Prisoners’ medical issues a big part of inmate care

When county detention centers take an inmate into custody, it becomes the inmate’s home away from home in every regard. Everything from the inmates’ meals to their medication becomes the responsibility of the facility in which they are incarcerated. From Tylenol for headaches, to chronic medicines for diseases such as high blood pressure or even cancer medications, the jail is responsible for continuing treatment – a task it takes seriously – while often times picking up the tab to do so.

For Macon County, providing medical care for inmates has long since been a point of contention because the cost of medicating inmates eats up a large portion of Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland’s annual budget.

“It used to be impossible to budget the healthcare needs of inmates,” said Holland. “Some years we would set aside $100,000 in Holland’s annual budget.

EMS asks the public to fill out fire system survey

Macon County is conducting a study of the county’s fire protection system with the intent of developing a strategic plan to ensure the future success of the system and identify any potential challenges.

“The study was not initiated just because of the fire situation in 2016, but the serious fire conditions and the enormity of the situation did reiterate how much we rely on our mostly volunteer fire protection system,” said Warren Cabe, director of MC Emergency Service. “It reemphasized that we need to make sure we are doing all we can to meet the needs of the departments and the customers they serve.”

Public input for the study is paramount and a short electronic survey is available online.

Heading for ‘Senior Night,’ last home conference game and Cali Smolarsky honoring

Above, Girls Varsity teammate Kendra McCall takes the ball back down the court against Murphy. This Friday will be senior night and breast cancer awareness night at the Highlands High School home basketball games vs. Blue Ridge. The game will be dedicated to former Highlands graduate Cali Smolarsky and her fight against breast cancer. Everyone is encouraged to attend and honor Cali by wearing pink or the “It Takes a Village” T-shirt. Also, the senior basketball players and cheerleaders will be honored and recognized between the varsity girls and varsity boys games. The girls game starts at 6 p.m.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

Macon County meth dealer sentenced to 70+ years in prison

At the conclusion of a five-day jury trial that began last week in Macon County Superior Court Brodie Hamilton, 31, of Franklin, was convicted of Trafficking in Methamphetamine by Possession, Trafficking in Methamphetamine by Transportation, and Conspiracy to Traffic in Methamphetamine. He was sentenced Friday to a maximum of 70 1/2 years in prison, and he will serve at least 56 years before he is eligible for release.

The case was tried by District Attorney Ashley Welch and Assistant District Attorney Eric Bellas. The Honorable Bill Coward was the presiding and sentencing judge.

The evidence presented by the District Attorney’s Office proved that Hamilton was a known methamphetamine dealer in Macon County for several years except for a period of time when he was in the Georgia prison system serving a sentence for Trafficking in Cocaine.

On June 19, 2015, Hamilton sent two young meth addicts to the Atlanta area to purchase over two pounds of crystal methamphetamine for him.

That evening as a result of an ongoing narcotics investigation, several MC Sheriff’s officers including Lieutenant Charles Moody, Detective Matthew Breedlove, First Sergeant Clay Bryson, Detective David Blanton and Deputy Josh Stewart, intercepted a vehicle in Macon County that contained over two pounds of crystal methamphetamine that was being delivered to Hamilton.

Hamilton was eventually ar-

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The Plateau’s Position

Preparing for the 2017-'18 budget

Mayor Pat Taylor

It is a quieter time of the year in Town Hall. It can be viewed as the lull before the storm of activity in planning a new budget. I was on a short vacation last week. I returned Monday to discover several staff and citizen meetings that I need to attend in the coming weeks. Most are related to budget priorities. Commissioners are engaged in similar sessions.

The town department heads are not taking it easy this month. On the contrary, they are devoting substantial amounts of their workdays to developing a list of priorities and needs for their respective areas. At the annual town retreat department heads will identify these major needs for inclusion in the new budget. Town commissioners will ask questions and engage in discussions with the staff. The retreat is primarily an information gathering process.

The town retreat will be held again in Coleman Hall at the Highlands Presbyterian Church. It is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, commencing at 9 am.

