WideOpen contract OK’d at retreat

The Town Board Annual Retreat was last Thursday. It’s when department heads outline their wants and needs in hopes of them becoming part of the budget – in this case FY 2020-21.

Though business isn’t typically done at Town Board retreats, this time as the last item on the agenda, business was conducted regarding the WideOpen Network contract.

The board voted 4-1 to accept the contract. Commissioner Mark Hehn voted against it.

“I had a lot of questions regarding the contract but also re-

Preparing for COVID-19 is crucial

Every institution and government agency in the country, state, county, and town is monitoring the Coronavirus.

By press time, no drastic measures have been initiated in Highlands or Macon County but on NC Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency due to 7 confirmed cases in the state.

The declaration conveys to the public that the illness is of a threat that they should take protective measures against it, and it makes the state eligible for federal emergency funding.

The MC Health Department, the MC School District, HCA/Mission and the town of Highlands are suggesting people take personal precautions including curtailing visiting elders in

Plateau gymnasts strive for perfection

Plateau Daily News

Gymnastics is different from other sports. Competitions are few and often far away, gymnasts

More SANE nurse access needed in WNC

By Brittney Lofhouse

While there is room to debate when Angel Medical Center lost its SANE nurse position, the one thing that cannot be debated is the need for the services a SANE nurse provides victims of sexual abuse.

A few months after REACH of Macon County’s Assistant Director Jennifer Turner-Lynn spoke during a public forum about a victim of rape having to

Rep. Meadows District 11 seat is officially vacant; next step is unclear

Meadows self-quarantines for COVID-19

By Brittney Lofhouse

After serving Western North Carolina in the United States House of Representative, Congressman Mark Meadows will now transition into the President’s cabinet to serve as Donald Trump’s Chief of Staff.

“It’s an honor to be selected by President Trump to serve alongside him and his team,” Congressman Meadows said in a release shortly after President Trump made the announcement via Twitter. “This President and his administration have a long list of incredible victories they’ve delivered to the country during this first term, with the best yet to come — and I look forward to helping build on that success and staying in the fight for the forgotten men and women of America.”

Mick Mulvaney has been serving as the President’s interim

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Eliza Tate performs a backflip on a beam at New Vision Training Center.

– Photo by Brian O’Shea
Preparing for the Coronavirus

I just because we live on a remote and somewhat isolated mountain plateau, there is still a possibility that the coronavirus will appear and even spread. We are a tourist community and have many folks coming and going to multiple locations which makes us vulnerable to transmission of the virus. Also, as a retirement community, a significant portion of our residents could be vulnerable to coronavirus complications.

Our town staff is monitoring the situation. Staff members attended a strategy meeting with Macon County Emergency Services and the Macon County Public Health Department that was reported in last week’s paper. I have also spoken with EMS Director Warren Cabe. There are protocols in place to address the spread and containment of the coronavirus. The same county system was in place when Ebola and SARS were public health concerns. Fortunately, no action was required in those situations. As of last week, there were no reported cases in Macon County.

I have also talked with Tom Neal, the executive director of the Highlands Cashiers Hospital. HCA is implementing protocols to control the spread of the virus at their facilities. They already screen visitors to the hospital to make sure they do not have cold or flu symptoms. This screening is a standard practice during annually occurring flu season. Tom has informed me that the hospital has all the equipment, materials and staff to deal with a coronavirus outbreak should one occur.

Tom emphasizes that the best line of personal defense against any virus is thorough hand washing. He stresses that folks sometimes forget to wash thumbs and between fingers, and that washing with a good soap should last a minimum of 20 seconds.

Be assured the Town of Highlands realizes this is a serious issue, and we will work with these agencies in a coordinated response. I will be meeting with a representative of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce to discuss the issue of the opening of the season which brings large events to the town. It is anyone’s guess as to how long this virus will remain active. It may dissipate as warmer temperatures return.

I do have the authority to declare a state of emergency if a situation warrants it. As with other emergency declarations, I depend on guidance from experts in the county to advise me as to when to take such action. County officials are in constant contact with state and federal officials who are tracking and analyzing the spread of the coronavirus.

A real problem with this medical crisis is unwarranted fear and misinformation. The spread COVID 19 virus has without a doubt impacted the world economy, the civil, social and cultural infrastructure. There are no easy solutions such as putting up gates and closing off Highlands to the outside world.

On the other hand, we can use best personal practices to mitigate this potential crisis. I recommend visiting the websites of the American Red Cross or the World Health Organization. Both websites identify practices that can minimize exposure.

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Lola Mae Stiwinter Stewart

Mrs. Lola Mae Stiwinter Stewart, 82, passed away March 6, 2020 in Highlands, NC. Mrs. Stewart was born January 14, 1938 in Jackson County to the late L.C. Stiwinter and Ruby Fox Stiwinter. She was married to the late Odell Stewart who preceded her in 2016. Lola was a care giver for 15 years for several people and she worked for Cashiers Plastic for 19 years. She was a member of the Yellow Mountain Baptist Church and in recent years she attended the Cashiers Church of God. Mrs. Lola loved to garden, go to flea markets, and thrift stores. She loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her son, Jay Stewart (Laura) of Cashiers, NC; two grandchildren, Julie Stewart Bennett and Karl Stewart (Malori); 8 grandchildren, Jordin Dominque, James Madden, Marisa Cole, Justine Dominque, Evan Pressley, Maddox Stewart, Garet Stewart, and Evelyn Bennett; a sister, Ronnie Dean Lowing of Franklin; and a brother, Jack Stiwinter of Charlotte.

In addition to her husband and parents Mrs. Stewart was preceded in death by a brother, T. W. Stiwinter.

A funeral service was held Monday, March 9 at the Cashiers Church of God with the Rev. David Hall and Rev. Ricky Potts officiating. Burial followed in the Evitt Cemetery. Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

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WIDEOPEN continued from page 1

garding the necessity of completing this project. It seems to me providers in the area have upped their game over the last few years,” he said after the meeting.

MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler said though the contract was accepted by the Town Board, the process isn’t complete.

“The Town Board did approve the WideOpen contract, but now it will be sent back to WideOpen for their approval,” he said. “If WideOpen approves it, then it is a completed deal, but if they have any changes, it will be brought back to the board.”

About five years ago, when legislative windows opened to allow municipalities to get into the broadband business, the Town of Highlands jumped through. Subsequent legislative changes have initiated the town getting into business with WideOpen, but the ball was rolling, and plans for the fiber highway were in the works.

“The Town Board and staff have been working on this project for five years. We are about five years ahead of most rural communities in North Carolina. All these communities see access to this technology as an economic survival issue,” said Mayor Pat Taylor.

Taylor said the fiber highway the town is building at its own expense is about more than broadband.

