

Highlands Newspaper

Early voting for the District 11 Run-off starts today

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 17, Number 23 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thursday, June 4, 2020

COVID-19 cases are in 28741 zipcode

As of Tuesday night, Jun 2, 1,395 tests have been performed in Macon County -- 1,062 at the Health Department. There have been 95 positive cases with 253 results pending. The number of active cases is 82,

recovered is 12 and one death. Now that Macon County has increased COVID numbers, statistics are available on the NC Public Health Dashboard by zip code. As of press time Wednesday, in Franklin there are 78 cases, in

Highlands 10 and 1 in Otto. Macon County Emergency Management (MCEM) will be hosting a targeted COVID-19 testing clinic in Highlands today, June 4, for those who believe they may

• See COVID page 8

• INSIDE THIS ISSUE •

Mayor on Duty	2	Investing at 4,118 Ft	8
Weather	2	Spiritually Speaking	10
Dining Options	4	Police & Fire Reports	11
Letter	5	Service Directory	12
Obituaries	6	Classifieds	14

Crowds march for justice



On Tuesday from 2-6 pm, about 75 peaceful demonstrators young, old and from all walks of life, walked Main Street to show that Black Lives Matter. Their signs said it all. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," and "Is Life a White Privilege?" The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prevents the government from making laws which regulate an establishment of religion, prohibit the free exercise of religion, or abridge the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the right to peaceably assemble, or the right to petition the government for redress of grievances.

– Photo by Jim Lewicki

13 apply for HPD Chief position

Highlands Police Chief Harrell's last day was Friday, May 29. Now after 14 years, the search is on for a new chief. Until a candidate is chosen, Captain Mike Jolly and Lieutenant Andrea Holland are working together as interim co-chiefs to ensure the department operates "business as usual."

The application period closed last week with 13 applications now being considered.

"Some of the applicants are from within the area and some are not," said Town Manager Josh Ward. "The North Carolina League of Municipalities will be assisting the Public Safety Committee and myself as part of the interview panel."

The members of the Public Safety Committee are Commissioners John Dotson, Donnie Caloway and Brian Stiehler.

Interviews will begin within

• See CHIEF page 2



On Monday, COVID correct, peaceful protesters stood to remind all that even in Highlands Black Lives Matter. They also demonstrated their respect for the signs the Chamber has planted around town promoting the 3 Ws – Wash hands, Wear masks and Wait apart.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

July 4th set for Sat., Sept. 5

The 3 Ws signs have popped up around town

It happened last time due to extreme weather on a July 4th in the '90s, but this time it's due to the pandemic, so Highlands Fourth of July celebration will take place over Labor Day weekend, the Saturday of Sept. 5.

At the May Town Board

meeting, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce Kaye McHan asked the board to consider the date change due to the pandemic and restrictions now in place.

"Due to the current pan-

• See July 4th page 2

Town '20-'21 budget at \$20 M

The FY 2020-'21 budget process started at the Town Retreat in March and finished up at the May 21 Town Board meeting. As required by law, the budget is balanced with revenues and

expenditures totaling \$20,154,080 – without increases to taxpayers of any kind.

The ad valorem property tax rate remains at \$0.1565 per \$100

• See BUDGET page 9

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Highlands residents now have COVID

For three months we have been taking measures with the hope of stopping the COVID-19 virus from coming to the Highlands Plateau. It has been spreading all that time across the nation and is now well into Western Carolina, Macon County and yes, in Highlands.

We shouldn't point fingers at one another concerning who caused the spread. Several factors contributed to the situation that we are facing. While much of our economy was shut-down, other parts, such as construction, service providers, commuters, tourism to some extent have all played roles in spreading the coronavirus. Now we have to work together to contain the spread.

The three Ws are more important than ever. Wait and socially distance, wash hands frequently, and wear a face covering. Out of respect for other people we can all do these three procedures.

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce has put out more signs throughout the business district asking our visitors to follow these procedures. The chamber is also deploying hand sanitizer stations in the business district. I visited with several merchants on Saturday morning, and they were all following the three Ws,



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

especially for their employees.

I want to also discuss the cluster of cases that were reported at OEI. They are not the only business that have had cases, but because there were six cases reported in a single department of OEI, the Macon County Public Health Department was required to identify them. There have been other large essential businesses in the county with clusters that were less than five, so those companies were not identified.

From the start of their reopening OEI has followed rigorous protocols for preventing the spread of the virus. They have been a model. I have talked with OEI and county officials concerning the situation. All agree that the outbreak came from people in one department who commuted to work from another location in the county. The virus did not come from within company operations. Also, the county official I talked with believes OEI was able to quickly identify the cluster and contain the spread to only one small area of operation of the company. With COVID 19 there can be no absolute certainty, but this is the best assessment at this time.

