

Highlands Newspaper

Valentines Day is Feb. 14!

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 21, Number 6

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Thurs., Feb. 8, 2024

MCS Capitol Projects update - what's next?

- Part 2 -

By Brittney Lofthouse

Macon County Schools (MCS) is moving forward into 2024 with various key infrastructure projects ranging from track

improvements at Macon Middle School (MMS) to the much-anticipated construction of a new Franklin High School (FHS) the Highlands School soccer field

and perhaps even the Highlands PreK/expansion.

MMS Track Imp. Project:

Macon County Board of

• See **PROJECTS** page 9



HS senior Green named soccer All-Region and All-State

Landon Green, a senior at Highlands School, has been named to the 1A Public school NCSCA (NC Soccer Coaches Association) All-State Team.

• See **GREEN** page 11

How Gorge Rd. opened

By Brittney Lofthouse

U.S. 64/The Gorge Road was closed last month after a complete washout under the road during heavy rains, but according to N.C. Department of Transportation spokesperson David Uchiyama, the road is now open just shy of the one month mark of the closure.

The winding road

through the Cullasaja Gorge, transporting motorists between Highlands and Franklin was impassable, causing drivers to be detoured through Buck Creek Road or down into Georgia along N.C. 106 into Dillard.

By Feb. 1, the NCDOT reported that the project had reached a significant milestone where all necessary temporary shoring had been

• See **GORGE** page 9

H. School swim team heads for 'States'

Steve Hott
Head Coach

Last week Highlands HS Swim Team competed at the Western Region of NC meet and qualified for the 1A/2A State Championships next Friday at the Triangle Aquatic Center in Cary, NC.

Each swimmer had at least one person-

• See **SWIM** page 9



Garner earned a bronze medal for 3rd place in 50-yd. freestyle.

•INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty	2	Obituaries	7
Investing at 4118 Ft.	4	Spiritually Speaking .	10
Ink Penn.....	5	Police & Fire Report	11
Dining.....	6	Classifieds	13



From left: Ed McCloskey, American Legion Post 370, Paul Schowalter, moderator, Robert E. Smith as Chaplain Goode, Ken Knight as Chaplain Fox, Zach Claxton as Chaplain Poling and Jim Granham as Chaplain Washington.

'Remember the Dorchester'

Feb. 3 marked the anniversary of the sinking of the US Army Transport Dorchester and the selfless acts of four Army chaplains aboard during World War II.

During a heartwarming presentation Saturday at Veterans Park on Oak Street, members of American Legion Post 370 paid tribute to the four Dorchester Chaplains who represented three faiths:

Catholic, Jewish and two Protestants.

As the ship was sinking, they gave their lifejackets to those without.

Robert E. Smith spoke as Chaplain Goode, a Jewish rabbi from New York; Ken Knight as Chaplain Fox, a Methodist minister from Pennsylvania; Zach Claxton as Chaplain Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister from Ohio; and Jim

Granham as Chaplain Washington, a Roman Catholic priest from New Jersey.

Each told their story saying they brought hope in despair and light in darkness.

The 368-foot steamship Dorchester, operated by the War Shipping Administration, was part of a convoy that left New York in January 1943 bound for the Army Command Base at Narsarsuaq.

• See **DORCHESTER** page 8



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

• HIC'S VIEW •

The importance of our Gorge Road

The Gorge Road is a vital link for the two cities in Macon County, Franklin and Highlands. The top photo on page 8 shows just how vulnerable the section of the road at Cullasaja Falls really is. Luckily, the sections in the bottom photo did not fail. If those walls had collapsed, repair and restoration work would be much more complicated and longer in the making.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Lamar Nix, our town engineer, and I made a specially authorized site visit where the photos were taken. The problem facing NCDOT is that there are no improvement options for the Gorge Road, a historic highway built in 1929. Invasive construction to improve the road might just have the opposite effect by destabilizing what is already there.

The community and state have to protect the Gorge Road. Its economic value, not to mention its tourist attraction as an NC Scenic Byway, has to be preserved.

One way of protecting the Gorge Road is for the legislature to pass strict limits and fines on large tractor-trailer units that ignore

the prohibition of such heavy vehicles on this fragile road. Almost a century ago, the original designers and engineers never imagined the Gorge Road as a byway for large 50-foot tractor-trailers loaded with tons of goods. Even today, the last thing needed in those critical sections is to have a heavy, impactful load stressing the roadbed. It has to stop.

Some folks asked me to have the trees cut back at the Gorge Falls so tourists could see the falls.