“The fiber network is a unified communication system,” said Taylor. It does not use copper lines but all seamless fiber optic, glass cable lines. Since it is not copper, it is resistant to outages caused by lightning. At this point, there seems to be no limitation to bandwidth that a single fiber can carry. This network will provide a single strand of fiber to each home and business that is on the network which means each customer will have dedicated, secure fiber to use.

Linking every residence and business within the town limits is a good thing, but many outside the town limits still lack reliable broadband – going with satellite providers instead. Even that is difficult since geography and tree cover dictates where and if a satellite can be targeted.

Town staff has long said that the fiber highway built to the edges of town may help providers supply services outside of town.

“The network goes to every parcel of property in the town limits. Also, it goes to residents who are on town electricity outside the town limits, like in Horse Cove,” said Taylor. “By expanding the in-town highway outside of town, WideOpen will be able to run the fiber anywhere it sees a need. Then, providers leasing fiber from WideOpen can provide service anywhere the network is located.”

The town has taken a $4.6 million loan out to build the network and it expects the fiber network to be a viable operation for 40 to 50 years.

WideOpen will eventually own the fiber highway installed by the town as a private business and will manage and operate it.

The money WideOpen pays the town for operating the network and leasing the fiber will go to paying the loan back.

“It is a 15-year loan, but it will take 23 years to fully recover the cost of the loan,” said Taylor. “If NC House Bill 129 allowed the town to negotiate a 20-year lease with WideOpen, this network would already be built. We can only lease the fiber to them for just under 10 years. At that time, a new lease with WideOpen or another provider will have to be negotiated.”

Such legislative time constraints made it hard for the town to secure a partner for the project.

Unlike its enterprise funds – electric, water and sewer -- the town isn’t trying to make money for the town, but rather ensure Highlands has a world-class fiber network, said Taylor.

“It is a long-term investment that will have intangible benefits such as insuring a viable real estate market and business environment because people can work from home full-time, part-time, day or night,” said Taylor.

Taylor has long said such reliable technology may entice people to live in Highlands and work long-distance.

But what of the relationships residents and businesses have with current providers like Altitude and others? Will they be dissolved? Who will absorb those contracts?

According to Taylor and Shuler, Altitude and its two employees will be acquired by WideOpen. WideOpen will continue to operate Altitude and convert current customers over to the fiber network.

“There should be no change in service,” said Taylor. “In fact, the wireless operations of Altitude may be extended to more areas outside of the town limits. That decision will be made by WideOpen.”

Once the fiber highway is completed and WideOpen takes over, the town will not be in the broadband business.

WideOpen will take over the billing of Altitude customers, and they will operate an office here in Highlands.

At that point, residents and businesses will have the opportunity to select a provider from a list WideOpen has.

Those providers will drop a line from the highway directly to residences or businesses.

“As best as we can determine at this time, WideOpen will begin operations in Highlands sometime this summer,” said Taylor and Shuler.

Like Hehn suggested, over the years during which the town’s fiber highway plan has been in the works, some providers in town have upped their game -- likely to get a jump on the town’s and WideOpen’s plan.

This means the whole issue of supplying broadband will get down to private business competition.

“If a provider wanted to be available to every residence and business in Highlands in a very short time, leasing fiber from WideOpen and dropping lines would be the best way to accomplish that goal,” said Taylor.

But if people are happy with the providers they now have, they can continue with them without being hindered by WideOpen.

“If a resident likes their provider, they can continue with them,” Taylor said. “I do think we are seeing major changes in the industry. The old cable or satellite system of acquiring TV is on its way out and streaming services are on the way in. Copper phone lines are going away, too. For instance, with the fiber highway, a person can have a ‘landline’ on the fiber network with full speed and clarity.”

The network should be completed in late May or June.

WideOpen said it will offer highly reliable gigabit fiber connections throughout the town of Highlands where people can use all the bandwidth they want without worrying about slowdown, overage charges or data caps.

Numerous TVs, laptops, computers, tablets, printers and servers can be used at the same time “at the speed of light,” it says.

It will offer a choice of service providers and services and a competitive marketplace with the ability to support a wide range of services including home security, data backups, telehealth, video on demand and more.

Finally, it says they will offer a wide range of very high performance “business class” services including Gig, 10Gig, 100Gig and wavelength services.

In their promo pieces WideOpen says it’s bringing better, faster and cheaper Internet to Highlands.

-- Kim Lewicki
As I am writing this, the Coronavirus is the major news item, along with the stock market decline and the “circuit breaker” that was tripped because of the massive sell-off of equities. Who knows what will happen by the time this article is printed on Thursday, but it did get me thinking about how thankful I am to live on the plateau and some of the insulating factors that are provided by living here.

We are not immune to the virus coming into our area, as it already is in North Carolina. However, our likelihood of coming in contact with it is greatly decreased, as in any rural area as compared to a metropolitan or urban area. Here are a few of the things that could occur on any normal day, and which would you prefer?

- Stop by the chain coffee shop on a busy corner in a city or visit a independent local coffee shop for a latte?
- Work in a high-rise office building, sharing the elevator with many or share an office with a few others workers?
- Have lunch in the chain restaurant know for turning its tables or eat at one of the local joints that prepare fresh food on a daily basis?
- Work out at a gym that you share with hundreds of others or take a walk around town or a hike on one of our trails?
- Attend a mega-church with a parking lot so big they need a shuttle bus or a church with a few hundred other people?
- Shop at a locally owned hardware store, grocery or boutique shop, or stop by the big box stores where hundreds or thousands go in and out daily.
- Go to the Playhouse for a movie where there are 30-50 patrons or go to the multiplex theater.
- Send your children to a K-12 school that has fewer students than most grades in urban schools.

These are just a few examples, but I’m sure you see the point. On a busy day, we may come in contact with several hundred people here, but in a metropolitan area that number would easily be in the thousands, possibly 10s of thousands depending on where and how you live. These are generalizations, as I know we have a chain grocery and we all go “off the mountain” for certain services and other reasons. Regardless of a pandemic, these are the same reasons so many people buy second homes or move here as year-round residents. The lifestyle on the plateau doesn’t exempt us from exposure, but does lower the chance and provides a quality of life not offered in many places.

Changing to the stock market issue, it is also relevant to us on the plateau. Any good money manager will stress the importance of diversification of a portfolio. A good investment portfolio would not only be diversified into stocks and bonds, but different types of stocks – large cap, small cap, emerging markets, etc. Real estate portfolios should also be diversified. If you own a property in an urban setting, consider a second home in a rural setting like the plateau. Perhaps you own a vacation rental property as an investment at the beach. Diversify and add one in the mountains which would attract different types of renters. Or you may want to invest in other types of real estate. A commercial property, multifamily property, long-term rental or vacant land would diversify your portfolio. All of these are available on the plateau.