I know OEI has a rigorous employee testing and assessment program including temperature checks for all workers going on duty. There is a screening procedure for their guests also. We have adopted similar procedures at Town Hall. OEI leadership assures me they will continue the same measures and adopt further procedures.

Macon County will be conducting a test program today for folks who have COVID symptoms, or for those who have been exposed to people with the virus. The public testing is being done at OEI's The Farm on Arnold Road.

The country is now struggling with the tragic and senseless killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis policeman. Our law enforcement system has to be reformed to where people in police custody are safe and protected, not brutalized and killed.

I have joined a host of North Carolina mayors in signing a statement that denounces what happened to George Floyd. People of color need assurances that they will be treated fairly in the criminal justice system. Putting a knee on the neck of man until he suffocates, while his hands are handcuffed behind his back cannot happen again. I know many are frustrated with the lawless looting that has occurred in many cities, but we as a nation have to address the source that ignites such out of control responses.

...July 4th continued from page 1

demic and our inability to foresee what the number allowed for gatherings will be in July, we are asking for approval of an alternate date for the fireworks currently scheduled for Fourth of July," she said.

Except for the date, everything will presumably be the same – the Chamber will sponsor the event, fireworks will be put off from the Rec Park and people can watch from locations all over town.

In a released statement, McHan said there were many factors to consider – not just the number of people allowed to gather outdoors during Phase 3.

"Considerations such as restaurant, accommodation and retail occupancy are of utmost importance as we estimate the number of individuals that could be in town for the holiday weekend," she said.

Complying with NC Governor Roy Cooper's pandemic restrictions makes it hard to plan for future events where large crowds are typically the norm.

"The July 4th weekend falls on the cusp of the potential of transitioning to Phase 3 or remaining in Phase 2 which will be determined by the Governor closer to the date based on the number of positive COVID-19 tests," said McHan. "The Highlands Chamber of Commerce had to decide whether to have the fireworks as planned on July 4th or postpone them to another date."

She said a decision had to be made early so the fireworks company, police, fire-responders and fire department can properly prepare for the event.

Commissioner OK'd the proposed change, and on Monday, June 1, the chamber announced its final decision that fireworks would take place Saturday, Sept. 5.

Signage

Also at May's meeting, McHan requested permission to erect signs around town to promote staying clean and safe – particularly now that there are positive cases in town.

The town doesn't typically allow signage to be erected around town, but due to the pandemic and the proposed message, commissioners gave their OK.

Signs have already begun popping up in various locations around town.

– Kim Lewicki

... CHIEF from page 1

the next few weeks.

Captain Mike Jolly has been on the Highlands Police Department since 2006.

Lieutenant Andrea Holland has been with the force since 2010.

There are 12 full-time officers in the department and 10 part-time officers.

– Kim Lewicki

• WEATHER •

Thu, 4-Jun	Fri, 5-Jun	Sat, 6-Jun	Sun, 7-Jun
			
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Highlands Newspaper

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Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

