

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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## Tourism is driving county's and town's economy

Like elsewhere in Macon County, the Highlands economy is built on tourism and the attraction outsiders have to its "nature scape," its restaurants and shops.

According to Western Carolina University's Hospitality and

Tourism department, tourism is not only big business in Macon County, but a growing business at that.

In 2015, tourist activities generated \$154.23 million in direct tourist spending in Macon County.

The industry produced \$27.28 million in worker income and paychecks and created \$12.22 million in local county tax revenues. The industry is responsible for 1,260 jobs in Macon County and compared to 2014, tourist spending in

the county increased by 3.7 percent in 2015.

"The 2015 tourism impact figures for Macon County continue to demonstrate the increasing importance of tourism as a local

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## Macon C. leaders talk ACA, PILT and more with Feds

Macon County leaders spent last week representing residents of the county in Washington D.C. during the 2017 Legislative Conference for the National Association of Counties.

This year, the annual day-long event brought more than 2,000 elected and appointed county leaders together with federal legislators in Washington to discuss federal policy issues that impact counties and residents.

County members from across the country attended the conference and for North Carolina, all 100 counties were represented and in attendance at the NACO conference.

Macon County Commissioner Jim Tate, along with Commissioner Ronnie Beale and

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## The undefeated Eagles soar



The undefeated Eagles – Macon County Junior League Season and Tournament Champions – part of the county's 10-team junior league. Front row from left: Nolan Billingsley, Peyton Naron, Nathan Keener, Owen Munoz, JD Head, and Jacob Holt. Back row from left: Assistant Coach Lamar Billingsley, Aiden McMullen, John Hayes Shaheen, Harrison Gates, James Earp, JJ Postell, and Coach David Billingsley. Their record was 15-0 (2-0 pre-season, 10-0 regular season, 3-0 tournament) with an average margin of victory of 17 points. The team averaged 31.9 points per game during regular season but were only allowed 13.6 points per game.

"They are an incredible group of kids with a lot of heart and unmatched determination to win. I've never seen anything quite like it out of a group of basketball players at any level. It doesn't matter what sport or at what level, it is truly amazing to go undefeated for the whole season. They made the season fun," said Coach David. "They came ready to play every minute of every practice and every game. This is a very competitive group that played extremely well together." The team's sponsor was Allen Dearth and Sons Generators.

## Meadows' Freedom Caucus aims to make big changes to ACA

Not long after President Donald Trump took office, Republican leaders in Congress started talking about repealing the Affordable Care Act.

Though the details of the new ACA plan have now surfaced and were set to be voted on Wednesday, Congressman Mark Meadows has been vocal in his stance on the repeal and replacement process and what he wants to see implemented.

"I applaud my colleagues Senator Paul and Representative Sanford for their efforts in crafting this healthcare reform bill," Rep. Meadows said concerning their replacement plan. "The need for fundamentally sound healthcare alternatives right now is ab-

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Don't trash us!



Mayor Pat Taylor

Here I go again, talking trash. No, not trash talking. I want to talk about trash and garbage issues that impact our beautiful community.

A couple of weeks ago I wrote an article about it being time to "spruce up" Highlands for the impending tourist season. I asked people to let me know if they saw areas where we could improve and clean things up. People contacted me about problems, especially where they saw sidewalk issues.

Thanks to the folks that contacted me, especially to the person that called about a major trash problem that had not been addressed at Hickory and 5th Street. I got in my old Toyota pickup truck to go assess the problem firsthand. What I discovered was that some "Bozo Head" had dumped an old futon mattress on 5th Street, right where the road ends and the historic Kelsey and Greenway Trail begins.

Yes, I called the offender of this sacrilege against nature and our community a derogatory name. He or she deserves the label. I will continue to call such sorry folks derogatory names. Furthermore, North Carolina General

Statute 14-399(a) makes it a crime to illegally dump trash, garbage and debris on public and private property.

With the help of a good friend who happened to see what I was doing, we both were able to load the wet, heavy mattress onto my truck. I was able to haul it away and properly dispose it.

If anyone sees a "Bozo Head" dumping trash on a Highlands street, park or beautiful space, please get a description of

the person, vehicle, tag number, etc., and call 911 without delay. A Highlands police officer will be dispatched to immediately investigate and possibly apprehend the criminal offender.