It is too early to tell if the recent stock market decline will impact real estate sales or values, in urban or rural environments. There are still buyers and sellers, and the mortgage rates are at all time lows, so it may be a good time to diversify into something else.

History shows us that eventually the Coronavirus will not be the news headline and the stock market will return and set new highs. Until that happens, I’m glad to ride out the storm here on the plateau.

- Carl Romberg is the Broker-in-Charge of Landmark Realty Group’s Highlands Office. Landmark has been the firm with the largest volume of sales on the plateau each of the past 7 years. Carl can be reached at 678-936-9309 or carl@landmarkrg.com.

...COVID-19 continued from page 1

nursing homes and urging people who feel sick or who display flu-like symptoms to stay home.

According to the CDC, patients with COVID-19 have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure and include fever, cough and shortness of breath. The CDC says to call your healthcare professional if you develop symptoms and have been in close contact with a person known to have the disease or if you have recently traveled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of the disease.

At last Thursday’s Town Board Retreat, Commissioner Dr. Amy Patterson, who made it clear she is not an expert or a “human” doctor said she has been in contact with a human pathologist who has imparted knowledge and had suggestions.

“It’s great to have all our government agencies telling us what to do, but we can do automatic things ourselves: don’t shake hands, open doors with your hips or your elbows and if you use gloves to open doors, pitch them after you use them,” she said.

Patterson said the Coronavirus virus targets lung cells. That’s the only place it replicates but it’s not the only place you can get it. You can get it from person-to-person infections, so if someone coughs on you and they have it that cough, those droplets, is how it is transmits to you.

“The other way people get it is community transmission,” said Patterson. “If I put my hand down and I have it, that virus is now right there. You put your hand right there, you can get it. The other thing is humans put their hands to their face somewhere in the neighborhood of 90 times a day and that’s how you get it. So, what they talk about now, is simple things. Don’t shake hands -- if they have it on their hands, you’ll get it on your hands and you immediately put it to your face.”

Patterson said Highlands is a community to which a lot of people are coming to from Atlanta where Hartsfield is one of the biggest airports in the world and people are flying in from all over the world. A lot of those people come up here. So, don’t open doors with doorknobs, she said.

“If a person opened a door last night and had it on their hands and I open it today, I get it on my hand. That’s community transmission. You don’t have had to be in contact with that person, because basically the virus only replicates or lives in lung tissue, but it can be on inanimate objects that we touch,” she said.

Using soap and water for at least 20 seconds is good but carrying soap and water around isn’t reasonable. So, authorities say to use a hand sanitizer that contains over 60% alcohol many times a day.

“If you use gloves to open doors, they are contaminated so you can’t reuse them. If you cough, cough into a tissue and throw that away; don’t reuse it. If you get it on your hands you put it other places. Turn on light switches with your knuckle, things like that. Open doors with an elbow. It’s not just about you preventing yourself from getting the disease, it’s about preventing the spreading of it,” said Patterson.

How long it lives on inanimate objects depends on temperature and humidity. But the virus cells can only replicate in the lung tissue of the body.

“Sneezing – though it’s technically not a lung function – you use air from your...
...COVID-19 continued from page 7

lungs to create that sneeze, Coughing, obviously. Any air that comes from your lungs could be contaminated," she said.

Patterson finished by saying masks aren’t always to keep you from getting the virus, it’s to keep people from touching their mouth. She said a bandana, a scarf, anything that will remind you not to touch your mouth and face.

The American Red Cross and the World Health Organization are closely monitoring the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and are following the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Those agencies are highlighting some everyday health and preparedness steps that people in the U.S. can take now. There are also special recommendations for people who may be at a higher risk – those over the age of 60 with underlying health problems.

Limit the Spread of Germs and Prevent Infection

The Red Cross recommends following common sense steps to help prevent the spread of any respiratory virus.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and throw the tissue away after use. If a tissue isn’t available, cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve, not your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Practice other good health habits. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.
- Clean and disinfect door knobs, switches, handles, computers, telephones, bedside tables, bathroom sinks, toilets, counters, toys and other surfaces that are commonly touched around the home or workplace.
- To the extent possible, avoid touching commonly used surfaces in public places like elevator buttons, door handles and handrails and avoid handshaking with people. Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hand or finger if you must touch something.
- Follow the CDC’s recommendations for using a facemask.
- CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask.

- Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.
- The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).

Get Your Household Ready

There are things you can do right now to be ready for any emergency, and many of these same tips will help you prepare as the coronavirus situation continues to evolve in the U.S.

- Have a supply of food staples and household supplies like laundry detergent and bathroom items, and diapers if you have small children.
- Check to make sure you have at least a 30-day supply of your prescription medications, and have other health supplies on hand, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes and vitamins.
- Know how your local public health agency will share information in your community and stay informed.
- Learn how your children’s school or daycare, and your workplace will handle a possible outbreak. Create a plan in the event of any closings, event cancellations or postponements.

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Funeral Notice

The celebration of life gathering for John Evan Norton previously scheduled for Saturday, March 14 at the Community Building near the ballfields has been postponed until further notice. The family thanks everyone for their prayers and good thoughts and hopes to reschedule soon.

Kim Lewicki
I was wrong last week when I said the Democratic party’s primary process wouldn’t be clarified following Super Tuesday. It has, in fact, come into extremely sharp relief. Disclaimer: I’m unaffiliated. I dislike both parties in equal measure.

It’s a week since what’s being referred to as the biggest comeback since Nixon’s in 1968. Joe Biden not only lives to fight another day, he’s now the favorite to win the nomination. Until his big win in South Carolina, Biden’s campaign was on life-support and Bernie Sanders was odds-on favorite.

This whiplash is nothing new. Humorist Will Rogers, who passed in 1935, famously responded, when about his political affiliation, “I’m not a member of any organized political party. I’m a Democrat.”

In 2016, you’ll remember, the Democrats made certain that only one candidate would prevail through the nominating process: Hillary Clinton. All polls and pundits had her defeating Donald Trump. Didn’t happen. This time, they went in the opposite direction, inviting everyone to participate. Early debates had to be split into multiple sessions to accommodate all the candidates.

But now it’s down to two: Sanders, still an Independent and still a Progressive-Democratic Socialist, and Biden, a mainstream-moderate and still gaffing it up whenever he opens his mouth. Following Super Tuesday, which was supposed to be a coronation for Bernie, moderates Pete Buttigieg, Mike Bloomberg, and Amy Klobuchar dropped out of the race, and threw their support to Biden. Sanders’ supporters immediately cried foul, claiming that once again the party’s leaders were trying to sabotage Sanders’ campaign.

They weren’t and they didn’t.

Joe Biden is the most mainstream, most moderate Democrat to be found in the progressive era. His positions on issues are … sorry, Bernie supporters … mainstream and moderate.

