

Highlands Newspaper

Happy Groundhog Day!

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Volume 20, Number 5

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Thurs., Feb. 2, 2023

Scaly bridge construction to take 2 years

No detours necessary for replacing bridge on N.C. 106

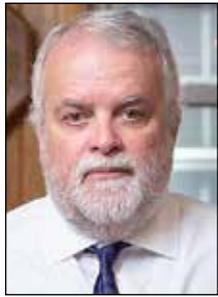
An 84-year-old bridge on N.C. 106 in Macon County is the process of being replaced with a modern structure that will facilitate travel for North Carolina resi-

dents and visitors.

The N.C. Department of Transportation permitted construction to begin the week of Jan. 30, when crews will begin re-

placing the existing bridge on N.C. 106 over Middle Creek, southwest of Scaly Mountain, less than two miles from the Georgia state line.

• See **BRIDGE** page 14



JK Coward

Highlands Attorney resigns

On Friday, January 27, Mayor Pat Taylor announced the resignation of Town Attorney JK Coward.

James Kent Coward, Jr. of the law firm of Coward, Hicks and Siler who has served as the Highlands Town Attorney for the past nine years submitted his resignation as of Thursday, January 26, 2023.

He will continue to serve as

• See **RESIGNS** page 13



40-year veteran of the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. Gary Ammons was named Fireman of the Year at Saturday's annual awards ceremony. He is pictured here with Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart and Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester.

- Photo by Kim Lewicki

Annual Awards ceremony celebrates a year of service

On Saturday night, the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. celebrated a year well done at its annual awards ceremony and banquet held at OEI's Spring House.

Firefighters, spouses and retired firefighters gathered for the evening where the 683 calls amounting to 1, 477 manhours

• See **AWARDS** page 15

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Highlanders win Fridays' Senior Night home games

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Highlands girls varsity basketball team hosted Blue Ridge Early College on Friday and were victorious with a 52-20 final.

The Lady Highlanders got off to a great start and steadily grew their lead throughout the game, but that didn't faze the Lady Bobcats who never eased off the throttle and played with intensity

until the final buzzer.

After the game, Highlands celebrated Senior Night and recognized senior athletes from basketball and cheerleading.

Recognized Highlands seniors include basketball players Ezra Branham, B Bryson, Lilly Bryson, Riley Conner, Bella Wilson, Nathan Keener, James Earp; and cheerleaders Anna Stiehler and Ashlynn Wilson.

• See photos on page 17

Town Board weighs in on NCLM legislative goals

Every two years, the North Carolina League of Municipalities puts together a list of legislative goals which is formulated by its board of directors.

After the list is finalized, the goals are sent to NCLM members - the cities and towns in the state - to hear their priorities.

The basic process includes

members submitting their ideas for legislative goals. Ideas are to fit into the League's overarching policy focus areas, be actionable and be applicable to cities and towns statewide.

Then, the NCLM Legislative Policy Committee considers all submitted ideas through the

• See **NCLM** page 16

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Pennies For Preservation

We went to St. Simons Island this past weekend. When I visit other communities, I'm always looking for new ideas and how other towns address common municipal problems. As I have mused in the past, communities on the Golden Isle of Georgia have much in common with Highlands. These coastal towns, like St. Simons, are surrounded by a unique ecological environment of the vast marshlands and tidal estuaries. To Georgia's credit, they have worked to preserve these unique spaces while promoting tourism and development. Highlands, located on this high and narrow plateau, has faced the similar challenges.

Like so many visitors, Sallie and I love to come to the Georgia coast to see and partake in its natural beauty and wildlife. The folks of coastal Georgia are keenly aware that marshlands cannot be lost to overdevelopment. Such development would jeopardize the fishing and shrimp industry as well as impact tourism.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

On the Highlands Plateau, we also enjoy a unique ecological space. There are plant and animal species here that are not found in other places. We can't afford to compromise this natural realm for over-development and short-term financial gain, by a few. If we destroy what we have, it does not come back. We could face paraphrasing Milton, a paradise lost.

So, Sallie and I were having lunch at a nice restaurant in St. Simons. While waiting for our orders, I noticed a brochure on the table. It was called Pennies for Preservation. I read it with interest.

Pennies for Preservation is a program that the St. Simons Land Trust developed in 2017. The brochure clearly stated that 25 cents would be added to our bill. That quarter would go to the St. Simons Land Trust for preserving valuable land on the island. This program involving participating restaurants is not mandatory. Any customer can request the 25 cents to be removed from their bill. It is a voluntary program that needs no ordinances or state-enabling legislation.

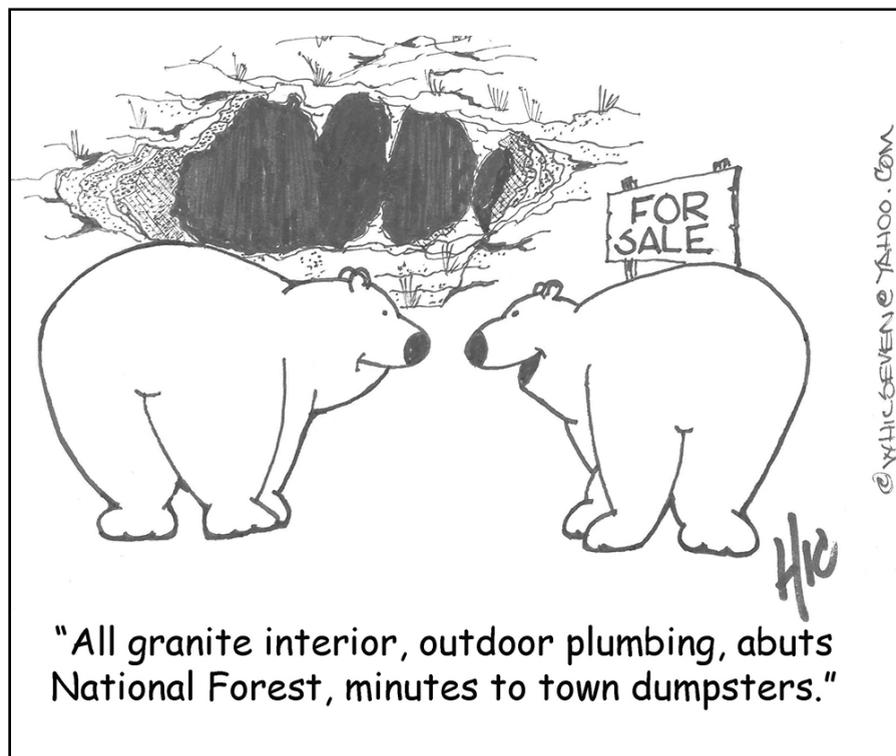
I suspect the restaurants don't encounter too many cheapskate ne'er do wells that protest the extra 25 cents. It is too little of a cost, preserving such a critical environment, to make a complaint, I should think.

Here is my idea; folks in Highlands could implement such a preservation program. With the influx of tourists and visitors who frequent our restaurants, a modest program of 25 cents on every bill could impact preservation and conservation efforts on the plateau. A 50-cent or dollar contribution might even be more in line with dining costs in Highlands.

The funds from this voluntary program could be directed toward the Highlands Land Trust or the Highlands Biological Station. The Highlands Land Trust could apply the funds toward acquiring additional property or for maintaining the property that they currently hold in trust. The Highlands Biological Station and its

• See MAYOR page 4

• HIC'S VIEW •



"All granite interior, outdoor plumbing, abuts National Forest, minutes to town dumpsters."

