Wed., Sept. 17

- At PAC, the Live in HD Series featuring an Encore MET performance of: *The Enchanted Island*. Call 828.526.9047 for info and tickets.

Thurs., Sept. 18

- Dazzling Dahlias Festival Patron Party at the HCC Hudson House. Mexican Food, Margaritas and Mariachi music. \$125 per person. Call Judy Taylor at 828-526-8388.

Fri., Sept. 19

- At PAC, the Live in HD Series featuring an, National Theatre's production of *Medea*. Call 828.526.9047 for info and tickets.

Sat., Sept. 20

- The Highlands Historical Society's annual Dahlia Festival at the Rec Park from 1-5p. Tickets are \$5 and flowers are available for purchase.

- Join Highlands Plateau Audubon Society's annual "Charlie Davis Memorial" field trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway to see migrating birds and great views. Bring your lunch. Meet in the parking lot behind the Highlands Town Hall near the public restrooms at 7 am. Contact Brock Hutchins at 828-787-1387 or visit www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike with elevation change of 900 ft. on HOLLY SPRINGS RIDGE. Meet in the old Walmart parking lot at 9:30 a.m., drive 3 miles round trip. Call leader Kathy Ratcliff, 349-3380, for reservations.



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Fall Home Improvement

Home Improvement Tips to Make the Most of Small Spaces

(StatePoint) No matter where you live, you want to make the most of your available living and storage space.

This is especially true for residents in urban areas or who opt for mountain cabins. But less space doesn't mean that you have to go without, say experts.

"A few simple adjustments can help you maintain your comfort in a small home," says Robin Wilson, celebrity interior designer with expertise in creating healthy spaces.

There are plenty of ways to "open up" your living spaces to create more room.

The Living Room

Choose furniture for a small living room that is appropriate for the space. For example, avoid sofas with

skirts and select couches which are raised off the floor to create a more open look.

A large, strategically placed mirror can also help create the illusion that your living room is actually much larger than it is. The same goes for lack of clutter. Be sure to keep a small space organized with a daily once-over.

Storage

Living simply can go a long way toward making your home feel larger. Every season, go through your closet and toss aside items that are worn out, no longer fit, or are out of style.

Use creative storage solutions to make more space. For example, an ottoman that doubles as a trunk is a great place to store old photos and keepsakes. A



bike rack that mounts to the wall can clear valuable floor space in your foyer.

The Kitchen

The kitchen is often the heart of the home, particularly if you like entertaining or love to cook. Unfortunately, kitchens can get overcrowded quickly by excessive gadgetry.

"If counter space is at a premium, consider highly functional appliances that have multiple uses," says Wilson.

New technology can give kitchens the essential ability to function. Though

it is compact in size, it still maintains a spacious interior and comes with an optional trim kit that easily converts this microwave to a built-in, freeing up counter space while giving a stylish accent to cabinetry. More information can be found at www.Panasonic.com.

The Bathroom

Give the illusion of space by decorating with pale or pastel colors on the walls and floor. Avoid using bolder colors, except on towels and ornamental pieces

Home-Wide

Ensure that you have lighting at floor, table and eye level to help limit shadows. Another trick is to use a tall lamp to draw eyes upwards and add height to the room.

A small home is no excuse for feeling cramped. With a few interior design strategies in place, you can make even the smallest space feel larger in size.

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Fall Home Improvement

National Curb Appeal Month: Tips to Upgrade Your Home's Exterior

(StatePoint) Curb appeal is important in setting a welcoming tone. And if your home is for sale, an attractive exterior becomes crucial.

"Realtors tell us that potential home buyers make a 'street decision' in less than 12 seconds on whether or not to view a home," says Niki Decker of Fypon, a leader in the synthetic millwork industry. "That's a very short time to make a good impression."

August marks the first National Curb Appeal Month, a great time to focus on ways to add value and design appeal to your home's exterior, whether or not you have plans to sell.

The experts at Fypon are offering their top exterior upgrade tips:

- Swap a rotting wooden porch system with a new structural synthetic balustrade system that includes porch posts, top and bottom rails, balusters and all the other pieces essential to create a weather-resistant porch.

- Trim out exterior

windows. Use crossheads for over a window and top with a solid, decorative or recessed panel keystone accent piece. On the sides and below the window, use moulding pieces with plinth blocks in the corners to eliminate miter cuts.