A while back a concrete truck operator dumped a load of cement down the side of the right-of-way on Oak Street. The concrete flowed and set up on our greenway trail that ran just below the roadside. Several days later when the crime was discovered some folks reported they had noticed the person dumping the concrete a while back, but didn't call 911 to report it. By that time the ability of the police to make a case was basically lost. If a call had been made to 911, an officer may have been able to catch the offender in the act, or at least there would have been a hot trail for officers to investigate.

When we have our Highlands Cleanup on April 22, Earth Day, volunteers will pick up an incredible amount of trash and garbage left by "Bozo Heads." I will be writing more about the trash problem in the coming weeks. If anyone has a better name than "Bozo Heads" for people who trash our community, please let me know. The only condition is that I have to be able to repeat the name in public. I can always be reached at (828) 506-3138, or at mayor@highlandscnc.org.

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## • LEGISLATIVE UPDATE •

The summary below was written by the Congressional Research Service, which is a nonpartisan division of the Library of Congress, and was published on Feb 2, 2017.

H.J.Res. 38: Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of the Interior known as the Stream Protection Rule. (This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

This joint resolution nullifies the Stream Protection Rule finalized by the Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement on December 20, 2016. The rule addresses the impacts of surface coal mining operations on surface water, groundwater, and the productivity of mining operation sites.

### Vote:

Congressman Mark Meadows Yes  
Office 202-225-6401  
Email/Website: meadows.house.gov

Senior Senator Richard Burr Yes  
Office: 202-224-3154  
Email/Website: burr.senate.gov

Junior Senator Thom Tillis Yes  
Office: 202-224-6342  
Email/Website: tillis.senate.gov

## ...TOURISM continued from page 1

economic driver and are key to the continued growth and sustainability of Highlands' and the county's overall economic future," said President of Highlands Chamber of Commerce Bob Kiltyka. "Highlands growing reputation as a year-round resort community, where hospitality is king, contributes significantly to the impressive results compiled by Western Carolina University's College of Business."

Dr. Steve Morse, Director of Hospitality and Tourism at WCU released the 2015 Tourism Economic Fact sheets during WCU's third annual regional outdoor tourism and recreation conference. It was held on February 28 at Harrah's Cherokee Casino and drew a record 177 attendees from

across North Carolina, as well as eastern Tennessee and northeast Georgia.

The mix of participants included outdoor recreation and travel industry representatives, chamber of commerce officials, economic development leaders, private sector outdoor tourism business owners and operators, tourism development authority officials and regional tourism marketing representatives. Topics included outdoor tourism trends for the coming decade, generational marketing, regional partnerships and the role of tourism in local economic development.

"This is a tool you can use to show folks who need to know the impact of

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## • WEEKEND WEATHER •



For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to [www.highlandinfo.com](http://www.highlandinfo.com) and click on Weather

### Highlands Newspaper

Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Merritt Shaw

Copy Editor: Glenda Bell

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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 •

## LaNita Kae Clark

LaNita Kae Clark, née Hawkins, died in the early morning of February 23, 2017 when she let go of her loving husband's hand and grasped the hand of her Maker and Friend.

Before she found herself in bed, wrestling with cancer, LaNita and her husband Larry had, for several years been doing what they could to help and teach and love in the small village of Londiani, Kenya, Africa. Kenya is now dotted with young girls named LaNita who will be told, when they ask where their name came from, about a kindly lady from America who spread love, compassion and a penchant for tea parties.

Prior to becoming a Kenya expat, she and her family lived in Highlands, NC, where she focused her time and energy on making her home beautiful and cozy for her husband, and entertaining a small circle of church friends between the family gatherings.

She spent most of her life in Malone, New York on a farm tucked in a river valley a little south of Montreal that is saturated with memories of LaNita.

Larry and LaNita made their home in Malone but met in LaNita's hometown of Bethany, OK.

She is survived by many people who dearly loved her: Larry, whose life-long love for LaNita and his vigilant, selfless care for his wife over the last several years have become legendary in the family; her favorite son, David; her other "favorite" son, Gary; her "other favorite" son, Jed; and her only, and therefore favorite daughter, Sarah and her "favorite Kenyan" daughter; also assorted siblings, nieces, nephews and numerous friends.

