

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

## Town Board amends its 'Code of Ethics'

At the March 18 Town Board meeting, commissioners amended the town's Code of Ethics to include a sixth element regarding disclosing closed session information to the public under the threat

of censure. As outlined, the purpose of a code of ethics is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for board members and to provide guidance in determin-

ing what conduct is appropriate in particular cases. It should not, however, be considered a substitute for the law or for a board member's best judgment.

• See ETHICS page 10

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## Gov. relaxes COVID-19 restrictions

*Covid deaths in Macon County now at 32*

As North Carolina's trends continue to show improvement and vaccine distribution increases with 31.7% of North Carolinians over 18 having received at least one dose of vaccine, Governor Roy Cooper announced today that the state will continue to ease some COVID-19 restrictions. Executive Order No. 204 will take effect March 26 at 5 pm is set to expire April 30 at 5 pm. The state's general mask mandate remains in effect.

"Our fast and fair vaccine distribution and our sustained progress with the COVID-19 metrics tell us we can move forward with easing restrictions if we do it safely," said Governor Cooper.

"We are in a promising place. With North Carolina's COVID-19 key metrics improving and

•See RELAXES page 10



Houston was presented a plaque of appreciation from Mayor Pat Taylor and Public Service Director Lamar Nix at the first in-person Town Board meeting of 2021 on March 18. - Photo by Kim Lewicki

## 'Radar' Houston retires from town after 35 years

At the March 18 Town Board meeting, James Stanley "Radar" Houston's immediate supervisor, Public Service Director and Town Engineer Lamar Nix outlined his career with admiration and humor.

It began on March 5, 1986 when Houston was employed at the Water Dept. for an annual salary of \$9,000.

On January 5, 2000, Houston was promoted to Assistant Water/

Sewer Field Superintendent. Four years later on June 2, 2004, he was promoted to Water/Sewer Field Superintendent.

Some noted accomplishments include working more than 12,000 hours of on-call duty on the weekends; being responsible for 86 miles of water distribution, 10 water storage tanks, 8 pump stations and 9 pressure zones.

•See RADAR page 8

## Macon Virtual Academy to be 12th school in system

By Brittney Lofthouse  
Members of the Macon County Board of Education voted to add a school to the district's roster during the March meeting on

Monday night. The new school, the Macon Virtual Academy, will be a completely online program within the Macon County School

• See VIRTUAL page 8

## Do you know this man?

Highlands Police Department is asking for the community's help in identifying the suspect in a case of vandalism and theft from the Car Spa car wash in Highlands.

On Monday March 22, around 5:40am an unidentified male used a pry bar to break into the payment kiosk at the Car Spa car wash in Highlands Plaza off NC 28. Security video from the Car Spa shows the suspect, who was wearing a dark ballcap and facemask, black sweatshirt with VANS logo on the back, light blue jeans, and light-colored shoes.

Highlands Police Department continues to investigate this case and anyone with any information is asked to contact Detective Kevin Breedlove at (828) 526-9431 or kevin.breedlove@highlandscn.org. The police department will allow



a person with information to remain anonymous upon request.

Congratulations on your success in 2020, Tom Cooper!  
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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Springing into action!

As we move into spring, many activities are underway on the plateau. I know the construction in the downtown area is disruptive, as well as disturbing, for some folks.

The refurbishing of the sidewalk in front of Reeves Hardware is complete. A new permanent black, wrought iron railing will be installed as soon as it is fabricated. There are other sidewalk projects in the future, like the refurbishing of the sidewalk in front of the Presbyterian Church. NCDOT will be redesigning and improving several intersections this summer in order to be compliant with current ADA standards.

The schedule for paving Main Street was blown up last week with the recurring severe rainstorms. The paving will continue as weather conditions permit. One major change in strategy by the contractor is to not mill the street at night. At the first of last week the contractor realized that the milling process could be done faster than initially projected. The new plan is to begin milling a block section very early in the



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

morning followed by paving in the afternoon. At night the paved section will be striped and marked for parking spaces. I am optimistic that the work in the downtown area can move very fast, weather permitting.

The Highlands Community Plan is on schedule to be completed this summer. Currently, leaders of the plan have posted a business survey on the website. They want as many businesses as possible to take the survey.

Earlier in the process there was a tremendous response to the community survey. The more input provided, the better the leadership can develop a final plan reflective of citizens concerns. I am delighted to know many diverse community voices are weighing in.

I again want to thank Tom Neal and the army of community volunteers who have conducted over nine vaccination clinics for Jackson and Macon Counties. At last count 4,741 people had been vaccinated.