- Replace older, rotting wooden louvers with low-maintenance polyurethane louvers. Such functional louvers should have a noncorrosive fiberglass screen backing to keep insects out while allowing maximum airflow and ventilation to enter an attic.

- A conventional older wooden door may be inefficient, worn out or plain ugly. Consider replacing your old wooden door with a solid fiberglass door, which is up to four times more energy efficient and resistant to rot, rust, dings and weather. Constructed as a complete system of components, Therma-Tru fiberglass doors, for example, are engineered to work together for lasting performance, security and energy efficiency.



Throughout August, homeowners can enter the online "Door Do-Over Sweepstakes" for the chance to win a new Therma-Tru fiberglass entry door. To enter the sweepstakes, visit www.TodaysHomeowner.com/DoorDoOver.

- Make smart upgrades with a proven return on investment. For example, adding energy-efficient vinyl windows, like those from Simonton Windows, as a mid-range project to a home can have a cost recoup value of 78.7 percent, while adding vinyl siding can have a 78.2 percent recoup rate, according to the 2014 Cost Versus Value Study conducted by Remodeling magazine.

- Add "top down" color to the home by starting with the roof. Polymer slate and shake roofs, like

those from DaVinci Roofscapes, come in 49 standard colors and unlimited custom colors.

- Color plays a major role in creating curb appeal. Add and maintain colorful shrubbery and planters to give your exterior a natural burst of color. Look to the front door, your shutters and trim to add pops of color additions that complement the rest of the exterior.

For more tips, visit www.fypon.com. Throughout August, Fypon will include daily curb appeal tips, along with detailed curb appeal information and color advice from national color expert Kate Smith of Sensational Color.

This National Curb Appeal Month, make your home a more welcoming place by giving its exterior a facelift.

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...GRADUATION from page 1

graduating from high school is a minimum requirement for students who hope to be competitive in the workplace.

Congratulations to our students for their hard work," she said. "We will continue to focus efforts on boosting this rate at the state, local and school levels so that every student graduates from high school prepared to succeed."

Students today are required to earn more course credits – a minimum of 22 – than prior groups of students were required to earn. Students who entered high school before 2009 had to successfully complete at least 20 credits to qualify for graduation. In addition, students today are expected to complete mathematics through Math III, or the equivalent of Algebra II, as a minimum.

Requirements for high school graduation have been gradually increasing over the past 20 years. Today, graduates must earn at least 22 credits as follows: English (four credits); Mathematics (four credits, through

Math III plus a fourth math); Science (three credits); Social Studies (four to include Civics and Economics), World History, American History I: Founding Principles and American History II or AP US History); Health and Physical Education (one credit); six electives (which can include world languages, Career and Technical Education, JROTC, arts or other courses).

"A top priority of the State Board of Education is to ensure that high school diplomas are meaningful and aligned with the skills and knowledge that students need in college and in careers," said Board Chairman Bill Cobey. "It is good news that students are reaching higher standards and graduating in higher numbers as well."

While the minimum number of required course credits is 22 for high school graduates, many students earn more than the minimum. Most high schools operating on a block schedule or modified block schedule offer students the opportunity to earn up to eight course credits per year.

In addition to the four-year cohort graduation rate, North Carolina also reports a five-year cohort graduation rate. The five-year cohort graduation rate for 2014 is 84.9 percent.

In 2012-'13 Highlands School's 4-year cohort rate was 88.6% and in 2013-'14 it was 90.6%. These represent students who entered in the ninth grade and graduated in the twelfth grade.

...FACE-OFF continued from page 3

his fellow Republicans have ignored the working class members of society, with their lack of action on raising the minimum wage.

"When you talk about income equality, today we have people who are rolling in cash," Hill said. "They buy 14th century broken beer bottles for a million dollars, they buy corporate jets, everything you can imagine, and the poor people can't afford housing and food. And I'm sick of it."

Championing for an increase in minimum wage, Hill said he considered an attempt to live off of \$7.25 the current federal minimum wage, "starvation."

Meadows, who scored his first stint in Congress running on the vision of being a member of the working middle class, continued to drill that point home last Thursday.

"We trapped many more poor in a cycle of what I call 'comfortable poverty,'" Meadows said, pointing out that with the current wages, a single parent would make \$15,080 a year working 40 hours a week. Meadows noted that if she got a \$3 an hour raise at work, she would no longer be eligible for government benefits, thus, the raise would not help at all.