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• WEATHER •

Thu, 2-Feb	Fri, 3-Feb	Sat, 4-Feb	Sun, 5-Feb
44°F	43°F	38°F	46°F
33°F	17°F	22°F	29°F
Periods of rain	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny and chilly	Cloudy and milder
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Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

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FEBRUARY 10 - 14

Valentine's
Day

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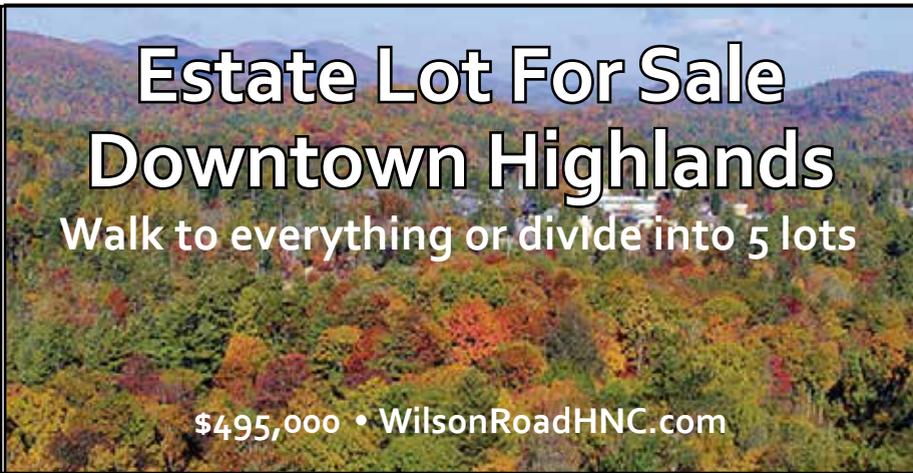
view details

...MAYOR continued from page 2

foundation could use the funds to support research efforts on the Highlands Plateau. There may be other applications for the funds that I am not currently aware of or considered.

I am making this proposal for the

preservation of the Highlands Plateau environment. What intrigues me about such a program is that it would be community driven and not mandated by any government agency. Let's give it a thought and let me know what you think.



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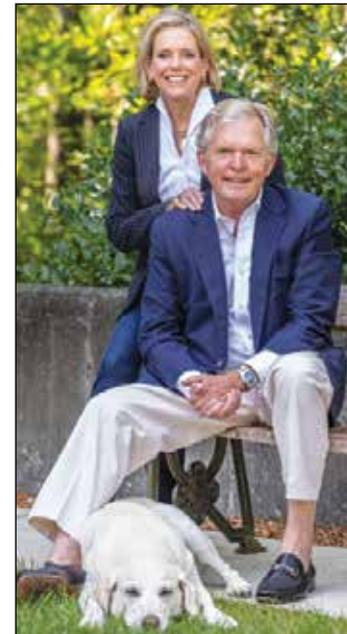
This is the place for you!

For my day job I have the privilege of being in the real estate business with Highlands Sotheby's, a career I truly love. I am driven by what I like to call "The Four Fs"-- Faith, Family, Friends, and Fly Fishing. By focusing on the Four Fs, I believe it makes me better at life and hopefully a better real estate broker.

Life in Highlands has also allowed me to serve on the Highlands Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors as its Marketing Chairperson, and the Mirror Lake Improvement Association to help "Save Mirror Lake." I am thankful for both incredible organizations because they honor The Four Fs, and they truly help the real estate business!

In my eyes, The Town of Highlands and our Chamber of Commerce are in many ways one body. By the Chamber and the Town working together, it's YOU...the real estate consumer, the 1,067 full-time residents, the business owner, the visitor, and the employee who truly wins. The Highlands Chamber of Commerce embraces the following core message as its brand: HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA I THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS I ELEV. 4118. This is the place for you!

Last week, I attended a Strategic Planning Conference with the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. We focused on priorities to serve our membership, our citizens, the visitor experience, and to responsibly partner with Town of Highlands initiatives which will complement our residents, communities, and the Highlands way of life. And yes...the relationship between the real estate business, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Town is certainly woven



The Gleeson Family
Pat, Bee and Gemma
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into the fabric of the right Strategic Plan.

I think the best way to sum it up is to read the following quote from Maura Gast. I don't know of a better way to state the relationship between tourism, citizens, businesses, and Town of Highlands leadership:

"If you build a place where people like to visit, you build a place where people want to live.

If you build a place where people want to live, you build a place where people want to work.

If you build a place where people want to work, you build a place where businesses need to be.

If you build a place where businesses need to be,

you're back to having a place where people want to visit."

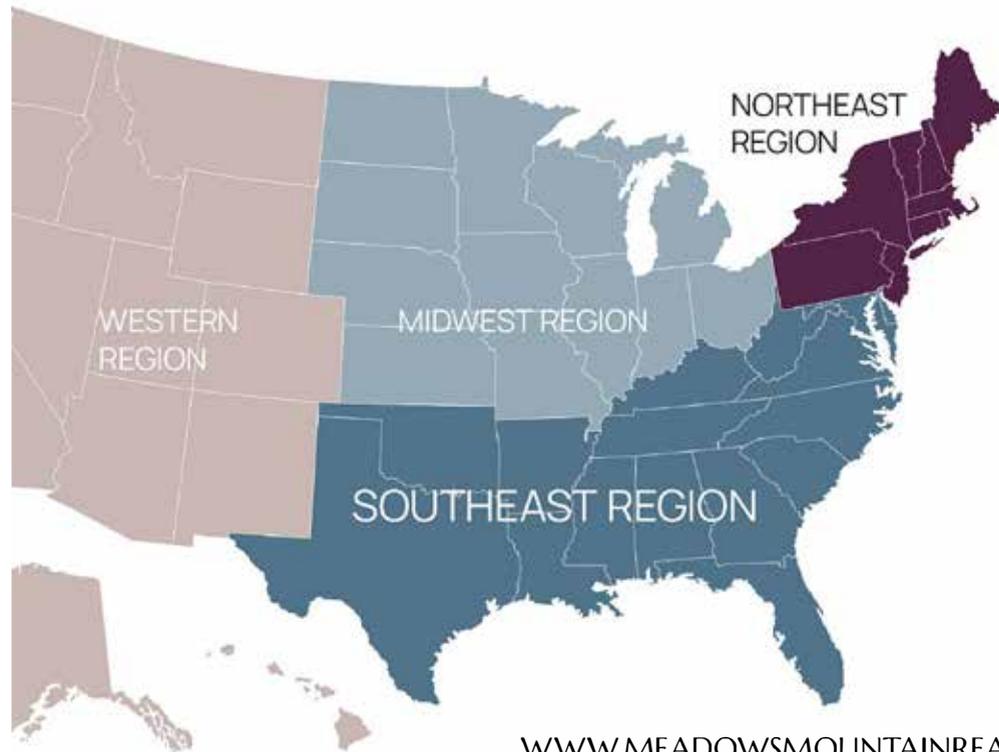
Thank you, Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Town of Highlands leaders and staff, business owners, Mirror Lake Improvement Association, visitors, "locals," and those who want to become locals (shameless real estate plug). Here's to 2023 and more of the Four Fs (Faith, Family, Friends, and Fly Fishing). This is the place for you! Why, you ask? Because it's the Height of Happiness!