Our vaccination effort is nearing the top of the hill so to speak. In January we faced limited vaccine supplies and a priority list that prevented some folks from getting the vaccine. Now, vaccine supplies are increasing and the list of those eligible is opening up in stages to the entire population.

Everyone in the community can do their part in shutting down COVID by getting vaccinated. It doesn't matter which vaccine one gets, just get vaccinated. Also, it doesn't matter where one gets the vaccine. In addition to our vaccination clinics, the county public health departments are in full vaccination mode.

For vaccine information go to your county, or the Highlands Cashiers Plateau Vaccination Clinic websites, to register and schedule an appointment. Local pharmacies are also giving vaccinations at this point. In the last two weeks our pharmacies have vaccinated 309 people.

If one is not internet active, call the Highlands Cashiers Plateau Vaccination Clinic at (828) 526-1310 for information and assistance, or Macon County at (828) 524-1500, or 349-2517.

Spanish speaking folks can call (828) 526-1353.

In the meantime, we all need to follow the basic COVID protocols for a little lon-

ger. Even if a person has been vaccinated, wearing a mask and socially distancing in public is recommended, since medical experts are still not totally sure transmission

is not possible by vaccinated people. I have been vaccinated but continue to wear a mask in public. My only exception is when I'm road running.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



## • WEATHER •

Thu, 25-Mar	Fri, 26-Mar	Sat, 27-Mar	Sun, 28-Mar
61°F 53°F	71°F 48°F	67°F 52°F	64°F 33°F
Rain and a thunderstorm	A morning thundershower	A stray thunderstorm	A strong afternoon t-storm
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High: 61° Low: 49°	High: 76° Low: 51°	High: 70° Low: 51°	High: 69° Low: 47°

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### Highlands Newspaper

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Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

[HighlandsEditor@aol.com](mailto:HighlandsEditor@aol.com)

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

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265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703,

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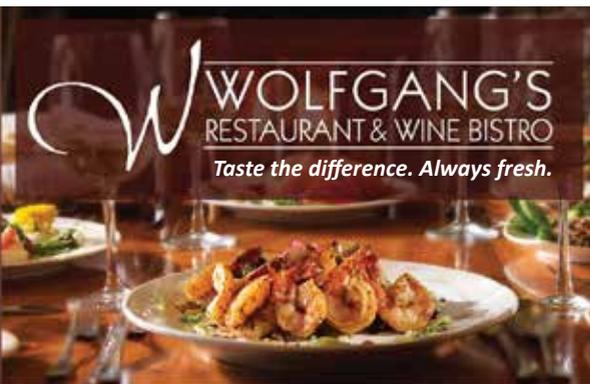
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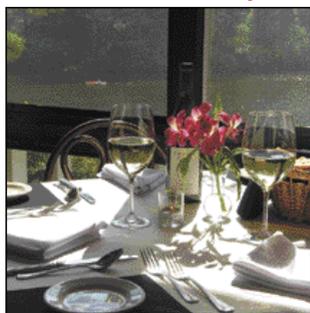
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# • HOSPITAL NEWS •

## Clinical protocols and human connections build a culture of safety



**Tom Neal**  
CEO/DFO  
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

equipment (PPE) at all times — whether it's within the context of COVID-19 or not — and continuously reviewing what the safest protocol for admitting visitors to the hospital should be. There are many other steps and similar such as protocols for preventing blood stream and central line infections, preventing falls, or simply assuring people don't get food on their meal tray that they are allergic to. We are constantly looking for ways to keep our patients and residents safe while they are under our care.

At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) and the Eckerd Living Center (ELC), we look at patient safety through many lenses. There is the measurable data we gather every day, about everything from hospital-acquired infections — something we're vigilant about preventing — and the need for re-admission, to more subjective factors like how safe our patients and residents feel during their time in our care.

Because our patients and residents are the reasons we're here, I think you would be impressed with the level of dedication, patient focus, and professionalism that all of our team members exhibit, whether they're providing direct clinical care, or working in one of the support departments like admissions, Environmental Services department, or Food and Nutrition Services. Environmental Services is an unsung hero in our mission to keep our patients safe, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. They assure the facility is clean and disinfected and our team is excellent. No matter what department you work in here, your #1 goal is creating a facility that supports healing and recovery, and anticipating and mitigating potential risks.

Patient safety is not just attained through clinical methods, either. A safer patient experience also results from meaningful and sensitive interactions between our staff members and our patients and their families. Although warmth and human connection seem like givens when we think about excellent care, it's important to extend that to patient safety as well. Simply taking the necessary time with our patients and families to explain a procedure or give care instructions following a procedure is a critical part of patient safety.