The Town Manager and department heads will use the commissioners’ feedback to develop and refine their proposed budgets for FYI 2017/18. The whole process will continue through a workshop series in April and May. The Town Manager will continue adjusting and tuning the budget. Workshops will be at the Highlands Conference Center with dates announced later. After a public hearing at the June town board meeting, a final budget will be adopted.

In the three years I have been involved in budget planning, I have dubbed the first draft the “dream draft” where about every valid need is listed. But, as commissioners review budget drafts, the question of what is a valid request versus what is an essential need will recur. By the last workshop the final draft will have been cut down to a workable budget. Some good projects will be postponed for another year. Essential needs, like the replacement of the failing Big Horn water tank, always take top priority.

Here are several assumptions that I’m making as we enter the budget planning process.

I see no property tax increase on the horizon, and no major increase in utility rates in this new budget. Electric costs are stable. Water/sewer rates had a small increase this past year, so they should remain stable. Sanitation rates were increased and commercial accounts adjusted at mid-year. The Town Board, as always, will decide priority.

•See MAYOR page 13

Forum

Never stop marching

Publisher Kim Lewicki

Last week’s letter-to-the-editor by Dr. Patti Wheeler entitled “Why women must continue to march” took guts. She should be admired for putting a face to the discrimination women continue to be subjected to in the workplace – even here in Highlands.

Is discrimination in the workplace as bad as it has been in the past? Probably not – thanks to those who have fought along the way – but it still exists.

Is every workplace guilty of it? I would say no, not if it is run by fair, forward-thinking men and women who believe men and women are equal.

The fact is, past, present or future discrimination against women was and is unjust as well as just plain stupid.

As Jim noted, the movie “Hidden Figures” showed what happened to the U.S. space program when the potential of its women – white and black – was ignored. The Russians beat us!

But just because something is “better than it used to be” doesn’t mean it’s OK or that it should be considered the status quo.

Until women are considered truly equal in the workplace, be paid what their male counterparts are paid, and be respected body and soul, they should continue to march, and hopefully be supported by the men in their lives to do so.

Though my mother was a stay-at-home mom, my parents, particularly my father, always said I could be anything I set my mind to. So, I embraced those possibilities; was the only one of four children to get a Bachelor degree and when I graduated I was raring and excited to join the workforce and make my mark.

I quickly learned how hard it was for women to be taken seriously in the workplace, especially if they were “easy on the eyes,” as people are apt to say.

Like every other working woman I know, old and young, I have suffered my share of abuse. As Patti said “If you haven't, you are most fortunate. That is not the way of the world....”

For me there have been countless subtle infractions, but three incidents were major to me.

Back in the late ‘70s, Jim and I graduated from the University of Houston and so made our home there.

My third job after graduating from college was as production manager for a news magazine.

I was ecstatic! Here I could put all my journalistic skills to work – everything I’d learned in school and gleaned along the way in previous jobs. It was a huge responsibility that required long hours and interaction with every department – news, advertising and production. But I was OK with that and Jim backed me every step of the way.

One day the Advertising Director visited me in my office where I was working at the layout table on that week’s issue. We discussed potential advertisers, features that.

•See FORUM page 6

Weekend Weather

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For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather.
Dr. Jonathan Richard Williams

Dr. Jonathan Richard Williams, son of Dr. J. Richard Williams and AnnieLaurie Beckham Williams, died January 23, 2017. He was born in Selma, AL, Sept. 8th 1939.

He was graduated from Albert Par- rish High School and Princeton University. He received His MD and Masters in Biochemistry and Thesis of the Year Award from Tulane Medical School. After medical school, he did his internship and First Year residency at The University of Missouri Medical Center.

In 1967 he entered the US Public Health Service and spent two years at Na- tional Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD doing cancer research on chemical car- cinogens.

From 1969 to 1971 he served at Massachusetts General Hospital, first as a Senior Resident in Internal Medicine, and then as a fel- low in Medical Oncology.

For the next 15 years he practiced Internal Medi- cine and Medical Oncology at Baylor Medical Center, Dallas,TX, as Senior Partner, Texas On- cology. In 1985 he started working for Vitas Health Care (Hospice) as their Medical Director and then National Medical Director, which required lots of travel to many cities. In 1990 he left the practice of medicine and devoted his time to admin- istration in Miami, FL.

