

# LOCHABER TIMES & OBAN TIMES

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## Kilmallie strawberry tea is perfect fundraiser

**THIS WEEK: LORN AGRICULTURAL SHOW – SEE INSIDE FOR MORE DETAILS**

## Fabulous fete



Lochyside has a ball at community gathering

• See page 2 for more.

## Thistle Awards



Fort William B&B and Nevis Range CEO nominated

• See page 7 for more.



## Tree hugging championships a triumph

Last Saturday saw competitors coming from near and far to take part in this popular event – with one competitor travelling 500 miles to participate.

There were three rounds of the competition; Speed Hugging, Dedication and Freestyle.

To read more on the event and see more photographs, turn to page 9.

Photograph: Cathie Griffiths

# STAFFING ISSUES HIT CARE HOME

by Jamie Willis  
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Services at the Mackintosh Centre care home in Mallaig are being temporarily suspended due to staffing and recruitment issues.

The suspension, announced on July 26, means the seven residents of the NHS Highland home will be moved to alternative facilities over the next two months, with no date yet set for services returning.

All permanent staff have also been offered a temporary relocation to other NHS Highland care facilities in the area.

Reasons for the closure were outlined in an NHS stakeholder briefing document that noted staffing issues at the home were 'critical', with 7.45 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) vacancies and 1.35 WTE long-term sick.

This included a fixed-term contract to cover the registered manager's maternity leave and the deputy manager post. A registered manager is a requirement of care home registration.

The document also noted that recent recruitment campaigns had received a minimal response and the home had been relying on bank staff, agency and the care response team, as well as current staff

working overtime. It concluded that reducing the number of residents was not viable as a minimum level of staffing is required for safety purposes.

In a statement announcing the suspension of services, Karen-Anne Wilson, NHS Highland's district manager for Lochaber, thanked the staff and managers at the home, saying their dedication to the residents has been inspiring.

She said: "This has been an extremely difficult decision but this is the safest possible outcome for the residents. We will begin a managed transfer of residents in partnership with their families."

Continued on page 5.



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