

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 21, Number 2

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., Jan. 11, 2024

Bryson family pledges annual boost to Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund

Save the date of Monday, Sept. 16 for the new and improved Town of Highlands Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Cullasaja Club, now brought to you by the Bryson Family of Highlands.

“It is an honor to have the support of the Bryson Family,

which will take this event to a new level and raise even more money for the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund.”

• See **BRYSON** page 9



Macon County Board of Education members from left: Stephanie Laseter; Hilary Wilkes; Jim Breedlove, Chair; Melissa Evans, Vice Chair; and Diedre Breeden.

January is School Board Appreciation Month

The Macon County School System in honoring the MC Board of Education. The dedication of board members to students and the community makes the school system a place where all children can discover their interests and prepare for their future.

Celebrate board members

during School Board Appreciation Month. They are the voice of schools in the community, and the community's voice in building the future for students.

The school board meets the fourth Monday of each month at the administration office or at various schools in the system at 6 p.m.

Missing Highlands man located

Officers of the Highlands Police Department and Highlands Fire and Rescue aided in the search of Joseph Shmalo, 78, of Highlands on January 4.

According to a statement from the Highlands Police Department, they had received a report that Shmalo had gone missing in the evening hours on January 4 after dining at 4118 Kitchen & Bar.

Officers continued to search the Town of Highlands throughout the night and notified other local agencies to assist in the search.

Early in the morning on January 5, the Police Department was able to utilize the North Carolina Silver Alert system to issue a widespread notification in an attempt to help locate him. Once the Silver Alert was issued, the NC Highway Patrol was contacted. They were preparing their

• See **MISSING** page 7

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Gorge Road closed due to wash out

Will be closed for 2+ weeks to repair 80 ft. of embankment

Around 12:22 p.m., on Tues., Jan. 9, NC Department of Transportation closed US 64 west in the Cullasaja Gorge between Highlands and Franklin from Buck Creek to Goldmine due to an apparent washout under the road.

NCDOT engineers met Wednesday morning in the Cullasaja Gorge with officials from GeoStabilization Inc, which will design and construct repairs. The initial design involves installing micro-piles, building a wall atop the piles and finishing with shoulder construction.

NCDOT anticipates completing the engineering plans late this week, then having crews begin the two-week construction project next Monday. The project cost will be determined after plans are approved. Barring weather or unforeseen delays, the Cullasaja Gorge should reopen by the end of the month.

Transportation officials have established a detour along Buck Creek Road for passenger vehicles. No trucks are allowed on the detour.

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Cost of running the town

Last Friday, I signed a stack of town checks in my office. Fridays are check signing days. The process begins at the first of the week when invoices come to the town clerk. Our clerk also doubles as our accounts receivable officer. She verifies the invoices, and by the end of the week, the checks are ready for the required two signatures.

The town manager plus the finance director or mayor both sign the checks. As a standard practice, the town manager and mayor are the signatories.

So, at the end of every week, the clerk gives the unsigned checks and all the invoices to the town manager. He reviews the invoices and signs the check. Next, they come to me, and I follow the same process. As a matter of good professional practice, the town always strives to process invoices and send checks to town vendors within a week.

After the signatures, the town clerk takes back possession of the checks and mails them to the vendors. I have been signing town checks for a decade now, but it always amazes me how many checks have to be issued weekly or monthly to keep the



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

town running.

Over the years, I have become very familiar with many of the town vendors and what services they provide. For example, Duke Energy gets two big checks every month. One check is always over \$320,000 for wholesale electrical power. The other is a transmission fee for the power to Highlands. That check is always around \$25,000.

Periodically, we pay a sizable check to Environmental Inc. for operating and staffing the sewer plant. That contract continues to work very well for the town.

Almost every week or month, the town issues a check for Briar Equipment Company, usually for over \$1,000. That company supplies parts for big operating machines like backhoes. We have a lot of equipment that require constant maintenance, repairs, and new parts.

Insurance companies send Highlands premium invoices almost every month. For example, we pay premiums to the NC Insurance Trust for liability insurance and to Globe, MetLife, and Colonial Insurance for premiums that, in most cases, town workers have paid into. Health insurance premiums are also routinely paid.

Another routine payment goes to National Communications. They are vendors and supporters of our communication system, i.e., radios for police and utility workers, which keep town workers talking to one another around town, especially in emergency and inclement weather events. We also pay costs for maintaining and upgrading radio and computer equipment that monitors real-time water levels in our large tanks throughout the town.

