

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013

## Main Street Coordinator position meets lukewarm response

Thursday night's Town Board meeting echoed those of the past where concerned citizens turned out to watch their government in action.

For two hours to the minute, they heard and participated in issues brought to the table.

One item citizens and commissioners took issue with was

Mayor David Wilkes' request for a Main Street Coordinator.

Town Manager Bob Frye said the mayor requested the item

•See **COORDINATOR** page 8

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## Citizen urges TB to deal with 'Jake Brakes'

During the Public Comment portion of Thursday's Town Board meeting, Mike Little, who lives in Shelby Place between NC 106 and NC 28, requested the town curb the use of Jake Brakes within its limits.

"The sound associated with Jake Braking comes when downshifting a diesel engine," said Little. "It isn't necessary to slow down a truck with Jake Braking. Trucks come with brakes. If I had a decimel reader I could stand on NC 28 or NC 106 and I am sure I could get a reading above what is allowed in the town's noise ordinance."

Little said he has spoken to numerous people in the community who are also offended by Jake Braking noise and if necessary believes they, too, will come to a Town Board meeting to request assistance.

"This is an issue in our community and it is important," he said.

A compression release engine brake, frequently called a Jake Brake or Jacobs Brake, is an engine braking mechanism installed on some diesel engines.

When activated, it opens exhaust valves in the cylinders after the compression cycle, releasing the

•See **BRAKES** page 10



## In search of breakfast

This mama bear and her two cubs (one is hiding in the grass on the side of the road) call the Harris Lake vicinity their home. They are often seen strolling down Wilson Drive while making forays into residents' yards in search of food.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## NC teacher salary increase rank last in the country

At Monday night's Board of Education meeting, board members saw proof regarding what North Carolina teachers already know ... NC is dead last in teacher salary growth in the country.

Financial Director Angie Cook presented information regarding salary ranges and growth potential, and the story is a sad one.

"The gist is, North Carolina

teachers haven't had a salary increase other than 1% in the last five years," she said. "Specifically, Macon County teachers, guidance and media personnel - 357 people - make an average of \$40,295. The state average is \$50,000."

Chairman Jim Breedlove said contrary to what the board and citizens have been told, "Our teachers are dead last."

•See **TEACHERS** page 15

## New pool hangs in the balance

It's too early to say if the new pool will be mixed for this budget year but it's a possibility.

At Thursday night's Town Board meeting, Town Manager Bob Frye said since the bids to build the new pool have come in over what has been budgeted, the pool project has slowed.

So far all three bids that have come in to build the new pool have put the project over budget: Augusta Aquatics, \$713,850; Paddock Construction, \$744,860; and Conner Construction \$689,700.

Even with the lowest bid at \$689,700, the job is \$239,250 over budget.

"The overage is due to the high cost of electric construction, plumbing and demolition, plus new ADA requirements in the pool house which we weren't going to touch, so it's due to several things," said Frye.

•See **POOL** page 17

Thru Oct. 4  
• Highlands School Media Center Scholastic Book Fair is Thursday, September 26 through Friday, October 4 open daily from 8 am until 3 pm. The Book Fair will also be open from 5 - 6 pm before the PTO meeting on September 26.

Thurs., Sept. 26  
• Thursday is the first PTO meeting of the school year at 6 p.m. The Freshman Class will have a fundraiser bake sale beginning at 4:30 and dinner before the 6pm meeting beginning at 5 pm. Dinner will be baked potatoes with all the toppings, dessert, and beverage for \$5.

• The Highlands Male Chorus directed by Joe Powell will perform at 7 p.m. at PAC. College glee club to Broadway to great spirituals. Tickets are \$15 at the PAC (828) 526-9047, or you at the door.

• Healthy Living Expro at the Highlands Civic Center from 10a to 2p.

Sat., Sept. 28

• Scaly Mountain Women's Club Pancake Breakfast at Old Scaly School House corner of 106 and Buck Knob road, Scaly. 7:30 to 10:30. Price is \$5.50.

• At PAC, Andy Offutt Irwin at 8 p.m. Tickets (\$25) are available online highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

Monday, Sept. 30

• The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society's final program for 2013 will be presented by Ed and Cindy Boos on Monday at the Hudson Library with a social at 7 pm, followed by the presentation at 7:30 pm. "Avian Courtship and Breeding Behavior: Photographic Observations."

Tues., Oct. 1

The Highlands Dialogue 2013-2014 season begins on Tuesday with: "How Washington Saved the American Revolution" based on Pulitzer Prize Cited biography: Washington the Indispensable Man by James Thomas Flexner (a copy is available in the Hudson Library). Our coordinator will be John Gaston.

Wed., Oct. 2

• The 2nd Annual HUMC Youth Pumpkin Patch begins. The youth will be selling pumpkins all month. All money raised goes to youth ministries.

• (HCLT) will lead an Eco Tour to Cataloochee Valley to learn about the elk reintroduction there. HCLT asks for \$35 from new friends which includes the eco tour, a tailgate dinner and a one-year membership! HCLT members are asked for \$10.

The  
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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Jake braking should be banned

If you've ever been woken from a deep sleep by what seemed like a military tank driving through your living room, then chances are you've just experienced a 'Jake braking' noise event coming from a diesel engine.

Already outlawed in many cities and towns across our nation, Jake braking violates the serenity and peacefulness of our neighborhoods. This braking system is installed on diesel engines so the engine can assist in slowing the truck. And that would be fine if it didn't make so much noise you could hear it blocks away. In short, the noise is obnoxious and should be banned from Highlands.

Unfortunately, having a noise ordinance won't help. A police officer would have to sit for maybe hours with a noise meter to catch a truck using the device which the driver can disable by simply throwing a switch. With an ordinance banning the use of a Jake brake system, its mere use is illegal within our town limits regardless of the decimal of noise it makes.

In my experiences through life, I've found that truckers are law abiding members of our communities and, in most cases, would cooperate with our laws if notified. Outlaw the use of Jake braking and the word will spread rapidly with little need for additional signs.

Fred Wooldridge

### Book Fair

Highlands School Media Center is sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair Thursday, September 26 through Friday, October 4 with the theme: "Reading Oasis: A Cool Place to Discover Hot Books!" The Book Fair will open on Thursday at 8 am and run daily from 8 am until 3 pm. The Book Fair will also be open from 5 - 6 pm before the PTO meeting on September 26. Everyone is welcome to come and shop at the Book Fair! There is an online Book Fair shopping site, <http://onlinebookfairs.scholastic.com/default.aspx?f=3157683>. All proceeds directly benefit the Library Media Program at Highlands School.

## Highlands Newspaper LLC

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Pictured are Library Assistant MaryAnn Sloan, Hudson Board President Dale Sticka, Margaret and Horst Winkler, and Librarian, Mary Lou Worley. The Winkler's have donated the \$35,000 to the library since the Hudson Board met the Winkler's challenge to raise a matching amount. The money will go towards new books, equipment, computers, programming, magazine shelving and other needed items.