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

Highlands, N.C., 28741

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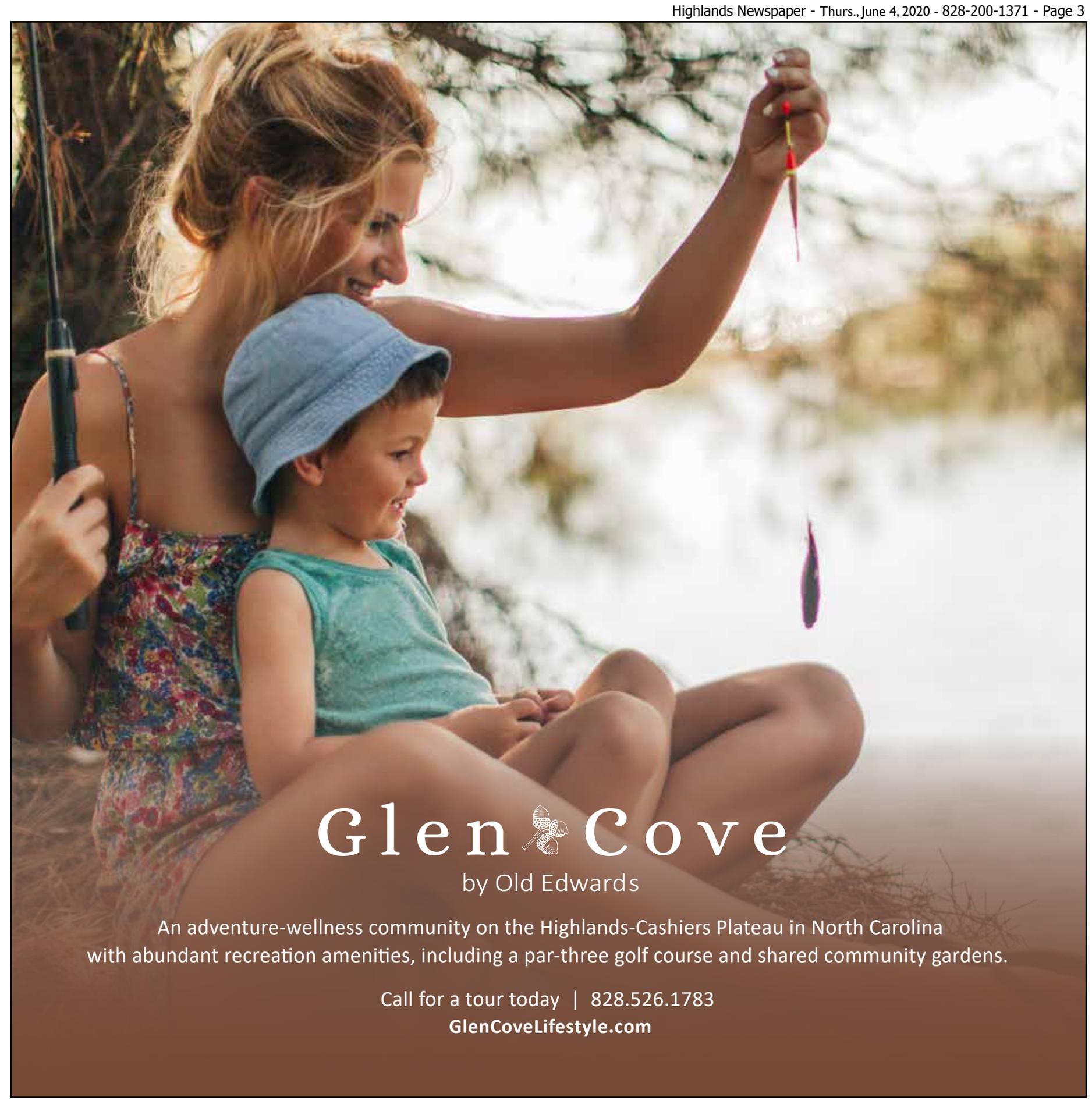
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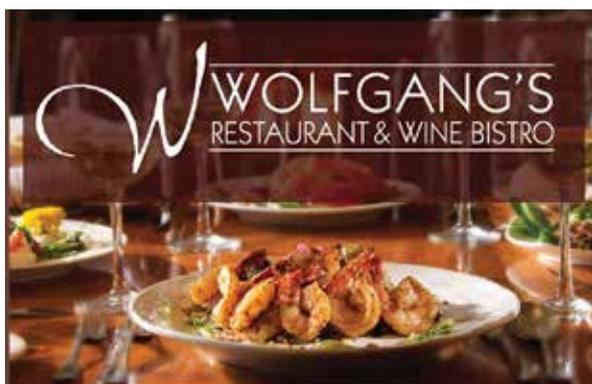
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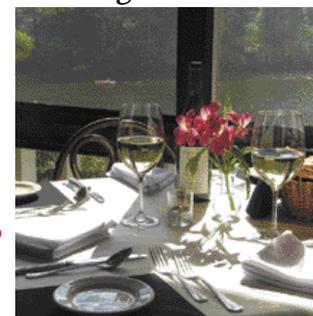
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• LETTER •

...for the good of all

Dear Editor,

In last week's paper, Mayor Taylor was spot on when he said, regarding Covid-19, "we are not at the end of this spread as we had all hoped." He noted that many individuals were seen downtown not social distancing or wearing face coverings. I noticed the same thing this week. He also noted that Macon County had increased from 3 cases to 18 within just a few days. As I write this, 6 days later, we are up to 82 cases. By the time you read this, it is likely going to be even higher, and they're not all in Franklin. Many are here in Highlands.

The progression from Phase 1 to Phase 2, as announced by Gov. Cooper last week, should not be taken to mean that it's now safer to interact in public places. In fact, it's just the opposite: as more people interact, especially indoors, the risk of exposure to Covid-19 is higher. The pro-

• See LETTER page 11

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• OBITUARIES •

David Franklin Head

On May 23, 2020, a beautiful spring day, just perfect for enjoying a motorcycle ride, David Franklin Head, along with his wife, Dawn, tragically lost his life and entered into his heavenly home.

David was joined in death by his wife, Dawn Head; and preceded by his paternal grandparents, JD and Annie Dryman Head; and his maternal grandparents, Ben and Polly Wax.

David is survived by his children, Jeslyn Kate Head and John David "JD" Head; his parents, Ellis Franklin Head (Gail) and Ann Wax; his sisters, Deborah Head Holt (Steve) and Polly Deann "DeDe" Head; and his niece and nephew, Hannah Holt and Jacob Holt.

David's great love for his children, Jeslyn and "JD" was apparent to anyone who knew David. He was their biggest fan and most ardent and loudest supporter. They were truly his pride and joy.

