

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Aug. 24, 2017

Mission Health offers a solution to customers dealing with BCBSNC's exit from its network

With Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) leaving Mission Health on Oct. 5, Mission has outlined a plan to help consumers with BCBSNC

insurance coverage, including consumers with BCBSNC commercial insurance coverage and BCBSNC Medicare Advantage plans.

The absence of Mission

Health hospitals and physicians from BCBSNC's network may have serious financial, logistical and clinical access impacts on consumers who need vital health-

care services. It will also affect the many self-insured employers who pay for their employees' and dependents' care expecting access to

•See **MISSION** page 8

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County OK's capital improvements for schools

Highlands School to get new cafeteria floor

When Macon County commissioners approved their 2017-2018 fiscal year budget, they included \$600,000 for Macon County Schools for capital outlay improvements. The county allocates funds each year to the school district to address aging facilities and significant needs within the district.

This year, County Manager Derek Roland earmarked \$300,000 for overall district capital outlay needs and another \$300,000 for technology upgrades.

During the August meeting of the Board of Education, under the director of Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin, board members prioritized the district's capital outlay needs to identify

•See **SCHOOLS** page 10

Eyes to the sky...waiting for the eclipse



Though the traffic and crowds predicted for Eclipse Monday fell short, a good time was had by all who experienced this rare sight. K-H Founders Park was comfortably full of locals and visitors who enjoyed the pre-eclipse and post-eclipse entertainment. Left is Colin Martorell taking no chances for eye damage. Above, it was a family affair for Heather Tejada and baby Troy Keener, Lauren Dalton, Kyle Keener, LeeAnn Hall, Tudor Hall, Anna Henry, Stephanie James, Hayden Tejada, Henry James and Avery James. All roads out of WNC, however, were heavily congested. Reports are it took seven hours to drive from Highlands to Atlanta Monday afternoon. Photos by Kim Lewicki

What Solar Eclipse?

By Dick Funsch
Highlands Writers Group

The day after the night before. My head ached. What was that bleary light seeping through my bedroom window. I glanced at my bedside clock....2:30.

It suddenly dawned on me. That bleary light was daylight. Good

grief, I had slept half the dreary day away. Blame it on all those Bloody Marys' I had last night.

Nature called. I stumbled into the bathroom. When I came out to get dressed....it was dark, dark as night. My mind boggled. Did I doze off in the bathroom? I must have. My bedside clock read 2:35. I

couldn't believe it...I had slept for 12 hours....in the bathroom! I must be in worse shape than I thought.

And now it was the middle of the night. Well, in that case, I might as well grab a little shuteye while I can. And I did, falling into a troubled sleep.

•See **ECLIPSE** page 14

Overnight visitor spending in Macon County is up by 6.3 %

The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce recently announced that visitors to Macon County spent \$163.92 million in 2016, an increase of 6.3 percent from 2015 and ranking Macon County 30th among North Carolina's 100 counties.

"The Highlands area continues to see an increase in spending by visitors to Highlands and Macon County. This is a great vote of confidence for the rising popularity of our community and the plateau area in general," said Bob Kiltyka, Executive Director of the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce. "State and local tax revenues generated from tourism

•See **SPENDING** page 16

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Eclipse was awesome...even without the predicted crowds

Did we over plan for the eclipse? Well maybe, or one could say we were well prepared for all possibilities. Folks did tend to "eclipse in place," and the predictions of huge day-tripper crowds did not materialize here.

I want to again thank all the volunteers and town staff that worked so hard to make the entire weekend a success. We kicked things off with another great Twilight 5K race and ended with a wonderful eclipse celebration in the park.

I've taken copious notes about how a community should prepare for the next solar eclipse. I will put them in the desk drawer for the mayor facing the next eclipse. For some reason I don't think I will be around.

So, now back to the routine business of the town. We will have the Community Coffee with the Mayor tomorrow, August 25, at 11 am at the Hudson Library.

Let me touch on a few topics to be covered at the coffee. First, I want to stress that these coffee events are simply give and take discussions concerning town issues. What I say or discuss is not necessarily



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

town policy, but rather where I am on a particular issue at that point in time. Coal ash and broadband will be major coffee topics.

Coal ash recovery costs by Duke Energy was a big agenda item at last week's town board meeting. Our energy consultant gave an update on where the town stands in regard to passing through Duke coal ash fees to customers.

In a nutshell, over the next three years the costs will be high since the NC Utility Commission has given Duke permission for retroactive recovery costs for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017. For the next three years these costs will be substantial before then leveling off for the remaining seven years of our ten-year obligation.

Also, the NC Utilities Commission has not given Duke Energy of North Carolina and Duke Progress Energy a final number as to how much cost they can pass on to consumers. I will attend a public hearing in Asheville on September 27. If allowed to speak, I will ask the commission to curtail and reduce the Duke request by half. I will also make the point that it is unfair for Duke retail and wholesale customers to solely shoulder these costs, while their shareholders share no costs.

I will also continue to discuss the progress town staff is making in identifying a private provider to partner with the town in creating a first-class fiber optic network. We have been meeting with multiple providers for several months. I am now very optimistic that we can create a public/private partnership that will be cost effective and quickly deliver this vital technology to our community. While the first priority will be to the residents of the town, in time the private component will be able to extend service beyond the corporate limits of Highlands.

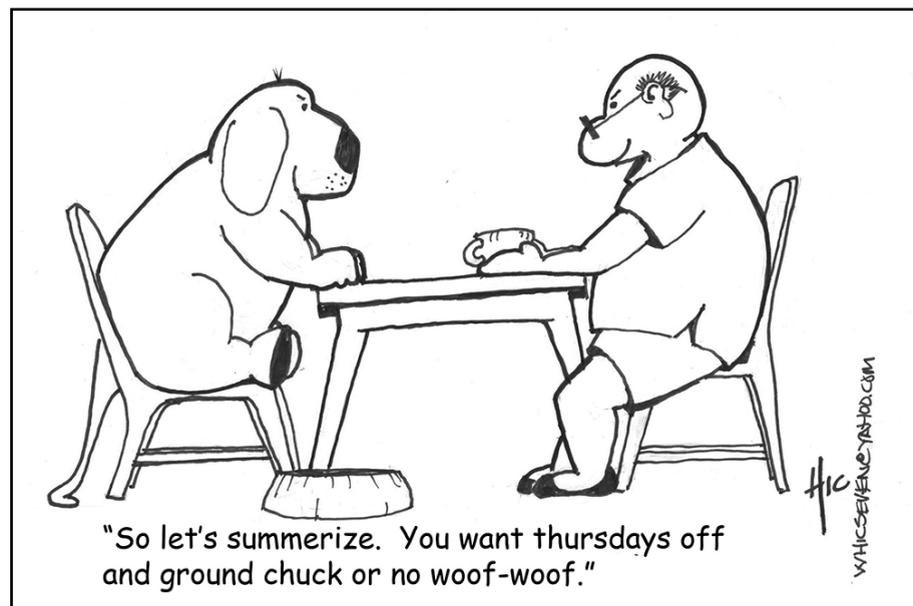
Hope to see everyone at the Friday coffee!

Recycle eclipse glasses

Astronomers Without Borders is collecting eclipse viewing glasses to distribute to SCHOOLS in Asia and South America for the eclipses in 2019 on those continents.

Starting Friday, Aug. 25, please take your used eclipse glasses to the Peggy Crosby Center.