Although he doesn't believe raising the minimum wage is the answer, Meadows noted that a bipartisan effort needs to be made to address the underlying issue of the state's poverty crisis.

Meadows, who while in office has worked to reduce government spending, said that he can't support Congress' temporary solution of raising the nation's debt ceiling, without a longer plan to produce a balanced budget in the future with a cap or another method. He said the current gov-

ernment continues to raise it without any plan and without any need for accountability.

It's 5-year cohort rate was 91.9% in 2012-'13 and 88.9% in 2013-'14.

Principal Brian Jetter said various elements determine graduation success.

"I don't believe there is any one 'thing' we have done differently to increase or decrease our rate at Highlands School. A lot of times graduation rates have to do with the stability of students' home lives, and the stability of

students remaining in one school rather than moving a lot over the years," he said. "Like adults, students perform better when they are in a stable environment whether it be school or home."

He said district- and state-wide the graduation rate can be impacted negatively when a student or family leaves, and you simply can't find where they went.

– Kim Lewicki

ernment continues to raise it without any plan and without any need for accountability.

"There's over \$106 billion - that's billion with a 'B' - that the federal government spent and we don't even know where it went," said Meadows. "I mean, no accountability at all."

With a differing view, Hill offered a solution to Meadows wish for a long-term plan: make corporations pay their taxes. Hill cited historical figures from the Eisenhower presidency saying then, on average corporations paid 23 percent, but now the richest in society pay about 6 percent.

"If they pay 23 percent and we put a small, three-hundredths of one penny transaction tax on Wall Street transactions, the budget will balance," said Hill.

"The way to balance the budget is very simple. It's to make corporations pay their taxes," Hill said. "We're not taking in enough money and it's not going to happen as long as we have these right-wing extremists in charge of the government."

Meadows didn't argue with Hill's proposed solution and said that while closing corporate tax loopholes would certainly help, it was a fine line to walk when dealing with taxpayer dollars. Meadows reaffirmed his notion that the problem could not solely be found in tax collections and payments, but instead reform was needed on government spending.

"Tom's answer to balance the budget is to take the hard-working taxpayer's money," he said. "The problem is not a revenue problem, it's a spending problem and we've got to get it under control."

Meadows and the shutdown of the federal government

After Hill and audience mem-

bers made reference to Meadows direct involvement with the government shutdown that occurred after he took office, Fraboni asked Meadows if he would change anything he did.

Meadows, who drafted a letter opposing Obamacare that garnered signatures and ultimately led to the government shutdown, said that was not his intention. He explained that he stands firm in what he wanted to address in his letter.

"Did I believe that they would pay higher premiums? The answer is still yes," he said.

"Did I believe that Harry Reid would be reasonable? That's where I was wrong," Meadows said. "And if you want to suggest that this freshman congressman has more power than Harry Reid and can close down the government, so be it. I'm going to do a whole lot more for Western North Carolina if I've got that kind of power."

Hill said that despite Meadows answer, at the end of the day, Meadows' letter forced leaders in the House to take a position that resulted in a government shutdown.

"Mark talks about bipartisan and working together, but it was a group of Republicans who decided they'd hold the federal government hostage to defund Obamacare," Hill said. "They essentially passed bills that overrode the ACA 40 times. Forty times! They're just really sore losers, that's what the bottom line is."

To validate his commitment to building a bipartisan house, Meadows said he has co-sponsored more Democrat bills than anybody in the NC delegation.

• See FACE-OFF page 16

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30-man chorus to perform at PAC, Sat., Sept. 13. Tickets are \$17.

Land of Sky show "Kings of the Road" at PAC Saturday

The Land of Sky Chorus performs at PAC Saturday, Sept. 13 at 7:30p. The chorus specializes in 4-part acappella harmony, including the barbershop harmony. This year's show "Kings of the Road" features an eclectic mix of songs ranging from the 1850s to present age with a

stop over at the era of the Great American Songbook.

Also performing is Do Wop sensations Sh-Boom! and a special guest appearance of the Asheville's quartet Supersonics. Tickets are \$17 and are available through the PAC box office at 828-526-9047.