## Why I support the Library

### By Horst Winkler

Library, libre, liberty, all are words with a common root. The greatest upheaval of all time, historically termed the great awakening, was Martin Luther's rebellion, the "Reformation." Contemporaries considered the Reformation a time of freedom of liberty. What was meant by this assertion of liberty? It was the book, the "Bible," in everyone's hand due to the invention of

the printing press by Gutenberg, the German. The Bible speaks eloquently of life, liberty, and freedom. Books are the source of all wisdom. They are a condensation of the sum total of wisdoms which have ever been compiled throughout the centuries. Each author, however low or high, reveals his thoughts for all to choose, to gain wisdom. There exists no mightier sword than

• See WINKLER page 6

## • OBITUARIES •

### Shelley Jackson Denham



Shelley Jackson Denham died unexpectedly on August 31, 2013, just three months after the sudden death of her beloved husband of 39 years, Ian Richard Denham. Born on April 25, 1950 to the late Wayne and Monique Jackson, Shelley grew up in Cincinnati, OH.

She leaves behind daughters, Gillian Denham Jones, Megan Denham and Joy Denham; sons-in-laws Andrew Jones and Moran Vered, and two granddaughters, Ella and Kaylee Vered; sister Holly Pullis, sister-in-law Charlyn Jackson, Iris and Colin Whitham, nieces and nephews. Shelley is also survived by extended family Tom and Jane Warth, Ruslan Yuschenka, Alisa Pykett, Stacey Clark and her three children, and too many dear friends to list.

Shelley met world traveler Ian Denham on July 6, 1973, and within six hours of meeting they decided to marry. It was one of Shelley's brother David Jackson's greatest joys to boast of his matchmaking skills when five months later, on December 22, 1973, they were wed in Ian's home town of Bourne, England. Shelley quickly introduced Ian to the Jackson family's passion for music, and alongside brother and sister-in-law David and Char Jackson, they joined the church choir and sang at many events.

A talented musician and songwriter, Shelley traveled the country to sing; it wasn't long before she took the entire family on the road. The Denham five landed in Highlands, NC at a local retreat center. A close-knit family, their love of travel, nature, music and sense of adventure eventually led to the decision to permanently relocate to their new mountain home in 1989.

• See OBITUARIES page 3

## ...OBITUARIES continued from page 2

Music became an even greater part of Shelley and Ian's lives when they met Tom and Jane Warth and formed a quartet. Their close harmonies and unique blend gave voice to their mutual passion for social justice, embracing diversity and spiritual expression. Many of Shelley's songs were published in Unitarian Universalist songbooks, and her records, tapes and CDs allowed her voice and message to be heard by people across the country. Shelley and Ian later found a new home with the Highlands' First Presbyterian Church. This community embraced them and surrounded them with warmth and love. It was there that she combined two of her greatest loves – music and children by forming and leading the Sunshine Children's Choir.

Shelley's heart was broken by Ian's sudden death. Even the love she felt for her family and friends couldn't ease the anguish over losing her beloved. Theirs was a life filled with music, laughter and a love without end. Her legacy will continue through the compassion, belief in justice and, above all else, unconditional love that she instilled in her children, grandchildren, friends, and those she touched through her music who she never even knew.

A Service of Remembrance and Celebration will be held at Highlands First Presbyterian Church at 2pm on September 29, 2013.

### Mack A. Roper

Mack A. Roper of Highlands, North Carolina, and Miami, Florida, died on September 14, 2013, from injuries suffered in a one-vehicle accident in Highlands on August 31.

Mack was born on December 17, 1923, in Jacksonville, Florida, to John and Annie Mae Roper. After graduating from Miami High School in 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army, serving as a sergeant in the Office of Strategic Services in the European Theater of Operations during World War II. After the war, he graduated with a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Miami. He was a lifelong Hurricanes fan and named two of his businesses – Hurricane Engineering Company and Hurricane Chemical Company – after his beloved team.

Mack was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Miami, where he served as President of the Church Council. He was an avid golfer, a Mason, Shriner, and a lifetime member of the OSS Society.

Mack is survived by his wife, Betty Barnett Roper, who he met at Miami

High in the late 1930s; by his children: Tim (and Ginger) Roper of Chester, Vermont; Kathleen Roper (and Herrick Johnson) or Greenville, South Carolina; Dan Roper (and Lisa) of Rome, Georgia; and Chris Cox (and David) of Miami; by his grandchildren: Jimmy Roper, Maggie Roper, Melissa Apel, Scott Thomas, Bradley Roper Johnson, Laura Anne Roper, John Roper, Jackson Roper, David Cox and Daniel Cox; and by great-grandchildren.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home in Franklin, North Carolina, has charge of the arrangements. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Miami, Florida. In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts in Mack's memory to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Coral Gables, Florida, or Highlands United Methodist Church, Highlands, North Carolina.

Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

### Albert Wilson

Albert Wilson, 99, a former Highlands resident and longtime Espanola, New Mexico resident, died Sunday Aug. 4, 2013.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Blanche Wilson; son, Melvin Wilson; grandchildren, Kathleen Wieser and Gregory Wilson and son-in-law Benjamin Wiesner.

Albert was the eldest of 10 children born to Mack and Lona Wilson of Clear Creek in Highlands.

He was a deacon emeritus at the First Baptist Church in Espanola. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a member of The Masons. He worked for Zia Company in Los Alamos and retired in 1975. He loved and raised registered Polied Herefords and loved to watch them eat as he fed them well. He will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his children, Mrytice Wiesner of San Diego, CA and Patrica Landon and husband John of Las Lunas, New Mexico; grandchildren, Jeffrey Wilson of Albuquerque, Jan Wilson of N. Hollywood, CA, and Gary Wiesner of San Diego; sister Dolly McCall of Highlands, NC; great-grandchildren, Brittany and Tori Wilson of Albuquerque; daughter-in-law, Jane Wilson of Albuquerque and numerous other relatives and friends.

The funeral service was held on Friday, August 9, 2013 in the Sangre de Cristo Chapel of DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory.

The family requests memorial contributions in Albert's name be made to a favorite charity. DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory was in charge of the arrangements.