We frequently send checks to Carolina Water Systems. Those invoices are for the water plant operations where supplies for treating our water are constantly procured.

Highlands also sends checks to a number of local companies. For instance, this past year, Bryson Grading and Construction Company has received major checks for paving and water line installations. I like paying companies in Highlands since those funds support the local economy.

Poindexter Tire of Franklin routinely re-





• See **MAYOR** page 8

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Well RB, I've got good news and bad news.
I'm off the endangered species list"

• WEATHER •

Thu, 11-Jan	Fri, 12-Jan	Sat, 13-Jan	Sun, 14-Jan
 49°F 27°F	 44°F 23°F	 37°F 25°F	 42°F 24°F
Sunny and milder	Periods of rain	Mostly sunny and chilly	Partial sunshine
RealFeel® High: 52° Low: 27°	RealFeel® High: 38° Low: 30°	RealFeel® High: 26° Low: 10°	RealFeel® High: 42° Low: 20°

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Highlands Newspaper

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Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N.C 28741

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There is a 500-word limit. We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

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CHEF TERRY KOVAL
Sunday, May 5

CHEF TBD
Friday, June 28

LAURENT-PERRIER CHAMPAGNE DINNER
Friday, July 12

3RD ANNUAL SUNDAY SUPPER
Sunday, August 25

6TH ANNUAL OYSTER & SEAFOOD FEST
Sunday, September 22

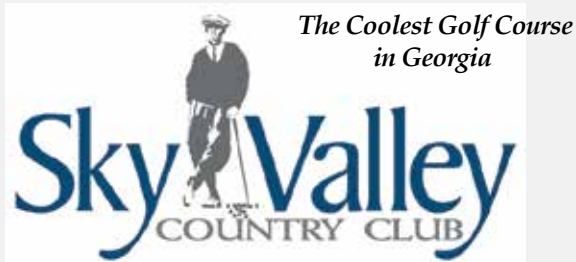
GREAT BRITAIN CELEBRITY CHEF PHIL VICKERY
Friday, October 11

FARM HARVEST DINNER & BARN DANCE
Friday, November 8

JAZZ SUPPER
AT HALF-MILE FARM
Saturday, November 9



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• OBITUARIES •

Mary Sue Dalton Forrester

Mary Sue Dalton Forrester, died peacefully on December 31, 2023, at Eckerd Living Center.

She was born July 17, 1937, in Highlands, NC to the late Charles T. "Dock" Dalton and Callie Ammons Dalton. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, J L Forrester, stepson R L Forrester (Nancy), two grandsons Thomas J Forrester, Jonah Richard Forrester, and multiple nieces and nephews.

Services will be at Blue Valley Baptist Church on Thursday, January 11, 2024. Visitation will be at 1pm with funeral service at 2pm, Reverends Oliver Rice and Delbert McCall officiating.

Interment will be at a later date at Highlands Memorial Cemetery.

Cremation Services were handled by Macon Funeral Home.

• See OBITUARIES page 14

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

The market may be different than you've heard

We have all experienced it. You are at a gathering and an acquaintance approaches you. They give a friendly greeting and quickly pose a question about sports, the weather, or a local event to start the conversation. However, when you are a Realtor®, people often instead ask, "What's happening in the real estate market?" Many truly want to know where the market is headed so they can keep up with the value implications to their home.

Interestingly, there is no shortage of data readily available. Local real estate firms frequently cite market data and trends in their advertisements. Some provide information from national data sources and others from our Highlands-Cashiers MLS. However, the local market is highly varied, even within communities that border each other.

Let me peel back the onion just one layer to reveal what I mean.

In 2023, 635 single-family homes were sold in our local MLS at an average sales price of \$1.29M. That compares with year 2022 data of 710 single-family home sales at an average sales price of \$1.21M. That equates to a 6.77% increase for the average closed price for single-family homes in our local market. If a client asks me "Does that mean my home increased around 6% in 2023?", my response is "To give you a good answer, I need to know a little more information about your home, such as location, view and style." Let me share why.

If we delve into comparing two local communities' recent sales and also look at two counties' sales results, we quickly see remarkable differences.

In 2023, homes within Cullasaja Club sold at an average sales price of \$2.43M.



