

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 38

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Thurs., Sept. 18, 2014

Thurs., Sept. 18

• Taize on the Mountain, 6p.m. at the K-H Park on Pine Street. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. (no alcohol or pets.) All are welcome.
• Dazzling Dahlias Festival Patron Party at the HCC Hudson House. \$100 per person. Call Judy Taylor at 828-526-8388.

Fri.-Thurs, Sept. 19-25

• The movie at Highlands Playhouse: "Boyhood." Showtimes are Fri-Mon & Thursday, 2, 5, and 8p.

Fri., Sept. 19

• At PAC, the Live in HD Series National Theatre's production of *Medea*. Call 526.9047.

• Live music in Town Square 6-8p. Southern Highlands.

Sat., Sept. 20

• Dahlia Festival at the Rec Park 1-5p. Tickets are \$5 and flowers are available for purchase.

• Live music at Pine Street Park 6-8p. Fox Fire Boys.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway work day at 9 a.m. on the Bascom Trail. Call 828-526-5622.

Sun., Sept. 21

• First Baptist Church, Highlands, annual Homecoming. Covered dish lunch after morning worship on the church lawn.

Monday, Sept. 22

• Highlands Plateau Audubon Annual Meeting 7pm at Rec Park.

Tues., Sept. 23

• Leadership Highlands Alumni and New Member mingle from 5:30-7:30p at The Bascom. RSVP, at Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net

• OEI Drop-In at Hutchinson House from 1-4p on Main Street. For information call 828-787-2625.

Wed., Sept. 24

• Highlands Democratic kick-off meeting/party in the Hudson Library Meeting Room from 6-8pm. Park and enter from back.

Green energy policies on PB front burner

For several months, the Planning Board has been updating the town's comprehensive plan – a plan focused on the future – that deals with every aspect of life in Highlands.

At the August meeting,

board members were tasked with discussing utilities – water, sewer, electricity – and other infrastructure needs.

Almost immediately members cited the need for the town to be more agreeable to green energy

options and to make it easier for citizens to pursue that path rather than erecting financial roadblocks.

"Right now if you generate \$4 of electricity in an alternative way, the town charges you an ex-

• See GREEN page 6

HS Varsity Volleyball wins 1st Conference game



#1 McKayla Hensley, #4 Desiray Schmitt, #3 April Moss, #8 Sierra Nylund, #9 Courtney Henry, #11 McKinley Moseley, #12 Maddie Lloyd, #13 Kassie Vinson, #14 Megan Vinson, #22 Whitney Billingsley. On Friday, Sept. 9, the HS Varsity Girls Volleyball team played Blue Ridge at Highlands and won a close 5-game match – the first varsity conference game win of the season. Highlands won three of the five games.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Candidates Jim Davis & Jane Hipps debate

By Brittany Raby

During Macon County's League of Women voters Sep-

tember forum, candidates for North Carolina's 50th senate seat, Senator Jim Davis and challenger

Jane Hipps spoke to a standing-room only crowd in Tartan Hall

• See DEBATE page 4



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Core Curriculum nixed: what it means for MC Schools

Governor Pat McCrory put the brakes on the state implementing the Common Core (CC), a national education standards program, and established a committee to review it to see if any of it is worth saving.

State educators and governors in 48 states developed the CC – a set of college and career-ready standards for K-12 grade in English/Language Arts/Literacy and math – the idea being that the whole country would be on the same page.

NC adopted the CC standards in 2010 as its standard course of study and began implementing it statewide in all public schools in the 2012-13 school year.

"The legislation doesn't change any of NC's education

• See CORE page 9

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

About the Town Board meeting and protocol

Last month the Highlands Town Board meeting was a marathon session. Tonight's meeting should not be as long.

The Town Board will review and award bids for the new Lake Sequoyah water intake and dam repair projects. I was present at the opening of the bids two weeks ago and was glad to see bids within the construction costs allocated for the projects. The bid for the 3rd Street wall will also be awarded.

Lester Norris, our Parks and Recreation Director, will give an update on three projects, the new gym floor, the covered pool, and the renovation of the ballpark. Project schedules will also be covered.

Matt Shuler, our IT department head, will present a new electronic bill program. This billing program will allow customers to receive monthly Internet statements avoiding delays through regular mail.

The contract agreement for the fire department substation will be presented for final approval. Attorneys for the donating group and the town have resolved outstanding contract issues.

The town attorney has been in discussions with Verizon Wireless concerning the contract for the extension to the cell tower. At the time of this writing it is uncertain whether the contract will be ready for review.

A decision on the purchase of new town Christmas decorations will be made. A committee has developed several options. In order to have new decorations for Christmas, a decision will have to be made this month.

Finally, part if the meeting will be a closed session. Under NC statues an elected body can hold closed sessions in regard to personnel issues and legal matters of attorney client privilege. The Town Board follows the law in these situations and always minimizes the use of the closed session provision.

Another item I want to address concerns public participation at Town Board meetings. These monthly meetings are not community forums, but are for the Town Board to conduct town business. By law each meeting begins with a public comment period. Anyone can make a



comment by simply stating their name for the record and holding their comments to five minutes or less. If someone wants to make a statement during the discussion of a particular agenda item, a request can be made to me before the meeting. If during the review of an issue someone has a question, they can raise their hand, and I may recognize

them at an appropriate time. Given these are business meetings, repeated interruptions are considered to be out of order. If a person continues to interrupt the proceedings the mayor as the presiding officer, can ask the person to leave the town property. Failure to do so would be considered a trespass violation. I do not anticipate and would regret having to take such an unfortunate, but legal action. The goal is to conduct town business open to public input, but done in an orderly manner.