Born on December 11, 1973, David followed in the footsteps of his Uncle Ray by serving his coun-



try in the United States Navy. He was a member of the Blue Ridge Masonic Lodge 435 Af & AM. His desire to help others and serve his fellow man resulted in a position with the Macon County Sheriff's Department where

he held the rank of Corporal. His work was very important to him, and his coworkers became like family.

David enjoyed the great outdoors and all that came with it, including hunting and motorcycle riding. He loved big. He was a proud dad, a loyal friend, a genuine person, a jokester, and a storyteller. He eagerly offered a helping hand to those in need. He had a way of lighting up a room with his contagious laugh. He never left without saying "I love you" and showing that was true with one of his big hugs.

A Celebration of Life was held on Thursday, May 28, at the Scaly Mountain Fire Department.

• See OBITUARIES page 7



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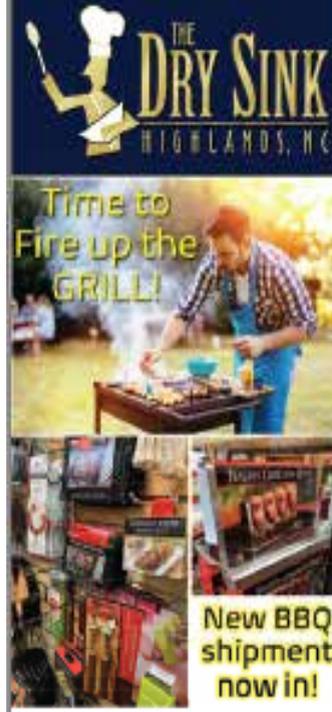
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...OBITUARIES continued from page 6

Reverend Oliver Rice officiated with eulogies given by Sheriff Robert Holland, Nancy Lata, and David Sanborn.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to:

David and Dawn Head Children's Education Fund c/o United Community Bank 257 East Main Street Franklin, NC 28734

Donations can also be made to the same account by going to the Macon County Sheriffs Facebook Page and GOFundMe link. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/afz8w-david-amp-dawn-head-childr...>

Moffitt Family Funeral Care served David's family.

Dawn Michelle Head

Dawn Michelle Head was born on January 21, 1970, to John E. Rabun and Nancy Lynn Shirey Lata.



Dawn was an avid runner, participating for more than twenty years in the world's largest 10K race -- The Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta, GA.

Of the Methodist faith, Dawn was personable, friendly, and big-hearted. Her favorite Bible verse from I Corinthians 13:4, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud," describes her and her desire to always be compassionate and gracious. Dawn wanted people to know she was available when anyone needed love and care.

Dawn enjoyed being a part of community events. She loved being out and about with people enough to be called a social butterfly. Her favorite event was Cashiers Chocolate Cook-Off, which she won several times. Her kindness also extended to animals, and she rescued an ugly, gnarly-looking dog named Alex that she absolutely adored.

Dawn's great love for her girls was evident. They brought her so much joy and

pleasure. She always wanted to be known as a "community mom" and kept out the welcome mat for all of their friends. She enjoyed being a part of their lives.

When you hear "I Hope You Dance" by Leann Womack or "Slow Dancing in a Burning Room" by John Mayer, two of Dawn's favorite songs, remember her and picture her dancing the night away in heavenly places.

Dawn and her husband, David F. Head, both died tragically on May 23, 2020. She is survived by her parents and her daughters, Sidney H. Sanborn and Erin Charlie Sanborn. She was predeceased by her step-father, Pete Lata.

In lieu of flowers, celebration gifts may be made to: David and Dawn Head Children's Education Fund c/o United Community Bank, 257 East Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734

Donations can also be made to the same account by going to the Macon County Sheriffs Facebook Page and GOFundMe link.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/afz8w-david-amp-dawn-head-childr...>

Moffitt Family Funeral Care served Dawn's family.

Mary Louise Prince Garcia Cadenas

Mrs. Mary Louise Prince Garcia Cadenas, 66, died Friday, May 22, 2020 in Asheville, NC.

Mrs. Cadenas was born in Rabun County, GA on June 15, 1953 to the late Sam and Ella Mae Johnson Prince. She worked and retired as a nurse from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Louise loved camping, animals, and quilting. She loved spending time with her grandkids, friends, and neighbors.

Survivors include her husband, Marco Antonio Cadenas of Franklin, NC; a daughter, Selena Marie Kempton of Franklin, NC; a son, Aaron Reese and his wife, Justyn of Highlands, NC; a step-son, Manuel Cadenas Banda and his wife, Mary Jo of Franklin, NC; six grandchildren, Amber Marie Reese, Trevor Reese, Trey Gerrolls, Jason McMa-



han, Michael McMahan, and Jayden Kempton; and four great-grandchildren, Madison Hixon, Bryce McMahan, Owen McMahan, and Lilly McMahan.