John Sheehan
 Mountain Life Properties
 John@MountainLifeRE.com
 404-790-9716

That compares with year 2022 data of an average sales price of \$2.21M in the same community. That equates to a 6.1% increase year-over-year and closely matches the overall local market's rise in value. However, if we look at nearby Highlands Falls Country Club, in 2023 homes there sold at an average sales price of \$1.55M. That compares with year 2022 average sales price of \$1.19M in the same community. That equates to a 30.7% increase!

When you compare closed prices of homes within Jackson County to homes sold within Macon County and recorded in our local MLS, the Jackson County homes had a 6.5% year-over-year increase, similar to the overall market, while Macon County homes had a 12.1% year-over-year increase!

You may ask, "Why the large difference regarding the change of average closing price in one area versus another?" A key factor relates to the continuous drain on the inventory of homes listed under \$1.5M; especially those with list prices nearer the lower end of the market. The areas that traditionally have more homes in this price segment saw a larger year-over-year percentage increases in average selling price.

The volume of new listings in lower price segments has not kept up with the number of sales; and we know a low supply leads to higher prices.

So, the next time you ask a Realtor® about the real estate market, consider asking more targeted questions about specific locations or value segments you're interested in. It not only encourages the Realtor® to share more accurate insights, but also unveils the depth of their knowledge. You may be pleasantly surprised at the valuable information you uncover!

• John Sheehan is a Broker at Mountain Life Properties. Adeptly serving the luxury real estate sales market and located in Highlands within their log cabin office at 134 Maple Street, the Mountain Life Properties team welcomes all to stop by to say hello or visit our website MountainLifeRE.com or reach us at 828-239-8814.

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Saturday, January 27 and

Sunday, January 28, 2024

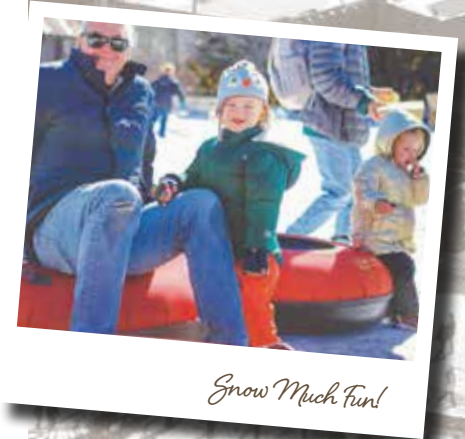
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• LETTER •

Is more better?

Dear Editor,

Recently, two long-time Highlands residents had the temerity to write letters to our two local newspapers expressing some popularly held grievances concerning the annual Food and Wine Festival held in November and produced by an events company from out of town.

Well, it didn't take long for all the big guns to come out shooting. For instance, board members of the events company, plus a few of their friends, signed on to two separate letters in the papers praising the festival; there was a gratuitous front page article extolling the endless virtues of the festival and justifying its endless generousities; and one letter, defending the festival, stated that the people who complained about it "obviously don't need to work". So there, take that, you lazy ne'er do well complainers!

The people so offended by those two letters missed the point, which was two-fold. They were written in defense of the people who actually live here. They were written in defense of the integrity

of the town, in defense of Highlands from becoming like any other theme town dedicated solely to luring and entertaining people from somewhere else who have no real stake or permanent investment here - they come for a lark, for a crazy weekend, then go back to their real lives. Whereas we, who live here, this is our real life, this is our real town, our everyday town. It is disheartening to be viewed as second-class citizens in your own home town.

Secondly, the letters were questioning not only the need for the Food and Wine Festival, but the necessity to create additional bogus festivals to fill in the so-called slow months in Highlands. Believe it or not, plenty of people yearn for the return of those slow months. Non-stop events are exhausting; it's like being on a merry-go-round that never stops. For at least nine months of the year, Highlands provides constant, first-rate entertainment for anyone who wants it or who needs continual stimulation. But we should take a clue from Mother Nature, from the natural cycle of things; everything needs a rest

now and then, everything needs to slow down now and then.

The people who were offended by the original two letters will no doubt be offended by this one. We will be accused of being anti-business or worse, I suppose. But I would like to suggest something else; we are not anti-business, we are pro-humanness. We should put more emphasis

on the humanity, not so much on the commercial. That's all.

I could elaborate, but have already used way too many words to say something quite simple. Thank you for your forbearance.