• Pat Gleeson, Bee Gleeson, Christal Green and Gemma are proud to be a team of "Helpers" and Real Estate Brokers at Highlands-Sotheby's International Realty in downtown Highlands (Kitty Corner from Old Edwards Inn). You can reach all of us at 828.526.8300. Please stop by for coffee and conversation.

MC Youth Soccer signups close Feb. 9

Macon County Youth Soccer signups for the spring is open for ages 5-15. Registration is online at maconsoccer.net through February 9th.

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• OBITUARIES •

Kenny DeWitt Youmans

Kenny DeWitt Youmans was born on May 5, 1941, in Swainsboro, GA. Kenny passed away peacefully on January 27, 2023, surrounded by his family and beloved dog.

His family moved to Pooler, GA after the end of WWII, and later moved to Savannah where he graduated from Savannah High School. After high school, Kenny attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College for two years and later graduated from The University of Georgia with a degree in Business. He was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity and the Gridiron Society and made lifelong friends from his time at UGA. Kenny served in the US Army Reserve as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Kenny met his loving wife Jane on a blind date in 1966 and married eight months later in June 1967. They spent 55 wonderful years together and raised two children, Kyle and Kendra. Many of their years were spent in Orlando, FL where Kenny was an Agent for State Farm Insurance. Kenny loved Orlando and spent a lot of his time actively involved in civic organizations and clubs such as the Downtown Athletic Club, Orlando Touchdown Club and was on the Board of Directors for both the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and YMCA.

In 1998, Kenny and Jane bought a home in Highlands, NC and have spent every summer since enjoying all the mountains have to offer. He loved to hike Whiteside Mountain and enjoyed volunteering at The Highlands Bookworm, the American Legion and the Rotary Club of Highlands.

Kenny and Jane are members of both First Presbyte-

rian Church of Orlando and Highlands United Methodist Church. He was a devout Christian and served the Lord with a joyful heart. His men's bible-study groups in Orlando and Highlands were a constant source of inspiration for his spiritual walk. He enjoyed playing golf, hiking, reading, loved public speaking and storytelling, especially history and little-known facts. Most of all, he loved his Georgia Bulldogs and was able to see his DAWGS win the national championship title for the second time in two years. Anyone who knew Kenny, knew his outgoing personality and his love for his friends and family.

For several years he wrote a column for Highlands Newspaper under the banner, "On the Sunnyside." Readers enjoyed his uplifting stories.

Kenny was preceded in death by his parents, Ira Tate and Mildred Newton Youmans. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Jane, as well as his son, Kyle Youmans (Lianne) of Celebration, FL and his daughter, Kendra Stearman (Matthew) of Prescott, AZ; grandchildren Holden Youmans, Pierce Youmans and Emma Stearman; sisters Angela Hobbs of Savannah, GA and Joy Norman of Cincinnati, OH as well as a host of nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 2 PM at Highlands United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. A live stream will be available on the church website. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations be made to Highlands United Methodist Church, the Highlands Country Club Scholarship Fund or to your favorite charity.



Kenny Youmans

Daniel Boyd Coffeen

Daniel "Danny" Boyd Coffeen, 68, of Highlands, NC sadly and unexpectedly left this world Saturday, January 21, 2023, at his home. He was born Aug. 12, 1954. He was preceded in death by his parents Thomas Lund Coffeen and Bettye Jane Coffeen, of Highlands.

Danny was a Navy Veteran who loved the outdoors and spending time with his family. He left behind two sons Jesse Coffeen and Lee Coffeen, three grandchildren, Ben Sullivan, Eliza Mae Coffeen, and Beatrix Avery Coffeen, two loving sisters Debra Coffeen and Diane Sackman, as well as nieces Britany and Allie Sackman,

Ashlie Mitchell, and nephews Adam Sackman and Robbie Wilson. In his later years Danny enjoyed a quiet retirement in the mountains, doting on his grandchildren, taking hikes with his sisters, or watching games and talking sports with his sons.

As per Danny's request, no funeral or memorial service will be held. His ashes will be spread privately by family at his favorite beach and fishing spot.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Coffeen family.



Chuck Baty

There will be a Celebration of Life for Chuck Baty, Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Highlands Community Building at North 4th Street (past the ballfield) from 5-9 p.m. (Inclement Weather Date February 18)

Chuck died in December 2022. He was born in 1952.

Several bands will perform during the evening. There will be an opportunity for friends to speak about Chuck. Some of the musicians attending are Grass Roots Revue (Chuck's group) John Munger & friends along with many others

who have picked with Chuck and want to pay tribute to him.

Come enjoy fellowship and food while we remember our dear friend, Chuck. His father was Chief of Police in Highlands many years ago, and his mother, Bill Baty, recently celebrated her 100th birthday at the Eckerd Living Center. Chuck lived in the Highlands area his entire life.

If you have any pictures of Chuck that you would like to include in a slide show, please send to Terry Tritt terrym.tritt@gmail.com

• See OBITUARIES page 13



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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

What Does Self-Care Look Like in 2023?

Self-care” is a buzzword that is often used these days, but what does it really mean? As we look to 2023, many of us contemplate what we can do to care for our bodies and minds better so both our physical and mental health are supported — myself included.

After the unprecedented events of the past nearly three years, our understanding of doing what’s best for our health, and for the health of others, has been tested. We learned a lot about viruses in an effort to keep COVID-19 at bay, and the most universal practices were social distancing, washing our hands frequently, masking consistently indoors, and of course, making sure we were up to date on our vaccines, including COVID-19.

It’s still important to remain mindful and continue these practices as we wait out this winter, where we are seeing a “triple-demic” of COVID-19, flu, and RSV, a highly contagious respiratory virus that can be particularly harmful to babies.

Some of the things I think about that can be considered good self-care strategies



Tom Neal CEO, CNO
Highlands-Cashiers
Hospital

are as simple as following through on your commitment to getting routine healthcare, like your yearly wellness exam and important screenings, such as colonoscopies and mammograms.

Next, everyday practices such as eating a healthy diet that is rich in fruits and vegetables, low-fat dairy, lean proteins like chicken and fish, beans and seeds, and healthy fats, as opposed to one heavy in highly processed foods and red meat, as well as exercising most days of the week are also hugely supportive of your health and reduce the risk of serious health conditions, like heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, and certain cancers. Though these practices seem simple enough, our busy lives often interfere with succeeding at reaching these goals.

This is where self-care that supports your mental and spiritual health comes in. I’ve talked many times before about how you really cannot separate emotional wellness from physical wellness — it’s a package deal. Important discoveries have been made about what boosts our mental health, and since many sources declare that many Americans are suffering from mental health struggles, these steps go a long way to enhance your mood and outlook.

We experienced widespread isolation during the pandemic, and those who were used to going to the gym for stress relief had to find another outlet. Many discovered or revisited the peace that being in nature brings, whether that’s taking a bike ride, running through a trail on one of our beautiful mountains, or power walking with your dog.

Again, the solutions to good self-care are neither complicated nor expensive. On a morning when it’s 22 degrees outside, the last thing you may feel like doing is taking a brisk walk, but if you can just get out there and put one foot in front of the other,

you’re doing your mind good and supporting your heart, joints, and more.

Living in this age of information overload takes its toll as well. Between our phones, laptops, and tablets, we’re inundated with messaging about everything from urgent work matters to what movies a streaming service thinks you would enjoy. It’s too much, so taking a break from the constant influx of information is critical. There’s a lot of leeway here too. Giving yourself a rest might mean turning off your phone while you enjoy dinner with friends, sitting with a good book and a cup of tea, rather than scrolling on social media, going to a yoga class or doing 15 minutes of meditation can do your brain a world of good, too.