In addition to her parents, Louise was preceded in death by three siblings, Ray Prince, Katherine Poindexter, and Harold Prince.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date.

If anyone wants to send flowers, gifts, or food please send it to the family home. If you need the address please contact Bryant-Grant Funeral Home who is serving the family for the address.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com



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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

If it's a hot market, why won't your house sell?

A study of market activity for the entire plateau between January 1st and June 1st for 2019 and 2020 indicates the following:

- A decrease in the average and median days on market;
- An 8% increase in the total dollar volume of sales;
- A 6% increase in the number of transactions;
- A 15% decrease in the number of new listings;
- List price to sales price is 92.4%;
- Single family home transactions account for 80% of the total dollar volume;
- Over 50% of the number of residential transactions was below \$500,000.

The first part of 2019 was very active, and the fact that we have been in the middle of a pandemic for much of this year and have outpaced 2019 indicates a strong and robust market. Interest rates reached record lows and mortgage brokers are now saying it will take 6 to 8 weeks to get approval and close. Buyers are coming from places all over, looking for second home as well as relocating and making the area their primary residence as retirees or to raise a family.

If the market is this good and you have had your house listed for a year or longer and it hasn't sold, what is the reason? I would say that there are three primary reasons houses don't sell.

First is that the house is overpriced. A market analysis should be updated, using comparable properties that have sold and adjusting for items like bedrooms, baths, lot size, view, etc. In this market you cannot use replacement cost or the tax value, but



Carl Romberg
Landmark
Realty, BIC
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there are plenty of sold comps to use.

Second is that the house is outdated. Most buyers want something they can use immediately, as they don't have the time to put into renovations. Therefore, if your property is in need of updating (wallpaper borders, strip vanity light fixtures, carpeted bathrooms, popcorn ceilings and old appliances) you need to discount more than the cost to update in order to attract a buyer.

One issue in particular for our location is the lack of central heat and air conditioning which is the case in many houses.

The third reason is that the house has not been maintained well. Sometimes a buyer cannot tell from photos, but as soon as they see a house in person they can tell if it has been maintained well or not. If the paint is peeling outside, there is a stream through the crawl space or the roof needs to be mowed, then the buyer will move on to the next property. They want to purchase a place to enjoy with family and friends, not a second home that will require all their free time to get it back in good order. If your house is showing lack of maintenance, then the price should be discounted.

Many times it is a combination of two or more of these reasons. The more issues there are, the bigger the discount needed to sell the property. In this market, sellers would make more than the cost of the updating, repairs, new appliances, etc. if they would tackle them before listing. And speaking of listings, the buyers are here, we need quality inventory to sell, and when priced right it will sell.

... COVID continued from page 1

have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. The clinic will be held at OEI's The Farm on Arnold Road from 9am to 2pm, or until tests run out. People may get a COVID-19 test regardless of their ability to pay and do not need to schedule an appointment.

MCEM plans another testing clinic next week, but a date hasn't been selected.

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation is holding a testing clinic in Cashiers, this Saturday, June 6, and in Highlands on June 13. Registration is required. To register, call 828-506-6907.

There have been several positive or possible positives found in a number of

businesses in Highlands – Old Edwards Hospitality Group (OEI), Tate Landscaping, The Ugly Dog Pub, 4th Street Market and Wolfgang's Restaurant.

Once realized, all of the businesses took precautions – most closing down until employees were tested, negative results came back and areas were sanitized.

Owner of Tate's Landscaping, Jim Tate said he has had several employees tested, because they have been in contact with other individuals who have tested positive though none of them are displaying any symptoms.

• See COVID page 13

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Welcome

... BUDGET continued from page 1

valuation with .015 earmarked for street paving projects, which is scheduled to sunset June 30, 2023.

In previous years, the .015 was earmarked for Recreation projects. With those completed, commissioners agreed to continue earmarking the amount but this time for street paving which is often put on the back burner due to the lack of funds.

The valuations are determined by the Macon & Jackson County Tax Departments. This rate is based on an approximate real estate property valuation of \$1,830,000,000 and an estimated collection rate of 98%.

The Highlands Volunteer Fire Department tax rate remains \$.03 per \$100 valuation; it too, is based on real estate valuation.

Total expenditures for the FY 2020-'21 Fire Department Fund is \$1,115,180.

The Highlands Volunteer Fire Department provides service to the Town of Highlands and a portion of unincorporated areas of Macon and Jackson counties.

The revenue for the Fire Department is generated 100% through the Fire District Ad Valorem property tax and not the Town of Highlands General Fund.

The current charges for town water, sewer, electric and sanitation services re-

main unchanged for this next year.

However, Town Manager Josh Ward suggested sanitation charges be increased FY 2021-'22 due to a deficit in that department.

He said to present a balanced budget, it was necessary to appropriate \$1,832,621 from undesignated General Fund Balance and 354,222 from the Electric Fund.