Alice Nelson
Highlands



...MISSING continued from page 1

helicopter for liftoff when Shmalo was found in his vehicle off of Blue Valley Road by a citizen who then took him to the hospital.

It was determined Shmalo was in good health and he was reunited with his family.

Chief Holland of the Police Department would like to extend thanks to the officers of the Highlands Police Department, Highlands Fire and Rescue, Macon County 911 Communications, and the North Carolina Highway Patrol for assistance in this search effort.

"We would also like to thank the citizens of Highlands for their continued support as we serve the community," said Chief Holland.

To help protect the elderly population, North Carolina developed the Silver Alert program to quickly disseminate descriptive information about the missing elderly person who may be endangered, so that citizens in the affected area can be on the and notify local law enforcement with any relevant information.

The program is a cooperative effort among local and state law enforcement and the N.C. Center for Missing Persons, with voluntary participation by radio and

television broadcasters and the N.C. Department of Transportation.

The North Carolina General Assembly formally established the program in 2007 by General Statute § 143B-1022; it is operated through the N.C. Center for Missing Persons.

- Submitted by HPD

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Highlands Varsity swim team 10-1

On Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Candy Cane Invitational Swim Meet, the Highlands School Boys Varsity Swim Team improved its record to 10-1 defeating teams from three states including Smoky Mountain, Murphy, Pickens, Union HS, and Gilmer HS.

The one-person girls team of Tate Wilson swam well and finished 2nd in the 500 and 3rd in the 200 freestyle.

Missing Jack Sumner to illness and Conner Hughes and Paolo McRae to scheduling conflicts the 4-person team of Junior Finneaus Garner, Sophomores Ani-

ah McKim and Jesus Mendoza-Tentle, and Freshman Chase Kenter finished 2nd in the 8-team meet by winning 7 of the 12 events.

Finneaus Garner won the 50 and 100 freestyle setting the meet and pool record in the 50. Aniah McKim won the 200 IM (Individual Medley) and the 100 breaststroke. Chase Kenter won the 100 backstroke and finished 2nd in the 200 freestyle. Jesus Mendoza-Tentle finished 4th in the 200 free.

The 4-man team of Garner, McKim, Kenter and Mendoza-Tentle won both the 200 Medley Relay and the 400 free relays.

Catapult: Storytelling through shadow dance coming to PAC

On Saturday, Jan. 27, Sat., The Highlands Performing Arts Center presents Catapult (America's Got Talent Finalists) at 7:30pm.

Enter the amazing world of Magic Shadows – you won't believe your eyes as you watch these incredible dancers transform their bodies into seemingly impossible shapes from the world around us. In one instant they are a mouse and then a full-size elephant, a camel, a car with headlights, a house and not just a house but a house with a window and people inside the window.

You will never figure out how they do it and you won't know what they will make next - you will be surprised again and again.

Audiences are delighted by the apparently effortless transformations and applaud over, and over as more and more unbelievable images appear on the stage. Not only is the show packed with hundreds of shape transformations, but it is full of humor, emotion, and engaging stories. Audiences leave this show dazed and happy and they will never look at their own shadow the same way again!

This magical shadow dancing performance is something the whole family to enjoy, be mesmerized by and be amazed. Tickets are available online: www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com. Please call the box office for children's tickets: 828.526.9047.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

ceives a town check. They supply the town with all kinds of tires for our many specialized tires. For instance, the police department tires have to meet law enforcement standards.

The town also mails checks to area car dealerships. Much of our vehicle fleet vehicles are Chevys and Fords and need routine maintenance. Like a household, our departments hate it when a vehicle comes off warranty and then has a major failure, like

dropping a transmission. Town staff works to prevent major auto repairs by conducting routine, scheduled maintenance.

In summary, keeping a town like Highlands functioning takes substantial money. We have a lot of activities and departments on a scale that most towns our size simply do not provide. Nevertheless, the costs are worth it in order to maintain a quality community.

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New year, new laws for NC in 2024

By Brittney Lofthouse

As the calendar turned to 2024, North Carolina welcomed a series of new laws, marking significant changes across various sectors from transportation and health services to election laws and criminal justice. This comprehensive look at the legislation that came into effect on January 1, 2024, outlines the direction North Carolina is taking in this new year.