We now also know that our surroundings contribute to both our physical and mental health. You will feel better if your home or workplace office is set up in an ergonomically smart way. Investing in a high-quality adjustable office chair and ensuring that your computer monitor is at the correct level so as not to cause you to squint or strain to see it or tilt your head uncomfortably helps you avoid back pain, neck discomfort, eye strain, and headaches, to name a few.

It’s also a good idea to check your posture and try to avoid slouching. Getting up and moving around every half-hour or so and using a standing desk helps guard against sitting for most of the day, which has been identified as “the new smoking” when it comes to posing long-term health risks.

Finally, spiritual well-being can also support your health. Faith and meditation encourage a gratitude-based mindset as well. Studies have also revealed that spiritual individuals develop better coping skills, experience reduced levels of depression, anxiety, and suicide, and even enjoy longer lives.

Some of these self-care strategies may surprise you, but they all offer real advantages, and they’re doable. For 2023, let’s think about how we can take some of these ideas and put them into practice for a healthier life.

We at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital pledge to continue doing our part to support and enhance your health, whether you come to us for routine care or need to make a visit to the Emergency Department for some reason. We’re committed to caring for you, year in and year out.



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Highlands School Varsity Swim Team qualifies for Regionals

Steve Hott, Head Coach HS Varsity Swimming and Diving

All six members of the Highlands School Varsity Swim Team have qualified and are scheduled to go to the 2023 NCHSAA Western Regional Swim Meet at the Mecklenburg Aquatics Center on Saturday, February 4.

They will compete with swim teams from the other 109, 1A and 2A teams vying to go to the State Championships the following week.

The 400-freestyle relay of Finneaus Garner, Conner Hughes, Paolo McRae, Aniah McKim, and alternate Jesus Mendoza is seeded 10th.

Sophomore Garner, and Freshman McKim are also seeded 10th in the 50-free, and the 100-breaststroke, respectively.



The same boys are seeded 12th and 16th in the 200-medley relay and the 200-free relay.

Freshmen Tate Wilson and Conner Hughes are seeded 20th in the 500-free and the 100-butterfly. Freshman Paolo McRae is seeded 24th in the 200-individual medley.

The top six from each region in NC automatically go to the State Championships. The next six fastest at-large from all three regions also go.

Garner, McKim, Hughes and McRae are each going to swim four events, the most allowed in the meet. In the 200-medley relay, Garner is slated to go backstroke, McKim breaststroke, Hughes butterfly and McRae freestyle.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Highlands Chamber of Commerce announces Leadership Highlands 2023 Class

Leadership Highlands, a Highlands Chamber of Commerce / Visit Highlands, NC community engagement program, today announced its 2023 class.

The educational program is aimed at emerging and existing leaders in the Highlands community, offering an opportunity to enhance civic knowledge, leadership skills and network. Those selected commit to and engage in an eight-month curriculum, from March through October, that includes a retreat, day-long classes each month, a variety of enrichment workshops and projects, and a graduation ceremony.

"We are so excited about our Leadership Highlands 2023 class members," says Kaye McHan, executive director of Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC. "Their various business and non-profit backgrounds will enrich the learning, dialogues and experience for all."

Members of Leadership Highlands 2023 include: William Beck, Joshua Bryson, Michelle Davis, Timothy Dearth, Christo-

pher Duffy, Keith Gilbert, Daryl Griswold, Jane Jerry, Samantha Mattern, Karin Peterson, James Spencer, Margaret Shutze, Carol Taylor and Jerry Wilson.

Resurrected in 2022 after a hiatus, Leadership Highlands brings together local experts and class members to engage and discuss topics such as Highlands' history and cultural resources, economic development, government and public safety, health and human resources, education, arts and outdoor recreation. Personal leadership skills are developed through principle-based decision-making and team-building exercises. The Leadership Highlands 2022 class had 12 graduates. Selection criteria includes civic involvement, leadership potential, diversity of perspective and commitment to the program and the Highlands community.

A committee comprised of Highlands Chamber of Commerce staff, Board of Directors members and previous participants selects the class.

Highlanders score a victory on Senior Night against BREC

By Mason Stoltzfus
Plateau Daily News

Like the girls varsity basketball team, Highlands boys varsity hosted Blue Ridge Early College on Friday and while both Bobcats and Highlanders played a hard fought game, Highlands took the win 59-52.

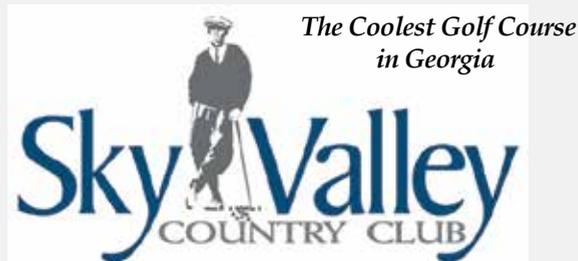
Highlands celebrated Senior Night and recognized senior basketball players and cheerleaders between varsity games. This year the boys varsity team loses seniors James Earp and Nathan Keener.

The bleachers were also packed with fans wearing black for "Black out against cancer."



Senior James Earp moves in.

Junior Landon Green controls the ball.



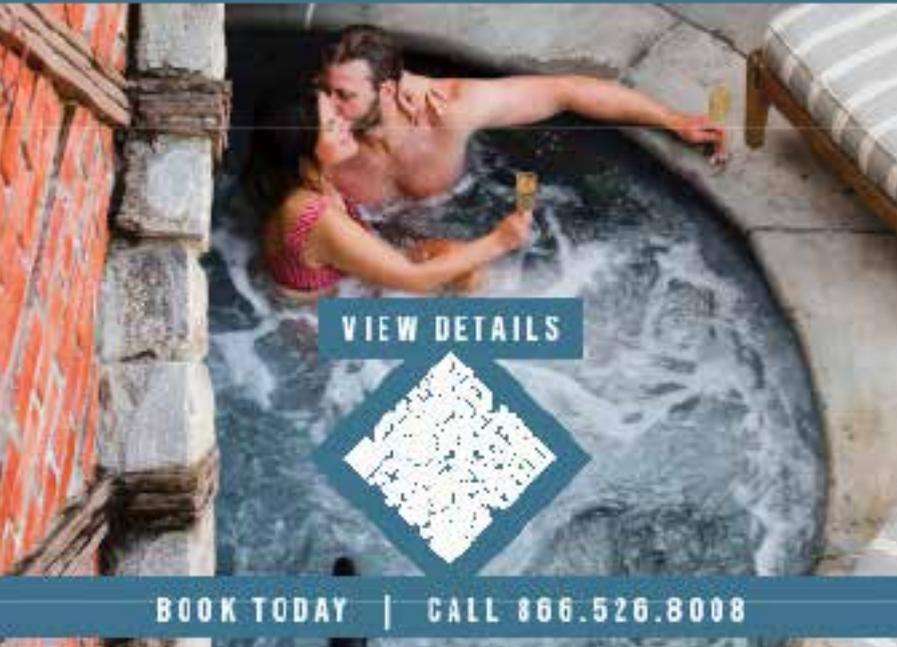
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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

ICE RINK SCHEDULE (Through March 5)

- Thursday: 3:30-8 p.m.; Friday 3:30-10pm; Saturday 1-10pm; Sunday 1-5pm. \$5 for skate rental & skating

THE POOL IS CLOSED FOR REPAIRS

Rec Pool Hours EXTENDED

- Public Swim: Mon.-Wed. 3:30-7p; Sat. 11a-6p; Sun. 1-6p. Adult Swim: Mon.-Wed. 11a-3:30p and Thurs. and Fri., 11a-2p. Lap Swim: Mon-Fri 6a-9:45a and Sat. 10-11a. Water Aerobics: Mon.-Fri. 10-11a. 828-526-1595.