Bernie’s positions, the ones that appeal most to his progressive base, are in fact, extreme, outlandishly costly and would prove virtually impossible to implement. Plus, they tend to appeal either to other socialists and/or mainly young voters. Medicare for All is aimed at the young. Middle aged voters get their health insurance at work. Older voters, who vote in very large numbers, already have Medicare, or can see it coming. Free college tuition? Aimed at the young and likely would never make it through Congress. Older folks have been there and done that. Student loan forgiveness? Aimed at the young, and again, a tough sell in even in a Democrat-controlled Congress, which is no sure thing.

In truth, there’s nothing wrong with pitching young people; Barack Obama got elected doing it in 2008. But you can’t forget middle aged and older Americans who tend to vote in higher numbers than young people.

Joe’s positions, not to beat a dead donkey, are entirely mainstream. As far as healthcare is concerned, Joe wants to add a public option to Obamacare, not eliminate it. Eliminating Obamacare is a Republican platform plank. He wants to provide two years of free college, not four. He favors background checks on guns, some restrictions on late term abortions, clean energy solutions, etc. As I said, mainstream.

Newsflash, Bernie supporters, the young can’t be counted on to vote in huge numbers; at least they haven’t since 2008. The party’s leadership isn’t sabotaging Bernie’s campaign. If anyone is doing it, it’s Bernie’s own campaign. And, aside to Bernie, saying nice things about Fidel Castro won’t win over non-Mexican, Latino voters, a growing and important constituency if Democrats hope to defeat Donald Trump, especially in Florida.

If Bernie prevails, Biden’s people will likely get on board. Not necessarily so if Biden wins the nomination. Many of Bernie’s supporters are of the ‘all or nothing’ variety, willing to sit out the election if their man doesn’t get the nomination. Sorry, that’s just dumb.

The Democratic Party’s 2020 nominating process began as a model of age, gender, racial and ethnic diversity. It’s boiled down to a battle between a mainstream moderate and a radical progressive/democratic socialist, personified by two late-70s white men.

There’s a lot of politics still to come before we know who will live in the White House from 2021-2025. Republicans and Donald Trump are not going to sit by and let the contest between Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden dominate the conversation.

Democrats, who traditionally can’t seem to get out of their own way, if they’re going to win, must, for once, coalesce behind either Bernie Sanders or Joe Biden, and leave the ideological purity tests at the door.

Bud Katz

A Clear Choice for Democrats
often compete as individuals instead of a team, and there is no off season.

Charlotte Bumgarner, 8, of Cashiers; and Eliza Tate, 15, of Highlands travel to Franklin several times a week to train at New Vision Training Center, each practice session lasts four hours. Both gymnasts began when they were 1.5 years old. Tate said the sacrifice is worth it to do something you love.

“Gymnastics is a big commitment, but it’s worth it because it teaches me so much more than anything else,” said Tate. “It’s also really unique because some of the girls and boys I practice with at the moment range from 2nd to 12th grade.”

Bumgarner said there’s a draw to gymnastics that keeps her coming back to the gym to train.

“I like gymnastics because I like to do crazy things, and I want to show people that girls can do anything boys can do,” said Bumgarner. “Gymnastics encourages girls to do that.”

During competitions, gymnasts perform on the vault, beam, floor routine, and bars; Bumgarner and Tate strive for improvement at each station. Competitors are scored based on leg, feet, arms, hands, head, creativity, presentation, amplitude, and skill level (how difficult is the routine).

Tate recently took first place in vault at The Charleston Cup in South Carolina on Feb. 29. New Vision Coach April Ostojic said Tate wasn’t happy with her performance but ended up taking first.

“Eliza is very dedicated, 4-5 times a week all year round, she has strong goals and a great work ethic,” said Ostojic. “She is a leader on our team and pulls us all together, and she’s confident in that role.”

Bumgarner said she gets excited before competitions but calms down once she begins her routine.

“Sometimes competitions are really intense,” said Bumgarner. “And sometimes the judges can be really hard, but I don’t blame them, they’re just doing their job.”

New Vision Coach Alanna Peavy said Bumgarner’s dedication for someone her age is impressive.

“She works very hard and puts in a lot of effort in the gym every time she’s here,” said Peavy. “She always has a positive attitude and she shows improvement with each meet she competes in.”

Bumgarner remembers when she was competing one time and due to a schedule mishap, had to perform on the floor with very no notice.

“It was my third competition and I was backstage and suddenly I had to go on with no preparation,” she said. “Then they said I won first place and I thought, oh my gosh this is amazing!”

Tate said the dedication required for gymnastics has an effect on her social life. “I get a social life at the gym,” said Tate. “Going to a public school rather than being home schooled gives me friends there, too. It just effects my inability to hang-out with them a lot. I’m also at the gym all summer, so hanging out then really isn’t an option either.”

Tate’s mother, Allison, said Eliza’s participation in gymnastics has been a family commitment since they began a Mommy and Me class when Eliza was a baby. She said the number one reason it’s worth it is because gymnastics is Eliza’s passion, and watching your child do something that she loves is enough.

“Eliza is learning about failures and successes,” said Allison. “She is learning about setting goals and how to work for them. Imagine setting a goal and literally failing time and time again, like days upon days, before you nail that tumbling pass or dismount. Also, when she is competing one small bobble can cause a fall on an event and she has to make quick decisions how she can make up for a mistake. There is so much pressure in the spotlight of gymnastics and she is learning huge life lessons about how to handle pressure, stress, nerves, etc.”

Bumgarner’s mother, Katie, said she first enrolled her daughter into gymnastics as a fun activity and a chance to socialize. After Charlotte chalked up her hands once, she was hooked.

“At the time, there was a shortage of Cashiers-local activities for very young kids, so driving to Franklin was one of the only options,” said Katie. “Charlotte took to gymnastics immediately and has loved it ever since. The amount of practices within the week have increased with her joining the competition team and also increasing in level, and definitely can be inconvenient and overwhelming at times. But seeing her smile out on the gym floor while she’s giving it all she’s got makes every mile worth it.”
The inspiration for Dickens the dog

In my cozy mystery series, the main character owns a Great Pyrenees named Dickens, but not just any Pyr. Hers is a dwarf, and they do exist, just not in great numbers. You can’t go out and find one at a pet store or at a breeder’s. They’re anomalies.

Because my dog Banjo is part Pyr, I’ve grown to love the breed’s temperament, and I’ve learned a lot about their traits. Banjo may weigh only 70 pounds and have a black coat instead of a white one, but his personality is pure Pyr. As I thought about my books, I knew I wanted a dog as sidekicks for my character, and I thought, “Why not a Great Pyrenees?” That way, I could use Banjo as the model for the fictional dog’s shenanigans.