He published many ar- ticles and wrote the book “The Surviving Spouse.” He ended his career in 2004 as Chief Medical Officer and Vice Chairman of Vitas. Vitas created the Foundation for the End of Life Care and he served as Chairman and President. They helped with the founding of Duke University In- stitute on the Care at the end of Life em- phasizing the importance of spiritual care at the end of life.

He married the love of his life, Lois Maccubbin Williams on March 11th 1961.


Following retirement, they moved to his much loved Glenville NC, where he enjoyed the beautiful mountains, lake and fishing. He was mostly a volunteer at The Church of the Good Shepherd, where he served on the vestry, senior warden, lecturer, teacher, outreach chair, and even the bazaar.

A funeral service was held Monday, January 30, 2017 at 11am at The Church of the Good Shepherd, in Cashiers, NC.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Endowment Fund Cashiers, NC or to the Four Seasons Hos- pine, Hendersonville, NC.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home is serv- ing the Williams family. Online condo- lences may be made at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

John Bush Catlett

John Bush Catlett, 78, passed away peacefully in his sleep at Eckerd Living Center in Highlands, North Carolina, Saturday evening, January 28, 2017.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, John relocated to Highlands in 1999, to live with his sister and brother-in-law Sara and Jack Mayer. He is predeceased by his parents Van and Paula- line Catlett and his brother Stephen Catlett. His sur- vivors include his nieces Betsy Riser, Carrie Mayer, Jenny Catlett and his nephews Ross Catlett, John Chris- topher Catlett, and Paul Catlett and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

In Louisville, John attended First Alli- ance Church, enjoyed bowling, and retired from the Sheltered Workshop where he worked for many years.

In Highlands, John loved his church family at Highlands United Methodist Church where he was an active member, and he volunteered at The Food Pantry and The Bookworm. He enjoyed his regular exer- cise at Health Tracks and his daily walks in Webbmont, but the highlight of each year was attending his beloved Camp Grace, a camp for spe- cial needs adults.

A memorial service and celebration of God’s grace in John’s life will be held at Highlands United Methodist Church at 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 7, with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, do- nations may be made to Highlands United Methodist Church, specifically for Camp Grace.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Cre- matory is serving the Catlett family. Online condo- lences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Letter

Go my sisters, Go!

Dear Editor,

I want to applaud Dr. Patti Wheeler for writing the letter in last week’s paper, exposing the discrimination she experienced as an affluent, white, educated woman. I can only imagine what it must be like for women of lesser means in our country and around the world.

No one in our society—man or woman—is entirely free of sexism, though we have come a great distance in the last 100 years. Just as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 didn’t end racism, the progress made by women in the last century has not brought an end to sexism. Centuries of conditioning are difficult to overcome.

Even more insidious than overt sexism is internalized sexism, the way we as women sometimes view ourselves due to attitudes we learned early in life. As a woman, as well as
rested hiding under a bed after law enforcement searched for him for approximately two months. Hamilton was found guilty of all charges.

“This conviction keeps a dangerous methamphetamine dealer off the streets for essentially the rest of his life and sends a strong message to the community that the District Attorney’s Office places the highest priority on protecting our community from the plague and poison that is methamphetamine,” said District Attorney Ashley Welch. “I commend all of the dedicated professionals in law enforcement who partner with the District Attorney’s Office to make our communities a safer place to live and the MC Sheriff’s Office for a job well done. Methamphetamine ruins lives and Brodie Hamilton is responsible for ruining countless lives in our community. This sentence ensures that he will not be able to distribute this poison into our community again.”

Sheriff Robert Holland commended the work of the MC Sheriff’s Office and the DA and said the conviction is a message that these crimes have no place in Macon County.

“Brodie Hamilton is a 31 year-old man, not a child,” said Sheriff Holland. “He had multiple convictions for drugs and other crimes throughout the years and has never shown one ounce of remorse or effort to change his life. Our case was proven in a court of law that he was a drug dealer, a drug dealer that arranged multiple pounds of methamphetamine to come from Atlanta to Macon, Jackson and Swain counties. A unanimous guilty verdict was handed down by a jury of his peers. He deserves every minute of every day he was given.”
The Greenway helps to beautify The Bascom campus

The Bascom and the Highlands Plateau Greenway have partnered in an effort to enhance and beautify part of the Greenway trail that is situated on a portion of The Bascom’s 6-acre campus.