That decision lies with the US Forest Service. The superintendent recently informed me the Forest Service would not cut the trees. He stressed that the falls at that critical point on the highway are not a tourist venue, and large numbers of people stopping there should not be encouraged. I agree that there are already safety issues for tourists traveling on the Gorge Road. We do not need to create more. Again, to preserve this road, access needs to be controlled and limited.

On the other hand, the US Forest Service is concerned about massive tourist attendance at Dry Falls and the dangerous vehicle backup during spring, summer, and fall at the entrance. Superintendent Waskey told me the Forest Service has revived the plan to create a parking area just off Paul Walden Way and build a skywalk over US 64 down to the falls. That plan would improve traffic backup on US 64 and be a great tourist venue. I enthusiastically support that plan. Hopefully, the federal government will fund the project as soon as possible. I will contact federal officials about supporting the project.

Finally, the Town Board of Commissioners workshop on Thursday, February 15, will be a business roundtable session. The agenda will be to discuss how the town can support local businesses. The roundtable will begin at 6 pm at the Highlands Recreation Center across from First Citizens Bank.

I encourage businesspeople, chamber of commerce leaders, and interested citizens to come and participate in the discussion. Since December, I have solicited feedback concerning business issues. My request is still open, so contact me at Mayor@highlandsn.org. The feedback I have already received centers around the board topics of workforce housing, worker childcare, downtown parking, and business signage.





Hope to see everyone at the workshop.

• See MAYOR page 8



A Valentines Card

• WEATHER •

Thu, 8-Feb	Fri, 9-Feb	Sat, 10-Feb	Sun, 11-Feb
			
52°F 32°F	51°F 45°F	53°F 43°F	57°F 43°F
Sun through high clouds	Cloudy, a shower in the p.m.	Cloudy, a shower in the p.m.	Cloudy, showers around mild
RealFeel® High: 55° Low: 30°	RealFeel® High: 51° Low: 37°	RealFeel® High: 52° Low: 48°	RealFeel® High: 58° Low: 44°

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Sunday, September 22

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Always show love

A few years ago, a favorite pair of boots needed resoled. I asked my sweet mother-in-law who referred me to a little old man on a side street on St. Simons Island. When I picked the boots up, I looked at the soles and saw a few threads that were sticking out. I asked him if he could do something about those threads, and he looked at me with tired eyes and said: "Lady, nobody is going to be staring at the soles of your boots." Hmmph, I thought.

Later that week, I mentioned to my mother-in-law that the cobbler was a bit grumpy when I picked up my boots. She paused for a moment and said: "He died yesterday." I was floored. I asked what he died of, and she told me he had been battling cancer for a long time.

What a jolt! It was a real low point for me. Here was one of this man's last days on earth and instead of being grateful and uplifting, I was complaining about a few threads. This experience haunts me every time I focus on minutiae that is totally inconsequential in the scheme of life.

As we barrel down life's highway, we have many worries and concerns. Most of them never come to fruition, and we waste valuable time and energy fearing that something bad is going to happen. Or we obsess on tiny issues that do not deserve

boss that no one can work with except this one individual. Gretchen asked her how she managed to relate to this person. She said: "I always show him love."

On this upcoming Valentine's Day, let us remind ourselves to "always show love" not just to our loved ones, but to everyone with whom we interact. We never know what the other person is dealing with that day. Let's overlook the threads and focus on what a wonderful world we live in with people just trying to do their best. Happy Valentine's Day to you and yours!

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• INK PENN •

Favorite books from 2023

Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and every newspaper known to man published December lists of the best books of 2023, so I thought, "why not me?" My list includes the best books I "read" in 2023, not necessarily the best books that were published. The first two top the list because they stayed with me long after I put them down.

The rest are in no particular order. They are simply books I found the most engrossing and entertaining of those I read last year.

The Echo of Old Books

by Barbara Davis

The first time I used the term "book hangover" was when I reviewed this novel. Reading the story about a pair of mysterious books evoked a feeling I couldn't shake, and I found myself reflecting on the tale weeks after I put it down.

Tom Lake

by Ann Patchett

I found it difficult to find words to describe Ann Patchett's latest. Engrossing, moving, a magical story I couldn't stop thinking about--none of that quite captured how I felt about it. It's the story of a family living on their Michigan cherry farm during the pandemic, and its depiction of family relationships is masterful.

Lessons in Chemistry

by Bonnie Garmus

This book is everything you could want in a novel—fast paced, witty, touching in spots, and laugh aloud funny in others. Its portrayal of how women were seen in the 1950s and 1960s is more than believable, while other elements are intentionally fantastical.