Aside from clear communication, it's essential for our staff to be "on the same page" about patients' needs, issues that might be happening within the building, like if a piece of medical technology equipment is inaccessible and getting repaired, and if anything unusual is happening that day at the hospital, such as a visit from a credentialing entity or a safety drill. Even though not every one of these issues is strictly clinical, they all serve to impact how our caregivers do their work, and the better prepared they are for the shift ahead, the safer our patients will be.

Hospital caregivers also engage in Root Cause Analysis training, where we concentrate on either a hypothetical or actual opportunity for improvement and, as a team, creatively look at the challenge from every angle. The intention is to reduce all types of safety risks, whether it's lowering the likelihood of a patient fall, putting a safeguard in place that ensures that we are treating the correct patient, and many more. If we ask you for your name and date of birth, it is simply a procedural step we take to make sure we are accurate to avoid giving someone the wrong medication or wrong procedure.

Other hospital-wide initiatives that put patient safety at the forefront are our vigilance about preventing infection through numerous preventive strategies. During Covid-19, this involved steps I have previously shared such as ensuring that our staff is properly outfitted with personal protective

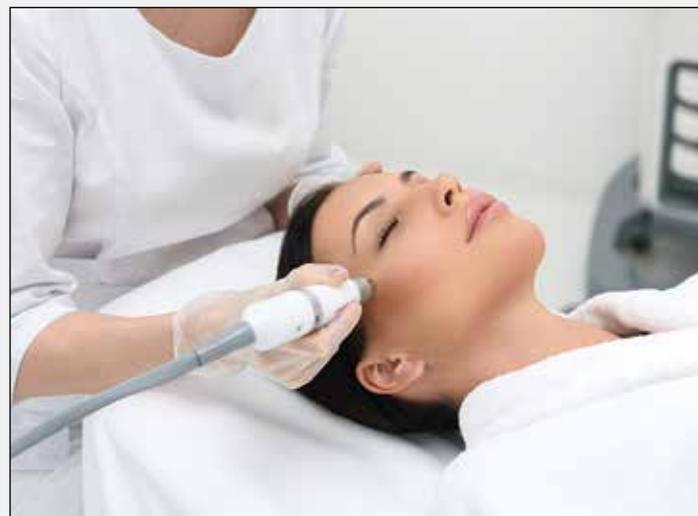
The HCH team is dedicated to providing the safest experience for every patient, from the moment they are admitted, to their day of discharge. A significant part of quality care is focusing in on preventing risk by collaborat-

• See HOSPITAL page 9

Something I realize the longer I work in healthcare is that no one ends up doing this work by accident. Talk to virtually any healthcare provider and you hear a similar story about gaining personal and professional fulfillment from caring for patients. It's their passion, it brings them joy, and it gives them purpose, and I feel that this heartfelt intention that's nearly universally present in those who choose this work is a great driver in the patient-centered focus of HCH.

As a health system and hos-

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# • LORD BANJO REFLECTIONS •

## What does your dog say?

When Mum read a story in the WSJ titled “What’s Fido thinking? Put down the phone already,” she shared it with me. It was about pet psychics who communicate with all kinds of animals, not just dogs. Of course, it was no surprise to me that we dogs communicate with our people, but I was surprised to hear that guinea pigs, horses, chickens, and pigs do, too.



Lord Banjo

bark. Well, truth be told, Mum says I do that more than necessary. And sometimes I lie quietly thinking deep thoughts like “I wonder where my treats are” or “I wish Dad would rub my belly.” Mum and Dad aren’t always as quick on the uptake as I’d like, but they get there eventually. Of course, their inability to get the message has nothing to do with my communication skills. It’s more about their inattention.

They’re too busy looking at their phones or tablets or the TV. I hear that humans multitask, but I guess my pet parents aren’t very good at it. Why else would they fail to pick up on the messages I send?

I think Mum hears me even when she doesn’t realize it because my thoughts so often wind up in her books as dialogue for Dickens. It’s amazing how much alike we boys are. I guess that means I’m planting ideas in Mum’s subconscious. After all, I am pretty darned talented.

I noticed an interesting omission in the article. There’s no mention of the animal communicators listening to cats. Does that mean cats have nothing to say? It seems to me that my feline sister Puddin’ has plenty to say in our household, and there’s no doubt Mum and Dad understand her. How do I know that? They rush to obey her every command. They feed her when she runs meowing to the kitchen, and she gets treats when she leaps on Mum’s desk and meows—over and over again. She’s pretty much in charge around here. I wonder if cats are just too uppity to bother with pet communicators. Too snooty to take the time to transmit images? I asked Puddin’

but she gave me the evil eye and strutted to my dog bed instead of answering me. See what I mean about ruling the roost?

