

Highlands Newspaper

HAPPY EASTER!

FREE Every Thursday

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Social-distancing is widespread this Easter



The iconic swans at Highlands Country Club are practicing social distancing like everyone else.

— Photo by Kim Lewicki

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MC reports first death related to COVID-19

A Macon County resident diagnosed with COVID-19 has died. The person was over the age of 65 and had underlying medical conditions. To protect the families' privacy, no further information about this patient will be released.

“Our deepest sympathies are with the family and loved ones at this time. We want to reiterate the importance of citizens stay-

ing home and practicing social distancing until further direction from our government and health leadership”, stated Carmine Rocco, Macon County Interim Health Director.

Mr. Rocco continued, “Our message to those who are full-time residents, part-time residents, or visiting Macon County: Stay at home. Stay safe. Practice

• See **DEATH** page 13

DA Welch says sheriff to watch for violators

Sheriff Robert Holland has directed his officers to investigate allegations of possible violations involving short-term rentals.

To counter the spread of coronavirus, beginning March 27, Macon County commissioners forbid most short-term rentals or leases.

Owners cannot allow visitors for less than 28 days, or for more than 28 days if the rentals are not occupied on a consistent basis.

“We can’t allow people to refuse to protect their neighbors,” Holland said Monday.

There are exceptions to the local law.

Rental owners are allowed to provide shelter for medical personnel, emergency workers, construction workers and more.

Go to maconcountync.org and click on “Macon County supplemental proclamation of

• See **VIOLATORS** page 13

Club managers ease concerns about them bringing in H-2B workers

Alarms have been raised by members of the community concerning H-2B seasonal workers set to arrive in Highlands from Florida around May 1.

Since the governors of Florida, Georgia and Louisiana haven’t taken the COVID-19 outbreak as seriously as others in the country and with only piecemeal safeguards in place, citizens are worried travelers from those areas could infect Highlands.

Three country clubs have been mentioned in talk about town – Wildcat Cliffs Country Club, Cullasaja Club and Sapphire Lakes.

Wildcat Cliffs (WCCC) is the only club with employee housing in town – so it’s the only one the town has any sort of jurisdiction over.

Consequently, Town Manager Josh Ward has been in communication with WCCC CEO/GM Jeff Blais over the past two weeks concerning his H-2B workers.

“We have told them, that if they come to Highlands to live in the in-town employee housing, they wouldn’t be able to leave; they would have to go straight to the housing and would not be permitted to leave the premises while under the 14-day self-quarantine,”

said Ward. “They have been given a strict set of guidelines and they have promised to uphold them.”

The H-2B program allows U.S. employers or U.S. agents who meet specific regulatory requirements to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary nonagricultural jobs. H-2B employees are usually in the country on a 3-year visa and in this area move from working six months in the south (Florida) during winter months Nov. 1 through April 31, to six months in the north (NC, VA, etc.) in the summer months May through October.

• See **WORKERS** page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The COVID-19 saga continues

Information concerning COVID-19 best practices almost evolves daily. There seems to be no magic bullet solution, but rather a series of routine practices that individuals can do to lessen the coronavirus spread.

Continuous hand washing throughout the day is the first line of defense. Staying in place at home and avoiding unnecessary travel is another essential. The town leadership continues to be concerned about that second homeowners flooding the area when a less dense population would be best for all concerned. Now several country clubs are also urging their seasonal residents not to come to the Highlands Plateau until the pandemic has subsided. As mayor, telling people that they should not visit Highlands is not what I am accustomed to doing, but it is the right thing to do in this situation.

Another effective practice in slowing the spread is for individuals to maintain a 6 foot social distance zone while in public. One question asked on my recent radio broadcast went something to the effect that surely the mayor doesn't expect couples to maintain that social distance. My response is yes, that is when a



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

couple and family members are on public or town property, by all means maintain a social distance. That personal action models to the community what all of us should be doing regardless of our relationship. Our police, for example, have no idea who is a family member and who is not. So, let's keep it simple and practice social distancing when in public at our parks, streets, sidewalks, as well as in grocery stores and businesses.

At the end of last week the CDC and other agencies made the recommendation to wear masks in public places. While a mask, scarf, or bandana will not guarantee total protection, there is growing evidence that covering the nose and mouth helps prevent saliva and fluid from being emitted on surfaces and on other people. An infected person spreading body fluids is a sure path for transmission.

I hope everyone going to the grocery store will cover their face. The grocery store is a critical public venue where extreme caution must be taken. I want to thank our grocery stores for implementing the best practices in combating COVID-19.

Last week I wrote about the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program that the Highlands Chamber of Commerce was developing. The chamber now has a hotline for those who need help or want to volunteer. The number is (828) 482-8200. The program can also be accessed on line at highlandshnh@gmail.com.