• HIC'S VIEW



• LETTERS •

Playhouse plans for the 'playhouse'

Dear Editor,

Speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Highlands Playhouse, I'm responding to recent questions regarding the Playhouse's future. My hope is to provide additional context to clear up any misinformation about the strategic direction of our non-profit organization known as "the Playhouse," as well as the historic auditorium that we currently call home.

Earlier this summer the Playhouse announced plans to move to an expanded and updated Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (the "PAC") once the organizers of a capital campaign successfully raise \$10 million for its construction. The Playhouse board would lease space from the

PAC, and the new, state-of-the-art facility would greatly enhance our programming while complementing existing PAC events. As we understand it, no start date will be set for construction until the full \$10 million has been raised.

Of course, the announcement immediately set off community-wide interest in what might become of the Playhouse in the short- and long-terms. As a result, misinformation quickly seeped into casual conversations, causing confusion about the fate of the building and the offerings the Playhouse will provide.

First, the Playhouse building is owned by the Town of Highlands. While we do pay other operational costs, the Town lease

•See LETTERS page 6

• WEEKEND WEATHER •



For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

• OBITUARIES •

Cieara Sunshine Harmon

Cieara Sunshine Harmon, 17, of Franklin passed away on Saturday, August 12, 2017. She was born in South Bend, Indiana, the daughter of Joshua Harmon and Sandra Christine Wright.

Cieara was a rising senior at Franklin High School. She was full of life and easily made many friends. She loved children and it was her wish to pursue a career as a neonatal nurse.

Survivors include her mother Christy Wright (Sean Meagher) of Franklin; her fa-



ther, Josh Harmon of Florida; siblings, Scotty McAlpine, Kiyla Harmon, Lexie Harmon and Abby Harmon; her nephew, Jeremy Bush and her best friend, Heather Fregeau. Also surviving are her maternal grandmother, Sandy Gauthier; maternal grandfather, Kenny White; paternal grandparents, Peggy and Charlie Patterson and great-grandmother Joy Tucker.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Harmon family. Online condolences may be made at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Rhonda Tarvin Murrah

Rhonda Tarvin Murrah, age 60, died after a courageous battle with cancer on August 8, 2017 in her newly finished home "Cloud Nine" in Highlands, N.C.



Rhonda was born in Atlanta, Ga. on Feb. 9, 1957 where she later attended Sprayberry High School and Georgia State University. In her early years, Rhonda worked as a flight attendant for Delta Airlines and later became a member of Clipped Wings. Rhonda was fully engaged with life, her mantra being to "Keep learning and help others." In that spirit, she became private pilot, a real estate agent, a world traveler, a scuba diver, skier, golfer, gardener, cook, painter and a lifelong piano player. In 1983 she became a wife to her husband of 33 years, Eric. After the arrival of her dearly loved children Melanie and Charlie, she became a devoted mother and homemaker, home schooling for a number of years. She lent her time to

the Sandy Springs community and to those in need. Her family and friends remember her as a person who loved abundantly, with an infectious warmth, a ready smile and a heart of true compassion.

Rhonda is preceded in death by her father Charles Tarvin. She leaves her husband Eric, her children Melanie and Charlie, mother Audrey, a sister Beth and a brother Chuck as well as a

host of cousins, aunts and uncles and lifelong friends. She will be greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life for Rhonda will take place at Unity North Atlanta Church at 4255 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta, Ga. 30066 on August 26th at 1 pm. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to NAMI or Invisiblechildren.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Murrah family.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Joan Ann Palamara

Joan Ann Palamara, 76, of Highlands, NC and Pembroke Pines, FL passed away on Saturday, August 19, 2017 in Highlands. She was born in Trenton, NJ to Edward Ciborski and Rose Moretto Ciborski.



Mrs. Palamara was an accomplished business woman, who in addition to working in the medical field

designed children's clothing. She loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and she loved to shop, cook, ride bikes, and play golf.

Survivors include her husband of 57 years, Charles "Chuck" Palamara; daughters, Tina Snyder of Maryland, Joanne Palama-

• See OBITUARIES page 14

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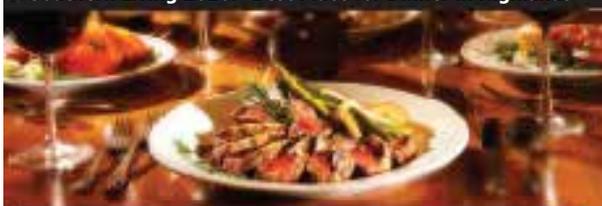


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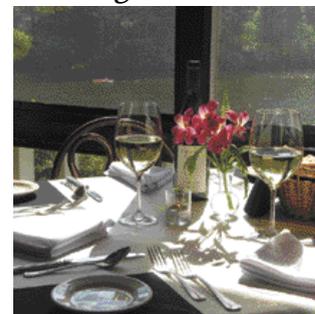


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THIS WEEK'S FEATURES

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...LETTERS from page 2

es the facility to the Playhouse for \$1 per year. Therefore, what becomes of the building – before and after our move – will ultimately be decided by the Highlands Board of Commissioners.

Secondly, it is the current intent of the Playhouse's board and staff to provide live, professional theatre in the

summer and high-quality cinema year-round. That will not change before, during, or after our planned move to the PAC.

We fully support Mayor Taylor's call to open an official community discussion on the future of the auditorium and we expect to be an active participant in that process. Thoughtful study of the situation is required as we want to set goals and make decisions that are most advantageous for the parties involved.

Also in the mix is a proposal brought forward by a community member to renovate the auditorium and have the Playhouse continue to show movies there versus moving them to the PAC. This proposal needs to be considered and analyzed by the Town Board.

As part of a community dialogue, the Playhouse will examine our offerings. We want to ensure they are aligned with the current and future cultural needs of area residents and visitors. Please watch for an announcement soon regarding an open forum to be held to discuss the options. You'll hear in further detail our vision for the organization and have a chance to share your own. You'll also see an increased effort by the Playhouse to secure patron feedback (through surveys and ongoing flash polls) in an effort to further strengthen this amazing cultural asset which contributes greatly to our quality of life.

**Ken Proctor,
President, Highlands Playhouse Board
of Directors**

A Pet Peeve

Dear Editor,

Psst! Here's a dirty little secret about Highlands. Not all of us think the tidal wave of wonderful, affectionate, adorable, slobbering, peeing, and pooping dogs is a sign that we love animals more or that, as a society, we're overall becoming more compassionate or caring. In fact, there seems to be an inverse relationship between pet and human suffering. No one wants a pet to suffer but, in truth, euthanizing pets is simply a part of a well-greased and profitable pet-industry that presents "shelter killing" as acts of compassion. In reality, almost 90% of America's dogs and cats are euthanized. Few

die "naturally." Humans? A dog or cat frequently can receive instant and better medical attention around Highlands and Cashiers than a person, and, oh, yes, the pet food and supply aisles in many grocery stores now take up more space than delis that feed many quite ordinary day laborers. Look for yourself at Bryson's or Ingles.

If you go to the local farmer's market at Highlands Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on a Saturday morning, you carefully must step around almost as many dogs as you do their poop. In fact, every walk through the Park during a crafts festival or auto show is a test, a smelly Labrador here and a red-eyed Doberman hellhound there, all, of course, requiring constant vigilance. As much as I've watched and followed dogs and their owners around town, I have yet to see many pick up poop using "hand bags" provided. While some carry bags conspicuously around and, if closely watched, will even pick up some poop, most simply do not. All nature is their urinal. Then, too, why do dogs eat their own poop?