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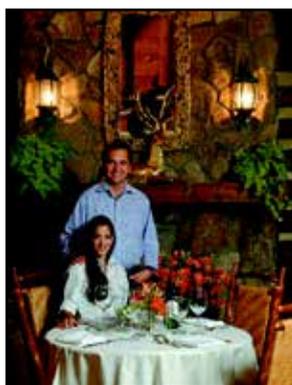
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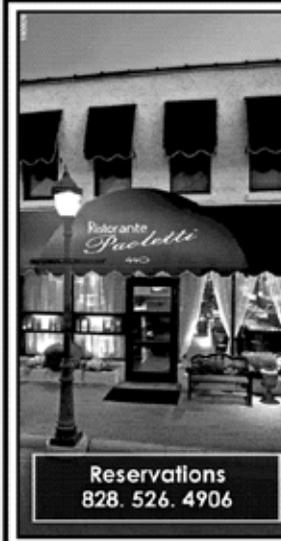
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...WINKLER  
continued from page 2

the written word, think of the American Declaration of Independence, the American Constitution or the Magna Carta; yes even the "The Communist Manifesto" by Karl Marx and "Mein Kampf" by Hitler.

If you desire success in life you must read in solitude, you must learn from the book. Knowledge is the ultimate power; it is the only sure road to personal freedom, to be free from the demands of others. But it must be the book firmly in hand. It cannot be a computer or any other electronic devise for reading. For this would be superficial reading that does not stick to the mind because it gives you no pause for reflection and thinking. It wants to go on, relentlessly; it wants always more and with it more watered down thinking. Electronic reading might be enjoyable, but it has no post to nail on permanence. No, it must be a book firmly gripped for it resembles a treasure chest full of jewels. You want to open it and take possession of its sparkling contents. Also book readers are among the most content. They may be forced to live in servitude and bondage, but their minds are clear because they can soar the heights and look down from lofty freedom of thoughts. This freedom of the mind has an ancient provenance in the Hebrew Talmud, "thou mayest be

• See WINKLER page 7

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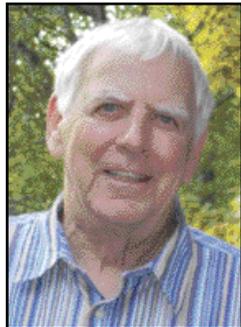
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# • THE FREDSTER •

## Once upon a time there was a guy named Sissy-Puss



Feedback is encouraged  
highlandseditor@aol.com

This is yet another of my famous and boring tales about poking fun at Greeks. Yes, we all could learn a little something from Greek mythology, especially if we're toying with the idea of building an indoor swimming pool with blow up walls. Oh, I should tell you the story of Sissy-Puss is just a fairytale so there should be no need for short wadding. Warning: Never call a Greek guy a fairy, especially one wearing a fig leaf crown and playing a harp! Also, you might need tissues before you're finished reading.

According to scripture, (that phrase gets a lot of people's attention) there was this Greek guy named Sissy-Puss. (The Greeks spelled it Sisyphus) For beginners, you just know his Mom hated his guts. Why else would she name a nice little Greek kid "Sissy-Puss?" I guess she could've called him "Froghead" or "Snottyass" or "Dorkhead" or....well, you get the idea. But naming him Sissy-Puss is the worse of the worse of names.

Anyway, Sissy-Puss grew up to be a fine strong man who, in fact, wore a fig leaf crown and played the harp. Then one day, the town fathers came to ole Sissy-Puss and asked if he would build an indoor swimming pool for the town. When he refused, he got stoned (not sure what this

means) and went to the dark side where he had to roll huge stones uphill for the rest of his death. Bummer! Oh, and don't confuse this with 'The Rolling Stones.' I don't think they ever built a swimming pool. More research is needed.

Then ole Sissy-Puss asked Hades if he could return to build the pool. (You think I'm making this up, don't you?) Hades agreed but only for the time it took to complete the project. When the pool was complete, Sissy-

Puss hid from Hades 'cause he liked building indoor pools with bubble walls better than rolling stones uphill for the rest of his death. When caught, Sissy-Puss was sent to an even darker side where even Darth-Vader couldn't see him. It was here that Sissy-Puss saw the futility of life. Build a few indoor swimming pools, roll a bunch of stones uphill and wind up in a darker place. Is that all there is?

Then Sissy-Puss asked Hades, "If I promise to go on welfare, live on food stamps and promise to build no more indoor swimming pools or be productive in any way, can I return to my other life to live happily ever after? From that day on, Sissy-Puss became a very successful and worthless politician. Seeeee, I knew you would need tissues.

self blessed. But you must go and sit in a library patiently and enduringly. It is the best classroom you'll ever find and you haven't wasted your time with brain dead frivolities. At the end you have a better education and are the wiser for it. Many an impoverished genius has called the library his alma mater. Have no fear—you are in good company. Most profoundly you have become an "autodidact," the noblest achievement of all human endeavors. Indeed, you have found the road to wisdom.

Finally, the LIBRARY is the bedrock of our culture; it is the depository of our past and history, and through learning, the certain roadmap to our future.

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<b>WED</b>	<b>CHICKEN OR STEAK POT PIE AND A LARGE SALAD</b>	<b>\$18.95</b> serves 4
<b>THURS</b>	<b>ROASTED MEATLOAF WITH MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY AND A LARGE SALAD</b>	<b>\$18.95</b> serves 4
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## ...WINKLER continued from page 6

chained in misery but thou are loosened in the spirit for the power of thine study." What then is the secret of all learning? The Roman's Latin gave us the answer; it is "repetitio est mater studiorum" or "Repetition is the mother of all studies."

Only a book in hand prompts you to repeat. It is an object you consult over and over again and hold till you have fully grasped its meaning. Once the habit of repetition has been formed, it is a pleasant experience. It is like meeting a dear old friend anew, particularly if the time interval has been long; sometimes years apart.

No money for college! Count your-



# ...COORDINATOR continued from page 8

to promote the performing and creative arts in Highlands.

"We have been named a 'Small Town Arts Community' and we haven't done anything with that. This person would put together a promotion piece for the performing and creative arts; a calendar of events so it's clear to anyone interested in those things that these events are going on in this town."

Again, Marsh spoke up.

"As far as events go, the newspapers have a wonderful calendar of events that they list every week," he said.

Howland agreed.

"The Playhouse and The Bascom already do all that themselves. They all have brochures and ways of advertising their events," he said.

In Town Manager Bob Frye's mind, the Main Street Coordinator would be a promoter and the liaison between the town and its citizens.

"There is a disconnect in the town. The Chamber of Commerce has its calendar, PAC has its calendar of events but no one has everything that's going on in one place. We get calls all the time asking what's going on. This person would coordinate events

and work between the town and all these organizations. The person would also be an interface between the town and the public; a person who could dispel rumors before they take on a life of their own. He or she would coordinate the rental process of using town properties like the park or Rec Center –

actually be an event coordinator; a bridge between the town and all the organizations so we don't have events happening on the same weekend and overlapping."

Right from the start Commissioner Dotson said he was less than enthusiastic about the position as outlined by Wilkes and Frye.