The Bascom Art Center is located on the historic Crane property at Oak Street and Franklin Road in Highlands. In addition to rustic barns that house art galleries and studios, the campus features the rolling green of the Winkler Sculpture and Nature Trail, a segment of the Highlands Plateau Greenway.

The Bascom and the Highlands Plateau Greenway have worked collaboratively in the past to improve the trail. Improvement projects include:

Rotating installation of sculptures along the pathway
Construction and installation of the outdoor classroom amphitheaters, the Susie Day Pavilion by the creek, the Will Henry Stevens Covered Bridge, and a salvaged corn crib
An outdoor sculpture biennial exhibition

The publication of The Bascom Nature Trail Guide, by naturalist Mark Warren, which investigates indigenous plants through the lens of Cherokee tradition

A recent trail extension undertaken by teenage volunteers from the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, connecting to the rear entrance of The Bascom with winding steps and a handrail.

The next undertaking for this part of the Greenway is the construction of two benches and one arching trailhead behind The Bascom’s main building, near Oak Lane. The project will be carried out by artist, fabricator, and furniture maker, Eric Araujo.

He is owner and principal Fabricator at Maven Designs, LLC, and an Installation Specialist for the Museum of Modern Art and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

Araujo will begin a three month Sculpture Fellowship at The Bascom in March. During his fellowship, he will construct three sculptural and functional additions to the Greenway trail, and teach school children and adults, visit classrooms, provide public lectures, and visit Western Carolina University art studios to educate in the name of community outreach.

The Highlands Plateau Greenway and The Bascom are seeking community support to underwrite the cost of this collaborative effort. Contributions made are eligible for naming and/or dedication opportunities and are tax deductible. To learn more about The Bascom Sculpture Fellowship, or to become involved, please contact Director of Community Outreach, Will Barclift at 828-787-2897.

The Highlands Plateau Greenway and The Bascom are seeking community support to underwrite the cost of this collaborative effort. Contributions made are eligible for naming and/or dedication opportunities and are tax deductible.
would entice advertisers, ideas for subsequent issues and so on.

As the conversation wrapped up, I turned back to my work at which point he grabbed my butt.

If this has never happened to you, let me explain how it feels. Basically, you have been violated. No not raped, no it wasn’t skin on skin – but it may as well have been. It seared me in more ways than one.

It quickly became clear that the professional conversation I thought we were having – equal to equal – was really just a way to be alone with me until there was an opening to touch me. That hurt.

He didn’t stick around for a retort or a reaction.

I was shocked – with thoughts instantly racing through my mind.

Should I report him? If I do, would it be my word against his? Would anyone care? Would I lose my job? Should I tell Jim? If I do, what would happen next? If he kicked his butt – which I was pretty sure he would do – I would lose my job and also probably have to come up with bail money to get him out of jail after he was arrested for assault and pay attorney fees after that.

Don’t laugh. These really are the things that go through a working woman’s mind when she is the victim of inappropriate behavior.

The next time that comes to mind was the mid-’80s. I had re-entered the corporate world when we were living in Charleston, SC. Megan had just turned one; Rachel was a month shy of turning three. It was time for two, full-time, steady paychecks.

Jim was a teacher at Burke High School on the Charleston peninsula – not far from the house – and I was a technical writer for a software company across the Cooper River in Mt. Pleasant. Jim had to be at work before me, so I would get myself and the girls ready and then head to Mt. Pleasant where I would drop them at child care and then go to the office. Mornings were always rushed and hectic.

One morning as I was making my way through the parking lot to the front door of the office, I found myself walking next to the founder and owner of the company.

We exchanged pleasantries and I remarked at how crazy life could be and made some joke about getting to work and dealing with the girls.

Without missing a step, he said “Well, you shouldn’t be here anyway … you should be home raising your children.”

I was flabbergasted.

More than half his workforce were women and many of them had children. Was that what he thought of us even though he required college degrees and experience prior to working for him?