In Highlands, anything less than complete adoration of Caramel Frappachino, the cutest poodle of all, is simply taboo. It makes you a social pariah, someone who should be cast out of society forever. Still, to me, it's just a preference, not a symptom of a psychotic disorder. Actually, I imagine you can have a happy, healthy, normal family life without a dog or two around. In all this, I puzzle over why dog owners must carry their pets with them everywhere as if they're missing family members, putting them in cars on their laps and with their heads outside windows, taking them to every shop in town and to restaurants and cafes that welcome "doggy friends" where you must erect a fort of empty chairs to keep them at bay. To prevent this, many merchants place water dispensers and treats outside doors to dissuade dogs. Once inside, dogs, with their unpredictable behavior, frequently become wrecking balls.

Highlands obviously is as conflicted about the tidal wave of dogs as are most of us. Dogs are loud, often dirty, and they do smell no matter their care. When you reserve a stay at a motel or inn, you usually have "pet friendly" and "sorry, no pets" choices. Yet no matter how clean the room a dog smell or stain inevitably remains. Moreover, dogs need a great deal of attention and exercise, something that often

• See LETTERS page 7

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• THE INK PENN. •

The Royal Pooch visits the lake



Kathy Manos Penn

wife brought some vegetarian doggie treats, which were delicious.

Mum tied my leash to her chair, but while she was chatting, I untied that thing and set off to meet the folks at a nearby table. I was just about to score a handout when our captain realized where I was. No worries, though. They all rubbed my head and exclaimed over my size and wonderfully soft fur.

Pretty soon, we headed back across the lake. I'm telling you, I could get used to a daily boat ride. I wonder what it would take to persuade Mum and Dad to purchase a Royal Yacht for Lord Banjo. I'm betting my Great Pyrenees

ancestors accompanied the French kings up and down the Seine.

As we left, there was talk of a return visit, something about the dads kayaking while the mums recline on the dock reading. The Royal Pooch will be mightily pleased as long as he's part of the reclining contingent and there's a boat ride before the day's out. I've already penciled in a date on the Royal Calendar and requested a royal purple beach towel for the occasion.

Look for Kathy's new book "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" due out August 30 and find her collection of columns, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," locally at the Molly Grace in Highlands and Books Unlimited in Franklin. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com.

What a difference a year makes. Last summer, Mum wrote a column about a lake adventure with a bunch of guys from Dad's ROMEO group (Retired Old Men Eating Out) plus a few wives. They all went to lunch on a pontoon boat only to encounter the perfect storm on the way back to the dock. They survived the thunder and lightning and soaking and lived to laugh about the trip. Hopefully, since names were changed to protect the innocent, they laughed again when the story appeared in Mum's collection of columns, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday."

This year, instead of the larger group, it was the Royal Parents and I who boated to lunch with our friends and their dog Gunny. Gunny is a miniature Poodle mix, about the size of my sister Puddin' the cat, and he's a bundle of muscle and energy. Honestly, he can jump almost as high as she can. He looks like a spring-loaded Energizer bunny as he goes boing, boing, boing leaping up almost shoulder height repeatedly.

I've never been on a boat, so this was a cool adventure for me. We meandered down the pathway to the shore and walked the gangplank onto the dock. I was a bit hesitant about the gap between the dock and the boat, but I took it in stride, so to speak, and boarded. I inspected the boat from stem to stern and anticipated a grand time.

I wasn't disappointed. Our captain fired up the engine and off we went, slowly motoring out of the cove to the main body of the lake. Picture me, the breeze ruffling my beautiful black fur and my royal nose held high to sniff the breeze.

When we arrived at the marina, I was delighted to find that we dogs were welcome in the open air restaurant. As is always the case when Lord Banjo makes an appearance, people oohed and aahed over me. Our waitress brought Gunny and me a big bowl of water, and our parents were impressed at how well we shared. It's no different than me sharing my water bowl with Puddin', so I'm not sure what the big deal was. I was hoping someone would need me to clean the floor of scraps, but no such luck. The restaurant floor was ship shape. Thankfully, our captain's

...LETTERS from page 6

is given inconsistently by owners. They're also expensive. Then, too, all of us should admit that dogs, like most pets, are simply captives and part of their obsession is eugenics. Unlike troublesome people, you can breed dogs to your needs and euthanize or "shelter" them when necessary.

While howls of protest from dog nutters surely will follow this letter, most defiantly and righteously asserting how friendly, necessary, comforting, loving, well-trained, and exceptional their pets are, remember Shakespeare's famous quote, "Methinks thou dost protest too much." Be assured that dog owners frequently are the worst abusers of all, a dirty little secret that underpins their assumptions of benevolence in their relationship with pets.

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Presenter: Thomas Rogers
- **Indian Removal: The First State-Sponsored Mass deportation in the Modern Era**
Saturday, August 26 Time: 10:00-12:00
Presenter: Claudio Saunt
- **Basic Photoediting for iOS (FULL)**
Tuesday, August 29 Time: 10:30-3:30
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THE CURIOUS MIND
KNOWS NO BOUNDS

...MISSION continued from page 1

the Mission Health system.

As a result, Mission believes BCBSNC will likely pay a lower percentage of the out-of-network fees than they would pay for the same in-network services.

For Consumers

There are significant exceptions to the problems created by the expiration of Mission Health's contract with BCBSNC. First, state law prohibits BCBSNC from financially penalizing fully-insured patients when a participating provider is not available without unreasonable delay. This prohibition is critically important for patients and is a legally significant issue. Because Mission is the only provider of certain services within the region – including but not limited to heart surgical services, pediatric specialty services, high risk maternity services and others – it will be assisting impacted patients. Unfortunately,

this state law does not apply to consumers with self-funded employer coverage.

Second, to reduce harm to consumers, Mission will provide a generous, prompt payment discount to the balance of a patient's bill after taking into account the patient's personal financial responsibility.

That discount will be applied when patients send their explanation of benefits (EOB) and any check received from BCBSNC to Mission Health within 10 days. This process is designed to manage any circumstance where BCBSNC may send benefit payments directly to the patient rather than to Mission Health as the service provider. This practice, already illegal in the majority of states in America, is something that BCBSNC has threatened to do.

Mission Health is encourag-

ing patients to demand in writing that BCBSNC honor their assignment of benefits election so that they are not unduly burdened when they are sick or injured and Mission Health can respond to any BCBSNC errors.

For All Employers

The most important factor for every employer to consider is whether they will stay with BCBSNC after October 5 and lose in-network access to Mission Health or whether they will evaluate other highly competitive health benefit options that include Mission Health. Further, Mission Health will work collaboratively with any employer considering a switch from BCBSNC to another insurer to make the transition as easy and seamless as possible for them.