Hope to see you tonight at 7 at the Community Building next to the ball field.

• LETTERS •

Anti-frackers are hypocrites

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the article re: fracking in the Sept 11 edition.

Following are some things to think about:

First, if you are anti-fracking and drive a car, you are a hypocrite. Cars generate a lot more pollution that fracking ever will so why are you not focusing on the big problem? Don't bother telling me that you really need your car to get around. I was born in Holland where a vast majority of the population gets around on bicycles. You could do the same. If all anti-fracking people would stop driving we would probably not be talking about fracking.

Second, if you are anti-fracking and consume farm produce, you are a hypocrite. Farming is a humongous polluter. First of all farming has resulted in the deforestation of millions of acres. Even today in Brazil, each year over a million acres of rainforest is destroyed to grow corn for ethanol. Does anyone really think that is good for the environment?

Further, with fracking, if something

goes wrong there is a POSSIBILITY that ground water MAY be contaminated while the malfunction continues. With farming, even when nothing goes wrong we KNOW that each year millions of tons of fertilizer/pesticides/herbicides will be spread all over and we KNOW that the runoff pollutes our groundwater, our streams and our lakes. The runoff definitely contaminated my well.

Third, if you are anti-fracking you are indirectly supporting jihadist terrorists. Y'all know that every bit of oil that does not come out of the ground in the US or is not bought from friendly Canada because there is no Keystone pipeline, is bought from Arab regimes that provide financing for terrorists.

Each year we send about \$500 million to those Arab regimes for their oil. A big chunk of that goes to ISIS and other Islamic terrorists. So, if you do not support total energy independence for the USA you are supporting terrorists plain and simple.

So next time you open your mouth to take a big bite from a delicious cheeseburger, open your mind also and think about these points. Then remind yourself that the hamburger and cheese you are about to eat comes from millions of methane belching cows.

Enjoy that cheeseburger!

Alfons Van Wijk, Ph.D.
Highlands

Education spending in NC has increased not decreased

Dear Editor,

It seems as of late, we have been hearing of many dire consequences of low state spending for education in NC.

Here are some facts you might want to check out.

According to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 3,198 public state-funded education jobs have been added this year. Since the Republicans have held the majority, 7,811 total teaching jobs have been added!

Also, some TV ads are saying education funding is being severely cut by half a

• See LETTERS page 3

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Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 200-1371

Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki; Reporter: Brittany Burns

Copy Editor: Glenda Bell; Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

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• OBITUARY •

Miles Gilbert Thompson, Jr.

Miles Gilbert Thompson, Jr., 92, of Highlands died Monday, September 15, 2014. Born in Washington Co., PA, he was the son of the late Miles Gilbert and Leah Schekler Thompson. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dixie Rafter Thompson. He was a veteran of the United States Army serving during WWII. Mr. Thompson owned Thompson Buick; was a Rotarian, Mason and Shriner; a former County Commissioner and Boy Scout Leader. In addition, he was former chairman of Sacred Heart Hospital Lay Advisory Board, and was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, MD where he was a deacon.

He is survived by a daughter, Dinah Searles of Cumberland, MD; two sons, Jeff Thompson and wife Janet of Highlands, NC and Douglas Thompson and wife Juliett of Denver, CO; a brother, Dick Thompson of Redman, WA; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

billion dollars. Nope, wrong again.

Education program spending will actually increase by \$400 million next year, and total spending on public schools, community colleges and universities amounts to \$11.5 billion (more than half of the entire state budget). Of that, \$7.9 billion will go to K-12 education. Last year, we spent \$7.7 billion on K-12, up 2.1% from 2 years ago and nearly \$7.3 billion spent, so you can see it is increasing.

In Macon County, In 2013, state initial allotment was \$23,736,118. Federal dollars reduced from 2010-2013, but the state and local county rearranged spending and funding to meet the need for teachers and students in those years.

We have been in a recession, and money has been tight!

This year, 2014-15, state initial allotment is \$24,608,382, and over 8 billion will be spent on K-12 education statewide. As you can see, education spending is increasing in NC.

For more facts on education spending, visit North Carolina General Assembly Fiscal Research Division.

Sonja Thompson
Franklin

Free trade has led to 'free' handouts

Dear Editor:

A recent article in a national newspaper indicates a study by two Harvard professors has noted that U.S. Businesses are thriving and are in a very competitive position world wide while the workers are in a diminished and declining position.

Businesses are doing very well indeed (particularly those in exporting) by relocating their production all over the world. They can leave home and still sell at home with no restrictions.

Those same government policies have put many millions of American workers in a position of taking jobs below their ability and skill level in order to make a living. Those workers watched as hundreds of thousands of factories have closed and moved offshore, leaving many of them scrambling for the crumbs that are left. That process is continuing today.

While it is the rage now to bemoan the

• See LETTERS page 7



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...DEBATE continued from page 1

of the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. Questions ranged from fracking, to public education to Medicaid reform and more.

Hipps, a seasoned educator from Haywood County, touted her experience in public education as being motivation behind seeking office. Hipps resides in Waynesville and has served the majority of her professional career in public education. Having worked as a counselor, school psychologist, lead teacher and as western North Carolina's regional science expert, Hipps has made public education a focus in her campaign.

Citing the state's recent raise for public educators, Hipps expressed her disappointment in directing funds toward beginning teachers where some saw as much of an 18 percent raise, while veteran teachers saw little to no raise.