LaNita's husband, Larry, and her children will be celebrating her life at a Memorial Service on Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 2 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church in Highlands, NC. We would love to have her friends and those touched by her life on earth join in the celebration.

Please RSVP if you are planning to attend so we can finalize our preparations. For more information on this service, please go to: [www.facebook.com/events/383576838682008/](http://www.facebook.com/events/383576838682008/)

## Leona Joan Schloesser

Leona Joan Schloesser, 101, of Highlands, died Saturday, February 25, 2017.

Born in Chicago, IL she was the daughter of the late David Leo Trahey and Pearl Alice Cary Trahey. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Robert Schloesser; daughter, Lynne Ellen Smith and two sisters, Ruthie McNichols and Lorraine Tatum. Leona loved spending time with her grandchildren. She was of the Catholic faith.

She is survived by two daughters, Coradee Ferree of New Port Beach, CA and Maribeth Moss of Cashiers, NC; one brother, Daniel Trahey of Chicago, IL; 10 grandchildren; seven great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1 p.m., Monday, March 13 at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church. Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Online condolences can be made at [maconfuneralhome.com](http://maconfuneralhome.com)

## Tom Edward James

Tom Edward James, 83, of Highlands, went to heaven on Thursday, March 2, 2017.

Born in Clayton, GA, he was the son of the late Lawton Pinkney James and Irene Picklesimer James. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Barbara James Taylor. Tom was a US Army veteran



and served during the Korean conflict. He owned and operated Tom James Wrecker Service. He was a member of the Lion's Club of Highlands and member of Community Bible Church.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Hilda Sanders James; four children, Elizabeth James Cunningham and husband Keith of Easley, SC, Tom Edward James Jr. and wife Brenda of Dillard, GA, Terri James Potts and husband Tony of Highlands and Sue James Houston of Stone Mtn., GA;

two sisters, Wilma James Gordon and Geraldine James Crowe both of Highlands; one brother, Herbert James of Highlands; seven grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral Service were held at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 5 at Community Bible Church. Pastor Gary Hewins, Rev. Woody Johnson and Rev. Eddie Stillwell officiated. Burial was in the Scaly Mtn. Methodist Cemetery with military rites conducted by VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post 108.

Pallbearers were Jimmy Almond, Steve Derry, Robbie Potts, James Manley, Ricky James, Morris Reed, Ruben Contieras and Salvador Ocalde. Scaly Mtn. Volunteer Fire Dept. and Highlands Volunteer Fire Department served as Honorary Pallbearers.

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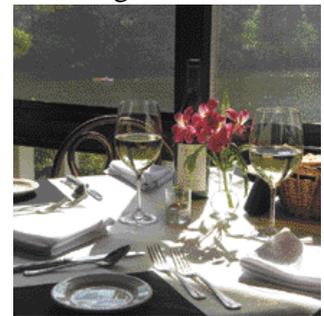
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## ...MEADOWS continued from page 1

solutely critical- – Obamacare has been a disaster from the beginning, and Americans can no longer sustain the crushing weight of its failures.”

The plan released by Rep. Paul and Rep. Sanford was endorsed by the House Freedom Caucus, on which Rep. Meadows serves as the chair.

“Furthermore, the speculation on what a replacement will look like has created an unnecessary climate of anxiety in this discussion. As members of Congress, we have a responsibility to reassure Americans – particularly those with preexisting conditions – that they will be protected under a new system,” said Rep. Meadows. “I commend Senator Paul and Representative Sanford for releasing a plan so that we can move toward debating the issues at hand and ultimately keep our promises to the people.”

Not only has Rep. Meadows supported the plan introduced by Rep. Paul, he has also spoken out against an alternative plan introduced by Rep. Paul Ryan. Speaking to CNN last week, Rep. Meadows said that he wouldn't support Ryan's draft of the GOP Obamacare repeal bill unless substantial changes are made. (The outcome of Wednesday's vote was not available by press time.)

According to Meadows, Ryan's plan creates an “entitlement program” because of the tax credits and incentives listed in the draft bill – credits and incentives many now covered by ACA depend upon.

“Our original concern with Rep. Ryan's plan is that the tax credits were something that were not just available to those who need it, but would be available to millionaires as well,” said Rep. Meadows. “Anytime you are going to write a check on behalf of taxpayers, it should be done as a safety net and not to increase someone's bottom line. We wanted to make sure that there were tests in place to make sure that those tax breaks for people who truly needed it and not people who can already afford insurance.”