1. Transportation and Driving Laws:

SB 157 - Limited Provisional License Modification: This act has made it easier for drivers to obtain a Limited Provisional License by reducing the time a Limited Learner's Permit must be held. It also amends passenger restrictions for those holding a Limited Provisional License, reflecting a more progressive approach to young drivers' mobility and autonomy.

2. Financial and Audit Reforms:

SB 299 - Reimburse Late Audit Costs with Sales Tax Revenue: Targeting greater compliance by counties and municipalities, this act imposes financial implications for late submissions of annual audit reports, thus enforcing timely financial transparency and accountability.

3. Health & Human Services Revisions:

HB 190 and HB 125 - Department of Health and Human Services Revisions & NC Health & Human Services Workforce Act: These acts introduce modifications to the laws pertaining to the Department of Health and Human Services. They cover a wide range, from technical changes to more significant reforms, including licensing provisions for military physicians and modifications in over-the-counter hearing aid laws.

4. Environmental Health:

HB 627 - On-Site Wastewater Rules Implementation: This law directs the Commission for Public Health to adopt and implement specific on-site wastewater rules, reflecting an increased focus on environmental health and safety.

5. Financial Administration and Unclaimed Property:

HB 181 and HB 203 - Unclaimed Property Division Changes & Department of State Treasurer Technical Corrections: These laws bring about changes to the management of unclaimed properties and make technical corrections to the statutes governing various retirement systems, ensuring more efficient financial administration.

6. Retirement System Reforms:

HB 201 - Retirement Administrative Changes Act of 2023: Making administrative and conforming changes to laws governing retirement systems, this act affects a significant portion of the state's workforce, including teachers and state employees.

7. Adoption and Guardianship Laws:

SB 615 - Adoption Law/Notary Changes/ Guardianship Rights: This law allows for more flexibility in adoption processes, including the adoption of adult adoptees by former stepparents and changes in redaction restrictions from adoption home studies.

8. Business and Corporation Law Amendments:

SB 477 - Amend Business Corporation Act/Business Opportunity Disclosures: This act makes various changes to the North Carolina Business Corporation Act, streamlining and updating the legal framework for businesses in the state.

9. General Statutory Changes:

HB 8 - Various Statutory Changes: This act encompasses a range of changes to the General Statutes, reflecting an ongoing process of legal refinement and adaptation.

10. Regulatory and Election Law Reforms:

HB 600, SB 749, and SB 747 - Regulatory Reform Act of 2023, No Partisan Advantage in Elections, and Elections Law Changes: These acts represent significant reforms in regulatory and election laws, aiming to improve the fairness and efficiency of electoral processes in North Carolina.

11. Criminal and Civil Law Developments:

SB 409 - Various Changes to Criminal and Civil Laws: This law amends various

aspects of criminal and civil laws, including changes to offenses related to breaking or entering vehicles and other properties.

12. Ethical Reforms in Addiction Services:

HB 415 - Stop Addiction Fraud Ethics Act of 2023: Establishing the Stop Addiction Fraud Ethics (SAFE) Act, this legislation aims to regulate and improve the ethical standards in addiction treatment services.

In conclusion, the onset of 2024 has brought with it a diverse range of legisla-

...BRYSON continued from page 1

arship Fund," said event co-chair and Town Commissioner, Brian Stiehler.

"We are grateful to have the Brysons support for this annual event," said Mayor Pat Taylor. "The Scholarship Fund is something the Bryson family has supported for many years, and they understand the importance it plays in the lives of Highlands School graduates."

Commissioner Stiehler said starting with 2024, the Bryson Family has stepped up to play an even larger role in the event for the benefit of local students and is committed to the partnership for the foreseeable future.

"They are financially covering 100% of the expenses which will enable the fund to net an additional \$15,000 or more each

year," he said. Since 1975, the Town of Highlands Scholarship fund has benefitted Highlands School graduates by giving scholarships to those furthering their education. All Highlands School graduates are eligible and receive some form of support for the duration of their post-secondary education, provided they apply each year. For the 2023-2024 school year, \$56,000 was awarded to new graduates and those continuing their post-secondary education. If you have any questions about this year's event, reach out to Commissioners Brian Stiehler or Jeff Weller or contact Rebecca Shuler at Town Hall (526-2118).