As we approach the Easter Weekend let me express our thoughts and concern for those folks in the service economy who have been severely impacted by this crisis. Joni Mitchell's lyrics,

"Don't it always seems to go that you don't know what you've got until it's gone," captures what has befallen our hospitality and restaurant community. Please continue to support the restaurant take-out programs. Consider buying a restaurant gift card now so it can be used after the pandemic. The good news on the horizon is that they will make a better than ever comeback.

I also want to thank our police department for the hard work that they have done in manning the road compliance checks. Volunteer fire department personnel have also pitched in to assist the police, and our sanitation workers continue to be on the front line by making daily collections. It's not an understatement that when a crisis occurs the best people step forward to serve.

Thanks to all the caring people of Highlands.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

Thu, 9-Apr	Fri, 10-Apr	Sat, 11-Apr	Sun, 12-Apr
62° F 35° F	50° F 26° F	58° F 40° F	55° F 46° F
Very windy: cooler	Chilly with clouds and sun	Sunny to partly cloudy	Rain and a thunderstorm
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 59° Low: 48°	High: 52° Low: 28°	High: 64° Low: 34°	High: 55° Low: 40°

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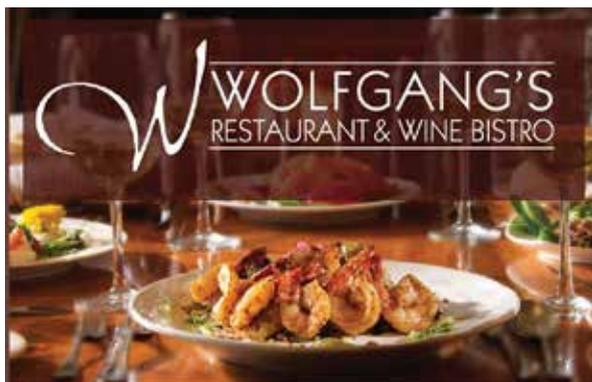


In lieu of our *We Love Locals* specials that usually run in April, we invite you to #ResortRemotely with us as we bring the comforts of Old Edwards Inn right into your home with recipes from our culinary team at Madison's Restaurant, wellness tips from our spa team, expert advice on how to master the art of a relaxing hotel sleep at home and more.



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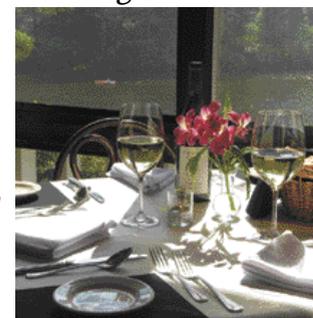
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• OBITUARY •

Randall Forrest Simmons



Randall Forrest Simmons, 74, of Highlands, passed away on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

Born in Macon County, Tennessee, he was the son of the late Garland Simmons and Donnie Era Harrison Simmons. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Harris Wayne Simmons and Douglas Simmons and a sister, Mabel Perdue. He was a member of Goldmine Baptist Church where he was a Sunday School Superintendent and Sunday School teacher. Randall was also a member of the Blue Ridge Masonic Lodge 435, the York Rites and a 32nd degree Scottish Rite.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Mary Lee Keener Simmons of Highlands; one brother, Roger Simmons of The Colony, TX and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private service will be held at Goldmine Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org/donate.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Annie Laurie 'Morris' McDaniel

Annie Laurie "Morris" McDaniel, 94, of Highlands passed away Friday, April 03, 2020. She was born July 7, 1925 in Andrews, South Carolina to the late Edgar Cleveland and Morris and Dosia "Anderson" Morris. Deceased siblings included Rufus, Clifton, Dan, Herbert, Francis, Marie, Lucille, Ide, Nell. Before moving to Highlands in 2016, Ann lived in Charleston, SC from 1950-2016. While in Charleston, Ann worked as an Office Administrator for J Henry Stuhr Funeral Home and owned and operated Ann McDaniel Catering Services. She was an active member of the North Bridge Garden Club in Charleston, SC. She enjoyed gardening. Ann was a member of the St. Andrews Methodist Church in Charleston.

In addition to her parents, Annie is preceded in death by her husband, Edward Eugene McDaniel. She is survived by two daughters; Karen McDaniel Weihs (Chris) of Highlands, NC and Lynn McDaniel of Montgomery, AL; two grandsons, Christopher Tyson Weihs (Misty) and Justin Elliott Weihs; three great grandchildren, William Wyatt Weihs, Laurel Anne Weihs and Kenzy Ruth Messer-Weihs.

A private service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family ask memorials be made to the Highlands Food Pantry, 328 South Street Highlands, NC 28741.

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



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• WORD MATTER •

Rules of Civility, Plateau-Style

I consider myself an observer of the human condition and human behavior. I've written before about this part of who we are as sentient beings. As we make our way through this current public health event I think it's fair to say that many otherwise easygoing folks are beginning to experience symptoms consistent with fear and uncertainty in the time of Covid-19.