For Self-Insured Employers

Aetna, Cigna and Healthy State each offer new, previously unavailable and highly competitive alternatives to BCBSNC. This is important news in that the state law prohibiting BCBSNC from financially penalizing fully-insured patients when a participating provider is not available without unreasonable delay does not apply to self-insured plans. Any self-in-

•See MISSION page 10



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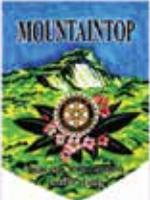
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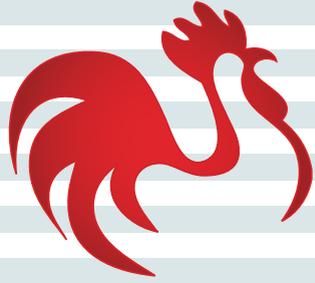
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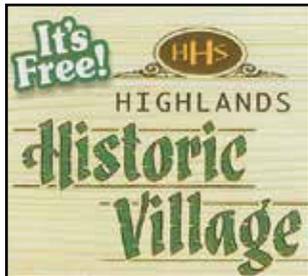
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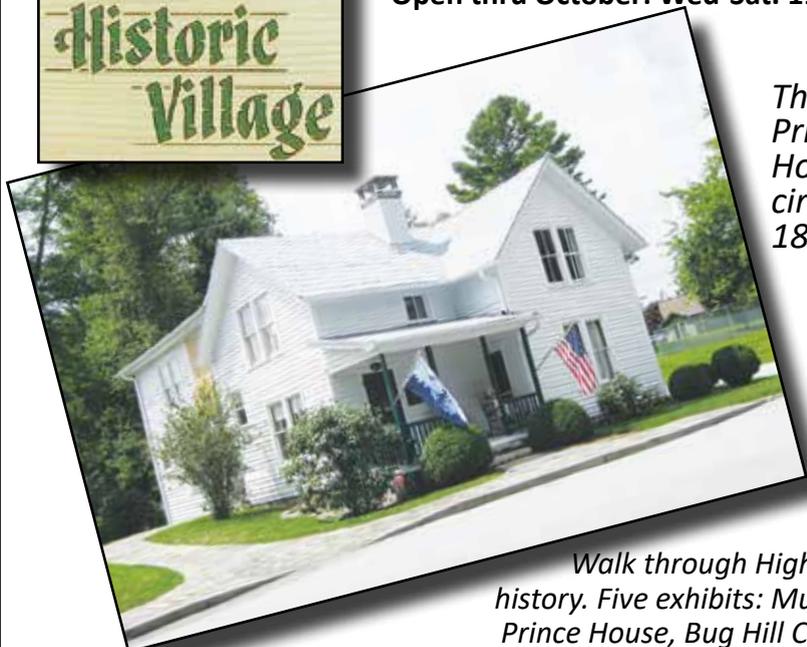


Highlands Historic Village

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circa
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•POLICE & FIRE REPORT•

The Highlands Police log entries from Aug. 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Aug. 7

• At 5:15, officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on S. 4th Street.

Aug. 12

• At 4:33 p.m., Carter Eugene Batsuk, 18, of Anitoc, TN, was arrested on two counts of larceny and one count of possessing and concealing stolen property.

Aug. 14

• At noon, officers responded to a call of vandalism where a small projectile struck the bottom left hand section of a window pane at Highlands Hiker Shoes on Main Street.

Aug. 15

• At 1:45 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Horse cove Road near the

library.

Aug. 17

• At 11:15 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on 3rd Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Aug. 15.

Aug. 15

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cowee Ridge Lane.

Aug. 16

• The dept. was first-responders to Club-house Trail.

• The dept. conducted a search at Iron Bridge.

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at VZ Top.

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Lost Trail.

...MISSION continued from page 8

sured employer that intends to remain with BCBSNC will need to specifically direct BCBSNC to continue to pay benefits on its behalf as in-network if the employer desires to protect its employees during this transition time. A self-funded employer's plan is

its own – and not BCBSNC's plan – so the employer controls what BCBSNC does on its behalf.

More details on all transition plans will be announced by Labor Day.

...SCHOOLS continued from page 1

projects that are most needed throughout the district's schools and come in under the \$300,000 budget.

Earlier this year, principals at every school comprised a list of projects or upgrades they would like to see at their school. From new carpet to new schools to bus garages, the comprehensive list totaled \$14,651,862.20. From the principals' requests, the list was first narrowed based on needs and realistic timelines within the school year.

After the first round of narrowing down the district needs the board of

education was presented with a list totaling \$2,885,614. Of the \$2.8 million in needs, the bulk was tied up in \$1.6 million identified for an expansion of South Macon Elementary School. That item was the first to be cut this month since total needs were capped at \$300,000.

South Macon will be considered later under a broader county infrastructure need assessment currently being conducted by the county.

Approved capital outlay requests ranged from \$40,000 to replace the old red bleach-

•See SCHOOLS page 21

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

- Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Summer Movies: Sun., 5:30 and 8p; Mon., 2, 5, 8p, Tues., 2, 5, 8p.
- Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is

open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

• The Nature Center will be open Tuesday-Saturdays from 10am-5pm and from 12pm-5pm on Sundays. The Nature Center is closed on

HCP's "Crossing Delancey" now at PAC



Three early "pre-eclipse performances" of the Highlands Cashiers Players' current play, *Crossing Delancey* by Susan Sandler were presented last week, but this week a "second" opening night on Thursday, August 24, begins the regular schedule of the play at Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, curtain at 7:30 p.m. and a catered reception afterwards for cast, crew, and audience. The play then continues Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 25, 26, 27, and from Thursday, August 31-September 3. Evening shows begin at 7:30, and the two Sunday matinees, August 27 and September 3, at 2:30 p.m.

Crossing Delancey is a charming romance set in New York City. It has a first rate cast and is directed by one of HCP's most accomplished actor/directors, Ronnie Spilton, who has appeared in nine HCP plays and directed at least a dozen others, most recently performing in *The Fox on the Fairway* (2012) and directing HCP's one-and-only musical, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (2009).

Dr. Spilton, a former educator and actor in Atlanta, holds a Ph. D. in Communicative Arts, and established in Highlands a Youth Theater for the Performing Arts Center (PAC), teaching

theater arts and directing student actors in a number of plays. In Savannah where she has a second home, Ronnie has directed plays there as a guest artist and also for Tybee Island's Arts Theater. When you see Spilton's name in connection with a play you can be assured it will live up to HCP's slogan—*Good Plays Well Done*.

The plot of *Crossing Delancey* concerns Isabella, a single woman who enjoys her career at a bookstore, and is in no hurry to get married. Her Bubbie (grandmother) wants her to find a good man and settle down, so she hires a matchmaker. The first candidate is Sam, a nice guy, owner of a pickle business, but Isabella is not at all pleased when she learns that Sam lives on the wrong side of Delancey Street. And besides she is besotted with a handsome but entirely self-centered older man.

Will any romance work out for this young woman? Come see and enjoy, Thursday through Sundays, August 24 – Sunday 27, and August 31-September 3, with evening shows beginning at 7:30, and the two Sunday matinees, August 27 and September 3, at 2:30 p.m.

Call the box office, 828-526-8084, for tickets or check the website highlandscashiersplayers.org for tickets on line.

Mondays.

• The Glenville Area Historical Society Museum is open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11 AM to 3 PM until October 14. The Museum that traces the history of Glenville from its founding to present day though wall displays and items of historical value, is located at 4735 Highway 107 in Glenville. For information call 828 743-1658, email historicalsocietyglenville.com area or go to www.glenvillecommunity.com

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30am. Contact Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon.-Fri.

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6 lanes and Monday -Thursday 5pm-6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 5:15.

• Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15am-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15pm-6pm

(sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-noon.

Tuesdays

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. For info call 369-7385.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7PM in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public. Call 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.

• Pickle ball from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.

• Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.m.

1st Wednesdays

Carolina Women's Chorale debut concert August 27 at First Presbyterian



The newly formed Carolina Women's Chorale will make their official debut when they present a free concert at Highlands First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, August 27 at 4 p.m. The group consists of singers from Highlands, Cashiers, Sylva, Franklin, and Cullowhee, and is conducted by Dr. Michael Lancaster. Marquita Someliana-Lauer serves as accompanist. The Chorale will also sing during the 11:00am worship service at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, August 27. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.
3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Wednesday-Saturday

• The Highlands Historic Village is open June-October. It's free. Visit the Highlands Historical Museum, the Prince Houe, Bug Hill Cottage, Furman Vinson's Boat, The Old Jail while taking a break in the peaceful setting that commemorates Highlands' past.