"I am less than gun ho on this idea. I would need to see more justification," he said. "When

• See COORDINATOR page 10

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## ...COORDINATOR continued from page 9

Commissioner Pierson and myself originally started talking about this, in my mind it was more of a promotion/entertainment person who would promote the town and bring people in to take advantage of and use town facilities like Kelsey-Hutchinson Park, the Rec Park; bring in events that would benefit the citizens in town -- something more along those lines, rather than a Main Street Coordinator or business coordinator person. I am less than enthusiastic with the definition here tonight."

He reiterated the need for someone to maximize the use of town facilities -- the ballpark, the Rec Park, PAC or the new theatre being proposed for the Rec Park, "If that comes to fruition," he said. "Someone with the right connections and the right promotional ability can make a difference for everyone."

But Wilkes said that's not what the Main Street Coordinator position is about.

"There is a promotion component in the job description, but you are talking

about a promotion director and that's not what this is."

Commissioner Gary Drake also spoke against the idea -- for now.

"I agree with Commissioner Dotson. I need to see more justification for it. I'm not for or against it. But right now I would say no. We have to take care of taxpayers and the business community. We can't do one without the other; but I'm not sure this would benefit the taxpayers. There are better ways to spend their money," he said.

Commissioner Pierson said his idea was to have this person bring the businesses together and create a better atmosphere for tourists.

"It seems the businesses all have their own little groups. We need to get everyone together. Maybe through the Chamber we can get more businesses involved with the town and get more activities in town for citizens and for people who are visiting," he said. "This needs more research. We need to see if this is an idea that can flourish."

Howland said it's obvious people who spoke were less than enthusiastic about the position as outlined by Wilkes and Frye.

Mayor Wilkes asked that the item be placed on a future agenda for further consideration.

If the board wants to move ahead,

Frye said the position would be listed as Grade 18, Level 1 with a starting salary of \$41,017.60 (\$64,129.37 for the complete package -- full family insurance, workmen's comp. etc.) which is available in the Planning and Development Dept. budget.

-- Kim Lewicki

## ...BRAKES continued from page 1

compressed air trapped in the cylinders, and slowing the vehicle.

Although Jake Brake properly refers to the Jacobs brand of engine brakes, the term has become a genericized trademark and is often used to refer to engine brakes or compression release engine brakes in general, especially on large vehicles or heavy equipment.

Little asked that the town adopt a policy of having the police "when they are in the vicinity" and "when they witness the use of a Jake Brakes," to tell the driver that he will be ticketed the next time he is caught using the Jake Brake.

"Maybe we can cut down on this," he said. "However, I am not suggesting the police ticket everyone who uses Jake Brakes nor am I saying all truck drivers are abusive."

According to Town Manager Bob Frye the use of Jake Brakes is a US DOT and

• See BRAKES page 17

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# • HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

Thurs., Sept. 26

- Highlands School Media Center is sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair Thursday, September 26 through Friday, October 4, 2013 with the theme: "Reading Oa'is: A Cool Place to Discover Hot Books!" The Book Fair will open on Thursday at 8 am and run daily from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. The Book Fair will also be open from 5 - 6 pm before the PTO meeting on September 26. Everyone is welcome to come and shop at the Book Fair! There is also an online Book Fair shopping site, <http://onlinebookfairs.scholastic.com/default.aspx?f=3157683>. All proceeds directly benefit the Library Media Program at Highlands School.

- Thursday is the first PTO meeting of the school year at 6 PM. The Book Fair will be open during the school day and from 5-6 pm on Thursday. AND, the Freshman Class will have a fund-raiser bake sale beginning @ 4:30 and dinner before the 6pm meeting beginning at 5 pm. Dinner will be baked potatoes with all the toppings, dessert, and beverage for \$5. HUNGRY? The community is invited!

- The Highlands Male Chorus directed by Joe Powell will perform at 7 p.m. College glee club to Broadway to great spirituals. Tickets are only \$15 and can be obtained by calling the PAC (828) 526-9047, or you can purchase tickets at the door.

- Healthy Living Expro at the Highlands Civic Center from 10a to 2p.

Sat., Sept. 28

- A Combination Yard/Bake Sale with luncheon plates at the Cashiers Methodist Church on NC 107 in Cashiers from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The church is seeking donations of gently used household items and baked goods. Donated items can be dropped off at the church, or large items will be picked up at donors' homes. Please call Sue Jones at 828-226-4352 to arrange for pick-up.

- Scaly Mountain Womens Club Pancake Breakfast at Old Scaly School House corner of 106 and Buck Knob road, Scaly. 7:30 to 10:30. Price is \$5.50.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile easy-to-moderate hike to Yellow Branch Falls in South Carolina off hwy 28. Meet at Cashier Rec Center parking lot at 10 am. Drive 50 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079 for reservations.

- At PAC, Andy Offutt Irwin at 8 p.m. Tickets (\$25) are available online [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org) or by calling 828.526.9047 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

Sun., Sept. 29

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a four-mile moderate-to-strenuous hike from Rock Gap to Winding Stair Gap on the Appalachian Trail with elevation change of 700 feet and car shuttle. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 pm. Drive 28 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

Monday, Sept. 30

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society's final program for 2013 will be presented by Ed and Cindy Boos on Monday, September 30 at the Hudson Library in Highlands. with a social at 7 pm, followed by the presentation at 7:30 pm. The Booses are local Audubon Chapter members who reside in Scaly Mountain during the summer and spend their winters in Florida. Their presentation will center on "Avian Courtship and Breeding Behavior: Photographic Observations.

- There will be a Town Hall information session will be held at Franklin High School at the Fine Arts Center for the purposes of sharing information on the state of public education in North Carolina, especially in light of recent budget cuts and policy changes. We plan to have local educators and officials speak as well as some state-wide representatives...more details will be forthcoming. Doors to the Fine Arts Center will open at 5:30pm and the speakers will start at 6pm. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers and sharing of concerns.

Tues., Oct. 1

- The Highlands Dialogue 2013-2014 season begins on Tuesday with: "How Washington Saved the American Revolution" based on Pulitzer Prize Cited biography: Washington the Indispensable Man by James Thomas Flexner (a copy is available

in the Hudson Library). Our coordinator will be John Gaston.

Wed., Oct. 2

- The 2nd Annual HUMC Youth Pumpkin Patch begins. The youth will be selling pumpkins all month. All money raised goes to youth ministries.

- Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) will lead an Eco Tour to Cataloochee Valley to learn about the elk reintroduction there. HCLT asks for \$35 from new friends which includes the eco tour, a tailgate dinner and a one-year membership! HCLT members are asked for \$10 to help cover costs. Space is limited and spots fill quickly. To learn more contact HCLT at [Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net](mailto:Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net) or 828-526-1111.