Second Mondays

- The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women with financial need who want to return to school or further their education meets at 10 a.m. More meeting places call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004

1st Tuesdays

- Indivisible Highlands from 5-6:30 pm at the Hudson Library.

2nd Tuesdays

- Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings held on the second or third Tuesday of each month at 3pm. Members receive weekly notification regarding when and how the group will assemble. For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

Tuesdays

- Strength Training 8:15-9:15am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

Mon-Fri

- Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10-11am. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

- Pickle Ball inside and outside. 10am-1pm, everyone is welcome so

come out and enjoy a game of Pickle Ball.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

- The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p.

Mon. & Wed.

- New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more information, call Anna 267-825-0716.

Mon, Wed, Fri

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30-9:30am. \$25 a month, The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

- Aerobics w/Tina Rogers 8-9a. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

Tues. & Thurs.

- New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin from 4:30-5:30p. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

- Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

First Wednesdays

Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health, at 11:00 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health issues of particular interest to them. The February 1 program is PTSD: Healing the Emotional Wound.

Wednesdays

- ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? Visit www.maconncliteracy.org, call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

Thursdays

- Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

for a calorie-burning workout. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• At Hudson Library, Kids Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide variety of STEAM, nature, and craft activities. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

2nd Saturdays

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. March thru November.

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main Street in their Community Room/909 Chapel. We serve breakfast at 9am and hold our monthly meeting at 10am. We invite ALL Veterans to attend. Contact Ed McCloskey, Commander for any information @828-787-1660.

• At the Rec Park, Senior Lunches noon in the meeting room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

Through Tues. Feb. 14

• Old Edwards offers an array of heart-warming delights to make the celebration special and stress free. Sip on his and hers speciality cocktails while listening to live music in Hummingbird Lounge. Reserve an intimate table for two at Madison's Restaurant to indulge in the chef's specialties created just for the occasion. In the Spa at Old Edwards, relax with a couple's massage including rose petals and champagne. Put a sparkle in her eyes with a visit to the jewelry counter at Acorns where you'll enjoy 10-30% off selected pieces February 1 through the 14. Plan now for your more-love-less-stress Valentine's Celebration at Old Edwards by calling 828-526-8008.

Sat., Feb. 4

• Portrait of the Queen offers an original portrayal of the story of The Queen from a totally new perspective: through the most intense, amaz-

ing, revealing photographic portraits of her, as shared by the extraordinary photographers who accompanied and often created the image of the British monarchy itself. At PAC on Chestnut Street at 1 p.m.

Thurs., Feb. 9

• Chamber Chats at the Highlands Community Building on Poplar Street from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Light breakfast with coffee and tea. For more information and to RSVP contact Colleen Kerrigan at businessservices@highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-5841.

Sat., Feb. 11

• Girl Scout cookies are available for sale at 4118 Kitchen in Highlands Plaza from 12-4p.

Mystery Book Club meeting at Shakespeare & Co., in Village Square at 2 p.m. Cathy Pickens, the Carolinas' Queen of Crim and Shakespeare & Co.'s writer-in-residence will host the meeting. Refreshments by The Secret Garden. Snow date is Sat., Feb. 18.

Feb. 25

• Girl Scout cookies are available for sale at Highlands Wine Shoppe at Main and 3rd streets from 12-4p.

March 4

• Girl Scout cookies are available for sale at 4118 Kitchen in Highlands Plaza from 12-4p.

Thurs., March 9

• Chamber Chats at the Highlands Community Building on Poplar Street from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Light breakfast with coffee and tea. For more information and to RSVP contact Colleen Kerrigan at businessservices@highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-5841.

Fri., March 24

• At PAC, Rhythm of the Dance. For tickets, email highlandspacnc@gmail.com

Sun., May 14

• At PAC, Steep Canyon Rangers. For tickets, email highlandspacnc@gmail.com

First 'Mystery Book Club' meeting is Sat., Feb. 11



Cathy Pickens, the Carolinas' Queen of Crime — and Shakespeare & Co. writer-in-residence — will host the first meeting of our Mystery Book Club on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 2pm. Refreshments from the Secret Garden. (Snow date is Sat., Feb. 18.)

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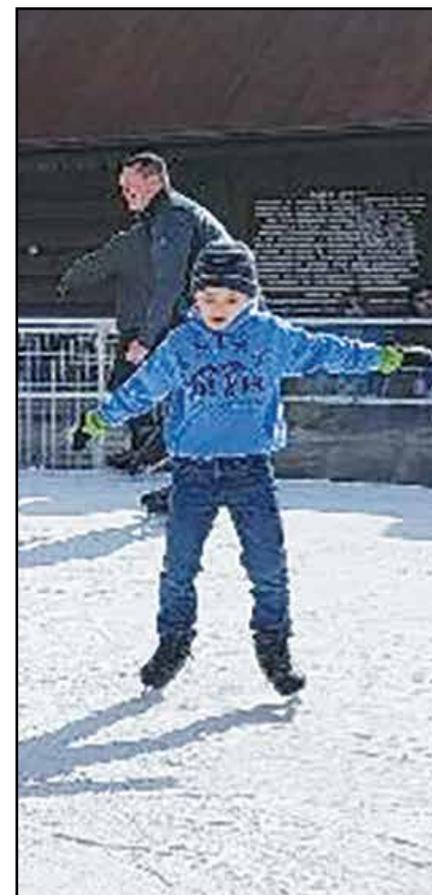
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2nd Annual Snow Fest at K-H Park draws crowds for winter fun



Photos by Jim and Kim Lewicki



...OBITUARIES continued from page 7**Mary Leola Talley**

Mary Leola Talley, 83, of Franklin, NC, passed away Sunday, January 29, 2023. She was born July 31, 1939 in Macon County to the late Fred and Bertie Holland Dills. Mrs. Talley worked in nursing and was a CNA. She volunteered at the Highlands Emergency Council and was on the Board of Directors. She loved working in her garden and loved all her family and friends. She was a member of Buck Creek Baptist Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Mary Barnes of Highlands, NC; son, Jeff Talley of Franklin, NC; grandchildren, Nicole Barnes, Jamie Barnes and Amanda Keith; great-grandchildren, Sophie Keith, Emmerson Keith, Sawyer Barnes and Colton Mathis; and a brother, Ronnie Dills.



In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three husbands, Gene Munger, Howard Talley, and Freeman Rice; a sister, Martha Wilson and two brothers, Wade Dills and Willis Dills.

A graveside service will be held Friday, February 3, 2023 at 2:00 pm at Buck Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, with Rev. Oliver Rice officiating. Pallbearers will be Jamie Barnes, Joshua Mathis, Brad Keith, Chris Peek, Jason Jackson and Lonnie Barnes. The family will receive friends from 12:00 to 1:15 at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Talley family. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Vincent Barrett 'Barry' Jones

Vincent Barrett (Barry) Jones of Highlands, NC, passed away Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at age 83.

Barry was born in Jackson, GA to the late Vincent S. and Sue Pope Jones. In his youth he was most proud to be a member of his local Boy Scout Troup and achieved the ranking of Eagle Scout before going on to Emory at Oxford Prep School, then graduated from Emory University in Atlanta.