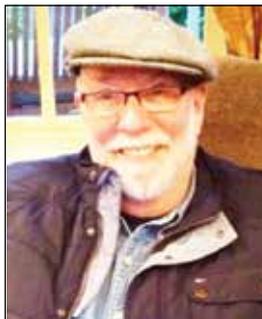
It's been brought to my attention that a small, potentially ugly ... stress fracture has revealed itself in our idyllic corner of the world.

Since Covid-19 emerged, leaders on all levels have been attempting to find answers to questions that have never before been asked in our lifetime. Most center around how to protect a particular population – a town, a state, our nation – from the spread of something with the proven capability to harm, or even kill us.

Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor, as I mentioned last week, has been reporting what he has learned, and is doing what he can to help keep the community informed and, to the extent he has any influence over it, safe. A part of this effort includes asking part-time residents who own property here to stay home until, for want to a better term, the “all clear” has sounded.

Now, we all understand, or should understand that there are some contradictory impulses at work here. People who have purchased property here, pay taxes here, pump money and energy into our economy here, want to be here. And, despite the mayor's pleas, they have every right to be here. Whether or not it makes sense for them to be here is another issue.

They're being asked, as we all have been asked, to self-quarantine for two weeks, and to observe local, state and federal social dis-



Bud Katz

tancing guidelines. They also, so as not to put undue pressure on limited resources, have been asked to bring a two-week supply of grocery and pharmacy necessities with them in order to comply with the quarantine.

Whether or not they fully grasp the limitations of our healthcare system and capabilities here on the plateau remains an open question. But the fact remains that, prior to the imposition of “soft” HPD roadblocks and the mayor's pleas and proclamations, a few, perhaps many, are here.

Unfortunately, it appears that some of us who live here full-time have taken the mayor's plea for part-time residents to stay home an unpleasant step further. They have, perhaps passively, but in some cases aggressively, communicated displeasure with this, as they see it, flouting of the mayor's suggestion. And, they've done it loudly, and sometimes in public.

As I said, there are a couple of human dynamics at work here. The first is fear, of both the virus and of the unknown. The second is a loss of control over their – our – lives. They – we – all of us – are unable to live our lives as we all did prior to Covid-19. And, we don't like it.

Even if we don't understand the appeal of quarantining here as opposed to wherever ‘back home’ is to our part time residents, most of us, I believe, keep those concerns to ourselves. A few, though, apparently feel the need to express those feelings directly to our part-time resident friends and neighbors.

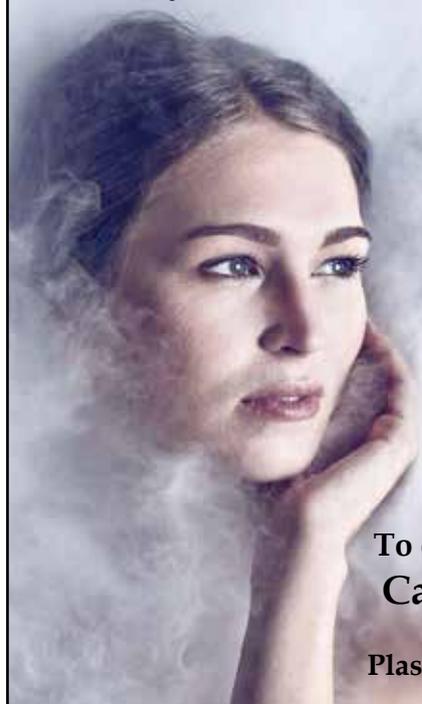
Let me be clear – despite the circumstances, it's not okay to make a neighbor feel unwanted in a place where they've always

been welcome. By the same token, part-time residents shouldn't blithely dismiss the legitimate health and safety concerns of their full-time neighbors. We're equal in this struggle. We're looking for the same resolution to our fears and to our sense of control over our lives.

I've noted before that these are rough and uncharted seas and that we're all in a small boat attempting to find refuge. I believe a significant number, perhaps a majority of our part time residents will, in fact, stay at home this year. I also have a sense that before all is said and done on the Covid-19 front, our entire plateau community is going to experience a level of economic pain similar to what we felt in the wake of the 2008 national meltdown. What I don't want to see is a loss of civility and a lack of compassion for people who, under normal circumstances, would be good, if symbiotic, friends and neighbors.

These are scary, uncertain times. As that well-known Los Angeles philosopher, Rodney King once famously said, “Can't we all just get along?”

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We encourage everyone to view the Sunday morning worship service video at 11:00 am each Sunday so that we may all virtually attend worship together. Until we may meet again in person, Christ's peace be with you all.

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We Will Win This War...Sooner or Later

It's hard to know where to begin with the changes that have taken place in all our lives in the past month. What a great economy we had, and real estate sales were booming! Then all of a sudden, the whole world changed, unlike 911 when only the United States was dealt a blow. For months following the terrorist attack we became a country united, having realized how vulnerable we are as a nation, we all grieved not only the loss of innocent lives, but also the loss of freedom as we once knew it. We were never to be the same but for a while we were all kinder to each other knowing we were all in this together.