The White Lady

by Jacqueline Winspear

As a long-time fan of Winspear's Maisie Dobbs series, I knew this standalone would be a winner. It's main character, Elinor, was a pre-teen in Belgium during WWI and is living in post-World War II Britain when the story opens in 1947. The tale moves between the two World Wars and details her role in both. If you're a history buff, this book will fit the bill as not only engaging but also informative.

Killers of a Certain Age

by Deanna Raybourn

Buzzfeed's one-liner says it all:



Kathy Manos Penn

"This Golden Girls meets James Bond thriller is a journey you want to be part of." I described it as a rollicking read, an entertaining and imaginative book about four menopausal women in their sixties who are retiring from careers as deadly assassins.

"Winter Solstice" by Rosamunde Pilcher

This is an older book recommended to me by one of my newsletter subscribers. As the book jacket says, "The December solstice is ... about hope, renewal, and rebirth," and the friendships in Pilcher's story reflect that spirit. It's a heartwarming story about friends, family, and neighbors with scenery described so vividly that you will as though are there. I saw the waves crashing on the Cornwall coast and the snow falling in Scotland.

The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue

by V. E. Schwab

I couldn't put this one down, and I can see why it is described as a genre-defying tale. It starts in 1714 in France, where young Adeline LaRue makes a deal with the devil. She will live forever, but no one will remember her. The story unfolds as she witnesses history, the good and the bad. Her meetings with Luc, the name she gives her devil, evolve and change through the years. I enjoyed it for the history lessons, the romance, and the beautiful writing.

Homer's Odyssey

by Gwen Cooper

Mesmerized is the word that comes to mind when I think of this nonfiction book. Homer, an indefatigable blind kitten, weighed only two pounds when the author adopted him. If you give this one a try, I predict Homer will capture your heart as he did mine.

There you have it, a few of my most enjoyable books from 2023. Could I name more? Why, of course, but these are top o' mind. Now, I'm back to choosing books for 2024 from my ever-growing TBR list. Happy 2024 reading to one and all.

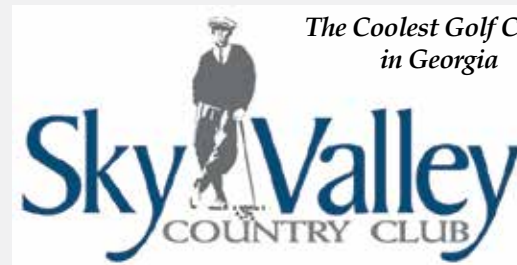
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• OBITUARIES •

Marilyn Diane Cooper



Marilyn Diane Cooper passed away peacefully on January 12, 2024, at the age of 70, surrounded by her loving family. She faced a brief but courageous battle against both kidney cancer and scleroderma, a rare autoimmune disease.

Marilyn was born on September 9, 1953, in Amarillo, Texas to parents Ervin and Sheila Yawn, the second eldest of six children.

From an early age, her passion for design was evident. What began as rearranging furniture in her parents' home blossomed into a lifelong career. She attended Columbia High School in Atlanta, Georgia, where her accolades were many. In 1975, she graduated from the University of Georgia with a B.F.A. in interior design.

For over 45 years, she parlayed her extraordinary eye into a thriving interior design business, Marilyn Bremer Interiors. Her talent and dedication to her craft were evident in every project she undertook, transforming blank spaces into beautiful homes.

Beauty was not only something she created, but something she embodied. From her radiant smile to her generous spirit, Marilyn found and cultivated beauty in everyone and everything around her.

Marilyn was always impeccably dressed and effortlessly elegant. She was a fabulous cook and a gracious hostess. She enjoyed fine wines and had an expert level palette. Her Christmas trees were works of art, and every present beneath it was perfectly wrapped. She loved traveling (particularly the luxury and leisure variety), design books, all flowers but especially peonies and dahlias, European history, and dancing. Her happy place was her home in Highlands, NC. She filled it with the things and people she loved most.

She is survived by her beloved daughter, Brittany Bremer; sisters Elizabeth Mahaffey, Barbara Rasmussen, Lori Ferrero; brother David Yawn; nieces and nephews, Alaina Hood, Shelley Templeton, Derek Yawn, Garrett Maxedon, Dana Rogers, and Ali Ferrero; former husbands who remained dear friends, Gary Bremer and Tom Cooper; and her cherished dog and granddog, Emma and Cleo.

The family will be holding a private celebration of Marilyn's life on February 19. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the American Cancer Society.

A loving mother, sister, and friend, she has left an indelible mark on the hearts of all who knew her. While we miss her greatly, Marilyn's legacy lives on through the beauty she brought to the world and the love she shared with those fortunate enough to be part of her life.