His career included advertising and film making for PBS. A documentary on Grandfather Mountain brought him to the GA/NC mountains. He moved on to Tiger, GA then Highlands, NC.

Left to cherish Barry's memory is his devoted wife, Paula Jones. Barry and Paula started



a rustic woodworking business, Tiger Mountain Woodworks in 1989, then The Summer House, a home furnishing center in Highlands. Barry is also survived by brother Alan Jones of Jackson, GA, stepson, James Christian (Mary); three grandchildren and stepdaughter, Michelle Hardy (Chris) and Barry's loving puppy, Oliver.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring at Barry and Paula's home, Frog Pond Farm in Highlands - date to be announced.

Memorials may be made to the Highlands Land Trust, Highlands Community Child Development Center, The Bascom Fine Arts Center, all in Highlands, NC.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Jones family. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

...RESIGNS continued from page 1

legal consultant for the next year as the town makes the transition to a new Town Attorney.

The Huff vs. The Town of Highlands case which is set for Feb. 27 in Swain County where the town intends to file a motion to dismiss. The case is being handled by Poyner and Spurill which took over the town's STR legal issues last year.

Meanwhile, Mayor Taylor said the Town Board will start the process of finding a new Town Attorney this week.

The Town Board hires two positions – the Town Manger land the Town Attorney.

A Special Town Board meeting has been called for Friday, Feb. 3 at 3 p.m. in the Community Building to discuss the process of hiring a new Town Attorney.

- Kim Lewicki

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• THEN AND NOW •

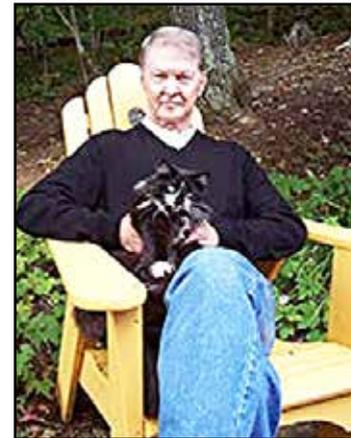
Our winter getaway

First, my wife and I recently returned from our 11-day cruise to the eastern Caribbean, and while the vivid, pre-scheduled sunsets, lemony moons, and forever-sunny, toasty days still linger in my mind, I thought I might share these post-cruise thoughts from our winter getaway. Frankly, I missed the stony moons, foggy haze, chilly rains, and gloom of the mountains.

Did you know you can choose a theme for your cruise? We chose the swanky Old People one rather than the Disney Family Fun, Corporate Rich Folks, Ordinary Luxury, Grotesque Luxury, Personal Yacht, Tall Ships, Costa Mass Market, or the Wal-Mart of the cruise lines, the Carnival Carnivore Party. Who doesn't like the idea of pampering and opulence while actually going somewhere?

While docked in Barbados, we found our ship of only 400 to be the smallest of the mammoth wedding cake ships of the Costa, MSC, and Celebrity lines. The Celebrity Edge had an engine propeller bigger than our house. I puzzled over the black mega-Celebrity Edge with the X and three smokestacks next to us, preferred by my neighbor because he thinks it's named after his Greek fraternity, until I remembered scenes from the movie Troy where all the Greeks landed on the beach in similar wooden three-masted black ships disgorging thousands of tourists who wanted to visit reluctant natives and ransack, loot, and pillage historic sites.

It seems that the Edge's letter X actually symbolizes lots of things, mainly the ancient Greek



Milton Ready

Chandris family that built those first black ships used to sack Troy and lots of other places. They're still in business.

When teaching college students the history of the ancient world as the bulwark of civilization, I remind them of the enduring legacies of our white supremacist Viking ancestors, loin-clothed Brad Pitt Greek lookalikes, and Richard Burton accented Roman conquerors, namely that of owning all the major cruise lines today. Who needs the burdens of armies and territories anymore? It pays to have a good classical education . . .

We had an ultra-luxurious stateroom with a desk-sized balcony cleaned 10 times daily by our swarthy Filipino steward Raoul and his professionally smiling assistant. I think my Pollyanna smiling wife had a crush on Raoul. I'm sure he left her an extra chocolate every evening at turndowns, something I haven't done since our honeymoon. Frankly, she also liked the valet laundry service far too much while I was afraid of our booming

toilet flush.

Our obnoxiously-cheerful cruise director forever reminded us of what a good time we were having, the professional stand-up comedian said "But seriously . . ." far too many times, I lost in the first round of the karaoke contest, found that old people can't do the electric slide on a pitching, rolling ship while a professional dancer did a neat back flip into the second row just as the ship plunged into a swell, what a nautical knot is, that starched white navy uniforms with lots of braided-gold epaulettes looked way better than anything drab olive I wore in the army, the ship's captain had a European accent that helped him sound more knowledgeable when he slowly read technical nautical stuff from a prepared text, that BBC or Sky News did not care a whit about Harry's tittle-tattle book, or that fat, older people should not sunbathe in thongs or say "it's not the heat, it's the humidity . . ." I actually heard Forrest Gump's idiot-savant sounding twin ask if the snorkeling excursion would be canceled because of a sudden downburst and he didn't want to get wet.

Finally, I thought most of this up while waiting six hours in the Miami airport after disembarkation for a delayed American Airlines flight before being shoehorned into an upright cabin seat 24" wide next to the booming lavatory. Now would I go on another fun-filled getaway cruise like this again in the winter? You bet!

...BRIDGE continued from page 1

No long-term closures will be necessary during construction on N.C. 106 (Dillard Road). Access to area roads — including Happy Hill Road and Highland Gap Road — will remain open thanks to a traffic management plan developed by local NCDOT officials. Traffic will be controlled by portable traffic signals when traffic is reduced

to one lane.

The new bridge will measure 107-feet long and 43-feet wide with 12-foot travel lanes and 8-foot shoulders. The existing bridge will be removed as construction progresses by Mountain Creek Contractors of Mt. Pleasant, S.C., which earned the \$5.3 million contract as the lowest qualified bidder.

The contract calls for completion of the entire project by Nov. 11, 2025.

Transportation officials remind drivers to slow down, remain alert and obey all posted signs when approaching and driving through the work zone.

- Submitted

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...AWARDS from page 1

were commended.

“Thanks to the firefighters and their significant others for putting in the time and effort that it takes to do what we do,” said Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart.

In addition to fighting fires, attending wrecks, responding to fire alarms and rescuing hikers, the force logged 2,659 in training hours.

Once again, Roger Lee Wilson got the award for perfect attendance, something he has gotten annually for decades, but this year marked the presentation of the inaugural Roger L. Wilson plaque. The plaque will be given each year – and it’s likely to be Roger Lee again!

Highlands Fire & Rescue Awards Banquet, Sat., Jan. 28 at OEI’s Spring House



This year’s officers are Chief Gearhart and Asst. Chief Forrester, Rescue Lt. Travis Brooks, Capt. Roger Lee Wilson, 2nd Lt. Hunter Leffler, 1st Lt. David Leffler, Rescue Capt. Eric Pierson, and Member@large/Training, Eric Fielding. Not pictured is Secretary Davis Picklesimer.



Chief Ryan Gearhart and Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester with Roger Lee Wilson with the first inaugural ‘Roger L. Wilson Perfect Attendance Award.