Breeders don’t set out to breed smaller Great Pyrenees, but occasionally a dwarf Pyr is born from a healthy set of parents. In years past, these smaller dogs were hidden or culled. Everything I read about these smaller versions of the majestic breed made me smile. They range in size from 13” to 18” at the shoulder and can weigh 35 – 50 pounds. Some of the dwarfs have hearing problems or are completely deaf. I had to laugh at one owner who said he wasn’t sure whether his little one was hard of hearing or simply had the breed’s tendency toward selective hearing. Banjo has that tendency, and he’s only part Pyr.

As you might expect, they can also have skeletal and/or joint issues, but then so do many labs and goldens and other large breeds. I’ve read everything I can find about these small dogs, but I don’t pretend to understand the science behind the study underway to determine the cause of dwarfism in Pyrs. I’ve been more interested in the unbelievably cute photos I’ve found on Facebook.

I corresponded with one or two owners on Facebook and was able to get permission to use a photo of one little guy as the model for Dickens. His name is Bailey, and I think he’s precious. Naturally, in my book, Dickens is a huge hit. Everyone who meets him recognizes he must be a Great Pyrenees, and then they wonder how he can be so tiny. Is it any wonder that Dickens has a bit of a complex about his size and is quite sensitive about “little” comments?

And yes, in case you’re wondering, Dickens talks to Leta a la Dr. Dolittle, but she’s the only one who can understand him. He’s a happy go lucky little guy who likes everyone he meets, and he adores long walks and car rides and belly rubs. I did mention he has Banjo’s personality, right? Get to know him better in “Bells, Tails & Murder” available on Amazon.

Author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her books on Amazon. Locally, “Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch” is available at Highlands Mountain Paws. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.

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MET Opera’s production of Der Fliegende Holländer (The Flying Dutchman) Saturday, March 14

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will broadcast live via satellite the MET Opera’s production of Der Fliegende Holländer (The Flying Dutchman) by Wagner on Saturday, March 14 at 12:55pm. Sir Bryn Terfel returns to the Met for the first time since 2012, as the mysterious seafarer searching for salvation. Director François Girard, whose mesmerizing production of Parsifal recently wowed Met audiences, returns to stage Wagner’s eerie early masterwork. Tickets available: www.highlandsnc.org or www.highlandsperformingarts.com or at the door. 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC
Highlands Area Events

Sun., March 15
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike with very little elevation change in the woods at the west end of the Macon County Library in Franklin, following the bicycle path to the Greenway, walking along Carroogehcy Creek to the Community Garden and returning. Meet at the library at 2 pm. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352 for reservations.

Sun., March 15
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to Mud Creek Falls, despite its name, a beautiful waterfall in Sky Valley, GA. Follow an old logging road with a small incline along Mud Creek to a picnic area at the falls. Meet at Smoky Mountain Visitors Center at 2 pm, drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Kathy Ratcliff, 526-6480, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sun., March 22
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to Appalachian Trail at Glassmine Gap, then north to Rock Gap, returning by the Forest Service Road. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 11 am, drive 32 miles round trip. Call leader Katharine Brown, 421-4178, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sun., March 22
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to the Appalachian Trail at Glassmine Gap, then north to Rock Gap, returning by the Forest Service Road. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 11 am, drive 32 miles round trip. Call leader Katharine Brown, 421-4178, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sat., May 9
• Music concert in the Park. Drew Holcomb & the Neighbors to co-headline first-ever spring concert presented by Highlands Food & Wine. Tickets are $60 for General Admission and $105 for VIP Admission, which includes prime stage viewing and hosted beer wine and spirits. Cash bars and food vendors will also be available. Tickets are available at https://highlandsfestivals.com/

Thurs., May 21
• Fox Brothers at The Farm at Old Edwards. 6:30 pm Cocktails | 7:30 pm Dinner. Join us at The Farm at Old Edwards for Fox Bros. BBQ, an award-winning Atlanta restaurant owned and operated by twin brothers and co-pitmasters Jonathan and Justin Fox. $145 per person, plus tax and gratuity. For reservations, call 828-787-2635.

Highlands Food & Wine announces new spring concert event in Highlands is on May 9

Drew Holcomb & the Neighbors to co-headline first-ever spring concert

Highlands Festivals, Inc., the organization that produces Highlands Food & Wine, has announced a special spring concert to be held at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park in Highlands, North Carolina, the evening of May 9. Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors will co-headline the event with additional special guests to be announced.

“Highlands Food & Wine, and we felt there was a real opportunity to offer our fans more. Music has been a central part of the success of Highlands Food & Wine, so it seemed a natural direction to offer a music-focused spring event,” said Casey Reid, partner of Eleven Events and Festival Director. “This concert will continue the tradition of a world-class event created in the unique and stunning location that is Highlands. This concert will work to further the work of Highlands Food & Wine as a catalyst to bring together locals and destination visitors in this beautiful mountain town.”

In addition to live music, attendance of the concert will be the first to know the lineup for November’s Highlands Food & Wine.

Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors are an Americana band whose musical stylings draw from their Memphis and Nashville roots. With an impressive discography of six albums, including a live recorded album in Nashville, Drew Holcomb & the Neighbors have sold over 150,000 albums and have performed in seven different countries. Their latest album, Dragons, which was released in August 2019, hit the U.S. top albums chart at No. 13.

Tickets are available at https://highlandsfestivals.com/.

Highlands Festival’s Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors with Special Guests is proudly presented by Highlands Festivals, Inc., and sponsored by Highlands Chamber of Commerce, The Laurel, The Lofts on Main, Lupoli Construction, MAC, Old Edwards Inn & Spa, Highlands Brewing, High Dive, TJ Baileys, Tito’s Handmade Vodka, The Ugly Dog, and WHLC radio.
Dr. Patti Wheeler was the featured speaker for Highlands Rotary Club’s February 25 meeting. Wheeler spoke to the club about “Hospital Highlights.” She was introduced by Rotarian Wolfgang Green.

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Jesus Damian-Clemente was the speaker at the March 3 meeting of the Rotary Club of Highlands. Damian-Clemente is a former Highlands School valedictorian and recipient of scholarships from the Rotary Club of Highlands and Highlands Scholarship fund. He gave an update on his freshman year at UNC Charlotte where he earned a 3.8 GPA and is also a member of the rugby team.

Highlands Community Supper on Tuesday nights continues to be a hit

On Tuesday, February 18 the Rotary Club of Highlands sponsored the Highlands community supper. The photo shows Rotary members lined up behind a table of guests young and old.

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-- Richard Delany, OEI, CEO

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By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News


Actors in the Youth Theater played multiple roles in this production that included settings from a young girl's slumber party, a silent library, a countryside English inn, and a busy hotel in Scandinavia.

Director Megan Potts said the cast did a fantastic job.

“I was so pleased with their performance,” said Potts. “They had a very short rehearsal period and a lot of them are new to this. First, they had to learn the vocabulary and then learn to act the parts. They got a grasp of timing and working with an audience, they did great.”