Fast forward to the pandemic the ENTIRE world now faces. This ugly and terrifying virus doesn't care about your political affiliation, the amount of money you have in the stock market or banks, the color of your skin, your past, your present, or your future life. It doesn't care if you are a good person who reaches out to help humanity or whether you only are only concerned with your life and are selfish. It doesn't care if you are an alcoholic or drug addict

and doesn't care if you warm a church pew every Sunday. It doesn't care if you are a Hollywood celebrity or a professional athlete, or a restaurant owner, a server -who greets us with a smile and depends on tips-president or CEO of a corporation, a small business owner, a member of law enforcement or a criminal, or a hospital worker in overload trying to save lives. In other words, it doesn't discriminate as humans sometimes do.

I feel, once more, that we are realizing how united we should be, without politics keeping us divided. We have the right to choose many things in life but the Covid -19 has the power over EVERYONE in the world at the moment. It chooses, in its own way, who lives and who doesn't. Be kind, be smart, stay home and together we can defeat this. America is the greatest country in the world and we all will remain stronger together. To criticize how unprepared we were, as far as a shortage of masks and ventilators,



Pat Allen, BIC
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helps no one. As Americans we are full speed ahead in finding a vaccine, a Covid-19 test, and finally a cure. There is no way we could have known or been prepared and we should all be understanding and work together.

As far as real estate in our area, I feel that once the pandemic is over, we will see a surge of buyers wanting to live in a smaller town, such as ours, where they feel safer, have better communication, and share a true comradeship with people who care. My office is staying in touch with buyers and sellers and are addressing their concerns. If you have questions you can email me at pat@patallenrealtygroup.com.

I will end by saying how proud I am of Mayor Pat Taylor, who is doing his best to keep us safe, members of law enforcement who risk their lives every time a car window is rolled down, health care workers ,who risk becoming infecting while helping others

live, the workers at Bryson's and Mountain Fresh, who make sure we have supplies but risk catching Covid-19 every day, and restaurants and their workers who allow us to pick up curbside the food we so desire. And I thank all of you for staying home to prevent spreading this ugly virus by not becoming its host or hostess. We will get through this and will once again be more appreciative, not just the life we live, but life itself.

• Pat Allen is owner of Pat Allen Realty Group and a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist and is certified in Resort and Second home properties. She chooses to remain an independent firm which was recently selected as a Leading Real Estate Company of the World. She is consistently a top producer and award-winning broker on the plateau. Visit her on the web at Pat Allen Realty Group.com, call 828-526-8784, or 828-200-9179. The office is conveniently located at 295 Dillard Road with a second location at 5121 Cashiers Road at the entrance to Wildcat Cliffs Country Club opening in May.



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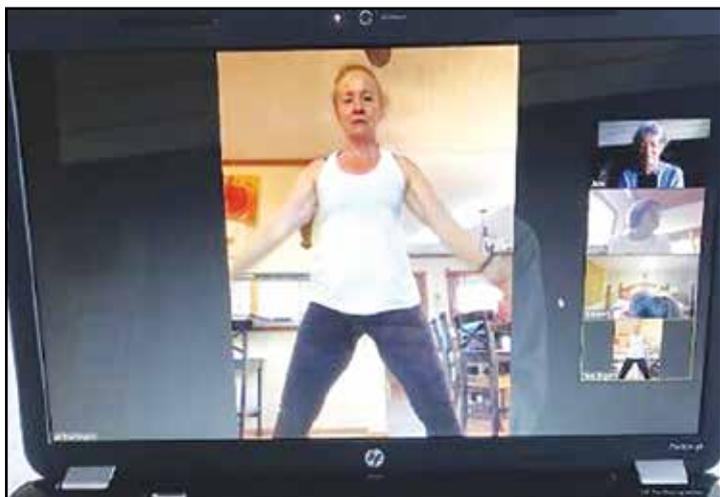
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The staff at the Eckerd Living Center sends a heartfelt message to the community.

I was leaving the restaurant today, driving down Main Street in Highlands. The governor, the county and the town have shut down all restaurants. Town was dead. The whole country is on its heels and staying home.

There would normally be about a hundred cars on Main Street. Tonight there were two. So, I am driving along checking things out and there is this little girl and her mom. The little girl is skipping down the sidewalk, jumping up trying to touch the signs and things hanging above the sidewalk. Impressed with her enthusiasm and general zeal for life, I gave the horn a quick toot-toot.

It is important to mention here that I am from the Northeast. We use our horns when driving. For a lot of the country the horn is just a button on the steering wheel you accidentally push once a year. For us, it was a form of communication of sorts. It ranged from a "hello neighbor" toot-toot all the way up to the blazing "Hey! you almost killed us!"