These funds are often used to offset capital project deficits & debt service within several departments.

The current General Fund Balance is approximately \$2,000,000; the current General Fund Reserve Balance is approximately \$4,900,000 and the current Electric Reserve Fund Balance is approximately \$4,900,000.

Three of the town's enterprise funds – water, sewer, and electric – have been self-supporting this year and require no outside fund transfers to operate. However, the Sanitation Department, had a \$58,150 shortfall again this past year.

"After two consecutive years of operational deficits, I recommend staff and the finance committee meet and study the fee schedule for both residential and commercial pickup and determine the amount of increase required to balance the fund for FY

2021-'22," said Ward.

Due to COVID-19, the Local Option Sales Tax distribution is projected to decrease approximately 25%.

For the first time, the proposed budget doesn't include a cost-of-living adjustment for employees.

This was the cause of much discussion during the budget workshops. Commissioner Marc Hehn thought the employees deserved the cost of living increase due to how hard they have been working during the COVID outbreak, but Commissioners Amy Patterson, John Dotson and Brian Stiehler thought it wasn't right to use taxpayer money to give "raises" to employees when many taxpayers lived on a fixed income or had lost their jobs.

The proposed budget includes a 13% increase in the employee health insurance premiums with MedCost, which will now include co-pays for specific services – which is another reason Commissioner Hehn thought they should get the COLA.

Despite the COVID outbreak, Ward said the town can weather the storm and has cut back on new, proposed capital project expenditures for FY 2020-'21 to maintain its cushion.

"At the current time, the short-term outlook is impossible for anyone to predict as we slowly open up and begin to recover from the COVID-19 outbreak, but the long-term financial outlook for the Town of Highlands remains strong," said Ward. "I believe Highlands will remain an attractive destination for second-home owners and weekenders, long into the future."

The town's undesignated General Fund Balance remains strong, and with the exception of the Sanitation Department, all Enterprise Funds are stable and covering their operating costs.

The Electric Fund is stable and continues to provide funding necessary to offset capital project costs in other departments. As with all Town utilities, the electric fund revenue will be monitored closely each year, as Duke Energy continues to increase wholesale rates, said Ward.

The town buys power from Duke at a wholesale rate and resells it to Highlands citizens.

Ward said due to the ability to transfer funds from the Electric Reserve, the town has been fortunate to keep its long-term debt extremely low.

– Kim Lewicki



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Are You 'Whelmed' or 'Overwhelmed?'

By Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

We often use the word “overwhelmed” and it seems like a somewhat odd word to me. If “overwhelmed” is a word, then it would make sense that “whelm” must also be a word. It turns out that “whelm” is a word. I looked up a definition of “whelm”. Whelm by definition is to engulf, submerge, or bury. To further clarify, “whelm” embodies this idea of flowing or heaping upon. “Whelm” sounds bad enough to me. Overwhelmed now seems worse than I originally thought. We have plenty of reasons to be overwhelmed. Do you feel especially, over-heaped upon, over-buried, over-submerged and over-engulfed? I would be a bit concerned if you were virtually unaffected by the happenings in our world today. I get whelmed and I also get overwhelmed. How about you?

Anyone “in the know” in this particular cultural moment has to, at the very least be, “whelmed.” It is getting pretty difficult to imagine that most people aren’t overwhelmed by a global pandemic, an economic tsunami, senseless killing, gross abuses of power, ongoing injustice and wholesale violence and rioting. In addition to such colossal tragedies one may also consider honor killings in Iran, swarms of locusts in Africa and India and mass graves being dug in more than a few nations. Overwhelmed yet? These are just a few of the things the general public knows. Surely, there too are no doubt hidden schemes taking place of which almost all of us remain unaware. All of these factors are heaped upon our already ongoing personal issues, relational challenges and feelings of anxiety, fear and even depression.

If you are in pursuit of heaven on earth, I can advise you now that it cannot be found. There is a heaven and there is an earth. Each are in separate locations to be endured and/or enjoyed apart from one another. This is a fallen world. Our sense of dread and “overwhelmedness” exists only because in this fallen world, sin or rebellion against God exists. I read ahead in the Bible. If you need more convincing, there will be even more opportunities to see this world overwhelmed by even greater tragedy. The intensity of “overwhelmedness” only increases as time goes on. Mankind is capable of such atrocities apart from God, is this not evident?

Evil does in fact exist and it is by nature overwhelming. This too, should also be increasingly obvious. So how do we endure and survive such cosmic war games? Love those who are hurting. Remain compassionate and understanding. Listen. Care. Serve one another, all these and more are “transcendent responses” in the midst of confusion and despair.