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WCU Fine Art Museum: Art in the Public Realm Thur, Sept. 18, 9:30-4 Under the guidance of museum director David J Brown you will view over 1,200 works of modern & contemporary art at the university's Fine Art Museum. Lunch will be with Chancellor David Belcher and wife Susan at the chancellor's residence. Cost \$85/\$95

IPad Advanced: Wed. Sept. 17-FULL

The CIA: America's Secret Power Fri. Sept. 19, 2-4

The Middle East and American Security:

FREE LECTURE: Tuesday, September 16, 6 p.m Location: Highlands Playhouse

The Middle East is once more the scene of war as ethnic and sectarian forces fight for the right to define and rule fragile states; Israel and Hamas victimize the Palestinians sealed into the ghetto of Gaza; and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria brutalize Muslims and Christians alike. All of this turmoil directly impacts on the United States. Why and how the U.S. can best address this threat to American interests and American security will be explored by Sandra Mackey at this specially scheduled event sponsored by CLE and the Highlands Playhouse.

Sandra is the author of six books on the Middle East including *The Saudis: Inside the Desert Kingdom*, *The Iranians: Persia, Islam and the Soul of a Nation* and *Mirror of the Arab World: Lebanon in Conflict*. *The Reckoning: Iraq and the Legacy of Saddam Hussein* was featured on the cover of the New York Times Book Review in May 2002.

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...FACE-OFF continued from page 14

Opposing views on US involvement in the Middle East

When asked about the country's foreign policies, Meadows cited his meetings and knowledge gained from meeting countless

diplomats and hearing first-hand what they want from the US.

With violence and tragedy piercing the Middle East, Meadows said it was the responsibility of the United States Government

to intervene where needed, while Hill had a completely different approach.

"Taking an indecisive, wait-and-see stance is not the thing to do," Meadows said. "Terrorism could spread to the U.S. You've got to deal with it today, deci-

sively, or we're going to be dealing with it in the blood of our men and women," Meadows said.

Hill said for financial reasons, the United States should stay out of the crisis developing overseas, and while he empathizes with the victims, they have to fend for themselves.

Regarding Ukraine, instead of an intervention, Hill suggested that the U.S. form a coalition with Russia in order to build closer U.S.-Russian relations.

Meadows, noting the dangers and reckless decisions imposed by Russia as of late, said the U.S. should pursue policies to lower energy costs to reduce Russian power and lessen their global impact.

The Hill and Meadows debate was the first of a 3-debate series being offered at WCU.

The second debate, on Tuesday, Sept. 23, features candidates in the N.C. House of Representatives District 19 race pitting incumbent Joe Sam Queen (D-Haywood) against Mike Clampitt (R-Swain). The debate will be held in Room 204 of the Health and Human Sciences Building on WCU's West Campus. The series will wrap up on Thursday, Oct. 2, with a debate of N.C. Senate District 50 candidates, with incumbent Jim Davis (R-Macon) and opponent Jane Higgs (D-Haywood). That debate also will be held in Room 204 of the Health and Human Sciences Building.

For more information about the WCU Political Debate Series, contact the Public Policy Institute at 828-227-3898.

LIVE in HD at PAC begins with 'Streetcar Named Desire'



LIVE in HD continues at PAC. A busy week for the Live in HD series, starting with A Streetcar Named Desire, starring Gillian Anderson on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 7pm. Wednesday, Sept. 17, 7pm the MET Opera presents the last of the Encore Series with The Enchanted Island. Friday, Sept. 19, 7pm the National Theatre of London is screening Medea. A full description and Tickets for all events are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. National Theatre: \$18 MET Opera Encore: \$15

...AID continued from page 1

sewer lines, natural gas piping, telecommunication systems, internet availability and cell reception.

"Initially a majority of the board felt that there might be a need for expansion of the current water and sewer infrastructure," County Planner Matt Mason wrote in a letter to commissioners. "After thorough analysis of the existing usage amounts and the current pipe sizes presently installed, we determined there is no significant need for future expansion."

Hanners said although expanding the water and sewer system to Queen Mountain Subdivision in Highlands was marked as the greatest possible need, expanding water lines to that subdivision, would set a precedent, which is something the planning department wanted to avoid.

"If we did that for Queen Mountain, where would be draw the line in the future for other similar areas in the county?" asked Hanners. "We just didn't think it is something the county needs to do."

Hanners said the county's involvement in Highlands and Franklin, though warranted, wouldn't benefit the county as a whole.

The town of Highlands is currently replacing old, narrow and corroded water lines along NC 28 from Brushy Face to Bueno Vista with a six-inch line

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Where is Truth?