Anyway, I gave the little girl and her mom a friendly toot-toot. I was happy that they were happy and enjoying the day. The little girl stopped in her tracks. For a second, I thought, I shouldn't have done that. Then, the little girl raised her arms like she was Rocky at the top of those steps in Philadelphia and her mom doubled over laughing. I raised my fist out of the sunroof and they both clapped for some reason.

Thus encouraged, I next drove past a middle-aged woman in yoga pants with an I-Phone in her ears. Gave her a friendly toot-toot. She waved like I was a friend, but with the enthusiasm of a fan at a rock concert. I wonder what music she was listening to.

Next, was two couples – high school or college age – holding hands walking down the sidewalk. Gave them a little toot-toot. The girls were confused, but the guys whoop-whooped and waved their arms.

So, I turned out of Highlands, got down the road and started out of town. A short way down the road around the bend comes a Subaru with two kayaks and camping stuff. Couldn't help it. Gave them a little friendly toot-toot.

At that point, I thought I should just leave the horn alone. But...for some reason I took a quick glance in the rear view and sure enough, the driver of the Subaru had his fist raised out of the sunroof.

I am not sure what this story really adds up to. I didn't speak to any of these people. But I will never forget that moment when the little girl raised her arms up in some sort of victory, her mom laughing, my fist raised out the sunroof.

I can't imagine what we had in common except for the fact that we all choose to be happy. Maybe we all just need a friendly acknowledgement now and again. Toot-toot. I see you!

Jason Cancilla
The Log Cabin Restaurant

August Produce offers a box of fruit and veggies for \$20



Rachel Lewicki and Hudson Tilley keep traditions alive dyeing Easter eggs with teas from The Spice & Tea Exchange using Blueberry Black, Blood Orange Smoothie, Hibiscus, Beet Root Powder and Tumeric.



the COVID-19 Pandemic

down with attitude!

My wife Julie and I own a medical pharmaceutical/device research company in Northeast Georgia whereby we provide new medicines/drug delivery systems to patients in Georgia and North Carolina.

We have a residence in Highlands and in Gainesville. Over the past several years we have gotten to know people in the Highlands community and feel a part of the community.

We have been working on a new treatment for Alzheimers Disease the development of which is threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our clinic like many across the United States was running out of masks and gloves. Our staff have been working many over-time hours to maintain patient safety and to provide continued treatment but were becoming overwhelmed due to COVID-19 and its impact.

Krysti and Thomas Henderson (owners of Chocolate Heaven and The Cake Bar in Highlands) heard about our difficulties and we got a care package from them including a Chocolate Heaven cake and hand sewn masks made by a local wedding gown seamstress.

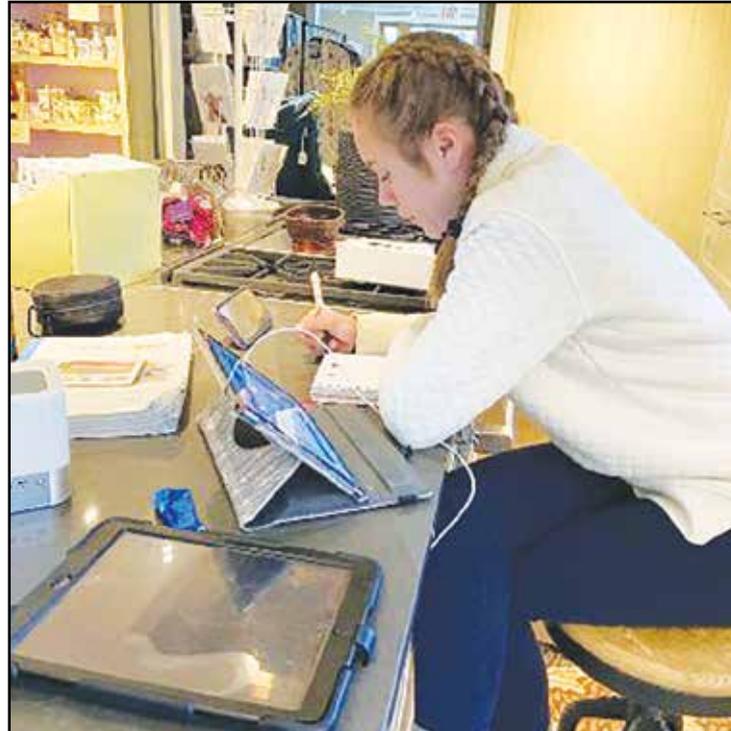
I cannot tell you how much that meant to us emotionally in this time of need.

Thought you may want to pass this story along to show how the community is rallying around their healthcare providers.

Thank you for all the support. We love Highlands!

Chris Recknor, MD/ Julie Recknor, PhD
Biostatistics

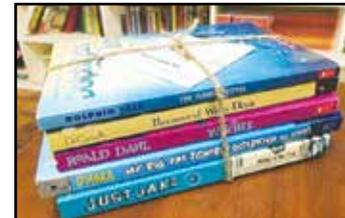
Centers for Advanced Research & Education



Bosses helping workers

Olive Knops, 13, Skypes with her class while working with her mom at her job place, The Summerhouse.