"It is good that the beginning teachers got a pay

raise," said Hipps. "And our senator talked about it being hard to get new teachers, but you know what, we are having trouble keeping the teachers that have been here for a long time. They are leaving in droves. They can get more money if they go to Georgia, or Virginia or South Carolina. We are not giving the teachers the respect they deserve."

Davis defended the actions of his fellow law makers saying the state's funds would be best spent on attracting new educators.

"The largest raises go to the beginning teachers because that is where we are having the most problems, attracting quality teachers," said Davis. "Some of the teachers who have been teaching for let's say, 30 years, saw maybe a half a percent raise and that is all. But they are at the pinnacle, at the end of their career and we felt we had limited resources and were going to dedicate it to those beginning

• See DEBATE page 9

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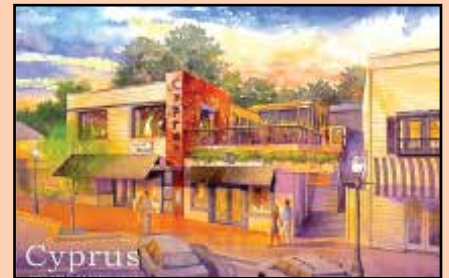
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...GREEN continued from page 1

tra \$8.25 to read an additional meter, so you've actually lost \$4 and all you get out of it is that 'you feel good' going green," said Chairman Thomas Craig.

Currently, the town requires an extra meter to monitor the generation of alternative energy versus a Net Metering system.

Net metering is a service to an electric consumer where electric energy generated alternatively may be used to offset electric energy provided by the electric utility. It's actually a policy designed to foster private investment in renewable energy. In the United States, as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, all public electric utilities are required to make available upon request net metering to their customers, but so far that is not the case in Highlands.

According to the town's consultant, Highlands isn't required to net meter since it doesn't generate its own power but purchases it from Duke which generates it and sells it to the town.

By now every citizen knows that the town buys electricity at a wholesale rate from Duke Energy and then resells it. The return on the investment is crucial to the town's overall financial health. The electrical enterprise fund enables the town to fund capital projects and purchase equipment critical to the day-to-day operation of the public works departments.

But with the town's utility rates set to increase 3% each year for the next five years, green energy options are becoming a thing of the present rather than just the future.

To that end, members of the board said the town should adopt policies that allow and encourage alternative energy options rather than discouraging them, as well as addressing the payback issue.

Duke Power has incentives in place where it buys back

the unused energy produced by citizens off the grid at the rate it originally charges; the town doesn't. The town pays back at Duke's wholesale rate and charges an extra fee to read the extra meter.

Current town policies make green energy viable in Highlands if a home is completely energy self-sufficient and completely off the grid. Being partially on the grid – that is partially using Highlands' power – makes alternative energy fiscally detrimental.

"This is only feasible if the town changes its policies to allow for net metering" said Steve Abranyi. "We could suggest the town put policies in place that would actually encourage people to pursue alternative energy solutions."

Craig said the biggest return for citizens would be pre-heating hot water with solar panels.

"Our water is so cold, it takes a lot of energy to get it up to where we all want it to be. If you have an electric water heater and you put in a solar panel it will take less to heat your water. It won't cost the town anything except that you won't be using as much electricity. The question is how many people would actually do this and how much would it affect the town?"

Tony Potts said wind technology is changing so its an option, too.

"We have wind when we don't have sun. There are new turbines that you put on your roof so it wouldn't mean taking trees down for a wind tower ... they look like a little cupola. These could be used in consort with solar panels." he said.

Board members also wondered if alternative energy solutions reduced the amount of power the town had to buy from Duke ... would that be an incentive to subsidize solutions for citizens and encourage green energy?

The next Planning Board meeting is Monday, Sept. 22 at the Community Building.

– Kim Lewicki



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• THE FREDSTER •

Ya just know it's true

When you finish reading this column, you'll probably look up from your paper and think, "He couldn't make this stuff up....could he?" Well, I'll let you decide.

One afternoon I walked into the narcotics office where I worked and found my undercover partner sitting at a typewriter. (Yes, we used typewriters!) He was banging out a requisition order for the replacement of the toilet in our office. He was asking for the latest state-of-the-art wide bowl model which held one more gallon of water than traditional bowls.

Leaning over, I watched him fill out the "Reason for Replacement" box at the bottom of the form. He wrote, "The bowl of our current commode is not large enough to properly accommodate the heads of our average scumbag dope peddlers. The new bowl will allow us to completely submerge their heads, giving us greater access to intelligence and confessions."

I burst out laughing. He ripped the form from the typewriter and posted it on the office bulletin board so everyone could have a laugh. It stayed there for about a week before someone removed it.

About two weeks later, two guys showed up from city maintenance delivering our new wide bowl toilet. Don't ask 'cause I don't know!

Moving on, in 1968 the Republican National Party held its convention in Miami Beach. We had a guy from our office join the SDS (Students for Democratic Society) and sleep in a pup tent in Flamingo Park with the other scumbag dope smoking hippy dirt bags. By mid-week, they had promoted our guy to supervisor and he became part of their strategy meetings. They planned to storm and tear down the 17th. St. south gate of the Convention Center the night Nixon would be nominated. We were ready with twenty German shepherd police dogs with their handlers at the fence line with several platoons of SWAT cops behind them. Our guy was right in the middle of the SDS mob. It doesn't get more fun than this. And I was paid for this?