- Kim Lewicki



SPECIAL EVENT
for the Whole Family

America's Got Talent
Finalists

Catapult

Storytelling through
Shadow Dance

Saturday, January 27
7:30pm

Children's Tickets Available

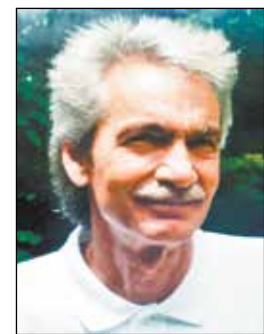
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A life finished well



Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central Baptist Church

When I was 10 years old, I lived with my grandparents on their farm in Candler, NC. It was a good life. I took to it. The pastures, gardens, livestock and hard work all seemed to be a natural part of my DNA.

It was during that time that I celebrated "The New Year" for the first time. That New Year was 1964. Even then I thought it would be a good idea to acknowledge that event in the same way I had heard of others doing. Such as shooting a gun into the night! I don't remember the conversation I had with my grandfather, but he apparently thought it was a good idea also! I can remember him standing behind me and helping me steady the rifle. In just a moment I squeezed the trigger. In doing so I felt so satisfied that I had done my part in ringing in the New Year! Yes; indeed, I felt satisfied.

How have you welcomed the New Year? After doing so did you go to bed feeling satisfied?

The Follower of Jesus Christ sees the New Year in some ways which are different from the non-Follower. By the way, which one might you be?

I think outstanding in this difference is that the Follower of Jesus Christ doesn't see the New Year so much as an opportunity for a new start as much as an opportunity to continue pursuing life in a way whereby he/she might finish well.

I am defining "Finishing Well" as Identifying and embracing the Lord's plan for one's life which will result in others knowing about Him, and some even coming to know Him."

This is precisely what the Lord Jesus Christ did. As early as age 12 He said that He was to be about the Father's business (Luke 2:49). He was embracing His Father's plan.

We know that the Father's business was the Cross. Jesus never lost sight of that. He knew that He had come to die for the sins of the world. Most of the known world at that time surely knew that also. The news of the Cross would have been the breaking news of that day. However, they only knew about Him. But then, there were others who came to know Him personally. That happened then and continues to happen now.

The Bible calls this personal relationship with Jesus Christ being born-again or saved. Has this happened to you?

May I be so bold (some would say ignorant) as to say that apart from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ one simply cannot finish well. To be sure, they may be remarkably successful in terms of position, wealth and influence. But then what?

A Holy God has given you the gift of life for a greater purpose than just to live and die. He has made you to know Him personally through His Son, Jesus Christ.

This Truth alone is remarkable and overwhelming!

May I close with a story which some of you have already heard? It is about someone who finished well.

Her name is Gwynne, my first wife.

Twenty-two years ago she transitioned to Heaven. Her's was indeed a life well lived. But I wasn't faring so well. Those days were dark for me. The waters were uncharted. It was quite a fix for a preacher to be in. Preaching hope when I felt so

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 14

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Thursdays: 10 am Healing Eucharist

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www.cashiers.church

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Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

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

Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

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www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

ing Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Dec. 18. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Dec. 18

• At 5:23 p.m., officers responded to a call of vandalism at a residence on Hardscrabble Ridge Road where wine bottles were broken while delivery.

Dec. 24

• At 10:51 p.m., John Joseph Shea, 79, of Juno Beach, FL, was arrested for DUI when stopped on Hickory Street. He was issued a written promise. His court date is Jan. 17.

Dec. 27

• At 12:24 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28 near Spring Street.

• At 7:45 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on the Cashiers Road near Sherwood Forest Road.

Dec. 29

• Officers were notified of a 73-year-old woman impaired by a diabetic emergency being sold a product by Beauty Frizz on Main Street.

Dec. 30

• At 2:45 p.m., officers responded to a call of shoplifting at Wits End where \$184 in merchandise was taken.

Jan. 1

• At 1:27 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 28 near Spring Street.

Jan. 4

• At 10:54 p.m., officers were notified of a 78-year-old missing man who had left 4118 Kitchen and Bar and not returned home.

Jan. 5

• At 1:02 p.m., officers responded to a call of a breaking and forced entry into a home on N. 6th Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Dec. 19.

Dec. 19

• At 9:38 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Wingina Lane.

• At 5:14 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Spring Street.

Dec. 20

• At 10:03 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Split Rail Row.

• At 12:35 p.m., the dept. re-

sponded to a water flow alarm at a residence on Country club Drive.