Potts said the cast worked hard in the weeks leading up to opening night.

“I think the biggest thing they learned was to work together as team,” said Potts. “When something goes wrong, we work together and support each other.”

Fourth-grader Arabel Alusio would spend hours at rehearsal and then head home to work on her lines to make sure she was ready.

“The lines were difficult, but not too difficult,” said Alusio. “And if someone messes up, we just go along with it, skip that part, move on and pretend it didn’t happen.”

Sixth-grader Vivian Kennedy has acted in several other PAC productions and said it’s hard work, but worth it.

“I like hanging out with all of my friends,” she said. “And when I get on stage, I’m kind of nervous but also excited.”

She said plays sometimes have lines or scenes that actors stress more than other scenes. In the case of “A Ghostly Slumber Party,” Kennedy said there was one line she dreaded.

“I was really worried when I had to stand up and yell ‘That’s not funny Avery,’ but after that it was all good,” she said.

The magic on stage doesn’t happen simply through the powerful performances of skilled actors, there’s a lot more to it. And 7th-grader Max Ballentine knows all too well the highs and lows of a show stationed up in the control booth.

“Things happen in a show, someone could be off their mark or they miss a line and we may need to skip to the next cue,” said Ballentine. “That’s a big part and it’s so intense. There are bunch of sound and light cues. It’s just a really big thing.”

The PAC Youth Theater is made up of area students from Blue Ridge School, Highlands School, Summit Charter School, and homeschoolers.

The Highlands PAC Youth Theater is possible through grants and aims to introducing children to the wonder of live theater.

Cast of PAC Youth Theater’s production of “A Ghostly Slumber Party.”

Writer’s Note:
For those of you familiar with Noyes, Poe, and White; think of the language used in those stories. Then picture those lines being delivered by a 10-year-old. These kids did awesome.
Chief of Staff, however, when making the announcement about Meadows, Trump was careful in making it clear Meadows’ role was not an interim position, and instead will be a permanent position with the White House. Congressman Meadows becomes Trump’s fourth chief of staff in 38 months, the most of any president since the start.

The time of Meadows’ announcement to retire from District 11 was a strategic one — by announcing so close to the filing deadline, it left little time for Republicans to make the decision to run for the seat. It also meant that prominent names in politics, such as NC House Representative Kevin Corbin, could not withdraw from other races to seek the seat in Congress. While most Republicans were left scrambling to throw a campaign together with 24-hours notice — Haywood County Republican Lynda Bennett — who happens to be close friends with Meadows’ wife Debbie — was ready to announce her campaign nearly at the same time. Furthermore, Meadows had initially said he would not endorse any candidate for District 11, however he ended up endorsing Bennett for the seat during the March Primary.

Bennett was unable to secure the seat outright and will head into a runoff election against 25-year-old Republican from Henderson County Madison Cawthorn. Unlike many of the Republicans who filed for office after Meadows announced his retirement, Cawthorn had planned to run for the office, presumably challenging Meadows. Cawthorn and Bennett will go head-to-head in a run-off election on May 12.

The run-off election will be structured the same as voting in the primary election, with early voting being held across the district beginning April 23 and running until May 5. Voting will vary in each county, as it is up to county Board of Elections to decide whether the run-off election will be held strictly at the county board of elections office, or across the district at all locations as it was held during the initial primary.

To complicate matters, the immediate future of the District 11 seat is still unclear. According to Macon County Board of Elections Director Melanie Thibault, in the event of a vacant seat, which is the case now that Meadows will transition to Chief of Staff, the Governor can decide to appoint someone to fill the seat until the next scheduled election. Because it is an election year and there are already established front-runners in both parties seeking the seat, it’s unclear if Gov. Roy Cooper will appoint someone to fill the seat or if he will decide to leave it vacant until someone is elected in November. With a contentious race himself, Governor Cooper is no doubt carefully considering his move in District 11 so his decision will not cost him votes in Governor’s race.

Meanwhile, Meadows has self-quarantined after possible exposure to a coronavirus patient at a recent Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) convention. Meadows has self-quarantine at his home after learning that he may have come into contact with a person who later tested positive for the novel coronavirus, his office said.

“Out of an abundance of caution, Meadows received testing which came back negative,” Meadows spokesman Ben Williamson said. “While he’s experiencing zero symptoms, under doctors’ standard precautionary recommendations, he’ll remain at home until the 14-day period expires.”

Meadows is one of several GOP lawmakers who attended CPAC convention in Maryland last month to announce that they’ve gone under a self-quarantine.

Reps. Doug Collins (R-Ga.), Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) have said they were in contact with the individual at the convention who later tested positive for the virus.

In response to health officials’ recommendations, they’ve all said they will stay home until 14 days had passed between their encounters.

The American Conservative Union (ACU) first disclosed on Saturday that a CPAC attendee had tested positive for COVID-19 at a New Jersey hospital shortly after attending the convention. The patient had been exposed to the virus before attending the convention and is now under quarantine in the hospital, ACU said.

Cruz and Gosar said in separate statements on Sunday that they had interacted with the individual and shook his hand.

Gosar said that he and three members of his staff were with the individual “for an extended period of time,” adding that they “shook hands several times.”
Staying off the IRS Radar Screen

Nothing strikes terror in the heart of the American taxpayer quite like finding a letter in the mailbox from the IRS! In an effort to help you avoid that unpleasant scenario, provided below are examples of some common pitfalls to avoid if you don’t want the IRS lining up to be your new pen pal.

It’s surprising how many people mail their returns to the IRS without a signature. Before mailing, be sure to recheck everything and don’t forget to sign your return. An even better solution is to file electronically. Returns filed electronically have safeguards and controls to eliminate common errors. Additionally, the return goes directly to the processing center and the information does not have to be keyed into a computer by an IRS employee, which could result in additional errors.

Did you remember to include all income on the return? If you received a Form 1099 from anyone, be sure this income is on the return? If you received a Form 1099 from anyone, be sure this income is on the return? If you received a Form 1099 from anyone, be sure this income is on the return? If you received a Form 1099 from anyone, be sure this income is on the return! If you didn’t include the January payment, so keep in mind that the first payment of the year is sent in April, followed by June and September payments and concluding with the January payment in the following year.

If you file or pay late, you will receive a notice of delinquency and be charged interest and penalties, so try hard to avoid that. If you can’t pay taxes that are due by April 15, be sure to file the return on time with a Form 9465, Installment Agreement Request, either electronically or paper filed.

Incorrect social security numbers will generate a notice or a disallowance of your dependents. Don’t mail the return without verifying that all social security numbers have been entered correctly. Transposing those numbers is more common than you’d think.

A few minutes of extra time reviewing your return will pay off in peace of mind and help you stay off the IRS radar screen.