Or was he speaking only to me?

I quickly checked my shoes and my dress. Thankfully, this day both shoes were the same color and my dress wasn’t on inside out. And yes, once I did go to work with one black shoe and one navy blue shoe on, and yes, once I did have my dropped-waist, T-shirt style dress – that was all the rage back then – on inside out.

As I said, life was hectic.

This place of employment was where I was also told that the male technical writer in our group, who did not have a bachelor degree, BTW, nor more experience writing, made more money than I did because he had a family to support.

Say what? Wasn’t I working to support my family? How did that compute?

And finally, like Patti, that brings me to Highlands.

As you all know I worked for The Highlander newspaper for five years before Jim and I started Highlands Newspaper. But you may not know why we did.

At one point, while News Editor, I was asked to hold down the fort – while CNI, the Athens, GA-based parent company of the paper – sought a new publisher for The Highlander. This I did, while also applying for the job myself. Though I was passed over, I stayed. Two years later I was asked to once again hold down the fort during the search for the next publisher; a position I again applied for.

Then, one day the new publisher was announced. I was insulted. I was ushered into a side office and gently told I wasn’t “publisher material.” Furthermore, if I wanted to stay with the company I would have to accept a job as a reporter for The Franklin Press, another paper in CNI’s stable.

And the rest is history.

I walked out the door with my box of possessions, went to Jim’s office where he worked for Country Club Properties, and together we decided it was time to birth Highlands Newspaper, which we did July 2003.

I don’t begrudge CNI’s move against me – actually, it was a push in the right direction and Jim and I have never looked back.

All this points to the fact that for various reasons women do not get a fair shake in the workplace. The abuse or discrimination may be so subtle it’s easy to ignore, sweep under the rug or turn a blind eye to.

But don’t. Too many women have struggled throughout the years for the right to an education, the right to vote, the right...
Memories of the Big Top

Can it be? When I read the article announcing the demise of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, all kinds of memories came to mind. Yes, yes, I’ve heard the stories about the mistreatment of the elephants, but as children, we didn’t know that. I still shed a tear over the scene in Disney’s Dumbo when the mother is chained up because the circus thought she was violent, but that never stopped me from enjoying the circus.

My first recollection of going to the circus is the time my aunt took my younger sister and me to Madison Square Garden. I recall the sensory overload of the sounds and smells and seeing a man on stilts up close and personal. I came home with one of those little flashlights, which I promptly used to read beneath the covers at night.

Does anyone else remember the children’s book, Toby Tyler? It told the story of a young boy running away to join the circus and was not only a chapter book but also a Golden book. I remember the book and the 1960 Disney movie. Both were classics. According to Wikipedia, it influenced a generation of young boys who grew up dreaming of joining the circus.

A young Carl Sandburg thought Toby Tyler one of his favorite books (even better than Adventures of Huckleberry Finn). Harlan Ellison credits it as influencing his decision to run off with the circus.

My husband says he never did get to run away to the circus, and now he never will. I liken this to his continued yearning for a pony, which he keeps alive even today by watching Westerns. I’m sure he fueled his childhood circus fantasy by watching the circus movies we all remember.

The Greatest Show on Earth, the 1952 academy award winner with Charlton Heston, was not only a chapter book but also a Golden book. Both were classics. According to Wikipedia, it influenced a generation of young boys who grew up dreaming of joining the circus.

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...FORUM continued from page 6

to work, the right to be the queen of their bodies, the right to aspire and attain their dreams.

To ignore even the smallest infraction negates all that has gotten women this far today.

Like Patti said, “A lot of women struggle day after day and year after year,” and

they will continue to do so as long as there are men and women who let injustice continue.

So, yes, women, you must continue to march especially since there are still men and women who don’t get it and don’t believe you have to.
...INK PENN continued from page 7

...INMATE continued from page 1

on, Jimmy Stewart, and Betty Hutton is one I recall seeing over and over with my parents. Instead of football, I remember lounging around on Saturday and Sunday afternoons watching classic movies. Though I couldn't readily call the title to mind, I immediately pictured Burt Lancaster in Trapeze starring beside Tony Curtis and Gina Lollobrigida.