Tom Stribling



Tom Stribling passed away January 31, 2024. He was born on December 8, 1942, in Guntersville, AL., to the late Thomas S. and Kathleen Stribling. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Joyce, two daughters, Christine, and Tracy Franklin (Kevin) of Scaly Mountain, GA., his granddaughter, Taylor Rickert, his sister, Mary Kate Beard (Randy), brother, Bill Stribling (Jera)

In 1965, he received a B.S. Degree from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL., with a major in marketing. In 1989, he graduated from the Stanford University Executive Program.

Following college, he joined the Navy and received his commission through Officer Candidate School. He spent approximately two years at sea (USS Northampton), and two years teaching Electronic Warfare in San Diego, CA. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Tom had more than 30 years experience in the health care and pharmaceutical industries. He began as a sales representative for Pfizer, Inc., and spent several years in positions of increasing responsibility in sales and sales management. He held senior level positions (President or Chairman) in start-up, turnaround and fast growth companies that were privately and publicly owned. Companies he led traditionally reached successful and profitable liquidity through sale to larger corporations.

He was a lifelong Christian, and loved the Lord. Over his life, he attended several churches, and most recently, was a member of Highlands First Baptist Church in Highlands, NC. In previous times, he was a Deacon and Elder of St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, Dunwoody, GA., and served on many committees of Highlands United Methodist Church, including chairing the fundraising Committee as it build a new Fellowship Center in Highlands, NC. His christening, and church during his early years was First Presbyterian Church, Guntersville, AL.

Outside of his professional life, Tom was a dedicated runner for many years. He completed two marathons, several half marathons and numerous ten thousand meter races, including 29 Peachtree Road Races. Once his running days ended, he began to ride a bike, and finished the Bike Ride Across Georgia (Columbus to Savannah) in 2007.

Tom's warm and engaging personality left a lasting impact on those who were fortunate to know him. His smile will be missed by many, and his memory will forever be cherished.

Since many of his friends live long distances from Highlands, Tom asked that a memorial service not be held. Instead, he asked his friends to take a few moments to remember all the good times they had together.

The family is planning a Celebration of Life for Tom in the coming spring. Details will be shared closer to that time.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Stribling family.

• THANKS •

The family of Charles Bobby Houston (Bob) would like to express their appreciation to everyone for their many acts of kindness during his illness and passing. We are so grateful for your prayers, visits, phone calls, messages, flowers, and all of the delicious food. We have been so blessed with the love and support from Highlands First Baptist Church, Pastor Mark Ford, and Pastor Jim Kinard. Many thanks to the Highlands Fire Department, Cashiers Fire Department, Cowee Fire Department and Honor Guard, and Satolah Fire Department. A special thank you to Yogi McCall and his crew for braving the frigid and blustery winds to fly the flag near the cemetery entrance. We are grateful for American Legion Post 370 for their support and participation. We are so blessed to live in a community like this, our hearts are overflowing with thankfulness. May God bless each one of you.

Love,

Sammie, Tim, Karen, Joe, and all of the family

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...DORCHESTER continued from pg 1



From left: Goode, Fox, Poling, and Washington.

suaq in southern Greenland.

To sail from Newfoundland to Greenland, the ship would have to navigate icy seas and pass through waters infested with German U-boats.

Knowing they were in dangerous waters, the ship's captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

After midnight on Feb. 3, 1943, the Dorchester was torpedoed by a U-boat in the Labrador

Sea off Greenland and went down in 20 minutes, according to official records. The hit knocked out power and radio contact but one escort saw the explosion and was able to rescue 97; another escort circled the Dorchester and rescued 133.

Of the 904 aboard, 675 drowned or died of hypothermia in the frigid waters. It was believed to be the worst single death toll for a U.S. convoy during WWII.

The Dorchester's loss is remembered most for the sacrifice of the "Four Chaplains." They were each posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart.

...MAYOR from 2



Area that failed.

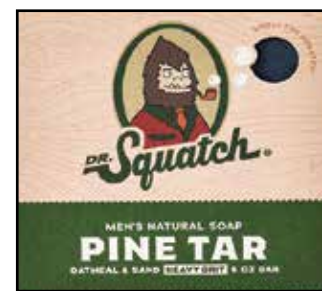


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...PROJECTS continued from page 1

Education Member Diedre Breeden, reported to county commissioners during their recent meeting that the architecture firm LS3P had been selected to undertake the track's design process following the issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). After design approval, LS3P will then choose another company for the actual construction of the track.

LS3P has worked with Macon County to design the proposed Franklin High School as well as the designs for the renovations and repairs to Highlands School. Despite LS3P's history with Macon County as well as the school board undergoing the formal RFQ process, Commissioner Paul Higdon still questioned the board's decision to award the bid to the company.