Mobile Literacy!



The Literacy Council will loan you a bundle of books for adults and children to read during this time of social distancing. Just email Anna at anorton@maconncliteracy.org to set up a time between 10a and 2p on Friday and Mondays to pick up your family's bag.

Highlands Nature Center's Virtual Tours!



The Highlands Nature Center isn't physically open, but it continues to provide environmental content and resources that can be enjoyed from the comfort of home. Daily activities and ideas are posted on the HBS Facebook page as part of the "Nearby Nature" series. Tours will be posted to the Facebook page as tours are live streamed for all to enjoy.

Happy Birthday, Elsa!



Elsa practices social distancing while celebrating her 1st birthday



Mims Henderson makes cinnamon rolls at her family's business Chocolate Heaven.



Madelynn Phillips helps with chores at home collecting eggs and tending the chickens.

... WORKERS continued from page 1

Clubs' seasonal employment is secured between October and January and if employers rescind on contractual arrangements, they are liable for travel expenses back to the workers' home country.

Club managers say had they known the virus outbreak was coming and so many people would be out of work they wouldn't have secured H-2B workers and instead would have hired locally.

H-2B workers at WCCC are from South Africa and those at Cullasaja are from South Africa and the Caribbean. (Sapphire Lakes didn't respond by press time.)

The first thing all club managers want the public to know is that they live here with their families, too, so they are as concerned as everyone else about the spread of COVID-19 and strict precautions are in place regarding their seasonal workers – H-2B or

otherwise.

WCCC's Blais said though the process is still in the planning stages, he expects between 20-25 workers who will all arrive in Highlands together – at the same time and they will all be quarantined in the same place at the same time.

"I work with a recruiter, but I am managing the process and we are being very conscientious and know it's important to do this right," he said. "The plan is to get them all here at the same time so they are quarantined in our employee housing for the same amount of time."

Though normally H-2B workers trickle in over a couple of weeks, Blais said he wants to take care of this in one swoop.

Club vehicles will meet the bus or charter bringing the workers to Highlands somewhere outside of town – possibly Cashiers or Clayton.

They will be installed at the employee housing on the Franklin Road three workers per house.

"The unique thing here is we will do this in one day. They have been assigned rooms in advance and we have stocked each unit with kitchen staples they will need as well as household goods and toiletries like napkins, paper towels, toilet paper and cleaning supplies, including gloves. They will stay there for 14 days and on day 15 we will physically see them."

Blais also said only three people can be on the unit's porch at a time and only one person can come off porch to exercise around the loop or take the garbage out.

Day one of the quarantine begins the day after they arrive and that day they can send a list of groceries or necessities they need via email and one of the full-time staffers will pick up what they need and leave it on the porch.

"No one will come in contact with them," said Blais.

Each day Monday through Friday someone from the club will deliver lunch to them and leave it on the porch, as well.

"In addition, each day, Monday through Friday, if they need anything, they can email us by 3 p.m. and again we will deliver it to the porch," he said.

He said besides email, the club is also using Zoom and Facetime to communicate.

"We interviewed them in January before the COVID-19 issue broke so we are committed to them. If we say we don't want them at this point, then we have to fly them back to their home country which screws up their visa," said Blais.

He said WCCC takes care of its staff and all seasonal employees from elsewhere, and even those from state-side colleges housing with WCCC or elsewhere on the plateau are being treated the same way – that is instructed to self-quarantine for 14

days.

"We are very stringent regarding our regulations," he said.

About a quarter of the H-2B workers have worked at WCCC before and Blais said they are glad to have them back. They will be working on the golf course, outdoor services, food and beverage front and back of the house; waitstaff, kitchen staff and dishwashing.

Blais said WCCC members have been advised of the situation and have been sent the state, Macon and Jackson counties' proclamations as well as the town's.

"We've told them there are limited services at the club, to come with whatever groceries or medicines they need and to also self-quarantine for 14 days.

"We are making sure everyone follows the rules. We are part of the community, too," he said.

General Manager of the Cullasaja Club Chris Conner said they have contracted for five H-2B kitchen workers (cooks) who like those coming to WCCC are currently employed in clubs in south Florida – in his case Naples and Palm City near Stuart, FL.

They are expected to arrive via plane between May 1 and May 11 and like WCCC will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days in Cullasaja employee housing on the Cashiers Road.

"They don't have transportation, but still they won't be able to leave the employee housing area," said Connor. "In the past, they have flown into Charlotte and we go get them, but if they can't fly, we will have to go down and get them."

At Cullasaja, there will be one person per room. Like at WCCC, club staff will get groceries or whatever they need and deliver to the front door. Training will be visual online training.