Thurs., Oct 3

- Join your friends for an exciting night of Bingo to support the Highlands Historical Society (HHS). This event will be on Thursday at 6:30 P.M. at the Highlands Community Building located at the corner of Poplar Street and Highway 64-next door to the ball park. Bingo games cost \$1 per card per game. The night consists of 15 games of Bingo with the last game being a surprise cash prize. Each month half of all money paid to play Bingo goes to the non-profit partner and the other half goes to lucky winners. Players enjoy one hundred per cent of the fun to play

generated by the game. Supporters of the Historical Society can go the "extra mile" to show their support through being a table sponsor. Sponsors buy a full page table ad for \$50.00. All of the money paid for sponsorships/ads goes to the Historical Society to support the preservation of the Historic Village and underwrite the outreach programs which share Highlands's history throughout our community. Checks for table ads should be made out to the Rotary Club of Highlands. They can be mailed to HHS at P. O. Box 670, Highlands 28741. Call HHS at (828)787-1050.

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 4-5

- At The Bascom, Celebration! Art, Design, Craft. Call 526-4949.

Fri., Oct 4

- SOAR and Mountain Top Rotary Golf Tournament at Highlands Falls Country Club. Those interested in playing or who would like more information should contact Bill Zoellner at (828) 787-2323 or call toll free at 888-489-2323, or forms may be mailed to P.O. Box 2584, Highlands, NC 28741. Tournament registration forms are available on the club website at [mountaintoprotary.net](http://mountaintoprotary.net)

Sat., Oct. 5

- "Fall Leaf Colors" family program 2 - 3:30 pm at the Highlands Nature Center. Activities will focus on how leaves change color, decidu-

•See EVENTS page 14

## Dutchman's Annual Furniture SALE!

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# Fall Home Improvement

## What Every Homeowner Should Know Before Buying a Front Door

(StatePoint) Your home's entryway is the first thing that greets visitors and it's where your home truly begins. And yet many homeowners don't put much thought into their door selection, making quick decisions based solely on appearance.

There's a lot more to a door than meets the eye. Experts say that your pocketbook, comfort and safety can all be at risk with the wrong door.

"It's more than the face of the door. It's the hinges, the weatherstrip, the bottom sweep and sill," says Mark Clement, a professional contractor and host of the MyFixItUpLife home improvement radio show. "By taking all these components into account as a unit, you'll see a big difference in performance."

For optimum energy efficiency and functionality, Clement recommends making sure that the door system you purchase was created from just one manufacturer that engineers every part of the door to work together. When shopping, here are some of the things to consider:

- **Energy Efficiency:** In any region or climate, energy efficiency is key. When all the parts of your door are en-

gineered to work together, the components form a tight seal around the entire door to resist leaks and drafts that can lead to reduced energy efficiency.

An ENERGY STAR qualified and National Fenestration Rating Council certified door can further help you save money on energy costs. For his home, Clement decided on a Therma-Tru door meeting all these qualifications that helps reduce his monthly energy bills.

- **Durability:** A door that lets in air and water can lead to costly damage and deterioration. Look for a door system that works together at critical points to weather storms and daily wear and tear. The door should be equipped with well-fitting weatherstripping to keep air and water from getting in between the door and its frame, and a multi-point locking system that helps keep the door aligned.

- **Quality:** Many consumers may not know that often doors are made with parts from a variety of manufacturers. The best way to assure you get a high performance door is to select a door where the parts come from one manufacturer, like Therma-Tru. These components are designed and engineered to work together and in-



clude the sill, the door bottom, weather stripping, hinges and a multipoint locking system. And there's an added logistical benefit -- when everything is under a single lifetime warranty, maintenance and upkeep are simple.

- **Curb appeal:** An attractive and highly-functional front entrance can add to your home's curb appeal and help boost its market value. At a time when homeowners are looking to get the most out of every dollar they invest in

their home, installing an attractive new front entry is a cost-effective investment that can have a big impact.

More information about the benefits of installing energy-efficient door systems can be found at [www.ThermaTru.com](http://www.ThermaTru.com).

Don't ignore the importance of your home's entryway. After all, it's the first impression your home makes on visitors -- so take steps to make it impressive!



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# Fall Home Improvement

## Home Improvement Tips to Help You Go Maintenance-Free

(StatePoint) Want to save time and money? If you're a homeowner, consider improvement projects that can reduce the need for ongoing home maintenance. You'll find the upfront cost and energy well worth it down the line.

It could be as simple as replacing older materials with newer products that are longer-lasting and less susceptible to wear and tear, say experts.

"Every element of your home's exterior will eventually need to be replaced," says Mark Clement a professional contractor and host of the MyFixItUpLife home improvement radio show. "When that happens, make a sound investment by opting for energy efficient, durable products that can reduce your maintenance efforts."

Not sure where to start? Beginning with the exterior of your home will give you the added benefit of boosting your house's curb appeal. Clement offers homeowners a handy checklist:

### The Roof

Look for problem areas, such as missing or broken shingles, along with roofing tiles that are "flapping" in the wind. These indicate that a new roof may be in your

future. Newer products on the market, such as polymer shake and slate roofing tiles, are impact-resistant. And some tiles, like those from DaVinci Roofscapes, are fire- and impact-resistant. Along with helping protect against potential wildfires and severe weather, these roofs often come with a homeowner insurance discount. They also have a 50-year limited warranty.

### Windows

If you find the windows in your home don't operate easily, there's air leaking in or out of the units or condensation builds up between the glass panes, it may be time to replace them. Consider vinyl framed windows, which are energy-efficient, visually appealing and durable. Plus, they don't come with the maintenance hassles of wood windows, such as rotting frames, scraping and repainting.

For example, Simon-ton vinyl windows have a strong product warranty and are ENERGY STAR qualified.

### Accessory Features

Check shutters, trim and louvers. Look for water spots, decay or peeling paint to see if they're dete-



riorating, suffering from insect infestations or warping. When it's time to replace these items, select low-maintenance urethane or PVC products, like those from Fypon. The lightweight pieces are easy to install, add curb appeal and resist moisture.

### Main Entry Door

Can you see light around your door from the inside? Is the door hard to close or lock? Is the door itself warped? These are signs it's time to replace your entry door. And even if you can't see light, air may be moving through gaps in the weather stripping at a surprising rate.

Consider replacing an entryway with a high-performance fiberglass door, like those from Therma-Tru. Fiberglass doors can have up to four times more insulating value than wood doors. And, selecting a door with all its components made by the same manufacturer -- such as weatherstripping, sills and sweep -- assures that you're purchasing a strong, reliable entry door. For more home improvement tips, visit [www.myfixituplife.com](http://www.myfixituplife.com).

If you don't have resources to home improvement projects, do those that will have a lasting impact.

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## The Bright Forever

Sunday, Sept. 29  
6 p.m. at  
First Baptist Church



Starring Shirley Williams, the one act play, "The Bright Forever," featuring Shirley Williams, will be performed at First Baptist Church Highlands on September 29th, at 6 p.m. The play, written by North Carolina playwright Gary Carden, portrays the life of Fanny Crosby. Admission to "The Bright Forever" is free. The performance is open to the public and all are welcome. Reception to follow.