Despite Macon County Commissioners giving the school board the directive to begin the RFQ process for the middle school track, Commissioner John Shearl questioned why the school board initiated the RFQ in the first place.

Commissioner John Shearl further raised questions about the need for a new track at MMS entirely, given the proximity to Franklin High School, which will be getting a new track as the new facility is built. Despite these concerns, Breeden emphasized the school board's belief in the necessity of two state-of-the-art tracks, considering the demand from both middle school and high school track teams.

Breeden countered by emphasizing that the two schools are separate and rather than look at the projects in terms of sports, its imperative to remember that the track facilities are classrooms and extensions of the daily operations of the schools.

"I would like to assure that having two state-of-the-art tracks that close together ... both will still be fully utilized," said Breeden. "We have a very full middle school team, with some of the Mountain View Intermediate joining that, and we have a very full high school track team with four grade levels that participate. And, all are currently sharing one not-high-quality track."

After a thorough discussion, Commissioner Josh Young moved to accept the school board's recommendation and enter into contract negotiations with LS3P, a motion that passed 3-2, with Higdon and Shearl opposing.

Macon County Schools is actively progressing on its capitol projects, including the MMS track improvement and the construction of a new Franklin High School. While discussions have arisen regarding cost-efficiency and the necessity of certain projects, the recent grant of \$62 million for the new FHS reflects a significant step forward in enhancing educational opportunities and facilities in the region.

Next week: Part 3

Highland School Projects

...SWIM continued from page 1

at best time and the boys 200 medley and 200 freestyle relays will compete at States.

Out of 99 1A/2A schools in the Western Region of NC the boys finished 8th, and the one girl team of Tate Wilson finished 24th. The meet was held at the Mecklenburg Aquatic Center in Charlotte.

Individually, co-captain Finneas Garner qualified in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle, Chase Kenter qualified in the 200-yard IM, Jack Sumner qualified in the 100-yard butterfly and Aniah McKim

qualified in the 100-yard breaststroke. Co-captain Tate Wilson had a personal best in the 200-yard freestyle, Conner Hughes had personal bests in both the 100-yard butterfly and 200-yard freestyle and Paolo McRae had a personal best in the 100-yard freestyle. Jesus Mendoza also provided support as the team's relay alternate.

Of special note, Garner finished 3rd in the 50-yard freestyle and was awarded a bronze medal.

...GORGE continued from page 1

installed, and all shotcrete operations had been successfully completed. When a road experiences a washout, the surrounding soil or embankment that once supported the road's structure is eroded or compromised. This can lead to instability, making the road unsafe for use. Temporary shoring provides essential structural support to prevent further collapse during the repair process, ensuring the safety of workers and the project site.

The road washout was caused by the force of flowing water and to avoid additional exposed areas to erode further, the

temporary shoring was essential to help stabilize the affected section, preventing further erosion and damage.

Shotcrete is a construction technique that involves spraying a mix of concrete or mortar onto a surface to create a strong and durable structure. In the context of repairing the the Gorge Road washout, shotcrete was used to rebuild and reinforce the damaged roadbed/embankment to restore the road's structural integrity and load-bearing capacity.

Photos from the construction site showed impressive damage, which would

• See GORGE page 11

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



'Lent is coming! YAY! Said no one, ever

Pastor, Emily Wilmarth
First Presbyterian Church

For those unfamiliar, Lent is the 40-day season of fasting, praying, and spiritual self-examination in the church year that begins with Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter. The forty days mimics the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and enduring temptation, according to the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

It's hard to claim that we "celebrate" Lent in the church. It's more like we work to observe a holy Lent. So like I said, most of us don't look forward to Lent. At least not like we look forward to our most recent church season, Christmas. Nobody I know puts up Lent lights. I've never heard of anyone playing their favorite Lent songs 24/7. And holler at me if you somehow manage to find Lent candy in the grocery aisle.

We might not joyfully anticipate this season, but as I've mentioned to the folks at First Presbyterian, this is one of my very favorite seasons of the liturgical year. Mainly because I believe Lent allows us to be fully human. We spend this season contemplating the truth that none of us is perfect. We all mess up. We all sin. And even when we vow to change and turn our lives toward God, we sin again. It's like the Apostle Paul says: "The desire to do good is inside of me, but I can't do it. I don't do the good that I want to do, but I do the evil that I don't want to do. (Romans 7:18-19, Common English Bible)

We hunger for things that are not good for us.

We treat our neighbors how we would prefer NOT to be treated.