And then there was the 1962 musical Jumbo, a standout for me because I saw it at Radio City Music Hall. It wasn't a huge hit back then, though it starred Jimmy Durante, Doris Day, Stephen Boyd, Martha Raye and, of course, Jumbo the elephant. I can still hear “The Most Beautiful Girl in the World” sung by Stephen Boyd.

I wonder whether the 2007 book Water for Elephants was such a huge bestseller not only because it’s well written but also because the story takes place in a circus.

Oh well, the Big Top will soon be gone, and future generations will no longer dream of “running away to the circus.” How will this sentence end in years to come? I want to run away to …

• Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs resident now happily retired from a corporate career in communications. Find this column and others in her book, “The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday,” available locally at The Molly Grace or on Kathy’s website at www.theinkpenn.com. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com.

...INK PENN continued from page 7

the budget, but then we’d get an inmate who needed cancer treatments or something like that and they would nearly take up the entire budget themselves.”

By state statute, medication distribution policies are generally left up to the county facility and county sheriff. The North Carolina Department of Public Safety does outline how inmates should receive medications in an outpatient setting – basically observing...
**BREAKFAST**

Full breakfast made to order every morning until 11:00 am
Cage-free eggs, waffles, French toast, sausage, ham, homemade biscuits, muffins, croissants. Espresso bar and coffee roasted in-house.

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*See our website for more info.*

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Every day from 11:00am - close
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*See our website for more info.*

*Soup & Salad Bar*
Mon-Sat 11:00am - close
Fresh salads, homemade dressings, soups, chili and more. $9.99 each (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

*Weekday Lunch Special*
Monday – Friday 11am to 2pm
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Every Sunday from 11am – 3pm
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$11.99 (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

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A different full dinner every night. Serves four serving Monday through Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out – Call ahead to reserve.

*Mondays:* choose either:
Four chicken and four cheese enchiladas, refried beans, monterey rice, homemade tortilla chips, salsa, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream.

Or...
24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken tenders and hand cut fries.
$21.95 serves four.

*Tuesdays:* Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad.
$21.95 serves four

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

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

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

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

*Weeknight Pizza Special:*
Available Monday - Thursday 4:30 to close 16” NY style pizza with up to 5 toppings. Comes with garlic bread & salad $21.95 or
Baked Linguini: Meatballs, tomato sauce & cheese. Comes with garlic bread and salad $21.95 or
Baked Penne Pasta: Italian sausage, onion, bacon and mushrooms in white sauce. Comes with garlic bread & salad $21.95

**WINE MARKET**

Browse our Wine Spectator award-winning selection of wines with the best pricing in town. Run by a friendly & knowledgeable staff. Beer & wine available by the glass while you dine & shop.

**BUTCHER**

We sell only 100% Premium Angus Beef, all hand-cut in house, with the best pricing around. See our butcher ad for this week's prices. Then stop by the take-out case to complete your dinner with twice baked potatoes, salads and more!

**SPECIALTY CHEESES**

Dozens of cheeses, tapenades, olives and specialty items to choose from including our made-in-house crackers.

**BAKERY**

Fresh loaves, baguettes, pastries, pies, layer and specialty cakes. Everything made from scratch.
Happily Chinese New Year! A short story is in order to advise all party-givers to line up their caterer before sending out invitations. I invited eight of our neighbors over to celebrate the Chinese New Year this past Saturday.

After everyone responded positively, I called the local Asian restaurant to cater the dinner. I was told that they would all be in New York appropriately celebrating their New Year in a big way. Thus, I had to try to find a caterer (everyone is gone for the winter).

However, we rented a van and had a driver take our group to the newly remodeled Library restaurant in Cashiers. The ambiance, the service and the food were excellent and a great time was had by all. You must check it out!

Speaking of all, “all” signs point to 2017, the year of “The Rooster” as being a strong one for sales on The Plateau.