Ryan's bill to repeal Obamacare replaces the law's subsidies with less generous tax credits, increases the amount insurers could charge older Americans and more or less eliminate Medicaid for low-income adults.

The refundable tax credit would be given out based on age and range from \$2,000 for those under 30 to \$4,000 for those between ages 60 and 64.

Not knowing what will happen has municipalities like Highlands – now in the 2017-'18 budget process – that offers its employees and their families a generous health insurance package, in limbo.

Rep. Meadows and the Freedom Caucus support the 2015 Obamacare repeal bill, which was originally vetoed by President Barack Obama. The House Freedom Caucus would like to see Rep. Ryan's replacement implemented.

Ryan's plan would phase out federal funds to expand Medicaid by 2020, while the Freedom Caucus plan would eliminate Medicaid expansion fully and give Medicaid block grants to the states, another point in which the two plans differ in terms of how to dismantle the Affordable Care Act's expansion plans.

“I think the main difference in the two plans is that the Dr. Paul's plan provides a way for insurance companies to offer cheaper types of insurance,” said Rep. Meadows. “Currently there is a limit on the number of plans and types of plans that insurance companies can offer, and we want to make sure that we fix that. Our plan increased the number of plans insurance companies can offer and lets citizens pay for those more affordable plans out a Health Savings Account.”

Rep. Meadows reiterated his stance that there shouldn't be a rush to get it done, rather make sure it is done right and effectively. He and others will be re-introducing a “clean repeal” bill, which they said received unanimous Republican support last year.

“If we are going to repeal it, we need to make sure that we have a replacement plan ready to go,” said Rep. Meadows. “We don't need to try to repeal it for change-sake. If we don't have a replacement plan in place that drives down the cost of health insurance, and if it doesn't lower premiums and helps our constituents, then that isn't something I can support.”

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## ...TOURISM continued from page 2

tourism on economic development, job creation and payrolls,” Morse said. “Tourists are, as I often refer to them, ‘temporary taxpayers’ whose local spending means that local folks will pay less in local – and state – taxes,” Morse said. “Tourism jobs in your town can never be outsourced. Plus, tourism creates jobs for more than just that single destination or attraction. Travel and tourism jobs and dollars extend well into the whole community.”

The students' analysis showed that in 2015 tourism spending in the 26 counties of Western North Carolina was \$3.34 billion, a 3.5 percent increase over the previous year, and generated 31,540 jobs that netted \$672 million in income and worker paychecks.

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor agrees. “While I know some residents become frustrated about the recent increase in the number of cars and visitors in town during summer and fall, Dr. Morse's data underscores the financial impact of tourism on our community. All of our residents benefit directly or indirectly when we have a robust tourist season. Jobs and tax burdens are key elements,” he said.

As one of the largest tourism related

businesses in Macon County, with tourist related spending growing, so has Old Edwards Hospitality Group in Highlands.

“The resort has grown to meet the demands of the industry. In 2008, OEI employed 170 people; last year that number reached an all time high of 415,” said president and managing director Richard Delany. “In 2008 OEI had 57 rooms available for guests and in 2017 that number will reach 207 between three different locations. With more rooms available, OEI has been able to accommodate more tourists each year. In 2008, OEI saw 14,838 guests and last year the resort was able to serve 76,060 people. The 237% increase in revenue also produced \$267,000 in occupancy tax generated for the town and county in 2016 alone.”

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce welcomes the news.

“The outlook for tourism's continued growth in Highlands and all of Macon County remains bright based on data from recent years. For example, the average daily combined state and local tax revenues generated by tourism spending in Macon County in 2015 increased \$5,150 or 11%”

• See TOURISM page 11

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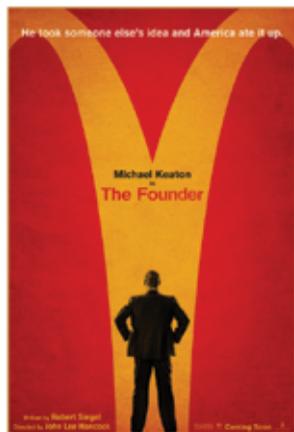
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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Sundays: Worship: 11

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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

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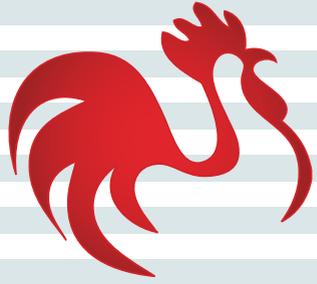
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## • EVENTS •

### At PAC Live from the MET LaTraviata, March 11

The Highlands PAC will live stream via satellite from the MET Opera La Traviata (Verdi) on Saturday, March 11 at 12:55pm. There will be a pre-opera discussion led by Beverly Wichman beginning at 12:30pm.