We say words we wish we could take back.

We hoard power and privilege at the expense of people who have none.

We ignore our mortality, clinging to a false sense of security in ourselves.

We act as though we're in charge, failing to place our trust in the Holy One who created everything. When we do these things, we distance ourselves from God. The good news is that God does not stop loving us when we falter. Just the opposite. God offers us grace upon grace so that we can rise up again, turn our hearts around, and step closer into holiness.

If we take Lent seriously, we have the opportunity to be truthful to ourselves, to each other, and most importantly, to God. And I believe, without a shadow of a doubt, that such a truthful relationship is exactly what God wants from us. Lent isn't a season of groveling. It is a season of looking closely at our lives, focusing on the things we need to change, and drawing nearer to God.

Some people fast during Lent, giving up things like sweets or drinking. The intent is to allow our cravings for earthly things to help us focus on the Divine source for all we truly need. Others take on something for Lent; new life-giving habits of generosity or devotional prayer. Still others use this time to let go of anything that is keeping them from enjoying God and all of God's blessings. For example, one year a friend decided to give up road rage. She was tired of feeling angry

• See SPIRITUALLY page 11

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (828) 421-1315

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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CAC@christanglicancashiers.org & 828-743-1701

Sundays: 9:30 am Adult Christian Formation;

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Worship

Wednesdays: 6 pm Bible Study, Prayer, Potluck

Thursdays: 10 am Healing Eucharist

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

www.cashiers.church

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

Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 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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Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30

am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel, Morn-

ing Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am 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; Women's 10:30 am

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

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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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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

Highlandscentralbaptist.org • 828-526-0774

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Worship is at 9a & 6p. Wed. Worship is 6p

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

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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. 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

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

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Jan. 28. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Jan. 28

• At 9 a.m., officers responded to a report of injury to personal property in a parking lot on Carolina Way where a Jeep was "keyed."

Jan. 30

• At 11:21 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Spring Street.

Jan. 21

• At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in town on US 64 east.

Feb. 1

• At 12:20 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in town on US 64 west.

Feb. 2

...GREEN from page 1

Team as well.

"To our knowledge Landon is the first to make All-State in soccer or any other sport from Highlands High School," said Highlands School Head Coach Brett Lamb.

On Dec. 10, 2023, Landon and family traveled to West Forsyth High School in Clemmons, NC to attend the Men's All-State Awards program.

Being an all-state athlete is a select class of the state's best athletes.

Landon hopes to play soccer for a college next year.

...SPIRITUALLY from page 10

every time she got in the car. She drives differently now. And she's not the only one who benefits!

I invite you to consider how the forty days of Lent can help you draw closer to God this year. How can you take something on, let something go, or fast from something you really don't need? Whatever you decide, trust that you will not be alone. And even if you stumble, the One who made you in the first place will be beside you, ready to pick you up and help you along your way

• At 2:20 p.m., officers responded to a call for service made by a woman on Main Street.

• At 9:36 p.m., officers received a report of someone who was drunk and disorderly and committed simple assault trespassing on the Spinx gas station property.

• At 9:40 p.m., Cesar Alejandro Arevalo, 39, of Franklin, was arrested for drunk and disruptive behavior, simple assault and trespassing. He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond. His court date is Feb. 22.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Jan. 30.

Jan 30

• At 9:45 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mtn. Road.

• At 11:19 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on S. 3rd Street.

Jan. 31

• At 11:47 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Zachary Road.

Feb. 1

• At 6:55 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

• At 10:09 a.m., the dept. was first responders at a location on Spring Street.

• At 2:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire on NC 28/Walhalla Road.

Feb. 2

• At 4:01 p.m., the dept. responded to an unattended brush fire on Horse Cove Road.

Feb. 3

• At 6:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of an oven fire at a residence on Princess Pine Court.

• At 9:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Shortoff Road.

Feb. 4

• At 10:56 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Naiad Terrace.

Feb. 5

• At 1:21 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Cullasaja Club Drive.

• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Rotary clubs join forces for others



In a combined effort to provide free firewood to needy people in the Highlands- Cashiers area, the Rotary Clubs of Highlands cut and split wood provided by Doc Wilson. Marie Johnson, John Brooks and Rotarians Jerry Bilbro.

...GORGE continued from page 9

have resulted in a pretty lengthy road closure, however, by using temporary shoring and shotcrete road crews were able to complete an efficient and expedited repair process.

This week, crews finished up the installation of micro-piles, followed by an additional two days focused on wall construction. Micro-piles and wall construction played critical roles in repairing the road by addressing specific challenges associated with the damage caused by washouts.