Thursdays

• Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more information call 770-823-0601

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

Thurs., & Sat.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from 11a to noon. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Fridays

• Live music in Town Square from 6-8 p.m.

Fridays & Saturdays

• Art's at the Lodge. Live Music 4-8 p.m.. Cocktails in Art's or on the lawn at the Lodge. On Spring Street.

Saturdays

* Farmers Marketplace in K-H Founders Park from 8a-12:30p.

• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

• Scrabble at Hudson Library from 1-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome. 727-871-8298.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

• Music in K-H Founders Park 6-8 p.m. Bring a picnic!

Through Sept, 4

• The Bascom's 2017 – 2018 Artists in Residence Summer Pop-up Show in The Bascom Education Gallery.

Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 24-27

• Highlands Cashiers Players production

of Crossing Delancey will be presented at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut St., 828-526-8084.

Thur., Aug. 24

• At CLE, Movies for Apple, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• At CLE, The Lost Cause on the Silver Screen, 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Thomas Rogers. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• Open House at Highlands School 4-6p. High School can get schedules, lockers (\$10), parking permits (\$25) and meet the teachers. Middle School: meet the teachers; lockers (\$10) will be done on the first day of school. Elementary: meet the teachers. School Supplies can be brought in. Community Organizations will be on hand in the cafeteria with resource information.

Art & Craft Show this weekend in K-H Founders Park



The Highlands Village Square Art & Craft Show this weekend will feature many painters, photographers, furniture makers and crafters. Photographer Marty Harris, who is new to the shows, is a talented photographer who still works in film. His prints and books will be sure to win hearts in Highlands. The show is at K-H Founders Park on Pine St. from 10 - 5 Sat. and Sun. The show sponsor Mountaintop Rotary will sell tacos. Enjoy live music, kettle corn, and lunch at Fressers too. For info call Cynthia Strain (828) 787-2021.

mation.

• The Zahner Conservation Lecture will focus on the Long leaf pine ecosystem that once stretched from Florida to Virginia and west to Texas. This talk, given by Robert Abernethy of the Longleaf Alliance, will introduce us to the many interesting and unique plants and animals that call this ecosystem (and only this ecosystem) home. This is a free event!

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center. Light refreshments will be served and there will be free gifts. Everyone is invited to attend.

Fri., August 25

• Coffee with the Mayor at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11a - Noon. Topic: Coal Ash, Broadband & other updates.

• Mountain High Dulcimer Club performing in Town Square on Main Street from 6-8 p.m.

Sat. Aug. 26

• At CLE, Indian Removal: The First State-Sponsored Mass Deportation in the Modern Era, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Claudio Saunt. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• Auditions for Highlands Cashiers Players' October play, the mystery "Guilty Conscience," will be held Saturday, at 3 p.m. at the Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street, with call-backs and/or extra auditions on Sun., Aug. 27, same time and location. Director Michael Lanzilotta, 828-526-8016.

Sun., Aug. 27

• At First Presbyterian Church, Carolina Women's Chorale debut concert at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. The group consists of singers from Highlands, Cashiers, Sylva, Franklin, and Cullowhee, and is conducted by Dr. Michael Lancaster. Marquita Someliana-Lauer serves as accompanist.

Tue., Aug. 29

• Art on the Hill at Chestnut Hill of Highlands will feature quilts stitched by members of the Cashiers Quilters Guild in the Clubhouse at Chestnut Hill, 64 Clubhouse Trail, on Tuesday, 4 - 5:30 pm. Refreshments will be served. The public is welcome. Questions? Call 828-787-2114

• At CLE, Basic Photoediting for iOS, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• Village Nature Series: Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood - A guide to common wildlife misperceptions with Steve O'Neil. Co-hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green. 5:30 PM, rain or shine. For more information contact the land trust at 526-1111 or info.hitrust@earthlink.net.

Wed., Aug. 30

• At CLE, Grandparent Bootcamp, 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Allison B. Hill. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• See EVENTS page 14

Highlands Historical Society's 'Dulcimers, Denim & Dedication' Thursday, Sept. 14



524 N. 4th St.

Come celebrate the dedication of the Prince House now on the National Historic Register.

*Open House • 4-5p; Marker Dedication Ceremony • 5-5:45p
Patron Party • 6-8:30p (Admission by Ticket ...Dress Denim!)*

For more information call 828-787-1050 • www.highlandshistory.com

...ECLIPSE continued from page 1

But suddenly that “now-you-see-it-now-you-don’t” daylight was back again, oozing its way through my bedroom window, waking me from an uneasy slumber. I nervously glanced at the time: 3:00 o’clock.

What’s going on? Am I going crazy? I dozed off in the dark of night and now, a few minutes later, it’s the middle of the afternoon.... again.

It must be that damn clock. It has to be. Memo to self: buy new clock. On the other hand, it just may have been all those Bloody Marys.

Well, I’m not taking any chances....I’m buying a new clock and swearing off Bloody Marys. I don’t want to go through another day like this again.

Not in a hundred years.

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...OBITUARIES from page 3

ra and Lisa Palamara both of Florida; son, Charles Palamara of Florida; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren, and a brother, Gerald Gahan.

A memorial service will be scheduled for a later date.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Palamara family. Online condolences may be made at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

...EVENTS from 13

Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 31-Sept 3

• HCP’s production of Crossing Delancey will be presented at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut St., 828-526-8084.

Sat., Sept. 2

• At The Bascom, The Three Figurative Sculptors 9am – Noon and 1pm – 4pm. Demonstrations will include their individual building techniques, as well as their signature approaches to color and surface treatment. \$5 at the door

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- Loss of Storage Space
- Radon Gas
- Rising Energy Costs

The earth in your dirt crawl space is the major source of moisture in your home! This moisture is carried up into your house from the natural upward air flow created from rising heat.

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Deli - Serving all day

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Wood Fire Pizza Oven -

Every day from 11:00 to close

Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from
 scratch, fresh mozzarella, basil, crushed
 tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage,
 pancetta, and daily specials.

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

Every Sunday from 11am - 3pm

Skillet fried chicken, country Angus steak,
 skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed
 potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire
 soup & salad bar.

\$12.95 (dine in) or
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PREPARED FOODS

A large selection of take-away items fully
 prepared and ready to take home. Grilled
 pork loins, homemade mac & cheese,
 mashed potatoes, herb rubbed chicken,
 made in house bbq, chicken salad, deli
 salads & much more.

DINNERS TO GO

A different full dinner for two every night,
 Monday-Saturday from 4:30 until we sell
 out. Call ahead to reserve...

Monday - Low Country Lobster / Shrimp

Boil - Maine lobster tails, wild caught
 large shrimp, red bliss potatoes, summer
 corn, house made sausage, all steeped in
 our seasoning. Served with drawn butter
 and cocktail sauce. \$36.95 serves two

Tuesday - Oven Off Night

Two natural chicken breasts grilled with
 our Tuscan herb infused olive oil, served
 on a bed of greens with stuffed brie,
 spiced pecans, our extra virgin olive oil
 and balsamic vinegar on the side with
 two cups of homemade gazpacho and a
 baguette from our bakery.

\$26.95 serves two

Wednesday - Prime Rib with Baked

Potatoes & Salad - Premium Angus
 standing rib roast, cooked medium rare
 w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes
 & a large Caesar salad. \$35.95 serves two

Thursday - Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs

- cooked until fall-off-the-bone-tender.
 Served with house made bacon/apple
 baked beans and potato salad.