"But they are already cooks, so basically they just need to learn our menu," he said. "They are returning employees. The nice thing is they can come back for three seasons; they are good people."

After 14 days, if anyone feels ill or shows signs of the virus, they won't be working and if it doesn't work out they will be sent back to their country.

"We are all in this together. For every club in the area, putting the safety of their members and the community is paramount. We all live here year-round. We aren't going to do anything to endanger the area," said Connor. "And instead of opening May 1 we have postponed our opening to late May."

Meanwhile, Cullasaja is hiring locally for all other positions including front of the house in dining services – bartenders and servers.

– Kim Lewicki

Highlands CC



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Pray for hope and faith

Dr. Curtis Fussell

Co-Pastor at First Presbyterian Church

In this season of both Passover and Holy Week, people of faith prayed. The Hebrew scriptures are filled with prayers. The Psalms present a variety of prayers. Prayers of joy and thanksgiving, and prayers of lament and even questions about God's presence in our lives.

We have in the Gospels the testimony that Jesus prayed often. He prayed when he was baptized, when he chose his disciples, when he needed spiritual renewal. Jesus also prayed on the night before his crucifixion, and then finally on the cross where he even prayed for his executioners.

The only teaching the disciples ever requested was "Teach us to pray." They didn't ask how to preach or how to heal; they only asked how to pray. What Jesus then instructed is that we pray for both ourselves and others. Indeed, he teaches that we also pray for our enemies. What a challenge it is to pray.

So, how do we pray? Praying, if we are honest, demands reflection, mindfulness, and even struggle. After all, prayer involves the whole of our lives, our hearts, our minds, and our spirits. It involves an awareness of ourselves and others, and empathy for our enemies.

One particular teaching we have from Jesus occurs on the night before his was arrested and taken to be crucified. Jesus teaches how to pray when we are facing a critical time in our lives. Jesus said to his disciples on that night, "Pray that you do not enter into temptation." In other words, "Pray that you will not succumb to the crisis at hand."

However, we're told in the Gospel of Luke that the disciples fell asleep, because they were "weighed down with grief." Now, we can all relate to what was happening. Grief is the most exhausting emotion. They had heard Jesus speak about his impending death. That announcement grieved them and exhausted them.

In recent days, in this time of the Covid-19 crisis, someone said they were exhausted at the end of the day. "After trying to do office work at home, and after all the phone calls, all the texting, all the emails, all the news, and the economy, alongside the vigilance to practice social distancing, I'm just exhausted and worn out at the end of the day."

In the garden of suffering where Jesus prayed, he provides us a lesson on how to pray in a time of crisis. He addresses God with a term of endearment, "Abba," which means "Father." "Abba, Father, if it be your will, take this cup of suffering from me." Jesus knows God as abiding presence in times of crisis. Jesus also doesn't ask whether God is able to take that cup away. Jesus asks if God will take it away. However, immediately Jesus says, "Yet, not my will but yours be done." In other words, Jesus accepts that he has his part to do in his time of crisis.

In times of crisis, in times of grief and weariness, we are told that they can be times that reveal the depth of our character. We can be tempted to be overwhelmed to the degree that we give up and fall sleep. We can be tempted to grieve and lament our situation to such a degree that we fall into despair. We can be tempted to think that God is not with us in the crisis time. We are tempted to think there is nothing we can do.

But learn this lesson from Jesus on praying: keep praying for yourself, for others, and even for your enemies. Pray to do good to others, as you have them do good to you. Pray that your sense of weariness will provide you an incentive to look forward beyond the present crisis to the time when God will bring new life. In this way, praying will become an activity of hope and faith, in ourselves, in others, and in God.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY 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. Wes Sharpe, 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

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service; Mon. 6p Bible

Study & Supper in homes

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

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School 10:30am: Middle & High School;

10:45am: Child. Program, 10:45am: Worship

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.

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706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447,

Pastor Gary Hewins

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Sun.; Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 8:15a. Sundays: 8 am

Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Holy

Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

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

526-3175 • 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

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

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

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening Worship, 6p.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided); 7pm

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30; Early-Bird Christmas Eve service of

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All are welcome.

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

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.

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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

Mass: Thurs. 9am, Fri., 11am; Sun. 9am

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am



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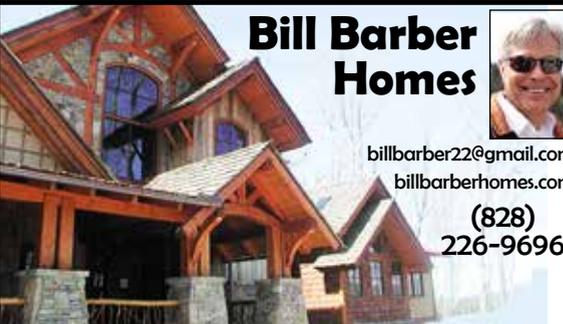
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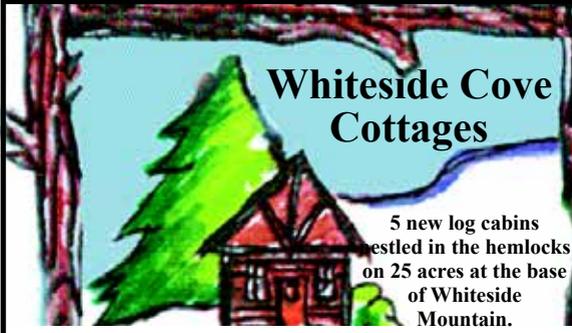


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**... DEATH continued from page 1**

social distancing. Quarantine if you have travelled. Limit your trips outside of your home to necessities.”