By Mark Ford
First Baptist Church of Highlands

Alexis de Tocqueville, French political thinker and historian, wrote in his ground-breaking book *Democracy in America* (1835), "In America, the majority builds an impregnable wall around the process of thinking." Novelist James Fennimore Cooper wrote, "It is a besetting vice of democracies to substitute public opinion for law." Simply, these two early observers of American democracy at work – and many since – saw the inherent weakness of democracy. Public opinion becomes the law. Public opinion becomes an impregnable wall that forbids any truths but those commonly held by the majority – regardless of its dissonance from established law, and most sadly today, Divine truth and absolutes.

But for the Hebrew prophets, "Thus says the Lord" was the decisive opinion, and not the herd mentality that often drives our political, cultural, and increasingly our ecclesiastical institutions. Public opinion and polls may have their place, but God's "opinion" – God's law and truth – holds sway over all individual and consensus thinking. When it has come to excellence in issues of truth, aesthetics, and attainments in the arts, science or spiritual pursuits – rarely is it the result of the opinion of "Mr. Average" or "John Q. Public." Rather, that which succeeds and holds to a higher standard moves beyond common thinking and the mediocre, and aspires for the transcendent and the excellent. When it comes to law, truth and what is best for society, there is no higher standard or opinion for which we can aim than that of God's.

• See SPIRITUALLY page 19



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Wed.: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11
Wednesdays - 7 p.m.

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3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
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10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,
10:45am: Worship Service
Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC University

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Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor
220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;
Choir 5 pm

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Sun.: Worship: 8:30 & 11 a.m.; School: 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays: Choir: 7

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Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Dan Robinson
670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)
Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30, 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper; 5:15; 7:15: children, youth, & adults studies;
6:15: Adult choir (nursery provided) Thurs: 12:30:
Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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Dazzling Dahlias Festival festivities set for Sept. 18 and Sept. 20

The fourth annual "Dazzling Dahlias" Festival dates have just been announced by the Highlands Historical Society for September 20. The event will be held at the Highlands Recreation Park.

Last year's event attracted over 300 entries from local amateur hobbyists, including some entries in the new childrens' category.

The show highlights growers' favorite dahlias, which are entered and ribboned by an array of judges.

Interested participants may drop off their dahlias at the rec park on Friday, September 19th from 5-7p.m. or on the morning of the show between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

This year's speaker will be local grower Ann Maxwell. The time will be announced at a later date. The show will be at the Rec Park from 1- 5pm. In addition to viewing gorgeous dahlias, bouquets are also available for purchase. All proceeds from this show benefit the Highlands Historical Society.

On September 18, Dazzling Dahlias Patron Party will be held at the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club. The



fare will be Mexican food, Margaritas and Mariachi music.

Mark your calendars, as seating is limited to 125 persons. Tickets are \$100 each. For more information on the Patron Party, contact Judy Taylor at 526 8388

Drop off dahlias at the Rec Park on Friday, Sept., 19 from 5-7p.m. or on the morning of the show, Sat., Sept. 20, between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

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...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 17

Ultimately, we don't want to curry the favor of the consensus or public opinion. Truth is not subject to utilitarian or pragmatic concerns. Truth cannot be quantified nor qualified. Truth is truth, and as Christians we believe that God has conveyed His truth to us in nature, His Scriptures and in Christ incarnate. It is too easy as churches to get caught up in the sensational and forget what is significant. The church has been guilty, of late, of missing the urgent and defaulting for the popular and "cool" to assuage opinions in the pew. The idolatry of bigger numbers has cultivated the idolatry of opinion and consensus. We as Christians have been fooled by the fashions of our day and enslaved to the traditionalisms of the past. Simply, we have caved in to the opinion of the masses from within and without. We owe an apol-

ogy to the culture and world at large for these compromises. And in these perilous days where truth is hard to find because it changes with opinions, God's people must in a fresh and even radical way, begin to submit all opinions and fashions to solid Christian thinking – a thinking rooted in the only truth that is eternal and unaffected by the winds of change. And that Truth is God and His Word. And if it is the Truth, it can withstand all comers and challenges, all other pretensions to Truth.

Simply, I would say, "Forgive us world! Forgive us for listening to public opinion and not standing without compromise for the Truth and living the Truth!" For what the world needs is not a reflection of their opinion and consensus thinking, but a revelation of the Truth that is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ.