The courtesan, Violetta's relationship with men and with a male-dominated society is clearly defined. Just as the opera examines death and the dynamic circular motion of life and death, it also deals with the relationship of men and women, and the boundaries between them, in a representative way that reaches far beyond the individual fate of one courtesan.

Sonya Yoncheva brings her acclaimed interpretation of the doomed courtesan Violetta Valéry to Live in HD audiences for the first time, opposite rising American tenor Michael Fabiano as her



lover, Alfredo.

Thomas Hampson sings one of his most acclaimed Met roles as Giorgio Germont, Alfredo's disapproving father. Tickets are

available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

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*See our website for more info.*

### Soup & Salad Bar

**Mon-Sat 11:00am - close**  
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*\$9.99 each (dine in) or \$9.99 a pound (to go)*

### Weekday Lunch Special

**Monday - Friday 11am to 2pm**  
 Pizza, pasta, soup and salad bar  
 Continuous fresh pizza from our pizza ovens, pastas, fresh breads from our bakery, plus the entire soup and salad bar... *\$9.99 each (dine in) or \$9.99 a pound (to go)*

## SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

**Every Sunday from 11am - 3pm**  
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**Tuesday:** Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad.  
*\$21.95 serves four*

**Wednesday:** Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad.  
*\$21.95 serves four*

**Thursday:** Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.  
*\$21.95 serves four*

**Friday:** Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies & coleslaw. *\$24.95 serves four*

**Saturday:** In-house smoked bbq, coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked beans, and yeast rolls. *\$21.95 serves 4*

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Available Monday -Thursday 4:30 to close  
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or

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or

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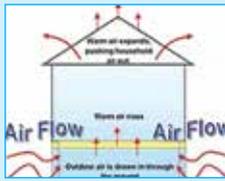
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## Due diligence and the dreaded home inspection

After spending weeks, sometimes months and even years, helping buyers find the seemingly perfect home, the contract allows for a due diligence time frame. This period can range from two weeks to two months or so – depending if there is a mortgage involved. The time frame is negotiated as part of the contract.



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

During due diligence, the buyers have the right to inspect the home, get a survey, obtain estimates on painting or other desired changes, etc. It is important to note that the sellers should NOT consider the home sold because prior to the end of the due diligence period the buyers can terminate for ANY reason and their earnest money will be refunded in full.

The home inspection report is the main reason we, as brokers, see the contract terminated. This is where the sellers come in to play. As home inspections have become increasingly more detailed, the report for the buyers can be 65 pages or more! The buyers are alarmed at the size of the report and their thoughts are “it is not a good house or one with too many issues.” This is not always the case, which is why a broker needs to sit down and review the report in detail with the potential buyer.

Many buyers are not on site and look at the report via email. Quite stressed and alarmed, many terminate and move on, not allowing the sellers a chance to repair valid issues affecting the integrity of the home. Once the sellers are aware of issues they need to repair them anyway. Estimates can be obtained with the help of a broker and

either repairs are performed or a credit towards the repairs is allowed at closing.

The BEST advice to avoid losing a buyer is for the sellers to obtain a home inspection BEFORE listing the home. Sellers are then aware of issues to be dealt with upfront and can correct them before an offer is made and the due diligence period begins.

During the winter, I saw several contracts terminated due to home inspections. The sellers were unaware of so many issues needing to be addressed because they had not been here since the prior season. Maintaining your home is critical and if not done can cost you thousands of dollars and affects the selling price of your home considerably.

Don't let this happen to you. Get an inspection upfront so you don't lose a buyer. During the due diligence period, your home is basically off the market and once a buyer terminates the contract and your home goes back to active status, it can be a red flag to other brokers and buyers that something was wrong with the home. It simply clouds the issue and prolongs the days on the market. It's best to deal with it now versus later.