• Lord Banjo lives in Georgia with his mum, Kathy Manos Penn, author of *the Dickens* &

*Christie cozy animal mystery series available on Amazon and at Books Unlimited in Franklin. Find Lord Banjo’s book locally at Highland Mountain Paws and write him at [inkspenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkspenn119@gmail.com).*

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# • BUSINESS NEWS •

## Donations make 'new' truck a reality for Bolivian Mission



After 20 years, the Highlands Bolivian Mission has replaced the old Mazda truck (1996) with a Toyota pickup (2014) with 130,000 kilometers. It is a double cab, 4-wheel drive and A/C! The old truck had finally run out of gas, literally. The windows didn't work and it couldn't be locked, not that anyone would want the steal it.

Now the volunteers can ride in a decent vehicle and can leave the confines of Montero for work, as the condition of the old truck did not allow far travel.

Thanks for the generous donations for the truck from Beverly Quin in memory of Hillarie and multiple other donations earmarked for the new vehicle.

Dr. Baumrucker is in Bolivia now to continue the mission in person and facilitate the purchase of the truck.

## Highlands Playhouse hires executive director

The Highlands Playhouse is pleased to announce Scott Daniel as our new Executive Director.

Scott was born in the U.K, performed with The Vienna Boys Choir, graduated from American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York, and immediately went to work at Royal Caribbean International as both a Production Director and Content Creator.

Other credits include The Show Palace Dinner Theatre, Sea World Parks and Entertainment, and The David A. Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa, Fl. Scott then moved on to Norwegian Cruise Lines where he was the Senior manager responsible for theatrical production and entertainment.

He is currently The Creative Director and Producing Artistic Director of Mattocs Productions LLC, writing all contracts, budgets, and creative content. You may remember Scott from "The Scott and Patti Show" featured at The Playhouse in 2019.

We are extremely excited to welcome Scott as he relocates here from Tampa in May.

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## ...VIRTUAL continued from page 1

System for students in K-8 grade. The virtual academy will be staffed through the Macon County School System and it will function much like other 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. schools... except it will be virtual.

"We have learned through the Covid19 pandemic that virtual learning didn't work for all of our students, but we learned that a lot of our students did really well with virtual learning," said Macon County STEM Coordinator Jennifer Love. "While the Macon Virtual Academy will look completely different than what virtual learning was this past year, we have taken what we have learned what works and what doesn't work and used that to develop this school's plan."

Students in the Macon Virtual Academy will be issued a iPad to use at home. Parent/guardian involvement, compatible internet service, and student motivation are required in order to succeed at the Macon Virtual Academy.

According to Love, Macon County Schools realizes that there is a need and desire for some students and parents/guardians to keep their students at home for instruction.

"During the Covid19 pandemic, Macon County Schools was lucky to provide some in-person instruction to students who desired to attend school on site," said Love. "All students participated in some virtual instruction, but teachers were limited to the amount of direct instruction they were able to provide to accommodate multiple students in a home, or students with limited internet service, while still providing direct instruction to their in-person students."

The Macon Virtual Academy, starting Fall 2021, will have students engaged in direct instruction and specific daily assignments and expectations throughout the day.

## ...RADAR continued from page 1

He was also responsible for 33 miles of wastewater collection and six wastewater pump stations.

The inventory of material he was responsible for is valued at \$260,000 and the equipment at \$600,000.

It is estimated that within his 35 years with the town he has distributed approximately 5,110,000,000 gallons of potable water and collected approximately

3,515,000,000 gallons of wastewater.

While Macon County will be providing internet hotspots for students participating in the virtual academy, only students with reliable access will be enrolled in the virtual academy.

"Any student that applies will need to have a reliable internet connection at their home," explained Love. "The Macon County School System can work with families to provide a hot spot, but they must have at least two strong bars of cell service in their home for these to work. iPads will be provided to all Macon County School students, including Macon Virtual Academy students. At this time, students who do not meet this requirement will be asked to attend school in person and will not be able to participate in the Macon Virtual Academy."

Unlike the 2020-2021 school year, students will not be allowed to move back and forth between the Macon Virtual Academy and their in-person classroom at their "home-zoned" school except at the semester break at the end of December.

Applications are open to any K-8th grade student who is enrolled as a Macon County Schools student. Current students, homeschool, and private school students may apply. Homeschool students may apply for full course loads or partial course loads (minimum of 2 core classes). Space is limited.

Love said that the size of the virtual academy will depend on the amount of interest expressed from students as well as the number of teachers who express a desire to teach at the academy.