Crosby, who was blind from early childhood, authored more than 8,000 Christian hymns. Her hymns include such favorites as "Blessed Assurance," "All the Way My Savior Leads Me," "To God Be the Glory," "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior," "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," "Rescue the Perishing," and "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross." Crosby dedicated her life to the hungry and homeless in the Bowery area of New York City where she chose to live in poverty

ous 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 all ages; cost is \$5 per person. Advanced registration is required; please call 526-2623 to sign up.

- A pumpkin festival at Highlands United Methodist Church. There will be face painting, pumpkin carving, a bake sale, hot apple cider, food and a 50% coupon for anything "pumpkin" at Kilwin's with the purchase of a pumpkin. All money raised goes to youth ministries.

- Macon County Public Health will sponsor Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout the Franklin and Highlands area on Saturday. Area veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age, as required by NC state law. The cost is \$5 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes, or in carriers. Call 349-2081 for a recorded schedule of specific locations and times.

- Pour le Pink 5K Walk/Run for Breast Health and Women's Services - organized by the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation, a 5K beginning and ending on the campus of the hospital. Funds raised will go toward maintaining HCH's state-of-the-art equipment as well as breast health and women's services. The event begins at 9am and is open to male/female walkers and runners, all ages. Pre-registration is \$20, if received by September 23rd, and \$30 thereafter. Registration includes an event t-shirt. To register, become a sponsor, or for additional race details, please visit [www.highlandscashiershospital.org](http://www.highlandscashiershospital.org) or call Callie Calloway at 828-526-1313. The race is being organized with assistance by the Highlands Roadrunners Club.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 7.9 mile strenuous Challenge Hike for experienced hikers only from Tellico to Wesser Gap with elevation change of 3350 and 1200 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 8:30 am. Drive 80 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Rain date: Oct 19

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## ...TEACHERS from page 1

Cook said to make matters worse, insurance costs continue to rise which means teachers are actually taking home less money than in the last few years.

She said as far as the district goes, the retirement matching rate keeps increasing and since the district is the employer it affects the district.

Superintendent Chris Baldwin said the figures emphasize the importance of the 2% supplement.

"We have seen good educators leaving Macon County and North Carolina to go to other states where they can make considerably more money. We have had qualified applicants who decided not to come to Macon County and to stay in their home states due to salary issues. This is going to have an impact on our schools," he said.

Using the 2013-'14 school year as a starting point, Cook said Bachelor-degreed teachers who are beginners on up don't get an increase until after their sixth year.

"So beginning their seventh year they get an increase and then it's only \$420 a year," she said.

• See TEACHERS page 19

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Perhaps most important is our desire to create and live in a caring community with a culture of good will, harmony and consideration. We believe the best rule is "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



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Saturday

September 28

8pm



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Minnie Bob & Mike Campbell  
Louise & Rick Demetriou, Ruth Gershon &  
Sandy Cohn, Jane Webb & David LaCagnina  
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• **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** •

## The Reason Christ Came

By Rev. Sam Forrester  
Whiteside Presbyterian Church

In Galatians 1:4 Paul shows why Jesus came into the world "...who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age." Paul shows why he believes in the grace and peace of God. He believes in it because God sent Christ to rescue his people from their sins through his life and death. To add to the works of Christ other requirements for salvation is to destroy the heart of the gospel. It is to remove the great act of Christ's self surrender. Christ surrendered himself to sorrow, pain, ridicule and the curse of eternal death. He did this throughout his earthly life. We see it clearest in the last days of his life from Gethsemane to Calvary. He laid down his life for his lost sheep. John 10:11,17,18 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. . . . The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life— only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." He does all of this, motivated by love, incomprehensible, unbelievable love. He does it to deliver you from the many ways, such as thought, word and deed that you miss the mark of his great glory.

Dear ones, do not let yourself be caught in this trap in which Paul finds the Galatians. It is only through the work of Jesus Christ that you can be saved. It is not because of something in you that salvation comes. Jesus Christ came to fulfill all the requirements of the law on behalf of his people. All men are in slavery to sin, in bondage to the powers of darkness. Jesus Christ came to deliver men from this slavery, from this bondage. Christ gave himself to rescue you from this present evil age.

The word "rescue" is a very important word. It is a very descriptive term. I think you will agree it presupposes those who are being rescued were in great danger. And they were in a situation from which they could not extricate themselves. In Acts 7:9-10 as Stephen is preaching to the Sanhedrin, he tells them of Joseph and how he was sold into slavery and how it was God who rescued him. In Acts 7:34 he tells them of Israel's slavery to Egypt and how it was God who delivers them. In Acts 12:11 and 26:17 you are told how Peter and then Paul would be rescued from the hands of their enemies. The rescue Paul speaks of here in Galatians is even greater because it is a rescue of those who hate the Rescuer and it was accomplished through the death of the Rescuer. As a believer you are given a gift of eternal life you are not worthy to receive. You have no right to such a gift because of your sin. The only One worthy of this is the One who rescued you from eternal death. He did that, by taking your sin upon himself and giving you his perfect life.

Paul says Christ gave himself that he might rescue you out of this evil world or age. The Greek word is aeon. It can be translated as the KJV does "world" or as others do "age." It means literally the world in motion. The passing of time. Paul means to say, you are rescued

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

**Proverbs 3:5**

• **PLACES TO WORSHIP** • **John 3:16**

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

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Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011  
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers  
Sun.: Holy Communion - 8:30 a.m.; Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.  
Family Worship with music and Communion, 10:30 a.m.  
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**  
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Tue. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**  
283 Spring Street  
Sunday Service: 11 a.m.  
Testimony Meeting: 5 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

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

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
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3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC  
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins  
Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School  
10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Children's Program,  
10: 45am: Worship Service  
Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC University

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**  
Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968  
Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite I (chapel), 8 am, Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30 a

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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. 8:30a communion service June-

**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)  
Sunday: 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; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)  
Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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

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**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
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Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Choir – 6 p.m.  
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**  
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin  
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

**MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH**  
743-2583  
Independent Bible Church  
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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  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6 p.m.  
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

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

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

**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers  
Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am

**...BRAKES from pg 10**

NC DOT issue not a town issue.

"We have no authority to deal with this because it is a state and federal issue and those laws trump our laws," he said.

Mayor David Wilkes said he has heard many complaints about this and had heard about signs at town entrances warning about the use of Jake Brakes.

Citizen Alan Marsh said he knows of other towns dealing with this with signage.

"We can find out about this," said Wilkes. "There certainly isn't anyone in favor of Jake Braking."

The use of compression release engine brakes can cause a vehicle to make a loud chattering or "machine gun" exhaust noise, especially vehicles having high flow mufflers, or no mufflers at all.