• Pat Allen is Broker-in-Charge at Pat Allen Realty Group and is a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist. She is a top producer in the area and is a full-time professional. Visit Pat Allen Realty Group at 295 Dillard Road – across from the Highlands Decorating Center – or call 828-526-8784 or 828-200-9179. Visit Pat Allen Realty Group's website at [patallenrealtygroup.com](http://patallenrealtygroup.com).

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## ...LEADERS continued from page 1

Macon County Manager Derek Roland, attended the event. Commissioner Beale serves as the North Carolina representative on the National Association of Counties board.

Congressman Mark Meadows was among the DC leaders to meet with commissioners from his district; and said that having members of the local government in Washington is invaluable.

"Having the opportunity to meet with county leaders in D.C. is always something that I look forward to and provides an excellent opportunity to talk face-to-face about issues that impact my constituents," said Rep. Meadows. "Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale is a tremendous asset and a great advocate for Macon County. While we may represent different political parties, Ronnie Beale is someone I trust and respect and isn't shy of telling me exactly what he thinks is important to the county, and I appreciate that."

Rep. Meadows said that he spoke with Macon commissioners about everything from the Affordable Healthcare Act repeal

to securing PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) funding.

Payment in lieu of taxes is payments the federal government makes to compensate a local government for some or all of the tax revenue lost due to tax exempt ownership or use of a particular piece of real property.

In Macon County there are 239.31 square miles of USFS land -- 153,159 acres -- which constitutes much of Macon County's PILT issue.

"Commissioner Beale made it clear that whatever repeal and replacement plan we end up approving, he wanted to make sure that we don't make the federal government's decision a problem on the state and county level," said Rep. Meadows. "And I understand that. We don't need to balance the federal government's problems on the backs of our states and counties."

In addition to the ACA, county commissioners spoke to Rep. Meadows about PILT funding, which is something Rep. Meadows is hopeful about.

"We are pushing for a long-term fix for PILT funding and making sure that those funds are reauthorized for longer than just

on a year-to-year basis," said Rep. Meadows. "I am more hopeful than ever that we will be able to do that this year and grateful to have the support of the county commissioners in doing that."

## Youth Theatre Poster/T-shirt contest

Students in Highlands and Cashiers are invited to design poster art and T-shirts for the PAC Youth Theatre Spring play, "The Frog Prince" April 27 through April 30 at the Highlands Performing Arts Center.

All entries are due by Friday, March 17 and may be submitted to Hudson Library in Highlands and Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library, addressed to Megan Potts. One high school winner and one middle school winner will be picked from each school. Winners will be awarded \$25 iTunes Gift Cards.



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## ...TOURISM continued from page 5

per day during the most recent two-year period," said Kieltka.

For Macon County, the eight-year trend for tourist spending is on the incline. Tourist spending topped \$152 million in 2015 up from \$120.6 million in 2008.

On an average day, tourist spending generated \$52,520 in combined state and local tax revenues for Macon County and created \$33,479 in local county tax revenues. Tourist spending also

generated \$74,739 in daily worker paychecks.

Because of the tourism industry and the tax revenue it produces, WCU reports that each of the 25,379 Macon County households pay \$755 less in local and state taxes each year. If tourism did not exist, each household would have to pay \$755 more in state and local taxes to replace the taxes generated by tourist spending.

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# • EVENTS •

## HCP 's Dinner Theater continues this week



Bartenders for the three remaining days of HCP's dinner theater presentation of *Middletown USA* are (left to right) Dean Zuch, Helene and Rick Siegel, Ron Leslie, Stan Cochran, Marty Boone, Donna Cochran.

A very special play, *Middletown USA*, the Highlands Cashiers Players' dinner theater production, has three more days to run, Thursday through Saturday, March 9-11. There is no Sunday matinee. *Middletown* was obtained by special permission of the playwright, Dan Clancy, and will not be available to community theaters for some time to come, as it has been optioned for professional production only. This is the only chance to see it in our area.

Written to be presented as a dramatic reading and directed by Ellen Greenwald of Cashiers, *Middletown* concerns the life stories of two couples, who have been friends for 33 years, performed by four of HCP's most talented and experienced actors: Michael Lanzilotta, Adair Simon, Ralph Stevens and Lauretta Payne, who movingly relate the joys and sorrows of the characters' lives.