Road washouts can weaken or erode the underlying soil, leaving the roadbed unstable. Micro-piles are small-diameter, high-capacity piles that are drilled and inserted into the ground to provide essential foundation support. They can reach deep into stable soil or bedrock, creating a stable foundation for the road structure. Micro-piles help distribute the load of the road evenly to prevent localized stress points as well as help mitigate further erosion by stabilizing the surrounding soil and preventing further damage to the roadbed.

Rotary clubs throw Christmas Dinner and raise \$36,000



A Christmas Day tradition that began over 20 years ago was revived by some old-time veterans, and who were joined by our two Highlands Rotary clubs, The Rotary Club of Highlands, and The Mountaintop Rotary. The dinner provided a traditional Christmas Day dinner to Highlanders and visitors since most local restaurants are closed on Christmas Day and to be a fundraiser for local nonprofits. The combined efforts of both Rotary groups resulted in the dinner donating \$12K each to the Literacy and Learning Center, The Highlands Community Child Development Center, and The Gordon Center.

The final piece of constructing a wall provided the retaining and reinforcement needed due to the road washout occurring beneath the actual road and off the embankment. The wall construction involved building a new retaining wall to prevent further erosion and provide structural support. The wall will help contain the roadbed and prevent future washouts as well as provide slope stabilization for the area.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, crews allotted two days to complete the tie-in process at both ends of the project and finish the paving to ensure the road was reopened in time for the Tuesday evening commute.

With a budget of \$275,000 to complete the project, NCDOT crews took a cost-effective approach to not only repair the washout, but to also do so while minimizing traffic disruptions and expediting the restoration of the road.

Following Jesus makes your life better and makes you better at life.

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9am - Live Stream
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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL BUILDING DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS - Retail with office space upstairs. Approx. 1,700 sf. Good storage and parking on 1/2 acre at 255 Spring Street. David King 727-644-9544 (2/15)

NEW FURNISHED EXECUTIVE APARTMENT FOR RENT in Highlands city limits. 1 bed/1 bath in garden setting. \$1,700 with all utilities and internet included. Call/text 352-422-7200. (st. 1/18)

TRANSITIONAL RENTAL COTTAGE, 2 BR, 2 bath full kitchen, large LR fully furnished. 1-6 month occupancy. Scaly Mtn. Some restrictions \$1500/month plus electric. Call 229-292-0353 to discuss. (st. Jan 18)

TLC OPEN AIR STORAGE - Located in Highlands, NC. Spaces available for pontoon boats, ATV vehicles, equipment trailers, RV's, and campers. Minimum 1 month rental. \$75 small to medium vehicles; \$100 large vehicles. Contact Greg 828-526-5280. (st. 12/21)

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HELP WANTED

PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES IS CURRENTLY HIRING A PT/FT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER for our Highlands office. The Regional Development Officer works as part of a dynamic and experienced development team. The Regional Development Officer will work with an entire legal aid staff to expand free legal assistance and anti-poverty advocacy to help a growing number of very low- income people each year to solve problems related to housing, domestic violence, health care and insufficient income. This position will work on growing Pisgah Legal Services' contributed revenue streams across its service area to sustain our essential work. While touching on all aspects of Development work, this position will focus on the Annual Campaign and major gifts in Macon, Jackson and Haywood counties. Salary ranges from \$41,812 - \$73,438 D/O/E plus comprehensive benefits package. Apply at www.pisgahlegal.org/jobs (2/22)

LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION CREW LEADER -- Thompson Landscape Company is now hiring a

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 14

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...CLASSIFIEDS from page 13

full-time crew leader starting \$25/hour based on capability and experience. Comprehensive benefit package including year-end bonus. Minimum 3-years experience, valid NC Driver's license. Drug test required. After 2 years of satisfactory employment, salary options available starting at 55k with other employee benefits. Contact Greg at 828-526-5280. (st. 12/21)

LUPOLI CONSTRUCTION is hiring an office manager/executive assistant and a bookkeeper. Full-time, compensation based on experience. Please contact Regina@Lupoliinc.com, 770.757.5004 for more information. (st. 11/2)

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HIGHLANDS-CA-SHIERS HANDYMAN - Chatlos Construction - Remodels, Additions, Framing, Siding, Roofing, Decks, Painting. References. Insured. 828-200-4071. (4/25)

MURPHY'S PAINT CO. - interior/exterior painting/sheet-rock repair/wallpaper removal/log homes/decks. Insured. Free estimates. 828-332-0525 or 828-421-8600. (3/14)

NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY? Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (3/28)

DOG SITTING - overnight, or daily checkins/walks. Call Lisa. References available. Call or text 828-424-4637. (st. 12/21)

ANYTHING GOES CLEAN-UP SERVICE Complete property cleanup - house, garage, property, etc. Call Danny at 828-200-2855. (st. 9/28)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208.