And here's the best part. The fence gave way to the rushing mob and collapsed. The mob was stunned as they were now face to face with growling, snarling police dogs with no barrier between them. Everyone froze except our undercover



Fred Wooldridge

cop who went to the front of the mob and encouraged them to charge, claiming the dogs would never bite them. Watching him plead with the mob to rush the police dogs was one of the funniest things I witnessed during the convention. Of course, our man failed and everyone eventually returned to the park to get stoned and have sex with multiple partners.

Three months later, this same undercover cop heard a knock at his door at home and it was an FBI agent asking for the officer by his fictitious name. When the agent saw our officer's badge and ID, he shook his head in disbelief, turned and headed for his car. I guess he couldn't get over all the pimples on the officer's face. And, yes, it's all true.

...LETTERS continued from page 3

plight of the "poor and downtrodden" we have been engaged for decades in sending their work to many lucky countries around the world. Those of us who are conservatives grumble continuously about those who are able to work but will not work. Can anyone imagine the disaster that would ensue if we were to suddenly stop the government largess and tell those who could work to get off their haunches and go to work? There would be millions more unemployed walking the streets looking for work that doesn't exist and trying to figure out whom to blame for their plight,

The media, and particularly academia, have long censored any thought that "free trade," as we practice it, is a disaster. It is far past time for us to start thinking and pull our heads out of the free trade sands.

Bart McPherson
Glenville, NC

...TELL TALES continued from page 8

Got to go but thanks again, Elmer, until next time.

"Good to talk to you again, sonny."

Some truly believe Bob is from another planet and he doesn't bother to deny it.

Others aren't so sure because he isn't green with bug eyes everyone knows what a space alien looks like.

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• TELL TALES •

Interview part 2 of Elmer Schmidlap

"Nice seeing you again, Dr. Schmidlap.

(World's greatest philosopher since Plato.)

"Remember from the last interview, I said just call me Elmer."

Uh, yes sir, I forgot.

"You like cigars, sonny?"

At 80 years old, if he thinks I'm a young man he must be over 100 but replied that, yes, I do like a good cigar.

"Try one of these."

I bit the tip off and lit up and wow!, it was a great cigar.

Where'd you get these, I asked?

"From the Dominican Republic. Flavored with Cognac."

Golly, gee, you must have paid at least \$20 for this one. I've never been able to afford an expensive cigar. I used to smoke some Rum and Honey cigars made in Georgia but they got to be over a dollar a piece so I quit.

"Promise me you won't poo poo in your pants when I tell you the price of these cigars."

I promise, I said casually.

"Try \$600 per cigar."

Having just taken a good puff, I gagged and almost fell out of my chair. You've got to be kidding, I squeaked.

"Well, hell, sonny, if Bill Clinton can smoke them so can I. These are his favorite cigars. A box of them goes for up to \$25,000."

But, wait a minute. Isn't that the same Clinton family who said they were broke when he left office as president?

"Yeah, yeah, they were truly broke and they only had \$12 million in the bank at the time."

By that standard I'm as broke as Charley Chaplin's Tramp.

"Sonny, have you been on a trip to Mars or sum'pin? He makes his money on public speaking, sometimes paid as much as a half million simolians, per speech.

While Hillary was Secretary of State, he is reported to have made \$48 million."

You reckon if my wife gets famous I can make money at public speaking, I asked?

"Sure, sonny, it's easy. But, you'd have to become president and then get your wife famous for it to work.

Besides, there's another gimmick you might try. I have often threatened to



Bob Wilson

speak at many public events, theatres and even in carnival side-shows. They actually pay me good money to not speak. That's how I can afford those expensive cigars, sonny."

You mean I might get rich being paid to not make a speech?

"Exactly. As you know, I'm recognized as the greatest philosopher since the time of Plato."

Yeah, I know that.

"Well, as you also know, all my philosophy is based on logic and reason."

So?

"Sonny, politics is only about two things; deception and perception. That's all. No one wants to hear someone talk about logic or silly things like that. Logic strains the brains of our intellectual elite and their neurons misfire leading to a total brain fart."

At this point I recalled the words of a local columnist who said rich folks didn't provide jobs for folks. He thinks they just put their money under their mattress and don't invest it where it might help a company grow and hire more people. Don't build a new home for the rich because they might hire brick masons and plumbers. He believes money we earn should be better given to the government to let them waste as they see fit. Talk about massive brain farts.

So, you're saying too much logic can be dangerous for deep thinkers?

"Actually, it can be fatal to a society. No one wants to hear the truth and most of us live in an imaginary world we lived in when we were 6-years-old. If I'm not as successful as you are, I'm going to take what you have and keep you from being successful."

Yeah, I replied, kinda like I'll take my marbles and leave.

"Exactly, and some of it is just pure mental laziness. Some kids have parents too lazy to push their kids to finish school and who grow up jealous of others and other folks who just don't want the responsibility of doing well. Some just figure they'll muddle though and insist on a big government making them comfortable. The problem is that ultimately the only winners are the political elite who always rise above others, and by the way, they keep their money."



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...DEBATE continued from page 4

teachers.”

On the topic of increased class sizes and the need for teaching assistants, Hipps stated that larger classroom sizes hurt the overall education students receive in North Carolina. “We can’t give our children the attention they need if classroom sizes are increased,” she said.

In addition to class sizes, Hipps noted that teaching assistants (TA) are needed in not just kindergarten, which is where the state’s TA funding has been allocated, but instead they are needed and should be placed in all classrooms up to third grade.

Davis, argued that although teaching assistants have been reduced, it wasn’t a reflection from the state’s budget allocation.