\$27.95 serves two

Friday - Wild Caught Shrimp: fried or

steamed. Wild caught North Carolina
 shrimp either lightly breaded in our
 seasoned corn flour mixture, and then
 properly fried in peanut oil & served w/
 hush puppies; or steamed to order in our
 low country seasoning. Both come with
 coleslaw and rosemary sea salt broiled red
 potatoes, tarter & cocktail sauce.

\$28.95 serves two

Saturday - In-House Smoked BBQ -

Hand rubbed pork butt, pit-smoked
 over night and hand pulled to order.
 Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon
 baked beans, and yeast rolls

\$25.95 serves two

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Dreaded Due Diligence!

If you are on the seller's side of a real estate transaction due diligence is a nightmare for many reasons.

When North Carolina replaced the inspection clause in our offer to purchase and contract followed by a date for repair requests, the number of offers written and subsequently terminated increased dramatically! Let me explain.

It used to be that buyers requested an inspection as soon as we, the brokers, could get an appointment – usually within two weeks. Then we would fill out a repair

request asking for some or all repairs to be done before closing. Another option was a credit at closing for an estimated cost of repairs. An agreement was signed by the buyers and sellers and we headed to closing.

The current situation is that buyers ask for a certain number of days for due diligence – typically we see 21-30 days, depending on the time frame required to get an inspection, survey, or contractor to estimate costs to remodel.

This may seem reasonable to a buyer but the clincher is that up until 5 p.m. on the final

day of due diligence the buyers can terminate for ANY or NO reason and receive their earnest money back. This has ultimately taken the home off the market for 3-4 weeks and then when it shows active again in MLS (our multiple listing service), brokers and potential buyers are curious why it fell through and are likely to believe there is a major problem with the house.

Many times this is not the case. Some buyers simply change their minds...this is certainly not fair to sellers. I have seen this happen more than once and heard from a broker



Pat Allen
Broker-in-charge
Cell: 828-200-9179
Office: 828-526-8784

this week that his buyers had four homes in due diligence at the same time, trying to decide which one they wanted, knowing they can terminate three others!

This is totally wrong and should not be allowed! Sellers deserve better than that.

I urge buyers' brokers to explain due diligence at length and make it for the shortest days possible. I also encourage buyers to put themselves in the sellers' shoes and understand they

are taking someone's home off the market and that time is of the essence.

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...SPENDING continued from page 1

spending represented a \$583 tax savings for each Macon County resident in 2016. Meeting the demand for a quality vacation and second-home destination experience is quite rewarding for both tourists and Macon County residents.”

Tourism impact highlights for 2016:

- The travel and tourism industry directly employs more than 1,330 people in Macon County.

- Total payroll generated by the tourism industry in Macon County was \$29.26 million.

- State tax revenue generated in Macon County totaled \$7.43 million through state sales and excise taxes, and taxes on personal and corporate income. About \$13.02 million in local taxes was generated from sales and property tax revenue from travel-generated and travel-supported businesses.

Gov. Roy Cooper announced in May that visitors to North Carolina set a record for spending in 2016. The \$22.9 billion in total spending represented an increase of 4.4 percent from 2015.

These statistics are from the “Economic Impact of Travel on North Carolina Counties 2016,” which can be accessed at partners.visitnc.com/economic-impact-studies. The study was prepared for Visit North Carolina by the U.S. Travel Association.

“All eight economic development regions of the state had spending growth of 3 percent or more, and 96 percent of the state's counties saw direct tourism employment growth from 2015 to 2016,” said Wit Tuttell, executive director of Visit North Carolina. “Tourism continues to be a major driver of economic development across North Carolina, which is the sixth most-

visited state in the country.”

Statewide highlights include:

- State tax receipts as a result of visitor spending rose 5.1 percent to nearly \$1.2 billion in 2016.

- Visitors spend more than \$62 million per day in North Carolina. That spending adds more than \$5.1 million per day to state and local tax revenues (about \$3.2 million in state taxes and \$1.9 million in local taxes).

- The travel and tourism industry directly employs more than 219,000 North Carolinians.

- Each North Carolina household saves \$497 in state and local taxes as a direct result of visitor spending in the state.

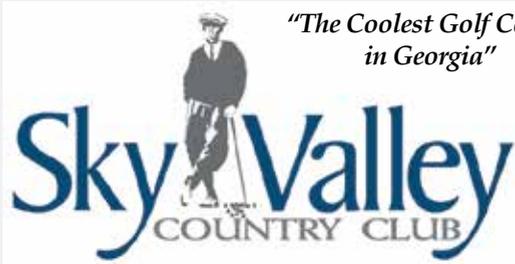
All this means that Travel and Tourism Commissions (TTC) and the Travel and Tourism Authority (TTA) are the recipients of higher than ever room tax proceeds in Highlands, Franklin and Macon County.

The 3% room tax lodging facilities collect and then send to the state – which is then distributed back to the county's TTCs and Franklin's TTA – can only be spent to promote travel and tourism in the respective areas.

According to Kietlyka, Highlands TTC has seen a 13% jump in room tax proceeds in FY 2016-'17 (July 1-June 30) over FY 2015-'16.

In 2015-'16 Highlands TTC received \$503,627.25 and in FY 2016-'17 it received \$566,855.58.

With more visitors coming to the area and straining the infrastructure of the county and its municipalities, a movement is afoot to amend legislation so room tax money can be used to benefit the needs of municipalities and not just Visitor Centers and Chambers of Commerce programs.



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Adorable 3bd/3ba Rondette sits on a beautifully landscaped yard with a small brook that runs through the back yard. Mother-in-law suite with kitchenette and separate entrance. Offered fully furnished! \$174,900 MLS #86068

LOT LISTING

Exclusive gated community just minutes from the Cashiers. 2.05 acres, nearly level, cleared building site, driveway finished. Community water system and 3bd septic permit. \$58,000 MLS #85824



Pristine! Spacious 3bd/3ba w/ 2 half bath home. Features stone fireplace, wood floors, highend finishes, expansive screened porch and more. Open kitchen/living keeps the conversation flowing. Master on main with 2 lower level guest suites to offer privacy for visitors. \$895,000 MLS #86445



A few short miles to town, dining, shopping and arts. Close to it all but privately set in the Highgate community. Beautiful mountain views and adjacent to Forest Service land. Oversized custom front door welcomes you as you enter into vaulted wood ceilings and hardwood floors. Soaring stone fireplace is the centerpiece of the living room that opens to large covered porch & fireplace. \$997,000 MLS #85858



Spectacular views of the sparkling cliffs of Whiteside Mountain and Devil's Courthouse. Great 3br/5ba estate on 3.2 acres with 1br/1ba guest home. Custom iron gates at the entrance to driveway with home set privately back on property. \$1,195,000 MLS #86756



Newly Priced

Sitting at the end of a cul-de-sac, this 3bd/3ba home is located inside the gated Heatherstone Tops community. Enjoy the long range views or gaze at the stars from your expansive deck. Open floor plan, large windows, hand hewn timbers, high quality finishes throughout. Truly magical, must see. \$620,000 MLS #85309



Pristine 2bd/2ba condo in Highlands Falls CC. Many upgrades including new flooring, crown moulding and fresh paint. Vaulted ceilings and stone fireplace grace the living room. Walk out on to your deck to enjoy mountain and golf course views. Offered furnished. \$269,000 MLS #85050