It is important to make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources like Macon County Public Health, CDC, and NCDHHS. For more information, please visit the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and NCDHHS' website at www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus, which will also include future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina. Macon County Public Health regularly updates our Facebook page with accurate and current information regarding COVID-19;

we encourage the public to check our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MaconPublicHealth for up-to-date information.

Symptoms for COVID-19 are fever, cough, and other lower respiratory illness (shortness of breath). If you believe that you may have COVID-19, please call the Health Department at 828-349-2517. The call center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm, until further notice.

– Submitted press release

... VIOLATORS continued from page 1

State of Emergency” for a complete list.

As of Monday, Macon County had one case of confirmed COVID-19 involving a full-time resident and two confirmed cases involving nonresidents. There has been one coronavirus-connected death.

District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch said her office intends to vigorously prosecute anyone charged with violating short-term rental restrictions.

The penalty is a class-two misdemeanor carrying a maximum sentence of up to 60 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

“Local leaders are trying to provide protections for the good of all residents during this national, regional and community crisis,” Welch said Monday. “The unlawful and selfish actions of just a few could have enormous negative health consequences for many.”

Call Macon County Sheriff's Office at 349-2104 to report possible short-term visitation violations.

Additionally, visitors to Macon County are requested to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. They are encouraged to read the “State of Emergency” orders, also at www.maconnc.org, for recommendations connected with the coronavirus threat.

– Press release submitted by DA Ashley Welch

• FIRE REPORTS •**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 31. March 31**

- At 6:35 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Harris Drive.

- At 3:48 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Country Club Drive.

April 2

- At 2:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible gas leak at a residence on Satulah Ridge Road.

April 3

- At 1:57 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashier FD on a brush fire.

- At 1 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wahoo Trail.

April 8

- At 6:15 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Henry Road.

April 5

- At 6:39 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Big Bearpen Road.

- At 12:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Peraquin Road.

- At 2:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a gas leak at a residence on Happoldt Dr.

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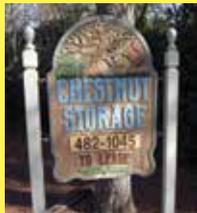
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FULL HOUSE GALLERY in Highlands Plaza is now open and accepting CONSIGNMENT FURNITURE. Please call or text Susan at 828-526-6004. (st. 3/19)

COMIC BOOKS - Buy / Sell. Call Bob @ 302-530-1109 (6/4)

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

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PART-TIME MARKETING ADMINISTRATIVE AND PRINT PRODUCTION POSITION - 25 hours per week Marketing administrative and production assistant needed to oversee invoice coding and tracking and bookkeeping; manage in-house print production and inventory of all marketing collateral and external print ordering and vendor relationships; distribute collateral around Old Edwards properties and in town; lay out banquet menu cards for the special events department; and other administrative duties. Skill requirements include Excel proficiency; Microsoft Word and Outlook, knowledge of print production and print industry terminology, print-ready specs, paper types, color processes; experience in hands-on print production of materials such as brochures

and newsletters, some experience in InDesign. More extensive experience in layout and design a plus and could be considered for a full-time position. Must be a stickler for high quality and details, work extremely well as part of a close-knit team and bring a consistently positive attitude, trustworthiness and integrity. References required. Apply online at www.oldedwardsinn.com

ALLISON DIANE CLOTHING at the corner of Fourth and Main is looking for part time help..Please stop by or call at (828)526-5404 (st. 3/19)

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 - Med Techs and CNAs. 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)

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT HIGHLANDS SMOKEHOUSE. Hiring all positions. Commitment to excellence in food quality and guest service. We are proud of the products and service we provide, we create experiences not just sell food. Offering defined, sane schedules and healthy work environment allowing for a balanced life. Very cooperative pay. Food service experience preferred. Tobacco free workplace. Contact us

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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)

SERVICES

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDY-MAN: Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 828-200-4071. (6/11)

HIGHLANDS HANDI-MAN - Can fix anything inside or out. Carpentry, Interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling, and will monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-482-0159. (st. 3/26)

GUTTER CLEANING, METAL ROOF & FABRICATON roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal, pressure washing. Call 371-1103. (st. 6/27)

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)

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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. 9/19)

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)

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