“There are no, and I repeat no teaching assistants who lost their jobs as a result of a decision in the legislature this year, none. We have taken \$85 million out of the teacher assistants’ allocation and put it in the teachers’ allocation. The reason why we did that is because the local education authority already had the authority and flexibility to take money that was given for teacher assistants and give it to teachers, and many of them did, so we went ahead and did that.”

Medicaid

Davis, who started his career in politics on the local level as a commissioner in Macon County, stated that continued Medicaid reform was a top priority in his campaign.

“Medicaid is a runaway portion of our budget,” said Sen. Davis. “Since 2011 when the Republicans took over the legislature, our expenses for Medicaid have increased by over \$2 billion, education has increased by \$1 billion, but Medicaid

is an entitlement and we can’t change that. We need to get a hold on Medicaid or else it is going to dominate our budget and we are going to have to reduce the amount we spend on other things, like education.”

Explaining that one reason she decided to run for office was to represent the middle class and fight for their needs, Hipps noted that the state’s decision not to expand Medicaid cost jobs and sent revenue to other states in the country. “We sent our money back to Washington D.C.,” said Hipps. “That is \$4.9 million that would be coming back to this state every day to take care of our poorest people. That is 23,000-27,000 jobs that would be created and would be generating revenue.”

Fracking

With hydraulic fracturing a contentious subject in North Carolina since the state voted to lift the moratorium, both candidates reaffirmed their stance on the practice of natural gas exploration.

Senator Davis, who co-sponsored the state’s fracking legislature, informed voters that despite the opposition not just in Western North Carolina, but throughout the state, he is “proud of his decision” to sponsor the bill and lead the initiative to move North Carolina toward energy independence.

Hipps questioned the validity and lack of testing of the practice and said there are too many questions unanswered and too many things not decided even though the state is ready to move forward with exploration as early as next year.

Hipps and Davis will square off again in a WCU debate before the November general election.

The revision of the NC standards will not take place this year; they are expected to be revised and in place for the 2015-16 school year,” he said.

He said the revision means that the academic standards that MC teachers use as an instruction guide will change next year.

“I do not expect a complete overhaul of the NC curriculum since the Common Core only involves the reading and math standards,” he said. “We will still be teaching the NC Standard Course of Study along with any revisions. Teachers will still be given the flexibility to teach the standards using their own professional knowledge and judgment with the expectation that our students master those standards, whatever they are.”

• See CORE page 19

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...CORE continued from page 1

standards, said McCrory, “but it does initiate a much needed comprehensive and thorough review of the standards.”

Educators have complained about the CC from the start, saying the program asks too much of students, teachers and administrators but some worry that the review committee will recommend doing away with the CC, leaving NC to draw up new education standards.

MC Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said though implementation of the CC wasn’t required until 2012-’13, MC Schools began implementing it in 2011-’12 with full implementation in 2012-’13 and doesn’t plan on changing course.

“We will be using the new NC Standard Course of Study until it is revised.

• 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.

Tues., Wed., Fri

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5

Mon.-Sat.

• Nantahala Tennis Club meets 9a a-12 noon, at Highlands Civic Center; tennis courts. \$2 per person, and all visitors are welcome!

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 dcwithnami@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 market 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.

Thurs., Sept. 18

• Taize on the Mountain, 6p.m. at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street. Bring a lawn chair or

blanket. (Please no alcohol or pets.) All are welcome.

• 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.-Thurs, Sept. 19-25

• The movie at Highlands Playhouse: "Boyhood." Showtimes are Fri-Mon & Thursday, 2, 5, and 8p. No movies on Tuesday and Wednesdays.

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.

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "End of Summer Dance", Friday night, September 19th, at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Ace McGee from Anderson, SC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-371-4946, 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001

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.

• 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.

• Live music at Pine Street Park 6-8p.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway work day this Saturday, on the Bascom Trail. If you are interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-526-5622. We'll meet at the large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Recreation Center at 9 AM for a brief orientation session. You will be furnished with the necessary tools and safety equipment.

Sun., Sept. 21

• First Baptist Church, Highlands, will have their annual Homecoming. There will be a covered dish lunch after morning worship on the church lawn. The public is invited, especially friends and former church members for a day of celebration.

Monday, Sept. 22

• Highlands Plateau Audubon Society Annual Meeting (7pm), Social (7:15 pm) and Program (7:30 pm). Heather Starck Hahn, Executive Director, Audubon North Carolina will present "Save the Songs: Climate Change and Birds" at Highlands Civic Center. The program is free and open to the public. For questions, visit www.highland-saudubonsociety.org.

Tues., Sept. 23

• Leadership Highlands Alumni and New Member mingle from 5:30-7:30p at The Bascom. For more details and to RSVP, contact Julie Schott at Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net or Hillary Stiehler at hstiehler@aol.com.

• NC HOUSE 119 debate at 7p at WCU between incumbent Joe Sam Queen and challenger Mike Clampitt in Rm 204 of the Health & Human Services Building

• OEI Drop-In at Hutchinson House from 1-4p on Main Street. For information call 828-787-2625.

Wed., Sept. 24

• Highlands Democratic kick-off meeting/party is Wednesday in the Hudson Library Meeting Room

Pickle Ball now an option at the Rec Park



Pickle ball is played on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:30a. Anyone is invited to play or learn to play. Bring your own racquets or use the Rec Park's racquets. It's \$2 per person. Other than Tuesdays and Thursdays, if nothing else is going on in the gym, people can play, as long as they set up and take down the nets which takes about five minutes.