- Robbin Brophy, EA is an enrolled agent, licensed by the US Department of the Treasury to represent taxpayers before the IRS for audits, collections and appeals. To attain the enrolled agent designation, candidates must demonstrate expertise in taxation, fulfill continuing education credits and adhere to a stringent code of ethics. She is currently accepting new clients at 828-558-4300.

Got Spring Fever? Alleviate it at the Nature Center!

On Tuesday, March 17, catch up on all the spring buzz! Join the Highlands Nature Center as we get to know our native bees a little better. Through a short introduction and a walk around campus, we’ll find out what “weeds” are actually perfect for pollinators and discover some tricks for being bee-friendly. To participate in this free event, from 1-2 p.m., meet at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Rd. The event is weather dependent. The Highlands Biological Station is a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University. For more information, please call (828) 526-2623.

Shepherd’s Pie

Ingredients from The Spice & Tea Exchange:
- Onion Obsession Spice Blend
- Lamb & Pork Seasoning

Ingredients from grocer:
- 3 large russet potatoes
- 2 TBS butter
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup corn
- 1 cup of shredded cheese

Meat Layer Ingredients:
- 2 lbs of ground beef
- 1 small onion
- 2 TBS flour
- 2 TBS tomato paste
- 1 cup beef broth
- 1/2 TBS Worcestershire
- 1 1/2 peas and carrots, frozen or canned

Directions:
1. Preheat oven to 350.
2. In a heated sauce pan, cook down ground beef and add chopped onions, and season with 1 TBS of Lamb & Pork Seasoning.
3. Pour out excess fat and add flour. Cook for a minute or two and add tomato paste, Worcestershire, and beef stock.
4. In a sauce pan with melted butter, saute peas, carrots, and corn and season with salt and pepper.
5. In a casserole dish, spread the ground beef in an even layer on the bottom. Next, layer the vegetables, finishing with the mashed potato layer on top. Garnish with cheese and bake in a preheated oven for 20 minutes.

Staying in the spirit of Saint Patrick’s Day, I decided to go with a Shepherd’s Pie, one of Ireland’s most beloved dishes. This is an easy home style dish, that feeds many and is packed with flavor. It is also a perfect weeknight dish! Enjoy!
In His Good Time

Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central Baptist Church

In her book "Though The Mountains Shake," Amy Carmichael tells of the time in 1895 when she met Andrew Murray of South Africa when he was in England taking part in various conventions.

She writes: "A breakdown in Japan had ended in my return home about that time and we were both guests in the same house. I knew that his books were very good. Not that I had read one of them, but a neat row of them, in the same house. I knew that his books were very good.

He was a cheerful, easy-going man, a delightful dry humor, dauntless courage, and the gentleness and simplicity of a dear child. And he was very loved.

He was better, for there was not only goodness, there was a beautiful sense of humor, dauntless courage, and the gentleness and simplicity of a dear child. And he was very loved.

Then something painful happened. This is how he met it: he was quiet for a while with his Lord, then he wrote these words for himself:

"First, He brought me here, it is by His will I am in this strait place: in that fact I will rest.

Next, He will keep me here in His love, and give me Grace to behave as His child.

Then, He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the Grace to behave as His child.

Last, In His good time He can bring me out again - how and when He knows.

Let me say I am here,
(1) By God's appointment,
(2) In His keeping,
(3) Under His training,
(4) For His time
'Such a story is timeless. May it help someone else as it has helped some of us, not only once, but often.' (Adapted.)
Jackson County now has Community Paramedic Program

Harris Regional Hospital EMS offers community health fair; introduces new Community Paramedic Program.

Harris Regional Hospital EMS is sponsored a free health fair at the Savannah Volunteer Fire Department on Wednesday, March 11 to provide information and medical screenings to the members of Jackson County.

Presented by Harris Regional Hospital EMS and the Community Paramedic Program, the event included blood pressure checks, glucose checks, vendor booths and other health care information and activities.

In addition to general healthcare education, participants will also get the chance to learn more about Harris Regional Hospital’s Community Paramedic Program that is provided by Harris Regional Hospital EMS.

The Community Paramedic Program is dedicated to members of Jackson County and expanded access to the vital health care they need. The program allows licensed paramedics to assist in the provision of health care alongside a participant’s primary care provider.

Once enrolled in the Community Paramedic Program, patients have improved access to care by way of home evaluations and social needs assessments that have not been available previously. Paramedics that administer care through this program work closely with a patient’s primary care provider to ensure they are receiving the exclusive, quality care they require and deserve within the comfort of their own home.

The Community Paramedic Program is available to those that have been diagnosed with COPD, Congestive Heart Failure, Pneumonia, Diabetes or at a high risk for falls. For more information about the Community Paramedic Program, ask your primary care provider for a referral.

About Harris Regional Hospital

Harris Regional Hospital, established in 1925, is an 86-bed acute and specialty care facility serving Western North Carolina with more than 100 physicians practicing in locations throughout a multi-county region, including Harris Regional Hospital Medical Park of Franklin, an outpatient facility in Macon County.

HCHF helps fund Pisgah Legal Services

One may not immediately conclude that free legal aid would fit into that paradigm. However, Jim Barrett, Executive Director of Pisgah Legal Services would disagree, “Folks who live in low-income households regularly experience problems that can be addressed with a civil legal aid attorney by their side: stopping domestic violence, accessing benefits, escaping poor housing conditions, and securing health care for example. Lawyers are powerful allies who can tackle the issues that keep people locked into poverty, trapped in abusive situations and living in substandard conditions. Social determinants of health are conditions in the places where people live, learn, work and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. The work of Pisgah Legal addresses socio-economic problems – such as substandard housing and domestic violence – that exacerbate illness and injury.”

In 2019, the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation dispersed $2.5 million dollars to 53 organizations. Through the journey of conducting Listening Sessions, Community Outreach Meetings, and committing over 2,000 hours toward grant review, the Programs and Grants Committee and the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation Board of Directors has learned so much about our community and the incredible strengths it possesses through existing nonprofits as well as the road blocks to health that are prevalent in our community.

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

Feb. 23

• A little past midnight, officers were called about someone driving under the influence at the site of an accident on US 64 east and Cullasaja Drive.
  • At 1:33 a.m., Adam Russell Luck, 32, of Cashiers was arrested for DUI at a traffic stop at US 64 east and Cullasaja Drive. He was issued a $500 unsecured bond. His trial date was March 10.

Feb. 27

• At 1:54 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 28 at Spring Street.

March 3

• At 5:57 p.m., officers were called about a simple assault on a 62-year-old man at a residence on Upper Lake Road.