There are many communities in the United States and Canada that prohibit compression braking within municipal limits. Drivers are notified by roadside signs with legends such as "Brake Retarders Prohibited," "Engine Braking Restricted," "Jake Brakes Prohibited," "No Jake Brakes," "Compression Braking Prohibited," "Limit Compression Braking," "Avoid Using Engine Brakes," or "Unmuffled Compression Braking Prohibited," and enforcement is typically through traffic fines.

Jacobs claims that the use of Jake Brakes on signs prohibiting engine retarding brakes violates their trademark and discriminates against Jacobs brand products which is why many signs do not mention the words Jake Brakes, which refers to the Jacobs brand of engine brakes.

-- Kim Lewicki

**...POOL from pg 1**

The budget for the new pool is \$450,000 with the county footing half of the bill.

Frye said low bidder, Conner Construction has requested another two weeks to see if it can bring the bid in lower by substituting items.

"We will come back in October with new figures," said Frye. "This will cause the project to slip back about a month, but the new pool timeline is still doable."

The plan was to have the new pool constructed and open by the time school gets out next year, which is early June.

Mayor David Wilkes asked if the county had any intention of helping the town out with this. "As to my knowledge, not at this point," said Frye. "Discussions with the county have met with stony silence."

Frye said the additional funds could be taken from the fund balance, or the job could be put off until the 2014-'15 budget year, or could be nixed all together.

"However, we will need \$50,000 to fix the current pool prior to opening next year," he said.

The board will make its final decision at the October Town Board meeting.

"In any case, this is going to be significantly over budget," said Frye. "Between \$150,000 and \$200,000."

**Civic Center Upgrades**

Meanwhile, the FY 2013-'14 budget includes funds for upgrades to the Civic Center: the HVAC system; the replacement of all exterior doors; and the upgrade of the main entryway with electric sliding doors.

The amount budgeted for all three

• See POOL page 18

**...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16**

out of this present evil time which is hastening to a conclusion in spite of the fact that with all its pleasures and treasures has nothing of abiding value. You are rescued out of this present world into a coming world, the glory age, the age that will be ushered in at the consummation of all things. This rescue from this present evil age will not be complete until the last trumpet sounds. But know for sure, it is going on even now. It is being accomplished whenever a sinner is rescued from the darkness and brought back into the light. It is happening each time a saint wins another victory over temptation. The struggle over sin will end and the victory will be complete when Jesus comes back.

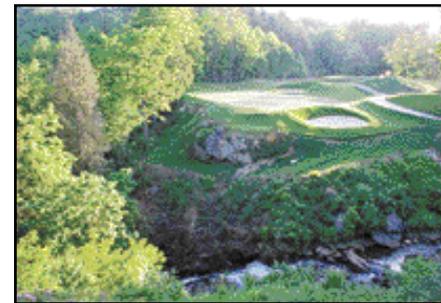
Paul has mentioned the great doctrines of God and Christ. He has already made mention of the resurrection, grace and peace. He comes now to affirm the substitutionary nature of Christ's

atonement. In this, he places the emphasis squarely on the sovereign will of God. He does this to refute the Judaizers who place their emphasis on the works of man. He tells you, Christ "gave himself for our sins," in order "that he might rescue us...according to the will of our God and Father." This shuts down any thought that your rescue is by the merits of man. God delivers you according to his will. Jesus Christ died as your substitute, on your behalf, in your place. He became a curse for you. The message of the cross is herein contained. Paul begins this letter by firmly stating that salvation comes through Jesus Christ and not through any work of man. God is the one who willed your salvation. He sent his Son to accomplish what he willed. He applies it to those he wills by his Spirit. He gives them grace and peace as he wills. He does it where he wills. Thus, they are delivered out of this present evil age by his grace and his grace alone.



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## ...POOL continued from page 17

projects is \$199,975. The lowest bids for all three jobs have put the upgrades over budget with the total now \$206,485.

Regardless, the board voted unanimously to accept the lowest bids.

Northeast Georgia Heating and Air was awarded the \$127,393 bid for the HVAC upgrade; Highlands Construction was awarded the exterior door upgrade \$26,392 bid; and Franklin Glass Service was awarded the electric door upgrade.

To make up the deficit, \$6,814 will be shifted from the fuel oil line item in the Parks and Recreations budget to cover the project particularly because the new heating system will be electric rather than fuel oil.

Commissioner Amy Patterson reminded Frye that this will represent an increase in electric costs so it's not an even swap, but it's likely the new system will be more energy efficient.

### After School Program at Civic Center

Commissioners voted unanimously to charge \$2 per

child per day for the After School Program held at the Civic Center Monday through Friday from 3-5:30 p.m.

Since 2006, the program has been free, but in an effort to recoup some expenses at the Civic Center the new charge will go into effect Jan. 1, 2014.

"This is a minimal charge and will help us recoup some of our expenses," said Recreation Director Lester Norris.

It costs the town \$4.15 per student and there are currently 15 students per day in the program. One-third of them are in town residents; 2/3rds are out of town.

"We are trying to find ways to keep these programs; if we can't fund them we can't keep them," said Commissioner Amy Patterson, who is on the Rec Park Committee with Commissioner Brian Stiehler. "We don't think this is a hardship; you can't hire a babysitter for that. Government can't provide everything for everyone. We provide the facilities but people have to help us out a little if they are going to use it."

She said continuation of the program is important

because it keeps kids safe and off the streets and said if it's something of value, it's worth paying a little bit for it.

Commissioner Gary Drake said in case it is a hardship for some families going into effect Jan. 1, 2014 will give them time to budget.

Slocum Howland said since families in town pay taxes they should be allowed to use the program for free but suggested families who live outside the town be charged.

Commissioner Patterson said both sets of families are part of the Highlands community and are part of the county which subsidizes the Rec Park.

Lila Howland suggested another imbalance.

"You give free utilities and rent to certain organizations and certain nonprofits and not to others. I think we need to put our priorities in order and support our children with a free after school program," she said.

Town Manager Bob Frye said even factoring in what the county gives Highlands for recreation, the Rec Park continues to lose \$90,000 to \$100,000 a year.

"Historically, Rec Parks don't pay for themselves; they are usually in the red, but we have to try to fill that hole," he said.

-- Kim Lewicki



# Patrick Taylor

## FOR MAYOR OF HIGHLANDS

*Create a Mayor's office with open doors.*

The candidate with the experience, mature judgement, the ideas and the time to be an advocate for the people of Highlands.

Resident of Highlands for 14 years • NC Magistrate for 10 years • Teacher for 30 years • Administrator for 20 years • Business Operator for 12 years.