Several members of last week's audience and also the actors have commented that they saw something of themselves in the lives of the characters and found themselves laughing at the funny incidents but also on the verge of tears when the couples face some of life's sorrows.

## Proceeds of Rotary Taco Dinner for polio and Alzheimers

The Highlands Rotary Mountaintop is having a Taco Dinner fundraiser at the recreation park on Friday, March 10 from 5-8pm. The cost of admission for the dinner is \$10 and includes all the tacos you can eat. No family will pay more than \$50, but it is for immediate family only. The proceeds of the evening will go to Rotary's program to end polio and to fund Alzheimer's research.

Rotary has been instrumental in nearly eradicating polio from the face of the earth. Polio exists now in only three countries, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and even in those countries, there are only a few reported cases.

Rotary also funds Alzheimer's research and there is hardly a family in the USA that has not been affected by this

Dinner and play will be held at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands with the audience seated at tables that accommodate eight. Doors open at 6 p.m., wine is available at a cash bar, dinner is served at 6:30, and the play will be presented without intermission at 7:45 p.m. Dessert after the play will conclude the evening.

HCP's dinner theater would not be possible without the support of many community members who are serving as cooks, kitchen assistants, wait staff, and bartenders. Some 40 volunteers are involved not to mention those who prepare the playbill, prepare the publicity, set the stage and lighting, plan the menu, round up the volunteers, and coordinate the many elements of the production.

*Middletown USA* is the third play of the season subscription series with no extra charge. Other tickets are priced at \$32.00 for dinner and play. For reservations, contact HCP online at [highlandscashiersplayers.org](http://highlandscashiersplayers.org), or call our box office number, (828) 526-8084. If line is busy or not attended after office hours, please leave your name and telephone number for a call back.



terrible disease that robs a person of their memory, their dignity and ultimately, their life. There are two Rotary Clubs in Highlands. The Mountaintop Club meets at the Episcopal Church on Monday at 5:30pm and the other club meets at noon at the community building near the ballpark. There are 1,200,000 Rotarians in 35,000 clubs worldwide and they all belong to the largest service organization in the world. In addition to polio and Alzheimer's research, the club funds projects all over the world to end hunger and disease, advance education, and promote peace. Anyone wanting to join such

an organization should contact a Rotarian and ask about membership.



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# • CLASSIFIEDS •

## **HELP WANTED**

### **NOW HIRING FOR SECURITY**

**GUARD SHIFTS** in Highlands. Two part-time shifts available – 16 hours per Weekend. Please call 828-526-4161 (3/16)

### **HAVE OPENING FOR WAIT-**

**STAFF AND DRIVER** for transportation. Please apply at Chestnut Hill in Highlands, NC, 24 Clubhouse Trail, (828)526-5251. (st. 3/9)

### **DO YOU WANT TO EARN EX-**

**TRA MONEY?** Retail store in Highlands is looking for someone to work Saturdays. Contact Colleen at 828-482-0286 (st. 3/9)

### **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)

### **WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT**

looking for experienced waitstaff, bartender and bus person. Call Jacque at 828.526.3807 (st. 3/2)

### **PART TIME ADMIN. ASSIS-**

**TANT SKY VALLEY COUNTRY**

**CLUB** seeks professional, energetic and reliable admin assistant. Up to 32 hours per week, flexible schedule. Duties include assisting with new membership prospects, organizing advertising plan, general office work. Basic computer skills required. Send inquiries to zanepurcell@skyvalleycountryclub.com or call 706 746 5304 (3/2-3/16)

**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. 2/16)

**PART TIME CLEANERS** needed after hours cleaning banks. Please call Cathy @ 828 772 9831 (st. 12/22).

### **MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY**

is hiring a full-time, experienced line cook. Also hiring a breakfast cook and Deli positions Please come in person to 521 east Main Street in Highlands to apply or call

828-526-2400

**EXPERIENCED ELECTRICIANS NEEDED.** Call 828-526-5147. (st. 11/22)

### **WANTED**

**HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED** – 5 bedroom house, call Larry – 773-220-8622 (st. 3/9)

### **ITEMS FOR SALE**

**2010 UTILITY, LAWN, STOCK TRAILER** – 4'x8' open floor w/4' fold down ramp, 2"x2" expanded metal rails, 4.5' feedlot panel sides, new tires and trailer jack. Asking \$800. Call 526-4959 for information. (st. 2/2)