Photo by Kim Lewicki



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•HIGHLANDS EVENTS•

from 6-8pm. Park and enter in the back.

Thurs., Sept. 25

• At the Cashiers Village Green, a sculpture of Al Balestiere, visionary behind the formation of the Village Green, will be at 5p.

• Commissioners' debate at 7p at SCC in the Burrell Center.

Fri., Sept. 26

• At The Bascom, a Bascom benefit, Mo-Town Dance, 6-10 p.m. Tickets are 2 for \$300 or 4 for \$500. Call 526-4949.

• At Saturday, Sept. 27

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6.5 miles hike with elevation change of 1200 ft. to LITTLE CAT-ALOOCHIEE in the Smokies, a rarely visited part of the park with old home sites, barns, churches, cemeteries, as well as wildlife. Meet at Waynesville Ingles at 9 a.m., drive 50 miles round trip. Call leader Keith Patton, 456-8895, for reservations.

• CHHS Stop-N-Adopt Event at Hudson Library 10am - 2pm in the parking lot. 27 pets available.

• At PAC the Bluegrass band, Seldom Scene. The Scene began as a non-touring bluegrass band. PAC Memberships are available with five levels of benefits. For more information and or tickets call PAC: 828.526.9047.

• The Scaly Mountain Women's Club will host a Pancake Breakfast at the Scaly Moun-

tain Community Center at the Corner of NC 106 and Buck Knob Road from 7:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. on Saturday. Adults \$5.50, and Children \$3.50. Proceeds benefit scholarships for area students and human service's agencies.

Sun., Sept. 28

• Highlands Empty Bowl Pre-Sale before and after Sunday morning services in Coleman Hall of the Presbyterian Church.

Sat., October 4

• At PAC, Broadway and More with Liz Callaway, a Tony Nominee and Emmy Award-winning actress, singer and recording artist. For tickets call PAC: 828.526.9047.

• At the Nature Center, "Fall Leaf Colors" program 2 - 4 pm. Fun activities about how leaves change color, deciduous versus coniferous trees, and winter survival strategies of each. Afterwards, visitors will be led on a walk through the Botanical Garden to identify many species of trees by leaf type, shape, and color. Fun and educational for the entire family; cost is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Advanced registration is required; please call 526-2623 to sign up.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike through pleasant forest to BEE COVE FALLS in SC, an 80 ft. high multi-layered falls. Meet at Cashiers Rec Center parking lot at 10 a.m., drive 22 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome.



Friday, September 26
6 to 10 pm



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Join us for "Dancing In The Street!" (or maybe our beautiful Bascom Terrace instead), as we "Celebrate" our last benefit event of the year! "You Can't Hurry Love" but you can hurry your ticket purchase before they sell out! "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" that there will be some surprises that might make you say "What's Going On." There "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" to stop us all from saying, "Let's Get It On!"

For more information, please contact Tracy Ryan, Events Manager, at tryan@thebascom.org or by calling 828-526-4949. To purchase tickets, please visit www.thebascom.org/celebration

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Fall Home Improvement

The Best Bang for Your Buck Kitchen Remodeling Tips

(StatePoint) Kitchen remodeling can significantly increase home value. However this can get extremely expensive. But simple kitchen fix-ups can add both value and comfort to your space.

With this in mind, consider sprucing up your kitchen without breaking the bank. Don't know where to start? Try these tips from HomeAdvisor, a leading website offering resources for home repair and improvement projects:

- Fix the countertops: Changing the material of kitchen countertops is a simple way to make an impact in the room. Materials such as ceramic, laminate, granite and siltstone are all great options. Laminate is the most cost effective and granite is the most popular.

- Refinish the cabinets: Even though cabinet replacement can be pricey,



- giving your existing cabinets a new look can come at an affordable price tag. Remove the original finish and add a new stain coat. Or paint the cabinets a bold color. Combine the paint with a crackling glaze to give the cabinets a weathered appearance.

- Redo lighting: Al-

tering the lighting in your kitchen can give it a different look and feel. Track lighting is a good aesthetic choice with many different options. Add a few task lamps to improve the functionality of the work space area. Dimmers are easy to install and can make the atmosphere of the room

more versatile.

- Upgrade appliances: Buying even just one or two new appliances can significantly increase the kitchen's value. Large appliances, such as the refrigerator, oven and stove, should be upgraded first.

- Restyle the floor: Laying a new floor doesn't have to be a costly project. Materials such as peel-and-stick vinyl tiles are inexpensive and can be easy to install. Other excellent options include linoleum, porcelain, cork and stained concrete.

You don't need to start from scratch to give your kitchen a makeover. With small improvements, you can get a great return on your investment.

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Fall Home Improvement

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 win-

dow 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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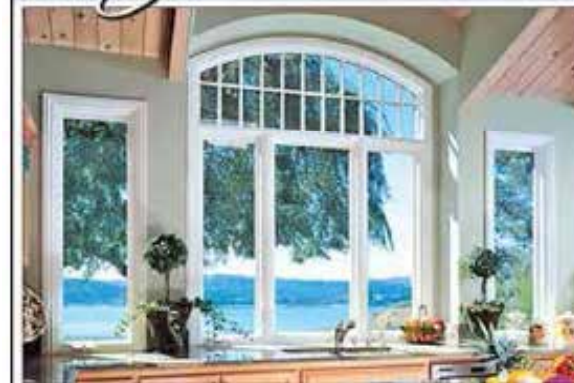
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Coming up this week at the Center for Life Enrichment

Today's world is fast-paced, mobile and ever-changing with security threats to our homeland and personal information growing day by day. Learning how to protect ourselves in this technological world is not only sensible but vital. The Center

for Life Enrichment is offering an exciting line-up of classes relating to the security topic so you can learn how to monitor and protect yourself and your information as well as learn what measures our country is taking in order to protect us and our loved ones.