Students interested in applying will be able to apply online on the Macon County Schools website at <https://www.macon.k12.nc.us/>.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said she didn't know what the town was going to do without him.

"I don't think anyone knows the system like you do!" she said.

Congratulations on your retirement, Radar!

— Kim Lewicki

## On-line Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

Highlands/ Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Due to Covid 19, In Person open A.A. meetings are suspended, but On Line meetings can be found @ [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

# • BUSINESS NEWS •



## A book is never too far away in Highlands!

By Jenni Edwards

The Literacy & Learning Center believes that happiness often comes in the form of a new book.

Books hold endless stories, new perspectives, and new facts, and they can transport you into a new world with the flip of a page.

TL&LC believes that everyone should have access to books and has a library of over 900 books, in large print and regular print, to choose from in their front lobby.

Anyone may stop by and borrow a book and bring it back or trade a previously

loved book for a new one.

Sponsored by Hudson Library, TL&LC is also proud to feature a new Little Free Library on its front lawn. Anyone may walk up and borrow a book!

For younger audiences, The Literacy & Learning Center hosts a YouTube series called From the Reading Room, in which staff and partners of TL&LC read books aloud on video. All of these opportunities are available to everyone with the hope of promoting ongoing literacy and reading for all ages.

## ...HOSPITAL continued from page 6

ing to deliver that care efficiently, promptly, and sensitively. The safety of our buildings, the mindfulness of our team members, and the systems they follow and technology they use all go into making HCH a facility you can trust.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce the new, highly accomplished and skilled orthopedic surgeon we've recently welcomed to Mission Orthopedic Surgery – Franklin and Highlands, Dr. Gregory Crawley. After many successful years practicing in the suburbs north of Atlanta, he has now joined us to provide personalized care to our community members. Dr. Crawley has obtained surgical privileges at both Angel Medical Center in Franklin, and right here at HCH.

As many of you may know, I have been volunteering to lead the Highlands Cashiers Plateau Vaccine Initiative to support the local health departments in vaccinating the residents of the Plateau for COVID-19. This is such a critical issue in all our lives right now — and tightly interwoven with

patient safety of course — that I plan on devoting my column to it next month.

Our goal is for every HCH patient to be given the most advanced, safest care from the moment they are admitted right through to their day of discharge. For our ELC residents, our goal is to do the same for the duration of their time living here. Building a safety-oriented culture is built into all we do.

• *Tom Neal, RN, MBA, MHA, is the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Neal is a proven leader with more than 30 years of progressive healthcare experience. Prior to his role at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, he held the position of Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Systems (CHS) and served as Chief Executive Officer of both Bernick Hospital Center in Bernick, Pennsylvania, and Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, Ronceverte, West Virginia. Tom has an MBA from the University of Louisville, MHA from the California College of Health Sciences, BSN from Regents College of New York and an ADN from Jefferson Community College.*



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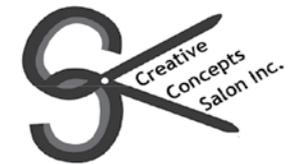
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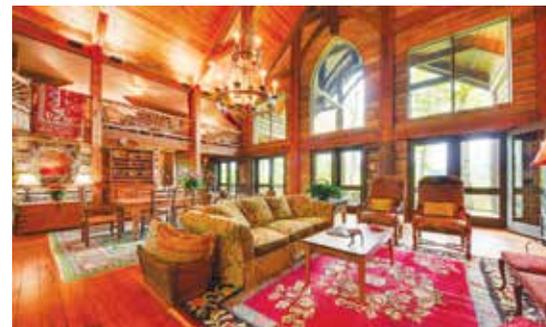
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## ...ETHICS continued from page 1

The Code of Ethics was in the February agenda packet and during the closed session, Town Attorney J.K. Coward urged the board to consider adding verbiage about closed session violations, but it wasn't adopted until last week.

Regarding the code in general, Attorney Coward suggested that sanctions be attached because "as in the jurisprudential arena, laws without sanctions are just suggestions."

Regarding closed sessions, Coward said as per the definition of a closed session and the purpose thereof, a board member who is privy to closed session information is not at liberty to divulge it to the public.

"Nothing in a closed session is supposed to be made public, otherwise why have a closed session?" he asked.

This was prompted when closed session information was distorted and then given to an outside party – NC Broadband – which then alleged the town had acted illegally regarding awarding its fiber contract to Hotwire

Communications. Last week, Attorney Coward reiterated that not only had nothing illegal transpired during the closed session, only discussions were had between himself and commissioners, not decisions was made.