Terms of Service. With Chief Ryan Gearhart and Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester are Gary Ammons, 40 years, Jason Tardo, 10 years, and Eric Pierson, 25 years. Not pictured is Davis Picklesimer, 5 years and John Crowe, 20 years.



Retirees with Chief Gearhart and Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester from left - Stephen Pierson, Jimmy Lowe, Bob Zoellner, Wayne Crowe, Ricky Bryson, James Ramey, and Jody Zachary.



The Highlands Fire & Reacue Dept from left: Eric Fielding, Eric Pierson, Ryan Gearhart, Hunter Leffler, Jason Tardo, Robbie Forrester, Ryan Perkins, Travis Brooks, Roger Lee Wilson, David Leffler, Kelly Dendy, Calab Bowers, Jeff Burnette, Gary Ammons, Buddy Miller, Jimmy Petrone, Chris Barden, and Travis Ramey. Not pictured: John Crowe, Seth Schmitt, Davis Picklesimer, Dillon Schmitt, Ryan Collins, Austin Reese, Paul Corbin, Tubby Zachary, Michael Houston, Rob Reed, Lea Dallmann, and junior firefighters, Tristan Petrone, Gavin Small, and Austin Bowman.

...NCLM continued from page 1

lens of the Core Municipal Principles and policy focus areas and submits its suggestions to the NCLM Board of Directors who finalizes the list and sends it on to its municipalities.

Each municipality is asked to select 10 top priorities of the 16 on the list.

Below are the 10 top priorities voted on by the Highlands Town Board.

Goal 2

● Revitalize vacant and abandoned properties with enhanced legal tools and

funding.

○ Abandoned and vacant properties, often the subject of so-called tangled titles, can affect the ability of communities to revitalize areas and improve economic conditions.

○ The abandoned properties, with enhanced legal tools to help heirs clear up title issues and sell properties at market rates, could help address local housing needs.

○ Many towns do not have the funding to adequately address abandoned properties.

Goal 3

● Create an adequate and permanent funding stream for local infrastructure.

○ Infrastructure – including roads, water, sewer, stormwater, parks and beaches – are critical to economic development and job creation.

○ Many cities in the state are growing, creating a constant need for investment to keep pace with population growth; many cities and towns also have aging infrastructure that must be replaced.

○ Creating more permanent funding streams for local infrastructure, such as a dedicated tax source, would allow for better planning to meet needs.

Goal 6

● Expand state transportation funding streams for construction and maintenance

for municipal and state-owned secondary roads.

○ Current Powell Bill and other state funding is not adequate to address transportation needs, particularly as they affect municipal and state-owned secondary roads.

○ In many cities and towns, major commuting corridors are not receiving the level of investment needed to keep pace with traffic.

○ More investment is needed for these roads if existing residents are to embrace business and residential growth.

Goal 7

● Support integrated and multi-modal transportation solutions.

○ Today, cities and towns seek to make downtowns and other areas accessible to residents and visitors, whether traveling by foot, bike, car, mass transit and other means.

○ Making areas accessible in this manner requires integrated planning and funding with the state.

○ Only through recognizing the need for multi-modal transportation solutions can cities and towns maximize tourism and other economic opportunities, ensuring that local businesses thrive.

Goal 8

● Increase state funding for public transportation operations.

○ Road construction is not keeping pace with transportation needs in any many areas, and public transportation provides a means to reduce the burden of building roads.

○ Investment in public transportation can improve traffic safety, air quality and residents' accessibility to businesses and public services.

○ One of the biggest impediments to economic growth is traffic and commuting times, which can be alleviated through public transportation options.

Goal 9

● Expand incentives and funding for local economic development.

○ Funding is simply inadequate in many cities and towns to encourage job growth.

○ State grants and incentives are often targeted in ways that fail to assist the areas in greatest need of job creation.

○ Maintaining or expanding funding for film tax credits, major industrial site development, downtown development and renewable energy tax credits helps cities and towns across the state.

Goal 11

● Enhance state systems and resources for local law enforcement officer recruit-

ment, training, and retention.

○ Municipalities across the state are facing law enforcement staffing shortages, in many cases severe shortages.

○ Statetrainingresourcesarelimited, and the cost of local law enforcement agencies to send recruits and existing officers to NC Justice Academy locations can be prohibitive.

○ Grant writing assistance is one of several options that might provide better access to the large volume of federal law enforcement grant funding that is available.

Goal 12

● Provide state assistance for yearly financial audits, ensuring that an adequate number of auditors is available.

○ Several dozen local governments have been placed on the state Unit Assistance List due to late audits.

○ Often these audits relate due to staffing shortages, changes in financial personnel and a growing shortage of private auditors willing to perform this work.

○ Addressing this challenge would lessen negative portrayals of local government financial controls.

○ Additional flexibility regarding the contracting process could assist municipalities in protecting taxpayers from inflation and escalating costs.

○ Without contracting law flexibility, projects can be delayed and costs can further increase.

Goal 15

● Provide authority to municipal water systems to recoup costs of clean-up from polluters.

○ Local municipal water systems are increasingly being looked to for the clean-up of PFAS and other "forever" chemicals found in surface waters.

○ State regulators plan to set surface water standards for these chemicals and propose Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFAS chemicals in drinking water.

○ To date, cities' only recourse to try to recoup the cost for utility rate payers is through the courts.

Goal 16.

● Provide local revenue options beyond property tax.

○ Roughly 40 percent of municipal general fund revenue is generated by local property taxes.

○ Cities have little to no authority to raise significant revenue in other ways.

○ A lack of diverse, local tax options can affect economic growth, as well as cause large swings in revenue based on economic changes.

- Kim Lewicki



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• HIGHLANDERS BASKETBALL & SENIOR NIGHT •

**Lady Highlanders win
Fri., Jan. 27 Senior Night home game
against BREC 52-20**



Highlands Lilly Bryson drives to the hoop along the baseline.



Above: Highlands recognized senior basketball players and cheerleaders on Friday, Jan. 27, during Senior Night. From left are Highlands seniors Ashlynn Wilson, Anna Stiehler, B Bryson, Riley Conner, Ezra Branham, Lilly Bryson, Bella Wilson, Nathan Keener, and James Earp. Not pictured is Luke Ramos and Owen Munoz

Above: Highlands B Bryson snags a rebound and races back to set a play in motion.

Right: Highlands Riley Conner dishes the ball back out to the perimeter at home against BREC on Senior Night.



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Forgiveness

Rev. Bentley Manning
Episcopal Church of the
Incarnation

Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.' Matthew 18: 21-22

I wonder what Peter hoped Jesus would say when he asked him this question. Who exactly knows, but Jesus' response must have shocked him.

Jesus' command to forgive our sisters and brothers again and again and again, is not exactly an easy task. Most of us have enough trouble doing this just once, let alone seventy-seven times. To be sure, Jesus' words require us to live as people willing and ready to forgive but also suggest that forgiveness will be central to the church's life.

There is no need to trick ourselves into believing that Christian community will always be a nice, conflict-free kind of place. But how often do we find ourselves wholly disillusioned when conflict actually does show up? We say things like: "I can't believe people would act like that in the Church!"

Jesus' words are a reminder that sin is real and conflict will happen. Christ also reminds us that it is more important to forgive each other than to let our "ideals" stand in the way of reconciliation.

'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

However difficult, none of us are asked to give something we have yet to receive. To be sure, through the grace of God, we have been forgiven and set free from the weight of guilt and shame. For when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, God, in his mercy, sent Jesus Christ, his only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, and to reconcile us to him, the God and Father of all.