# TAYLOR-MADE FOR HIGHLANDS

Paid for by Patrick Taylor for Mayor

Highlands PD log entries from Aug. 29. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Aug. 29

• At 6:40 a.m., officers responded to a call of vandalism at a residence on Maple Street where a fence was damaged.

Sept. 6

• At 10:33 p.m., officers responded to a civil disagreement at a residence on Galax Court. Where numerous household items were allegedly taken by a girlfriend.

• At 12:40 p.m., officers responded to a call involving larceny of items from a home on Talley Lane.

Sept. 7

• At 2:40 p.m., Khyle Adam Bonczkowski, 29, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI when officers pulled him over on Main Street for driving left of center. He was held on a \$500 secured bond. His trial date is Oct. 9, 2013.

Sept. 9

• At 9:50 p.m., officers responded to a call for involuntary commitment at a residence on Azalea Circle.

Sept. 11

• At 10 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at N. 4th St and US 64 east.

Sept. 13

• At 7:50 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at NC 106 and Main Street.

• At 2 p.m., a suspicious person was reported at Wells Fargo.

Sept. 15

• At 1 p.m., officers responded to a call of simple assault at Madison's Restaurant on Main Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Sept. 12

Sept. 12

• At 6:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence

on Mountain Ashe Lane.

• At 6:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Cobb Road. EMS transported to the hospital.

• At 11:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clear Creek Road. EMS transported to the hospital.

Sept. 14

• At 4:37 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to The Bascom to assist an elderly man who had fallen out of his wheel chair. There were no injuries.

Sept. 15

• At 9:37 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Lost Trail Road where an 73-year-old woman had fallen. EMS transported to the hospital.

Sept. 18

• At 10:16 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Queen Mtn. Road. EMS transported to the hospital.

Sept. 19

• At 5:31 p.m., the dept. responded to one vehicle accident on Mirror Lake Road where the driver ran up an embankment and into a ditch. There were no injuries.

Sept. 21

• At 4:22 p.m., the dept. provided traffic control on US 64 west.

• At 5:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Humming Bird Lane. It was false.

• At 5:17 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on West View Way.

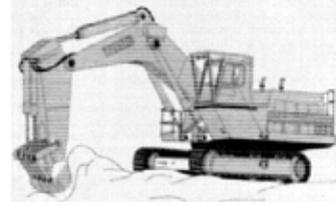
• At 5:20 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Main Street where a 70-year-old man hand fallen. EMS transported to the hospital.

Sept. 22

• At 7:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence at VZ-Top. EMS transported to the hospital.

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## ...TEACHERS from page 1

In addition, the legislature has eliminated Master degree pay increases.

“This is proof of what’s actually going on in our state and it is the reason we are losing good educators,” said Breedlove.

The information released by NC Policy Watch shows that over the last decade Wyoming is the top payer – with salaries increasing 18.4%. North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia are in the negative category: North Carolina is -15.7%, South Carolina is -6.9%, Georgia is -5.9%, and Tennessee is -4.2%

The board took the information under advisement.

In other BOE news, Sheriff Robert Holland introduced the new Student Crime Stoppers program, which works exactly as the county wide program and will be in affect in two weeks.

Calls to the Sheriff’s Office regarding any kind of criminal behavior is anonymous.

“This relates to bullying and anything else that can be related to a crime,” he said.

Holland said he wants students to know that it’s OK to take responsibility for their schools. “This is your school’ is the slogan.

The phone number is 828-349-2600 and following a lengthy recording students will be told how to proceed, which begins with a code name. “This guarantees it is anonymous,” he said.

When the officer on the other end gets a call, the Student Resource Officer is notified who then tells the principal before following up on the information

-- Kim Lewicki

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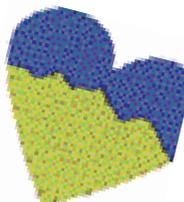
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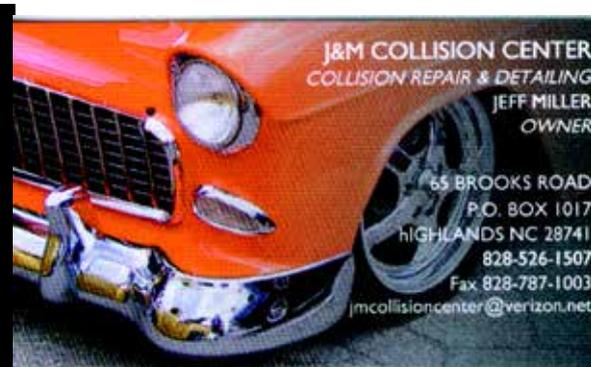


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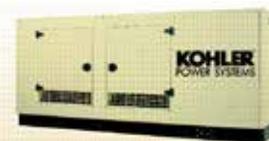
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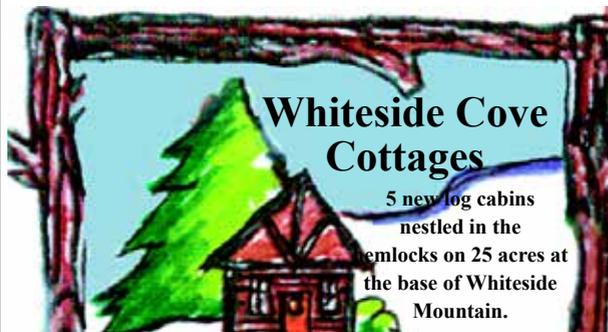
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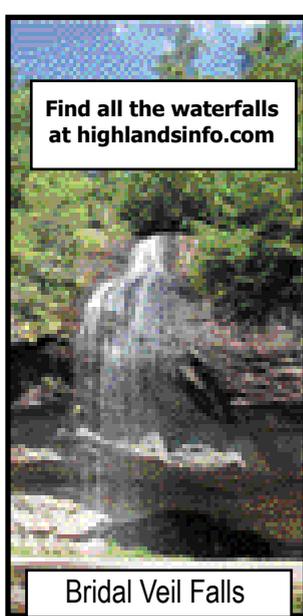
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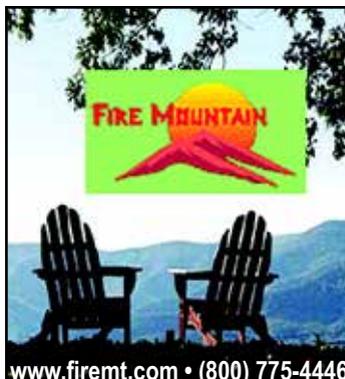
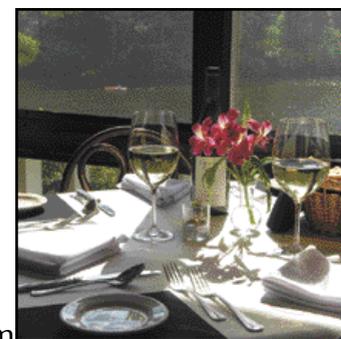
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