



Thumbs up, thumbs down Our Voice

Hickory Daily Record Editorial

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THUMBS UP to the rating system for adult care facilities. People looking to move themselves or a loved one into an assisted living or skilled care facility have one more way to evaluate the possibilities. Word of mouth can be fickle or reliable — the difficulty is deciding on whether to trust the source. And looks can be deceiving — in the positive or negative. The star rating system appears to be a good way to evaluate an adult care facility that could become home. Much of the scrutiny is already done for you. You still need to visit a facility, talk to management, staff and residents. Your impressions do count. But another means of rating is certainly welcome.

THUMBS UP to the determination of Saturn of Hickory and other Saturn dealerships that refuse to scream and run because General Motors is giving the ax to their bread and butter. Franchise owners, including Hickory's Don Mummert, vow to keep their lots open and their service departments up and running. When Saturn goes the way of the Oldsmobile in 2011, Mummert and cohorts across the nation say they'll keep selling Saturns and taking care of their customers. And they'll shop around and see if the network can latch on to another manufacturer seeking an instant chain for marketing and retailing. Nothing is certain in this unsteady economy, but it's good to see people not afraid to go boldly into the future and refuse to stick it to their customers and run away. We see signs of this positive attitude among other car dealers and other businesses. It's a relief. Nobody is ready to sing "Happy Days Are Here Again" yet, but voices of optimism are cutting through the gloom.

THUMBS UP to the Carolina Thread Trail. No, it doesn't have anything to do with textiles, a network of walking trails, waterways and greenways to connect 15 counties — including Catawba — through the outdoors. The system will link approximately 2.3 million people, more than 40 destinations and 7,300 acres in North and South Carolina. This could be boon for tourism. It surely will give people the initiative to go places they haven't been and sightsee from vantage points they haven't discovered. Nature and history — a good combination. This Thread Trail concept looks like a sure winner.

THUMBS DOWN to the crooks breaking into churches. A person has to be really low-down to smash a church — or a school or someone's home, for that matter — and steal. We hope the police catch the miscreants and can let them cool their heels in jail for a while. Then, let the judge reward them with jewelry — leg or wrist monitors that severely limit their freedom for a longer while.

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