Thank God, then, for the gift of forgiveness. May all of us have the grace to set others free as we ourselves have been set free.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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

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Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298
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Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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www.christanglicancashiers.com

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Bible Study & Dinner, 6pm, call for details.

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Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am. S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am

Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays

4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays &

Thursdays 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

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706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

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Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday Services Chapel: Rite I spoken, 8a. Rite II with Choir in
Sanctuary 10:30a; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30a in Chapel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Emily Wilmarth, pastor

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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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
Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road
The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily
sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.
Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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 Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Jan. 23. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Jan. 23

• At 7 p.m., Martin Cerino Marquez, 20, of Franklin, NC, was when he was stopped on Oak Street and arrested for DWI, resisting arrest and having an open container of alcohol in his vehicle. A written promise was accepted. His court date is May 10, 2023.

• At 9:48 p.m., officers received a report of an assault on a female at a residence on Chestnut Street where a door was kicked open and the woman was cornered.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Jan. 26

Jan. 26

• At 7:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Jan. 30

• At 1:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.



Town begins work on 3rd Street elevated sidewalk

According to Lamar Nix, Public Works Director, the Town Board coordinated with the owners of the Oak Square building to create a plan to deal with the decaying sidewalk. "The sidewalk along 3rd street is to be removed and a loading ramp is to be built to serve one business that uses it for deliveries," said Nix. "The drainage from the roof is to be piped to a drainage system. The area in general will be used for loading/unloading for Main Street."

ABC Store announces the annual distribution of 2022 proceeds to nonprofits

Highlands Recreation Dept. - \$22,302
 Highlands School Scholarship Fund - \$20,363
 Highlands Police Dept. - \$13,473
 Counseling & Psychotherapy of Highlands - \$18,862

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Rotary Club of Highlands President Chris Wilkes, Mark Chmar, Programs Chair, Linda Edwards, Speaker and Bill Edwards, Rotarian and Linda's Husband.

Linda Edwards remembers nursing in Vietnam 1970-71

Highlander Linda Edwards recently addressed the Rotary Club of Highlands about her experiences in Vietnam, July 1970-July 1971. A year before graduation from nursing school in Watertown, NY, she was recruited by the Army to help pay her for her education and after graduation was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army Nursing Corps. What was not part of the bargain, as she understood it, was a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Edwards' year in Vietnam was spent in the 325 bed 67th Evacuation Hospital in Qui Nhon. Most of the approximately 10,000 nurses who served in Vietnam had limited

nursing experience before reporting to duty during this conflict. In Edwards' case she had only six months of nursing and 6 weeks of basic training.

1st Lt. Edwards was awarded the Bronze Star for Merit and returned to the US in July. Mrs. Edwards thanked all who served and gave credit to all medics, corpsmen, physicians, pilots and other nurses for their commitment to saving lives.

Rotarians expressed deep felt appreciation to Edwards and the other military members who served in Vietnam with a standing ovation at the end of her talk.

Coat Drive and MLK Day celebrated at MountainTop Rotary

The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Club continues its busy month by collecting over 1,000 coats since the beginning of the Coat Drive this season!

Club member Duncan Greenlee announced this remarkable total at the club's meeting on January 23.

The Coat Drive continues through at least March. Donation centers are located throughout town. The drive is co-administered by the Highlands Emergency Council. Information about donations and persons in need can be obtained from the Emergency Council.

In other club news, member John Mar-

tin gave an excellent program on Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., at the club meeting on MLK Day.

Rev. Martin began his presentation by quoting President Biden's remark "Today, we honor the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by continuing his unfinished work to redeem the soul of America."

John continued his remarks with a short history of King's life, accomplishments, dreams, and his assassination. Rotary continues to work in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion which were so important to the civil rights icon.



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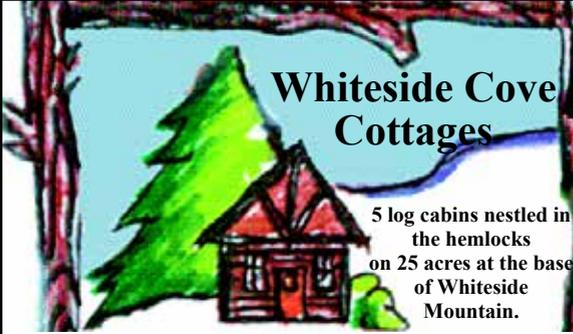
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THE HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

is looking for a responsible, reliable part-time administrative assistant for the 2023 Season. Music knowledge is not a requirement. A warm, friendly environment awaits you! Please email hccmfnc@gmail.com to arrange an appointment (st. 2/2)

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS LANDTRUST IS LOOKING FOR AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

Applications must be received by February 15, 2023. Start date is May 1, 2023.

The Executive Director is responsible for execution of strategic plans, donor education and development, land acquisition and stewardship, staff management, and office administration. The Director should embrace servant-leadership and will work closely with an involved Board of Directors and experienced staff. The full-time position includes benefits, and the salary will be commensurate with experience and comparable with non-profit executive director positions in the region.

POSITION OVERVIEW: The successful candidate will report to the Board of Directors. In addition to the HCLT staff include three full-time and two seasonal staff. At a minimum the successful candidate must demonstrate an appreciation for and curiosity about natural

resources, and superior organizational skills. He or she should have experience with successful non-profits. Experience with other land trusts or other environmental non-profits is not required but would be helpful.

QUALIFICATIONS: Capacity to excel at influencing and leading the staff and the organization; Outstanding communication skills and ability to work well with board, staff, the community and media; High executive functionality; Nature-oriented; Energetic, curious, and social; Passion for the mission and programs of HCLT; Experience in program planning and execution; Donor support and fundraising capabilities; Age-appropriate education programming; Fiscal and operational management; Environmental, property, and/or fiscal regulations

TO APPLY: Please send introductory letter and resume to: Carlton King, President, HCLT, P.O. Box 1703, Highlands, NC 28741. Or email to personnel@hcltnc.org

HCLT is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages diversity and equity in all facets of the organization's work. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender,

national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other protected class. (st. 1/5)

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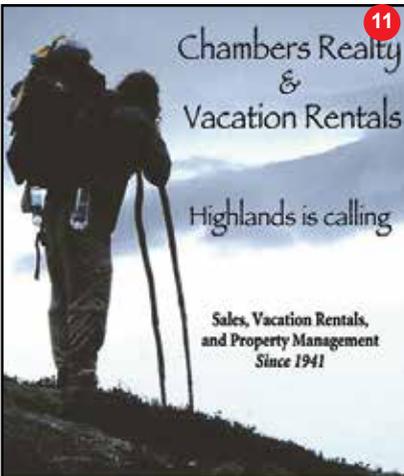


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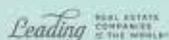


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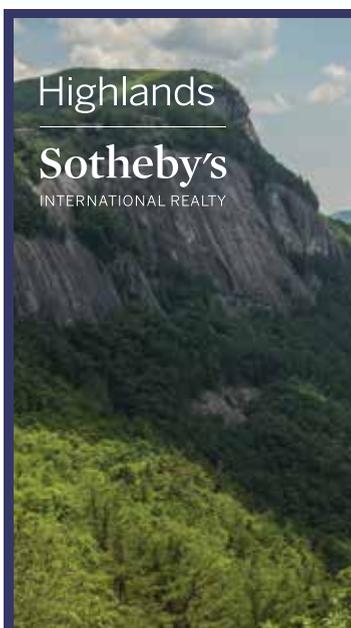


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