March 4

• At 7:10 a.m., officers were called to 1331 Leonard Road due to the suicide of a 52-year-old man.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 4

• At 7:16 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Leonard Road.
• At 10:24 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Foreman Road.
We've Moved!
The Highlands Barbershop is now located in a new, expanded space on Oak Street across from the K-H Park Plaza.
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OLD EDWARDS INN and Spa

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

IMMEDIATE FULL-TIME ON-SITE

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT PROFESSIONAL NEEDED TO JOIN MARKETING DEPARTMENT OF OLD EDWARDS HOSPITALITY GROUP IN HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA. At least two years of print layout and design required. Keen eye for design, detail-oriented and proficiency in formatting for scannable content a must. Experience in CRM, email marketing, website updating and/or social media is a plus. Must have high integrity, sense of humor, consistently positive nature, interpersonal skills and work well as part of a close team. Full benefits. Possible subsidized housing. Position is 100% onsite in Highlands, NC, no exceptions.

FULL-TIME TEMPORARY MARKETING POSITION. OEL is seeking a marketing professional and graphic designer experienced in page layout and ad creation for both print and digital to fill a six-month position between approximately March 1 and September 31, 2020. At least two years of professional layout and design required. This position designs billboards, newspaper and magazine ads, digital ads and more for a high-end luxury brand. Some experience in website updating—or ability to learn—required (content management, not coding). Must have high integrity, sense of humor, consistently positive nature, interpersonal skills and work well as part of a close team. Position is 100% onsite in Highlands, NC, no exceptions. There is a possibility that this position could become permanent. Please provide cover letter, resume and samples. References will be required.

ALSO:
OLD EDWARDS HOSPITALITY has the following positions open:

RESTAURANT FOUR65:
Part-time servers, full-time Hostess, AM/PM Sous Chef, Cook and Utility/Dishwasher needed.

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Full-time Assistant Inn Manager, Jr. Sous Chef, Server

OLD EDWARDS:
Banquet Bar Supervisor, Maintenance Engineer, Front Desk, Bellmen, Banquet Captain, Front Desk Supervisors, Spa attendants & concierge, Housekeepers, Laundry, Experienced servers & server assistants, Reservationist, Sales Manager (2 years experience), Graphic Artists (Full-time and Full-time Temporary, Dishwashers (Full-time year round, and seasonal)

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E-Z UP 10X10 VENDORM TENT with sidewalls & weights. Excellent condition. $170. 828-526-1031 (st. 1/30)

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Call or text Bob @ 302-530-1109 (st. 3/26)

TO RENT: MATURE PROFESSIONAL WITH INDOOR CAT SEeks REASONABLE 2BR HOME TO RENT. Solid references. Call or text 828-200-1611 (st. 1/30)

WANTED COMIC BOOKS – Buy / Sell. Call Bob @ 302-530-1109 (st. 3/26)

TO RENT: SIX ACRES ON BUCK CREEK ROAD behind Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Sign on property. $2000-29669. (st. 9/19)

WANTED TO BUY: US & Foreign COINS, free appraisals, call Dan at 828-421-1616 (3/26)

HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLE MEMORIAL, Call Sandra La Jeunesse at 828-371-2214.

HELP WANTED JOIN OUR TEAM!!
Nectar Juice Bar (located inside Whole Life Market) is now hiring! Are you looking for a fun, healthy-minded individual looking for full-time, year-round work? Experience is not necessary, but kitchen or barista skills a plus. Competitive pay! Apply at Whole Life Market, 680 N. 4th St., Highlands.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT CHESTNUT HILL ASSISTED LIVING – COURTESY OFFICER 3 pm to Midnight, 5 nights a week; Part-Time Housekeeper; Chef/Cook. Call 828-526-8400 (st. 2/13)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS needs nursery help on Wednesday nights; 1-2 hours; $15 per hour; background check and interview required; must be at least 16 years old. (st. 2/13)

YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME RETAIL POSITION IS AVAILABLE AT T.J.BAILEY’S STORE IN CASHIERS AND HIGHLANDS. Call 828-526-2262 or email resume to store@tjbaleys.com (2/27)

NOW HIRING PART AND FULL TIME ASSOCIATES FOR RETAIL STORE. Must be willing to work weekends and holidays. Call Shannon 526-8864 or email shannon@dutchmans-designs.com (st. 1/23)

RANDEVU now hiring full- & part-time waitstaff. Call 828-743-0190. (st. 2/27)

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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. (st. 4/25)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

38.92 ACRES IN GATED COMMUNITY IN HIGHLANDS. Small private development with paved streets, community water, community lake and pavilion, underground power and street lights. Gentle building sites with mountain views and streams at over 4,100’ in elevation. Borders USFS. Offered for $599,000 and MLS #88028. Call Cathy Garren at Highlands Sotheby’s International Realty at 828-226-5870. (11/2/2020)

ATTENTION BUSINESSOWNERS: Looking for employee housing? We’ve got several options! Close to town and affordable! Call Christal at White Oak Realty Group. 828-200-9699. (st. 1/19)

SIX ACRES ON BUCK CREEK ROAD behind Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Sign on property. 843-460-8015. (st. 5/30)

2/2 CLAYTON HOME IN LOWER CLEAR CREEK. 1+acre, Private View. $18,000. 706.782.9728 (st. 9/5)

1.21 ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER - OTTO, NC - $28,000. Lot 12 Quail Haven Road. Otto, NC. Price not firm... open for negotiation. Please email if interested to ddmarsh15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. Please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

COMMERCIAL SPACE RENTALS

COMMERCIAL SPACE at 640 Carolina Way, Highlands. +/- 1340 sq.ft. $1,650/mo. 404-210-7979. (st. 12/12)

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

HOME FOR RENT IN MIRROR LAKE AREA. 2 BR/2 BA furnished. Screened porch & open deck. Small pets okay. No smoking. Long-term preferred. $1,700 per month. 404-630-8398. (3/19)

SPACIOUS POST AND BEAM HOME WITH 4-bedroom, 3-1/2 bath home. Soaring 30’ ceiling in open floor-plan of the kitchen/living/dining room. All other rooms offer 10’ ceilings. Spacious master suite. Mountain views with creeks and large deck. Less than 15-minutes from Main Street. This is a non-smoking property. Call 828-421-1823 to view the property. Yearly lease @$3200 per month. (st. 1/30)

HOUSE FOR LEASE IN MIRROR LAKE AREA. 2 BR/2 BA furnished. Full laundry, screened porch. No smoking, sorry no pets. Long-term lease available $1,900 per month. 404-630-8398. (2/6)

4BD 3.5 BA, 1 CAR GARAGE W/STORAGE; large yard with backyard fenced, dogs negotiable. On the Atlanta side of Highlands, 5 minutes from the Post Office. $2500 month. Offered unfurnished, one year minimum lease, references, credit check and deposit required. Call House in Order 828-484-1571. (st. 1/14)

LUXURY APARTMENT INTOWN. Walk to Main Street. IBR IBA. $3,500 per month. 3 month minimum. Sorry, no pets, no smoking. Adults only. 828-421-1709. (st. 5/10)
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