There is one other thing we can do as well to diminish any sense of dread, hopelessness and “overwhelmedness”. When your world or the world itself is falling apart, look to the One “who holds all things together.” When death abounds look to and call upon the One who overcame death. When fear grips you and anxiety and worry seem like a welcomed break, call on the One who can give you a “peace that transcends all understanding”. We are in the trenches of a warfare between good and evil, what are you fighting with? Have you a faith in Christ or only in yourself and your fellow man? What is your strategy beyond your own death? If not now, when will we be convinced that we need One beyond us to understand and to overcome this world and to ultimately enjoy heaven. The closest we can get to heaven in this fallen world is in a friendship with Christ. Do you know of Him or know Him? Do you talk about Him and also talk with Him? We each need Him in the best of times to celebrate love, family and everything good. We each need Him in the worst of times to endure hardship and experience freedom. May you know Him in the best of times and in the worst of times.

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. 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

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

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 Early Service; 11a Worship Service;

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.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447,

Pastor Gary Hewins

Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd

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

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

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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. • Glensville, 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

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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

Lessons and Carols, Sunday, Dec. 22, 10:30 am.

All are welcome.

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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

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

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Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from May 20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

May 20

• At 11:40 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Popular Street.

May 21

• At 8:50 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Oak Street.

May 24

• At 4:30 p.m., officers received a report of sunglass being taken off a table at a store on Main Street.

May 27

• At 11:34 a.m., officers responded to a

2-vehicle accident at Main and NC 106.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 26.

May 26

• At 3:31 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Laurelwood Ridge Road.

May 30

• At 3:03 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Little Yellow Mountain Road.

June 1

• At 11:07 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lyman Zachary Road.

...LETTER continued from page 5

gression from phase 1 to phase 2 is a calculated risk designed to help our businesses, save our jobs, and promote the economy in general. There is no science that says a restaurant or hair salon is safe at 50% capacity. What is safe will vary from one establishment to another. More importantly, the success of this calculated risk is dependent upon people maintaining social distance and wearing face coverings. If you believe that wearing a mask is an infringement on your personal freedom, you're correct. However, personal freedom is not absolute. You're not being ordered, as our parents and grandparents were, to leave school and loved ones, put on a uniform, handle a lethal weapon, get on a ship and travel thousands of miles, getting seasick

every day, to kill enemy soldiers. You're only being asked to stay a few feet away from each other and wear a mask. Is that really so terrible? What's more, if you care that your favorite retailer or restaurant can stay in business, if you care that your spouse/sibling/child/best friend can keep their job, then you should want to maintain distance and wear a mask. Many more people will be willing to patronize businesses, saving jobs and improving the economy, if they feel it is safe to do so.

Therefore, for the sake of everyone's wellbeing and the sake of your favorite businesses and job holders, maintain 6 feet and wear a mask.

**Richard Ellin MD
Highlands**



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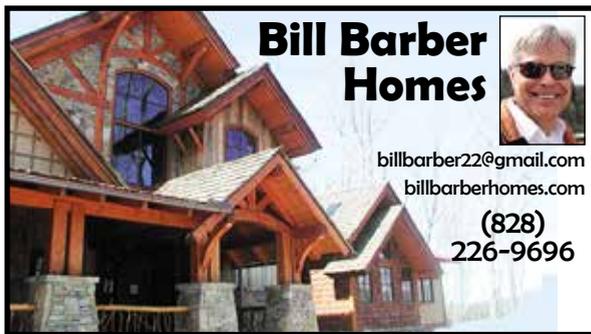
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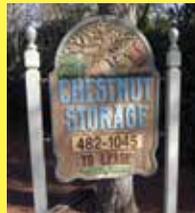
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**Sample Books Available****... COVID continued from page 8**

"We have several team members who have been tested and are waiting on the official results. In the interim, all of the employees who have been tested are not working with us and have been asked to self quarantine. I called the Health Department yesterday afternoon, but they will not release the results of anyone, and said it is up to the individual to pass along the results. So, still waiting," he said.

Tate said he is considering having his entire team tested today in Highlands, but will not know that for sure until he knows how his team feels about doing that.

Last week a cluster of six positive cases were found at OEI which initiated company-wide testing and the closure of the Four 65 Bistro until lunchtime Wednesday.

Five of those who tested positive initiated from the seven-person cluster found at the Evangelical Ebenezer Church in Franklin May 24. The other case was separate from that.

Macon County Health Dept. Medical Director, Dr. Dewhurst, said Contact Tracing is backtracking to find, test, and treat as many people as possible stemming from the seven-person cluster at the church.

"Only rarely can we find the 'index' case of a disease and even then the question of where did they get it from often cannot be answered. In the case of COVID-19, so many are asymptomatic as they move about in the community from jobs, errands, church services, etc. they often do not know where they got it, only those whom they might have been with," he said.

As of press time, 45 OEI employees had been tested and according to President and Managing Director Richard Delany all tests have come back negative.

The remainder of OEI's employees will be tested at the MCEM testing site today, Thursday, June 4.