### **WANTED TO BUY**

**U.S. AND FOREIGN COINS.** Call Dan at 828-421-1616. (4/20)

**RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL FOR RENT**

**2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOUSE,** vaulted ceilings, washer/dryer. Potter studio and gas kiln. 6 miles south of Highlands. \$900/mth plus utilities. Call 706-490-7036. (st. 3/9)

**WAREHOUSE FOR RENT.** Christ Church of the Valley. 3,400 sq. ft. heated or unheated. 118 Hwy. 64 East, Cashiers, 743-

5400 (st. 3/9)

**CASHIERS/SAPPHIRE** - Furnished Split level 3 Bed/ 3 Bath home. Year round Mountain Views. Yearly lease 1,850. per month. Will consider renting 2 Bed/2 Bath level for \$1,250. (561) 346-6400 (3/23)

**2 BEDROOM CONDO FOR RENT INTOWN** – Split living, furnished, mountain view, brand new central heat and air. \$1,300/mth plus utilities. Contact Carol Criminger at (828) 421-5172 or email carolcriminger@aol.com References required. (st. 2/9)

**ONE BED/ONE BATH,** furnished. All utilities paid. Call 828-371-0829. (st. 1/12)

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### **SERVICES**

**HAND-MAN** – Electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry, yard work. Call Al at 828-332-7271 or 828-369-6245. (3/9)

**CUSTOM FASHIONS FOR YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS** with

The Slipcover Chic and The Designing Diva at Kay's Place in Whistle Stop Mall on River Road off the Highlands Road. Call Kay at 828-421-3879 or Holly at 828-342-1987. (st. 2/9)

**ALL AROUND OFFICE SOLUTIONS** – Bookkeeping Services, Payroll Prep, Payroll Tax Prep, Billing Services, Virtual Assistant, Data Base Management, Administrative Services, Research Assistance, Quickbooks Set-up and Training. Call Mary James at 828-421-0002 or email mjames@allaroundofficesolutions.com (st. 1/15)

**HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON:** scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 11/17)

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

# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**The Highlands Police log entries from Feb. 22. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

### **Feb. 22**

• At 9:22 p.m., officers were called about a simple assault at the Ugly Dog Pub where a woman's glasses were taken and thrown and she was slapped in the face.

### **Feb. 26**

• At 2:30 a.m., Pierson Alexander Benton, 23, of Arden, NC, was arrested for DWI and driving with an expired registration when he was pulled over on Main Street.

### **Feb. 27**

• At 6:16 p.m., officers responded to a motor vehicle accident on Carolina Way involving two vehicles.

• At 5:30 p.m., officers received a report of fraud when someone posed as an employee of a phone card machine company to scam money from Farmers Market. \$200 in electronic transfer via a phone card was done.

### **March 3**

• At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Wyanoak Road.

• At 3:50 p.m., officers responded to a call of shoplifting at Highlands Pharmacy

where someone took a Revlon lipstick without paying for it.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Feb. 21 .**

### **Feb. 21**

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dendy Orchard Road.

• The dept. was called about smoke in the vicinity of Talley Lane.

### **Feb. 22**

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Poplar Street.

### **Feb. 23**

• The dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• The dept. was first-responders to a location on Hospital Drive.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Pierson Drive.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Edwards Creek Road.

### **Feb. 24**

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

### **Feb. 25**

• The dept. responded to a chimney fire in a residence on Satulah Road.

• The dept. responded to miscellaneous fire at a residence on Cullasja Club Drive.

• The dept. stood by for the MAMA helicopter at the hospital.

• The dept. was first-responders to a

residence on Brooks Road.

### **Feb. 26**

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brooks Road.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cook Road.

### **Feb. 28**

• The dept. investigated smoke on Ravenel Ridge.

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

### **March 1**

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital.

• The dept. responded to a miscellaneous fire in Horse Cove.

• The dept. investigated smoke on Flat Mountain.

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on N. Cobb.

• The dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

### **March 2**

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on N. 4th Street.

• The dept. stood by for the MAMA helicopter at the hospital.

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bobby Jones Road.

### **March 5**

• The dept. responded to a brush fire on Bob Zahner Road.

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