ICloud and Computer Security taught by Nigel Sixsmith will cover everything you need to know about ICloud, sharing photos, music and documents via ICloud with other Macs/Pads and iPhones. Learn how to lower your risk of exposure to digital predators. Viruses, malware protection and other possible security issues will

be addressed. Wednesday, October 1, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$70/\$80

In the lecture, Securing Cyberspace: Protecting the Nation's Digital Processing Infrastructure Dr. William Perry will outline the asymmetric threats our national security faces today. Maintaining security in a digital world is critical especially at a

national level. Dr. William Perry is a professor of computer systems at WCU and an information security specialist. Perry has coordinated and participated in various security-related workshops involving the FBI, CIA and U.S. State Department. Friday, October 3, 2:00-4:00

U.S. Secret Service: History, Organization, Mission explains the role of the Secret Service and its duties from the organizations conception to its role in modern times. Presenter Susan Hawes has been a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service since 1999. In addition to presidential protection services she is charged with the investigation of financial crimes. Thursday, October 9, 1:00-3:00

Walk-ins to lectures are welcome. For more information on these classes or CLE please visit www.clehighlands.com or call 526-8811. Our office is located at 348 S. Fifth Street in the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center. All classes are \$25 for members/\$35 for non members and are held in the CLE lecture hall unless otherwise noted.

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Legendary Bluegrass Band, Seldom coming to PAC

Don't miss the Saturday, September 27th 8pm **Seldom Scene** at the Highlands PAC. What does it take for a bluegrass band to remain popular for more than four decades? For the Seldom Scene, it's taken not only talented musicians, a signature sound, and a solid repertoire, but also a sheer sense of fun.

Saturday, October 4th 8pm brings **Broadway and More** with Broadway veteran **Liz Callaway**. Tickets for all events are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 Highlands PAC: 507 Chestnut Street Highlands NC

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Highlands, NC Real Estate: Retiring into Your Best Life

I began working with a high-powered executive a few weeks ago, and the process has been as fun as it has been enlightening. This gentleman is in his mid-50s and works as the CEO for one of America's most prestigious companies. When he explained his travel schedule to me, I literally gasped: he spends more time in the air flying to different company locations each week, than he spends on the ground. He has made numerous appearances on national television and regularly speaks at live events to audiences of thousands.

He is clearly a high energy, uber talented, and charismatic figure. Focused, clear, and kind, he approached me to be his real estate sherpa for his search for the perfect second home to enjoy during his upcoming retire-

ment.

When we sat down for our initial conversation, I was struck by how little ability this powerhouse of a person had in conveying his vision for his retirement real estate fantasy. He was eager to just "get going," but unable to provide me with any guidance as to where – or even, a broad brush outline of roughly where. I gently pressed with more clarifying questions, inquiring how he pictured himself spending his days in our community and enjoying his property here.

He gave me a cheerful grin and a blank stare.

And then, it dawned on me –



Susie deVille
Owner/Broker-in-Charge
White Oak Realty Group

this incredibly bright and talented fellow, who had spent the majority of his life successfully steering a gigantic company through myriad market conditions, quite literally had never stopped to get clear on steering his own life – or imagining his own future beyond work.

I was immediately reminded of something Seth Godin, New York Times best selling author and marketing guru once said, "People spend more time planning their vacations than they spend planning their lives."

When I began selling real estate 14 years ago, the average age of my buyers was approxi-

mately 63 years old. These were folks who were eyeing retirement and wanted to purchase a second home to enjoy in the mountains once they departed from the work force. Today, the average age of my buyers is approximately 53 years old; they are not only younger, they are retiring at younger and younger ages.

Many arrive seemingly unprepared for life after work and/or how they would like to enjoy their free time once they finally have it.

I stood out on the deck of a gorgeous, luxury home with my charismatic, cheerful buyer and looked out at a stunning mountain view with him. He was impressed with the custom home and the view.

I watched him peer over the deck to the steep slope below and could sense him being a bit antsy.

He paced a minute or two, with restless energy. Hands in pockets, looking around, he exhaled sharply.

Immediately, I knew. I told him, "I know what you want, and I'll take you there now."

We drove to the property that I had intuited was what his heart was aching for. I pulled into the driveway, and had not even come to a stop before he had the door open and was out of the car. He ran across the lot and down to the water.

I stood behind him and looked up at his profile. I saw a man who in that moment knew exactly how he wanted to spend his retirement. He knew what would fill the well for him, what would make his soul sing.

He nodded toward the water and then at me and said, "Yes, this is it."

As you are envisioning life after work, or simply your playtime during weekends or vacations from work, ask yourself what feels like freedom. What are you doing that brings your energy up and is also relaxing? What does your ideal day look like? Think through what retirement days may mean for you and what kind of property best suits that vision.

Spend some time now planning your life, so that your enjoyment, after many years of hard work, is at its highest and best.

Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The Object of Hope

By Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers

"But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet" (1 Thessalonians 5:8).

Everything in this world is changing and has little or no value to the believer. What holds value to the child of God is eternal. If you carry the weight of eternity on your heart and you recognize that you will depart this world into either, glory or eternal torment, you will surely shake and tremble. There is only one way to be at peace and assured of an eternal happiness. God promises to all believers this wonderful idea of an eternal peace. This is the great goal that should fill your heart. You need to strive to reach for this goal. Since God is the author of this salvation you must hope for it, anticipate it and look forward to it with great assurance. This hope of salvation will create in your heart comfort and a desire to serve and live in godliness.