LOT LISTING

Easy build .81 acre lot in prestigious Cold Springs Saddle & Lake Club. Private lake access and just minutes to downtown Highlands. \$82,500 MLS #83190

LOT LISTING

Rare find on Cullasaja Drive. 1.12 acres with with Mirror Lake frontage. Site and house plans available. \$395,000 MLS #72715

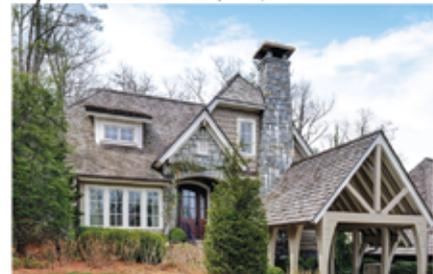


Newly Priced

Mountain, lake and fairway views from custom home in Cullasaja Club. 4bd/4ba/2 half bath, large stone fireplace, chef's kitchen, master suite, 2 guest suites, bunkroom, family room w/ breakfast bar, billiards area and more. \$1,290,000 MLS #85998



A total of 3.46 acres on 2 lots with amazing views and a meticulously kept 3br/2ba home. Enjoy your afternoons on the deck, relax in the gardens or go for a hike to ease your worries away. Perfect as a mountain getaway or year round home. \$490,000 MLS #86766



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LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION!!! Walking distance to town/dining/shopping. In Old Edwards development, enjoy all the amenities the world renowned Inn & Spa has to offer. Well appointed 3bd/4.5ba is sure to impress. \$1,595,000 MLS #85172



Meticulously maintained 3bd/3.5ba home with separate guest quarters, private pond, grand workshop and beautifully kept yard. \$495,000 MLS #85284

LOT LISTING

3.01 lush acres with old growth Laurel and Rhododendrons. Rare opportunity, off 106 and in the heart of Highlands with public water and sewer. \$450,000 MLS #82744



The mountain cabin you have been waiting for! Attention to details shown throughout this 3bd/3ba modern log home. From wood cathedral ceilings, double sided floor to ceiling fireplace, slow-close cabinets, hardwood flooring to the 6x12 double tongue and groove logs. Master on main level opens to covered back porch just steps away from a babbling brook. Enjoy the peace and serenity of this mountain escape. \$399,000 MLS #84912



Newly Priced

Golf course cottage sits on the 6th fairway of Lake Toxaway's premier golf course. Popular open floor plan, features hard wood floors, vaulted ceilings with a floor to ceiling stone wood burning fireplace. Large master bedroom off the main level. Two bedrooms upstairs each with full baths. Enjoy outdoor dining on the large covered deck with panoramic view of the golf course. Offered fully furnished. \$427,000 MLS #83669



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •**The greatest historical eclipse**

Rector Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church

Writing on the morning of what has been titled, The Great American Eclipse, it is yet to be determined how it turned out. Will it be spectacular? Will it be a dud? Will the weather, as that regards viewing the “event,” cooperate? Will the predicted droves of eclipse “totality” seekers show up? Only time will tell. But, however it turns out, it will pale in comparison to The Greatest Historical Eclipse of all time. And all of us should know about this whopper of an eclipse. For it was and remains the greatest, the most magnificent, we’re talking way beyond supercalifragilisticexpialidocious eclipse, of all human history.

Here is how The Greatest Historical Eclipse took place: At the beginning of creation, on the very first day, as God’s Spirit hovered over the chaotic, watery mess that was the substance of the universe, the Almighty called forth light. Mind you, this was not the sun, moon and stars, they came on day four. No, this light was the pre-incarnate Christ, the Light of the World. Jesus admitted as much in John’s gospel, chapter nine. When you read the creation story, you discover that this uncreated light eclipsed the darkness that reigned over the earth.

Sometime later, the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, decided to disobey the Lord who created them. They sinned. The first humans brought into specific relief the wretched human condition. Their sin represented the epitome of selfishness in arrogating unto themselves mastery over creation. They wanted to be in the driver’s seat of the world, to have the full knowledge and power of God. Therein they broke the single command of the Creator. Furthermore, in so doing, they brought a curse upon the human race wherein our selfish, sinful tendencies became part of the ongoing condition of humanity. In a manner of speaking, the sinfulness of mankind “eclipsed” the light of Father God, as the darkness of sin occluded the brightness of innocence.

Flash forward thousands of years and that uncreated Light that was Jesus the Christ at the beginning of creation, was born into the world. The almighty God who is everything good—light, love, mercy and especially forgiveness—could not allow our estrangement from His holy presence to abide forever. His love demanded a way forward. A way to overcome or eclipse, if you will, the dark effect that sin had upon our relationship with Him.

At the time of his Incarnation, Jesus again resumed the role of being the light of the world. The shepherds saw his light, so did the heavenly hosts, the wise men, and his human parents. Eventually, the Lord’s disciples, along with many others, recognized him as the Light of the World. The purpose of Jesus’ life was now in the pro-

• See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 22

Proverbs 3:5**• PLACES TO WORSHIP •****John 3:16****BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony Meeting: 5 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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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

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10:45am: Worship Service

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

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Mondays: Centering Prayer at 3 pm in the library

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist Rite II.

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828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

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

Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm; Ch. 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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

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 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.

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

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

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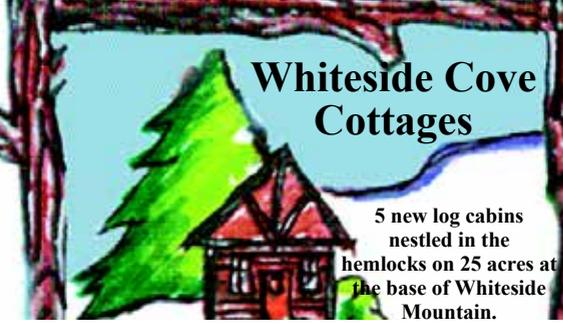
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...SCHOOLS from page 10

ers at the football field at Franklin High School to \$29,000 to purchase new storage units for Nantahala School, Franklin High, and Mountain View Intermediate. The capital outlay requests also include floor upgrades to the Highlands School cafeteria, Macon Middle School, and South Macon Elementary, while budgeting \$150,000 for new windows at Macon Middle School.

After some debate, the board of education unanimously agreed to fund \$83,000 for a new 66-passenger activity bus. With nine activity buses with over 100,000 miles on them and four with over 175,000 miles board members expressed concern about the safety of students, especially from Highlands, who have to travel long distances to compete in sports.

The bleachers at Franklin High School were nixed because there isn't enough time to complete the project prior to school starting Monday, Aug. 28.

Highlands School is set to see new flooring in the cafeteria, as the board of education approved \$15,000 for the project.

Schools across the district will see technology upgrades paid for with recurring funds with a replacement schedule set to keep all schools up to date.

• BIZ NEWS •



The 4th annual CHHS Humane Hero of the Year awards were presented at the sold-out Bark, Beer & Barbeque at The Farm at Old Edwards. Pat Allen was named 2017 CHHS Humane Hero of the Year,

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YARD SALE

HIGH END IN HIGHGATE.

August 26, 9a to 5p. 1376 Highgate Road. Highlands.

HELP WANTED

HIGHLANDS NEWSPAPER

is looking for a Highlands School student sports writer/photographer. Email highlandseditor@aol.com or call 828-200-1371.