The sixth item concerning closed sessions reads:

"Town Board members shall not disclose the content of things discussed in a legally called closed sessions to any person not in attendance at that session, unless authorized by the Board or ordered by court to do so. Failure by the member to abide by this provision shall subject the member to censure."

Censure is a formal, and public, group condemnation of an individual, often a group member, whose actions run counter to the group's acceptable standards for individual behavior. Like a reprimand, a censure does not remove a member from their office, so they retain their title, stature, and power to vote.

The issue of voting was also brought up last week.

In December, Commissioner Marc Hehn said he didn't want to vote on moving the Laurel Street Alley off the funeral home prop-

erty – basically realigning it properly. Hehn's objection stemmed from the decision the board made in November concerning a road in the proposed Freeman subdivision off Sherwood Forest. He objected to the town not adhering to its subdivision ordinance requirement regarding roads and felt that the issue needed to be discussed further before any other issue on roads be considered.

In November, the prospective owner of the Freeman subdivision asked to dedicate the rights-of-way of South Drive, that crosses the property, to the town since it was already in use by the town and other neighbors.

Since the road didn't meet the town's subdivision standards, a discussion ensued.

However, since there was a legitimate erosion concern, the board voted to make an exception. It accepted the road with no obligation to maintain it more than is currently being done – acknowledging that town specifications were not met and the only reason the road was accepted was due to environmental concerns. The board voted 4 to 1 (Hehn voted "nay").

This prompted the mayor to request the Land Use Commit-

tee review the policy for changes to the subdivision ordinance to make exceptions for such instances in the future.

Because Hehn disagreed with the way the town was dealing with "roads" he said his lawyer told him he didn't have to vote if doing so went against his views. Furthermore, he thought not voting was equivalent to a "nay" vote.

However, as per state statute, a commissioner can only abstain from voting if the request is OK'd by a majority vote and only if it is due to a financial conflict of interest. Hehn said he didn't have a financial interest but he was concerned that the board was doing something outside the rules of North Carolina.

Attorney Coward made it clear that he has never witnessed the Highlands Town Board doing anything illegal in its open or closed sessions, but if so, he wouldn't allow it.

If not excused, the board member's vote is automatically a "yes" even if they don't cast a vote. Also, if a present member withdraws [from the meeting] without being excused by a majority vote, the vote is recorded as an affirmative vote.

– Kim Lewicki

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## ...RELAXES continued from page 1

vaccinations increasing, we can responsibly use our dimmer switch approach to easing restrictions guided by science and data," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D.

Executive Order No. 204 has three general categories of occupancy restrictions: up to 100 percent capacity, 75 percent capacity, and 50 percent capacity.

*Indoors and Outdoors up to 100% Capacity, Subject to Masks and 6 ft. Social Distancing:*

- Museums and Aquariums
- Retail Businesses
- Salons, personal care and grooming businesses, tattoo parlors

*Indoors up to 75% and Outdoors up to 100% Capacity, Subject to Masks and 6 ft. Social Distancing:*

- Restaurants
- Breweries, Wineries, and Distilleries
- Recreation (e.g., bowling,

skating, rock climbing)

• Fitness and Physical Activity Facilities (e.g., gyms, yoga studios, fitness centers)

- Pools
  - Amusement Parks
- Indoors and Outdoors up to 50% Capacity, Subject to Masks and 6 ft. Social Distancing:*

- Bars
- Movie Theaters\*
- Gaming Facilities\*
- Meeting, Reception, and Conference Spaces

• Lounges (including tobacco) and Night Clubs

- Auditoriums, Arenas, and other venues for live performances
- Sports Arenas and Fields (includes professional, collegiate, and amateur

\*Movie theaters and gaming facilities may operate at up to 75% capacity outdoors.

Executive Order No. 204 will also increase mass gathering limits.

The number of people who may gather indoors will increase from 25 to 50 and the number of people who may gather outdoors will increase from 50 to 100.

This Order also fully lifts the restriction on the late-night sale and service of alcoholic beverages on bars, restaurants, and other establishments.

DHHS also released updates to the K-12 guidance. Schools should return to in-person instruction to the fullest extent possible while following all public health protocols in the StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit. This update aligns with Session Law 2021-4, which Governor Cooper and bipartisan legislative leadership worked on together. Plan A has already been widely adopted across the state as districts, educators and support staff have worked to get students back in the classroom.

Schools no longer need to do daily temperature checks and

•See RELAXES page 11

# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

'...and so, it is  
that we call this  
week holy and  
good.'

**Rev. W. Bentley Manning**  
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

On Sunday we will celebrate Palm Sunday and begin our journey through the mysteries of Holy Week. This is the most sacred time of the Christian year and in the days ahead we will participate in the events by which salvation has come to the world.