Biz Card Ads 2024

\$22 for BVV; \$27 for color

Classifieds 2024

\$10 for 10 words, 30 cents for each word thereafter. \$2 for color highlight.

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



Mtn. Findings volunteers get course in fire safety.

HF&R teaches Mountain Findings about fire safety

As part of our commitment to the safety of our volunteers and visitors, Mountain Findings recently invited the Highlands Fire Department to conduct a fire safety review.

The fire department demonstrated how to properly use a fire extinguisher using the PASS technique, an easy-to-remember method for fire extinguisher use. PASS stands for PULL the pin, AIM the nozzle, SQUEEZE the handle, and SWEEP the nozzle back and forth at the base of the fire. Our volunteers even got the opportunity to use this technique first-hand, practicing with the fire extinguishers under the guidance of trained professionals.

In addition to our training, we have also upgraded our safety

measures in both of our buildings. Brand new fire extinguishers have been strategically located throughout, with clear signage indicating their location. We have also taken care to ensure these essential safety devices are installed at an accessible height.

To further bolster our commitment to safety, first-aid kits will be installed above the sinks in the Mountain Findings remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all. We encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the PASS technique, a key tool for preventing the spread of small fires. Remember: the key to fire safety is preparedness. By taking these steps now, we hope to never need them in the future.

Mission Hospital named one of America's best for 2024

Mission Hospital is proud to announce that it is one of America's 50 Best Hospitals for 2024, according to new research released by Healthgrades, the leading marketplace connecting doctors and patients. This achievement puts Mission Hospital in the top 1% of hospitals nationwide for overall clinical performance across the most common conditions and procedures. This is the 9th consecutive year Mission Hospital is among America's 50 Best, and Mission is the only hospital in North Carolina to make America's Best Hospitals list.

Healthgrades evaluated patient mortality and complication rates for 31 of the most common conditions and procedures at near-

ly 4,500 hospitals across the country to identify the top-performing hospitals.

In addition to being one of the Top 50 Best Hospitals, Healthgrades also recognized Mission Hospital in the following areas, for which we have previously been recognized, for 2024: 1st in the state for Cardiology; Critical Care; Gastrointestinal Care; Gastrointestinal Surgery; 3rd in the state for Gastrointestinal Medicine; Pulmonary Care; and Stroke Care

Consumers can visit Healthgrades.com to learn more about how Healthgrades measures hospital quality and access a patient-friendly overview of how we rate and why hospital quality matters here.



From left: Dave O'Harra, President, speakers Patricia Hedden, HCCDC Executive Director and Demitra Passmore, HCCDC Assistant Director, with Buz Dotson, host.

Rotary hears about HCCDC

The Rotary Club of Highlands host Buz Dotson welcomed speakers Patricia Hedden (aka Ms. Pat), Executive Director of Highlands Community Child Development Center, and Assistant Director, Demitra Passmore. Opening in 2005, the HCCDC provides the only year-long, NC state licensed, five-day week childcare program in Highlands. Earning four out of four stars rating by State of NC, the Center offers high qual-

ity childcare and preschool programs for 8-week to 5-year-old children of working parents of the greater Highlands community. HCCDC hopes to serve not only the 65 children enrolled, but the more than 65 on their waitlist. Tours and volunteers are welcome, as is input and engagement at the State levels to raise awareness and help meet the tremendous need for our community.



Rotarians harvest holiday giving for Highlands food pantries

Rotarians distribute community donations to food pantries



Recently Mountaintop Rotary finished up the giving tree donations collected through the holidays at Bryson's. Bryson's allows us to have shoppers donate a gift card when they are checking out. We collected \$3,915 in Bryson's gift cards and donated them to Highlands Emergency Council and the Highlands Food Pantry so they can distribute them to their clients.

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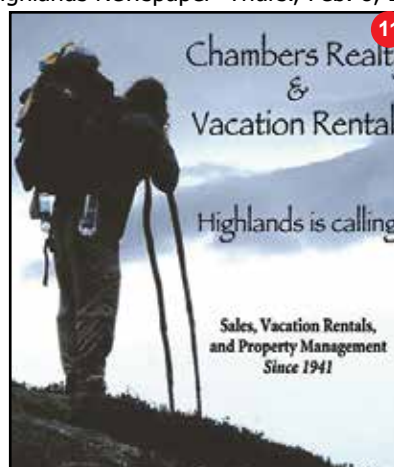
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