BEAR MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS is now hiring a full-time sales associates. Starting at \$11/hr. depending on experience. Also needed is a full-time manager with experience. Please stop by 302 Main St, Highlands, NC for an application or call 828-526-8709. (st. 8/17)

RANCH HAND WANTED

at a private ranch in Cashiers. Full-time, part-time, & weekend-only positions available. Duties include feeding animals, mucking stalls, general cleaning, other duties as assigned. Must have clean driving record, ability to do physical work, lift up to 50 pounds, and work in all types of weather. Starting pay \$12/hour. Email resumes/inquiries to: holly@bluestarranch.com (st. 8/10)

HELP WANTED FOR LADIES

RETAIL SALES STORE. Experience preferred but not necessary for the right person. Salary based on experience. Year around position. Must have a neat appearance, willing to learn and work Saturdays a must. Applicant should have resume and references. Contact us at 828-526-1029 or info@nancysfancys.net (st. 8/10)

CAFFE REL in Franklin NC

Now Hiring experienced & professional staff positions: Sauté Cook, salary per skill set. Waitstaff with top earnings in town. Host/Hostess @ \$9-\$10HR once trained plus tips. 4-Day work week/Year around. Professional, fast pace & team mindset required. Random drug testing. Apply in person @ 459 E. Main Street/ Hot Spot bldg. Wed-Saturday or call after noon Monday-Saturday to schedule an interview with Chef Richard Long @ 828-506-6488. (st. 8/10)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY

is hiring a full-time dishwasher. Please come in person to 521 east Main Street in Highlands to apply or call 828-526-2400.

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY

is hiring a full-time, experienced breakfast cook and a full-time Bakery position. Please come in person to 521 east Main Street in Highlands to apply or call 828-526-2400

HIRING ALL POSITIONS.

Experienced very helpful. See Robby Potts at M=3 Restaurant (formerly Sweettreats)

Mountain Brook Center. for application. (828) 421-8268. (st. 7/23)

POTPOURRI BOUTIQUE

STORES IN HIGHLANDS Full or part time sales positions available and store manager position. Managers position requires sales experience with women's clothing and accessories. Sunglasses sales experience is a plus. Must be able to work weekends and holidays with the exceptions of Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving day and Christmas Day. Hourly plus commissions. Paid vacation time after one year. Mail resume to potpourrihighlands@yahoo.com or stop by at 376 Main Street. (st. 8/3)

LOCAL BUILDER seeks full-time driver and laborer. Job tasks include driving company truck and performing common labor. Must have a valid driver's license, references, a clean driving record, and be at least 21 years old. Call 828.526.4532 for more information or e-mail resumes to harrison@lupoliinc.com (st. 7/20)

KITCHEN, DISHWASHER, BUSSER, AND FOOD RUNNER help. 270 Main Street. Main Street Inn/Bistro. 828-526-2590. (7/20)

SKY PIE PIZZA, PASTA & TAP

now hiring all positions. Experience preferred but not required. Please pick up an application at 423 4th Street, (Mountain Brook Center) Highlands or call 402-480-5138 or 828-200-5311. (st. 6/29)

HIGHLANDS INN & HIGHLANDS INN LODGE now accepting applications and interviewing for all positions. Front Desk, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Night Audit, Breakfast Host & cook. Full time and part time available. Call 526-5899 for appointment or stop by 96 log cabin lane for application. Resumes or questions may be emailed to sales@highlandsinnlodge.com. (st. 6/15)

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC. full time, part time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-0928. (st. 5/25)

SKYLINE LODGE hiring front desk persons, housekeepers and breakfast cook, full time. We will train you. Call 828-526-2121 (st. 5/18)

FURNITURE MAKERS/TRIM CARPENTERS/CABINET INSTALLERS for full-time work in High-end cabinet shop in Highlands, NC. Please send resume to: info@warthconstruction.com. (st. 3/2)

ITEMS for SALE

VERMONT CASTINGS GAS HEATER. Black. Vent Free. Model RUVS 40. \$600. Call 828-342-1898. (st. 8/24)

CANOE. Mad River Tahoe 14". Excellent first canoe. Rugged, lightweight (56 lbs), Royalex construction, mess seats, aluminum trip. 13'-10" L x 38" x 14" D, capacity 1,000 lbs., excellent condition. Retail \$1000. Asking \$650. 828-342-8282. (st. 7/13).

SCHWINN NAUTILUS STATIONARY EXERCISE BICYCLE. All the electronics. Like brand new condition. Purchased new for \$350. Now \$175. 828-526-4889.

DINING ROOM SET. Oval table w/2 leaves, 6 chairs. Dark color. Good condition. \$150. 727-527-3104. (st. 6/15)

SERVICES

MURPHY'S PAINTING CO. Interior & Exterior Painting, Sheetrock Repair, Wallpaper Removal, Log Homes, Decks. Insured. Free Estimates. 828-524-1391 or 828-332-0525. (8/31)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HAN-DI-MAN - Can fix anything inside or out. Plumbing, carpentry, painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-526-3217. (8/31)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEY-IN 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. 8/24)

MOLD AND MUSTY SMELL IN YOUR HOME? Call for free inspection. 828-743-0900.

VACATION RENTALS



VACATION RENTAL: In-town Highlands 3bd/3ba, walk-to-town condo. Book now! Available fall 2017 & 2018. \$2500 week includes housekeeping. <https://www.vrbo.com/4473684ha> more info at Chambers Agency 828-526-3717.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

WALK TO TOWN! Mill Creek townhome - 2 bdrs., 2 baths, 2 car garage, new kitchen appliances, stone fireplace, front porch overlooks large yard. \$419,900 - call 828-482-0326 to view. (st. 7/6)



FALLING WATERS. Gated community, beautiful mountain land. Just 2.4 miles from Main St. Cottage lot with small waterfall \$159K. Premium waterfall (above pix) \$439k. Other lots \$169k to \$259k. From Main St. and Hwy 106, turn west on 106. Go 1.8 miles just past Glen Falls sign...turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3/10 mile, turn left on Moonlight. Entrance is on the right. Contact onsite developer for plats and info. 828-508-9952. fallingwatersnc.com (st. 5/11)

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. If no answer please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

cess of accomplishing the the Father's will: the reconciliation of sinful humanity with the holiness of the Almighty. God himself provided a path for us to transfer our citizenship into the kingdom of his Light.

The Greatest Historical Eclipse took place on a trash heap called Calvary some 2,000+ years ago. At the moment of his death it seemed as though darkness and sinfulness would be a permanent part of creation. Yet in less than three days, Jesus' resurrection eclipsed that pseudo-reality. In the brightness of his resurrection, for the remainder of his ministry and to this day, the Lord himself stood/stands between sin and judgment for us. The Greatest Historical Eclipse the world can ever know was now a part of the history books. All that is required of us is that we make the decision to come out of the darkness, accept his divine eclipse, and step into the pure light of the world.

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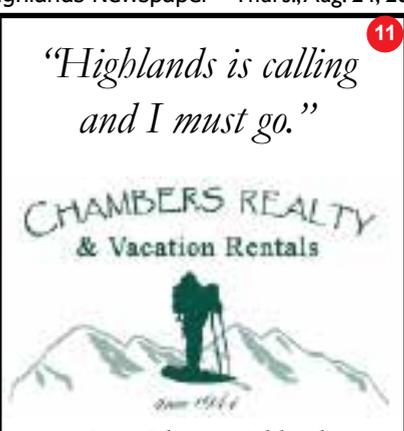


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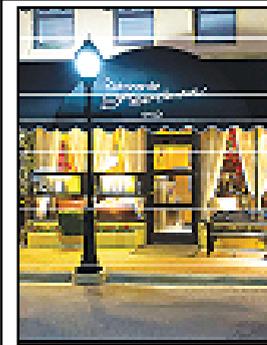
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