At first blush, Palm Sunday can feel a bit confusing, stirring up some of our deepest desires, expectations, hopes, and fears making it difficult to know exactly where to place our emotions.

Standing alongside the road with palm branches in hand, we watch as Jesus triumphantly rides through Jerusalem's city gates. And as he passes by, together with the crowd, we shout "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

And just then, before we fully realize our change of heart, Pilate asks us what we are to do with this so-called king - what are we to do with this man from Nazareth - what we are to do with Jesus.

From your lips and mine come the words: "crucify him, crucify him, crucify him!" The man who was to be our savior is now lifelessly pinned like a butterfly to the hard wood of the cross. Everything changes in an instant and it is difficult to know exactly how it all happens.

Archbishop Rowan Williams makes the observation that "[o]nly three human individuals are mentioned in the Creed, Jesus, Mary and Pontius Pilate: that is Jesus; the one who says 'yes' to him; and the one who says 'no' to him. You could say that those three names map out the territory in which we all live."

We are part of the crowd hailing Jesus' entry into Jerusalem - part of the crowd who say "yes" to Jesus but we are also the ones who say "no" to him as we order him to be crucified.

Today, and in the week ahead, we are invited to come to terms with, and be honest about, our "yes" to God and to come to terms with our "no" to God. To be honest about our love for God in Christ and to be honest about our own darkness and moments of betrayal.

In the end, however, Holy Week is much less about what we do for God and much more about what God does for us.

Despite our own confusion, hardness of heart, and fickle ways, God remains faithful to the end. God is with us and for us. And so, it is that we call this week holy and good.

## ...RELAXES from page 10

symptom screenings. Safety protocols such as masks and cleaning of high traffic areas are still required.

State health officials are continuing to monitor COVID-19 and its more contagious variants, so it is important to continue to have a mask mandate and continue to practice safety precautions, including the Three Ws: wear a mask, wait 6 feet apart, and wash hands often.

## Proverbs 3:5

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

**John 3:16**

### BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

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

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

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

### CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryan Williams-Reubel, Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

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Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30am Sunday School; 11:30am Worship Service; 6pm Mon.

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

Sundays: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; 9:45am (masks

required) Early Worship Service; 11:15am (masks optional)

Worship Service; Sundays 10:45am-Children's Program,

Sunday Youth-4:30pm - 6:30pm Dinner provided

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

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Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

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

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Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

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Morning Prayer Weekdays on Facebook live at 8:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist at noon in the garden on Mon and Wed

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

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

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

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

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-31 • 75 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship 8:30a Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Mondays: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast 8 a.m.

Wed: Choir: 6p

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

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Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

Sunday Evening Worship 5PM 1st and 2nd Sundays

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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We wear masks and social distance.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin • 828-524-9463

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418

Mass: Thurs. 12:10; Fri. 9am; Sun: 11 a.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

### ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

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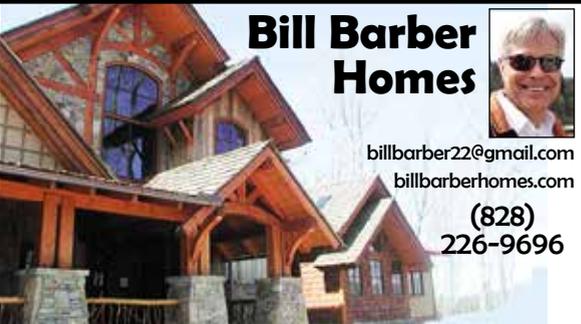


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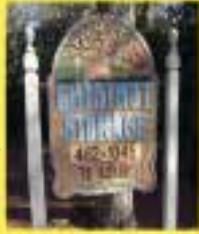
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**HI-TECH DIAMOND GRINDER AND POLISHER.** Very good condition with manual, backing plates, polishing pads, regular + mini smoothing discs, glass grinding bits, Pro-Flo Water attachment. No return. \$100. Serious inquiries only. bethb272@gmail.com (st. 3/18)

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**THE DRY SINK ON MAIN STREET** is taking applications for immediate full or part-time employment. Please inquire online at www.thedrysink.com/job-openings/ (st. 3/18)