• At 7:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a location on Spring Street.

Dec. 21

• At 2:22 p.m., the dept. assisted a stranded motorist on N. 4th Street.

Dec. 22

• At 9:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hicks Road.

Dec. 23

• At 9:49 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Oak Lane.

• At 4:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Farm Road.

Dec. 25

• At 3:34 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Cashiers Road.

Dec. 26

• At 9:53 a.m., the dept. responded to a call about a tree on a line on Edwards Creek Road.

• At 12:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on the Cashiers Road.

• At 5:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Wyanoak Road.,

• At 9:17 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Cashiers Road.

Dec. 27

• At 8:09 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Skylake Drive.

• At 11:08 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

• At 4:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Highlands Plaza.

• At 5:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road.

• At 7:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Cashiers Road.

Dec. 28

• At 7:58 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Simon Speed Road.

• At 1:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sage Drive.

• At 4:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Glen Falls Road.

Dec. 29

• At 3:55 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Crescent Trail.

• At 11:27 a.m., the dept. responded to a call about smoke at a residence on the Cashiers Road.

PLANET

by Lauren G

pj harlow
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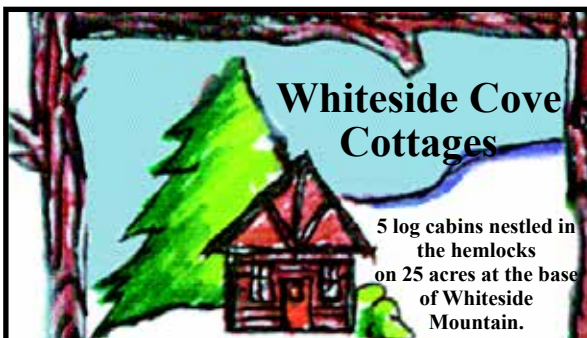
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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 14

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Classifieds -2024

\$10 for 10 words, 30 cents for each were thereafter. \$2 for color highlight. \$5 for color photo.

...SPIRITUALLY

from page 10

thoroughly hopeless.

During that time, I ran into my aunt in a Christian bookstore. She looked at me and said, "Son, there is a Future."

That was literally the pivotal turning point in my life. She had simply spoken a Truth which I had forgotten.

As it was for me, so it is with you. Your days may be very dark. Any talk of the future seems like empty talk to you. If that describes you, then I simply say to you, There is a future!

God loves you. He has planned a future for you. He desires that you finish well. He will give you His power and grace to face and endure even the most tragic times and circumstances.

On this first week of the New Year, I hope you will turn to Him. I hope you will build a life that counts.

And when the Pastor, Rabbi or Priest presides at your funeral, I hope the congregation will hear him say, "Here is a life that finished well!"

...OBITUARIES continued from page 4

Diana Geneva Potts

Diana Geneva Potts, 63, of Highlands, passed away on January 4, 2024. Born in Highlands, on April 7, 1960, Diana was the fourth child of James "Jimbo" and Geneva Potts.

Diana was a graduate of Highlands School and later obtained a business degree from Southwestern Community College. Diana found immeasurable joy being in the presence of her grandchildren and family.

She is survived by her siblings, Clarence "Dabs" Potts and Lisa Talley; her daughters, Chelsea Davis and Sarah Sanford; and her adored grandchildren, Austin Murray, Makayla Sanford, Siler



Wagner, Michael Sutton, Adam Wagner, Owen Davis, and Ila Davis.

She was preceded in death by her father, James Arthur Potts; her mother; Geneva Alie Bradley; and her brothers, Keith Allen Potts and Timothy Wayne Potts.

In honor of Diana's life, a celebration of life service was held, Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at Highlands Baptist Church.

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



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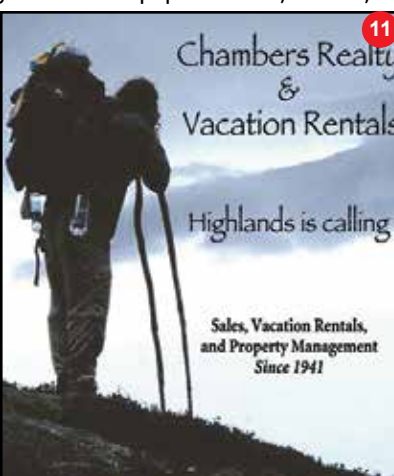
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