Delany said safety restrictions are practiced throughout the company. "All employees wear masks and guests are still being strongly encouraged to wear masks in indoor common areas and mandated in certain other areas."

Thomas Craig, co-owner of The Ugly Dog Pub, closed Friday of last week when someone tested positive but he was able to reopen Tuesday afternoon.

"We closed so all employees could get tested at the same time. Everyone tested has to stay at home while waiting results, so it made sense to do it all at once rather than prolonging the process," he said.

David Bock, co-owner of 4th Street Market said last week they learned that the boyfriend of one of their employees tested positive so they closed Friday.

All six of their employees were tested Monday at the health department - with an expected 48-hour turnaround they were waiting for results.

Those tested are required to stay home until results are in and if positive the 14-day quarantine sets in.

Bock said he hopes to reopen by the end of this week after they store is sanitized.

On Tuesday, Wolfgang's Restaurant closed because one of their employees, who appeared to be ill and so was sent home after only working two hours on Saturday, tested positive.

Consequently, on Tuesday all employees and staff went down to Franklin to get tested.

Co-owner Mindy Green said everyone will stay home while they await the results and once those are in, those who tested negative will return to sanitize and reopen.

- Kim Lewicki

• CLASSIFIEDS •

ITEMS FOR SALE

SOLOFLEX HOME GYM with butterfly, and leg attachments. List price is \$3380, asking \$1000 OBO. 434-242-1174 (st. 5/21)

HOSPITAL BED AND 7FT RAMP, could be used at home or as a boat ramp. Call 828 743 5543. (st. 5/21)

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

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Call or text Matt at 706-239-0880. (st. 9/26)

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LARGE CLEAR PLASTIC STORAGE CONTAINERS with top. Approx 25"x17"x12" - will pickup. Ron 828-482-9309. (st. 5/28)

NEEDED AN EXPERIENCED HEALTH CARETAKER for a very sweet female Alzheimer's patient for limited time each day not during normal working hours in exchange for free lodging and utilities in a fully furnished cottage located in Highlands Country Club. For additional information call 828 526-0469. (st. 5/21)

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)

WANTED TO BUY: US & Foreign COINS & CURRENCY. Top prices paid, free appraisals, call Dan at 828-421-1616 or email danhazazer@gmail.com (8/13)

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HELP WANTED
LOCAL TREE COMPANY HIRING
= Jesse's Tree Service, LLC, local to the Highlands, NC area is seeking both tree climbers and grounds/cleanup crew. Pat experience a

plus but company will train. Salary is based on experience. We are looking for reliable, drug-free, hard working individuals. Driver's license and a clean driving record a plus. If interested, please call owner, Jesse Finley at 828-342-1974 to set up an interview. (st. 6/4)

NOW HIRING PART- AND FULL-TIME ASSOCIATES FOR RETAIL STORE. Must be willing to work weekends and holidays. Call Shannon at 526-8864 or email Shannon@dutchmansdesigns.com (st. 6/4)

NOW HIRING AT WILD THYME. We are looking for bussers and hostess. Must have positive attitude and reliable transportation. Apply in person at Wild Thyme Gourmet in Town Square on Main Street in Highlands. Please no phone calls. (st. May 28)

JOIN THE LANDMARK VACATION RENTALS team as a Housekeeping & Maintenance Technician. In this position, you will travel through Macon, Jackson, and Transylvania counties performing duties for rental units in our program. Home base is in Cashiers. Fill time, year-round, with benefits. Transportation provided. Resumes can be submitted to mandicantrell@landmarkvacations.com or applications completed at Landmark Vacation Rentals office at 17 Hwy 64 E. Cashiers, NC. (st. May 28)

WOLFGANGS is looking for a Sous Chef with a solid track record. Need to be creative. For dinner prep and service. Wine Assistant Director - Best award of Wine Spectator. Please email mindygreen@me.com for either position. (st. 5/28)

OLD EDWARDS HOSPITALITY currently has the following positions available: Cosmetologist, Certified Massage Therapist, Spa Attendant, Pool Attendant, Madison's Server, Asst. Pastry Chef, Pastry Cook, Cook, Dishwasher, Four65 Server, Hostess, Cook and Dishwasher, Half Mile Farm Server, Old Edwards Club Cook, Server, Night Auditor, Housekeepers, Part-time Marketing Assistant.

Please apply online at www.olderedwardsinn.com. (st. 5/21)

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT IN HIGHLANDS FALLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION Maintenance Department wanted. Please Call 828-526-2203 or 828-200-9763. (st. 4/23)

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 CHEST-NUT HILL ASSISTED LIVING - MedTechs and CNAs. Call 828-526-8400. (st. 2/13)

RANDEVU now hiring line cooks, hostess, and waitstaff. Call 828-743-0190. (st. 2/27)

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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)

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