**ALLISON DIANE CLOTHING** is looking for part time help. Call or stop by 828-526-5404. (st. 3/11)

**OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA, HIGHLANDS NC** – \$500 sign on bonus for FT Bellman, Housekeeping, Dishwasher! Now recruiting for Houseman, Turndown Attendants, Overnight Housekeeper, Bartender, Host, Server, Busser, Club Server, PT Banquet Server, F&B MIT, F&B Asst. Mgr, Cook, Pastry and Bread Cook, Spa Concierge, Spa Attendant, Cosmetologist, Massage Therapist, Fitness Manager, Reservation Specialist, Front Desk, PT Warehouse Asst., PT Retail Sales, Seasonal Culinary Gardens Crew. Benefits offered after 90 days employment. Apply online: www.olderwardsinn.com/careers

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## AT POSH PAWS

Posh Paws Pet Spa in Highlands, NC is now hiring full-time, part-time, and seasonal dog bathers. Our business hours are Tuesday-Saturday from 9a-5p, and we will be doing open interviews Tuesday-Friday from 10a-3p. We are not open in the evenings or on holidays, so you can expect to be able to enjoy those times with loved ones.

Have you ever been interested in working with animals or trying something new but weren't sure how to get into the animal care industry? Working as a dog bather may be the job for you! This is an entry level position that requires no prior experience. Fast advancement opportunities are available through our self-paced, paid, one-on-one apprenticeship. This is a great opportunity to learn a trade skill without accumulating educational debt! All of our employees (including the owners of the business) have started their dog grooming careers as a bather.

Dog bathers must be willing to learn and take constructive criticism. We currently employ a wonderful group of people that works well as a team, so being a team player is a must. Drama will not be tolerated. A love for dogs and a high level of patience is also required. Attention to detail is a necessity as we never want to send home a dog that isn't 100% clean.

This job does require standing for long periods of time and heavy lifting with help. The bather must be able to wash, rinse, and dry up to 8 large dogs per day plus small dogs.

Daily duties will include bathing and blow drying the dogs, assisting the groomers when needed, and completing daily as well as weekly cleaning routines to keep our salon looking and smelling nice.

Still not sure if this would be the right job for you? Please give us a call at 828-526-9581 with any additional questions about the position or come by to take a quick no-obligation tour before applying. We look forward to hearing from you!

**CASTING CALL!** The Highlands Playhouse is reopening and we are looking for talented and committed team members in a variety of roles. Leadership and box office staff positions are available (both full and part-time). Experience in business management/customer service and an interest in the arts is a must! The Highlands Playhouse is an 83 year old institution offering movies year-round and live entertainment in the Summer and Fall. Please send resumes and inquiries to HighlandsPlayhouse@gmail.com (st. 2/18)

## LUXURY LODGE MANAGER

**NEEDED FOR LIVE IN POSITION.** -- Prefer a local couple/individual to entertain and maintain facility while enjoying living in an exceptional facility. Strong people/communication skills needed. Must be flexible and have impeccable references and experience in hospitality/facility maintenance. Background/knowledge in wine and bar beverages a plus. Interest/knowledge in hiking/construction and outdoors is good also. Email mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com. (st. 2/11)

**THE SUMMER HOUSE BY REEVES FURNITURE STORE IN HIGHLANDS** is looking for full and part time sales and administrative positions. Sales — must be professional appearing, friendly, self-motivated, and enthusiastic. Previous sales and customer service experience preferred. Design Assistant — must be attentive to detail, have computer and organizational skills. Duties include placing and following up on Purchase Orders, managing accounts, and working closely with our in-house Designer and design clients. Apply in person at 2089 Dillard Road, Highlands, NC 2874. (2/25)

**SALES ASSOCIATE HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS, NC.**

Full time, part time and seasonal. Inquire to 828-200-0928. (st. 3/38)

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**HANDIMAN** - Electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry. Call Al Edgar. 828-332-7271. 828-369-6245. (4.1)

**HIGHLANDS HANDI-MAN** – Can fix anything inside or out. carpentry, interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling. Will also monitor house during

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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.

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**  
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# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from March 18. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## March 18

• At 6:45 a.m., officers received a report of a breaking & entering at Highlands Smokehouse on US 64 west during which items were damaged.

## March 22

• A report issued in November involving someone failing to pay a ticket for violating a local ordinance.

## The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 16.

## March 16

• At 2:16 p.m., the dept. assisted the driver of a truck maneuver Big Bear Pen Road.

• At 9:06 p.m., the dept. responded to ca Co2 alarm at the hospital.

• At 9:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Half Mile Dr.

## March 22

• At 10:24 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mack Wilson Road.

• At 3:26 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road.

• At 4:52 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Strawberry Lane.

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Map landmarks include: Dog Park, Civic Center Rec Park, Historic Village, Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (PAC), EMS, Play House, K-H Park, Post Offices, The Beacon Council, Highlands Plaza, Mtn Fresh Market, and various streets like Main St, Spring St, and Oak St.

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