3rd annual Taize on the Mountain is Sept. 18 in K-H Park

The Third annual "Taize on the Mountain" will be Thursday, Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. at Kelsey Hutchinson Park at Pine Street. This is a community wide effort sponsored by Holy Family Lutheran, Highlands United Methodist, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation and Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church.

Taize's worship emphasis is on silence, light and meditative singing – a weaving together of prayer and music.

Also, seeking musicians and a sound system, heavy duty extension cords, a spot light and votive candles. If you can help in any way please call Chaplain Margaret Howell at 704-516-7893 or email knytengale@aol.com.


...AID continued from page 16

and installing spurs off that line which the county or subdivisions could connect to.

According to Public Service Director Lamar Nix, Queen Mountain, which is two miles outside the town's limits, has numerous problems that need to be addressed including a water pressure problem. Queen Mountain residents had hoped the county would step in and pick up where the town left off at Bueno Vista at the town line on NC 28.

Mason explained to commissioners that both the towns of Franklin and Highlands were given the opportunity to make presentations regarding their current and future needs in relation to municipal water and sewer. Although the

• See AID page 22



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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police Log entries from Aug. 22. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Aug. 22

• At 7 p.m., officers responded to a report of a larceny from a residence on Zermatt Circle where jewelry valued at more than \$10,000 was stolen.

Aug. 28

• At 9:40 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US. 64 west.

• At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in the Wright Square parking lot.

• At 5:15 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Aug. 31

• At 4:42 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Lower Brushy Face Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Sept. 4.

Sept. 4

• At 11:30 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.

Sept. 5

• At 3:49 p.m., the dept. was first-responders on Main Street.

Sept. 6

• At 6:19 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Dept.

• At 7:33 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Klein Road.

Sept. 8

• At 3:02 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid for the Cashiers Fire Dept.

Sept. 9

• A little past midnight, the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

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THE BISTRO AT MAIN STREET INN is hiring cooks, servers, food runners, bussers. Stop by to apply or call 526-2590. or email at info@mainstreet-inn.com.

HIGHLANDS PLAYHOUSE is now hiring part-time help for our winter movie season. Must have strong customer service and math skills. Call 828-526-2695 or come by the office at 362 Oak Street, Highlands. (st. 8/28)

EXPERIENCED HORSE/DOG HOUSE SITTER. Please call Nicole @ 252-637-2255 (st. 8/21)

WHOLE LIFE MARKET & NECTAR JUICE BAR are now accepting applications for full and part time employment. Must have an interest in health and wellness, retail experience is required. Stop by Whole Life Market located at 680 N. 4th St. for an application or email your resume to wholife@frontier.com. (st. 8/21)

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WAITSTAFF NEEDED AT TOKYO RESTAURANT. Call Jimmy at 828-526-8800. (st. 7/31)

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...THE FREDSTER from page 7

through the original when I was seven. These are minor details you need to overlook.

And finally, if you believe everything you've read in this column, do not...I repeat....do not buy my mystery/thriller. Deceived and download it on your e-reader.

...AID continued from page 19

planning board voted against expansion, it did suggest grants be investigated to fund expansion and upgrades.

"Both municipalities presented needs that were primarily maintenance/repair issues associated with infiltration or upgrades to lines in the water system," said Mason. "After much discussion, the board determined Macon County should help each water system get grants to expand or maintain the existing municipal systems. The Planning Board realizes the importance of providing water and sewer to our residents, however investing county tax dollars into infrastructure operated by another entity would set a precedence for Macon County."

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor said he's disappointed in the Macon County Planning Board recommendation concerning water and sewer,

"However, I understand the county's reluctance, since counties normally do no support water and sewer infrastructure. On the other hand, I would point out that Highlands and Franklin are strong centers of economic development. Water and sewer infrastructure is critical to economic growth and development that benefits the entire county. The taxpayers of Highlands, who are also taxpayers in the county, will continue to support and maintain its system. I look forward to municipalities partnering with the county in other areas in order to promote economic development and enhance services for all our citizens."

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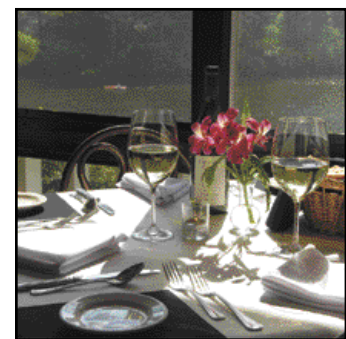
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