Hope is always looking to the promise and the rewards it brings. Without a promise there will be no hope. Only the one who places his trust in Jesus Christ can be an heir of the promise of salvation. In Acts 26:6 you are told of the "hope in what God has promised." In Titus 1:2 you find "The hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time." Therefore, those who do not place their hope in Jesus Christ as their Savior have no hope. They are as Ephesians 2:12 says "separated from Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel and foreigners to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world."

The object of the hope of the believer is Jesus Christ. God sent him into this world to do for men what they could never do for themselves. The Scripture requires that men live a perfect life in order to come into the presence of God. Because of Adam's fall in the Garden, there is no one who can fulfill this requirement. Psalm 53:3 "Everyone has turned away, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one." Jesus was sent by God the Father to live the perfect life required to come

• See SPIRITUALLY page 22



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Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP • John 3:16

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun.: 8:30a Traditional (said) 1928 Service, including Communion; 9:30a Christian Education; 10:30a Faithful, Family Service w/ Music & Communion.

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

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

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

Wednesdays -7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10:45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC

University

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

Sunday Service: 11 a.m.; Testimony Mg: 5 p.m. on 3rd Wed

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968

Sundays: Eucharist Rite I 8a in chapel; Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 8:30 & 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

Monday: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays: Choir: 7

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastor Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 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 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

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MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Dwight Loggins

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth: 7 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe

Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 7- Oct 26- Informal Evening Eucharist-5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

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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 5-7 p.m. or on the morn-
ing of the show, Sat., Sept.
20, between 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.*

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...CORE from page 9

John deVille, president of the MC chapter of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), thinks it's probably a good idea to have national standards but not the CC that was to be implemented nor the way it was rolled out.

"These standards were created by a consortium of the state and business interests and though the standards are decent, the curriculum isn't good in spots – particularly elementary math and parts of the high school English curriculum," he said.

In addition, rather than gradually implementing it, the entire curriculum was done at once. "So, the 8th math grade curriculum assumed that Billy had been taught the 7th grade CC math curriculum, which wasn't the case," he said.

To compound problems, he said high stakes tests for both teachers and students were part of the picture.

"Part of 'Race to the Top' grant was acceding to the VAM model for compensation and evaluation for teachers," he said.

Race to the Top is a US Department of Education contest created to spur innovation and reforms in state and local district K-12 education. States were awarded points for satisfying certain educational policies, such as performance-based standards for teachers and principals, complying with Common Core standards, lifting caps on charter schools, turning around the lowest-performing schools, and building data systems.

Value-Added Modeling (VAM) uses student test scores to help measure teaching effectiveness apart from other factors that affect achievement, such as individual ability, family environment, past schooling, and the influence of peers.

"So with the CC, North Carolina schools are facing a new set of standards, a new curriculum, a new way to evaluate students, a new way to evaluate teachers implemented all at once – and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan wonders why the CC brand is mortally wounded," said deVille.

Until the McCrory appointed committee makes a decision about the CC, the current NC Standard Course of Study, which lays out the skills K-12 students should master in all subjects, will remain in effect for now. That means Common Core standards, which were first carried out in the 2012-13 school year and are part of the course of study, and are still in place this fall.

"The standards in place this school year are the highest and most rigorous we've ever had," said Keith Poston, chief executive of the Public School Forum of North Carolina, which is funded by businesses.

– Kim Lewicki

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

Aug. 12

• At 10 a.m., a larceny from a home on Hudson Road was reported. Two generators – a Honda and Briggs and Stratton valued at \$1,800 were missing.

Aug. 27

• At 2:35 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west where a motorist took a curve too fast and ended up on the embankment, hitting a rock and flipping the vehicle. The motorist, who was driving a car without permission, left the scene and law officers are trying to locate him.

Sept. 3

• At 10:25 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in Wright Square where a pillar was struck by a vehicle

backing up.

• At 10:20 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Sept. 4

• At 2 p.m., a resident on spring street reported a burglary and that someone had stayed in his home for two-days and left a note thanking him for use of the home. He didn't know the person.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Sept. 10.

Sept. 10

• At 6:19 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

Sept. 11

• At 7:15 p.m., the dept. was first-responders on Main Street.

• At 7:20 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Happoldt Drive.

Sept. 12

• At 1:11 p.m., the dept. responded to

a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

• At 5:18 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road.

Sept. 13

• A little past midnight, the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buttermilk Lane.

Sept. 14


• At 11:40 a.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on N. 4th Street.

• At 5:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Church Street.

• At 11:36 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Sherwood Forest.

Sept. 16

• At 5:32 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Henry Wright Road.



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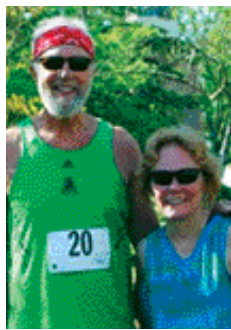
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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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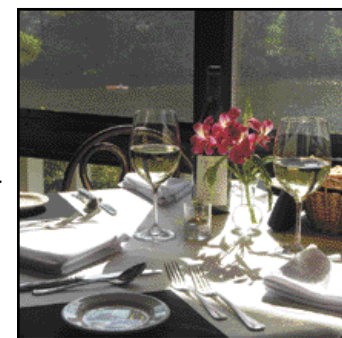
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