The National Association of Realtors dubbed the last few months of 2016 the “autumn revival.” This revival occurred here in the mountains as well with the sales volume up over 25% for the year. Thus, going into this season, Sellers are going to feel less pressure to lower their price in order to sell. The following factors indicate that Buyers would be smart to make offers this winter instead of waiting until Spring:

- Cold weather keeps competition at bay.
- Interest rates are predicted to rise to 5%.
- Demand is rising.
- Good inventory is diminishing.
- Credit availability will increase under President Trump pushing for deregulations which will lead to more people being able to afford a second home.
- Prices will continue to rise as the market continues to prosper.

Many homes are off the MLS for the winter to start “Days on Market” over in the Spring. Thus, it is important to work with a local broker to learn what inventory is available that you as a Buyer may not see as active.

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highlandssir.com

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present Live via Satellite from Moscow the Bolshoi Ballet's encore performance of Swan Lake, on Sunday, February 5 at 12:55pm. At moonlight, on the banks of a mysterious lake, Prince Siegfried meets the bewitched swan-woman Odette. Completely spellbound by her beauty, he swears his faithfulness to her. However, the prince realizes too late that fate has another plan for him. A ballet of ultimate beauty and a score of unparalleled perfection. Don't miss this classic ballet. Tickets are available online at highlandsballet.com, at the door or by calling the Performing Arts Center 828.526.9047

Next up: The National Theatre of London: Amadeus, Saturday, Feb. 11 @ 1pm

Highlands Workshop on Non-Native Invasive Species and their Control for Landscape and Nursery Professionals

Thursday, Feb. 23 from 8:30am-2pm at the Highlands Community Building, 869 N. 4th St. in Highlands. This workshop has been approved for:

- 3.5 Pesticide Applicator CEUs (G H I L N O D X)
- 3.5 CFE credits (Category 1) through the Society of American Foresters
- 3.0 credits through the NC Landscape Contractor's Licensing Board
- International Society of Arboriculture credits include:
  - 3.5 credits towards Certified Arborist and Municipal Specialist licensing
  - 1.0 credits for Bs; 2.5 credits for Bm

To learn more about non-native invasive plant species and how to control them, attend the workshop. Call (828) 526-2602 for more information and to register.
Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

The greatest truth of Scripture is that salvation comes to all who will hear and believe the gospel through Jesus Christ alone. Salvation lies in Christ Jesus completely, only, and alone. To save a soul from the guilt and power of sin, Jesus alone is sufficient. His name is Jesus because "He shall save his people from their sins." "The Son of man has authority to forgive sins," God from the very beginning of this world had planned a way to save men from their sins through his only begotten Son. Our Lord Jesus Christ came into this world taking on the flesh and blood of mankind, living his life under the law, becoming obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Ask yourself, why would the Son of God come into this world and suffer all he suffered, if it were possible for man to save himself? This salvation was won for God's people by the infinite grace of Jesus Christ as he sacrificed himself through infinite love submitting to death for your sake.

It is only the wicked imaginations of men that say there is any other way for men to find a relationship with God than through Jesus Christ. The Scripture sets forth only this one way of salvation. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

What about those who believe you are saved by Jesus plus something else, like your church, works, or rituals? It is sinful to teach that the Lord Jesus has only half saved a sinner. To say men need some work or feeling of their own for the work of salvation to be completed is heretical. What do you have, that God would receive to make you righteous. Isaiah says "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags." To think you do not have something that makes you equal to God is just plain wickedness. To believe you can please God with any action plus something else, like your church, works, or rituals? It is impossible. Salvation lies in Christ Jesus completely, only, to all who will hear and believe the gospel through Jesus Christ.

John 3:16

**Jesus Only**

**By Sam Forrester**

**Whiteside Presbyterian Church**

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**Proverbs 3:5 — Places to Worship 1 John 3:16**

**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**
Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Communion

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
Sun.: 9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship w/ Music
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

**CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS**
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470
Sun. 10:45am, SS 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am, Girls 10am.

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.
Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
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.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**
The Rev. Dr. Maurice L. Goldsmith, Interim Rector
526-2968
Sundays: Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am,
Holy Eucharist Rite II (sanctuary), 10:30, nursery available
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist Rite II.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS**
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;
Choir 5 pm

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors
526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30 a.m.
Mondays: 8 a.m.; Men’s Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30 p.m.

**GOLDFINE BAPTIST CHURCH**
(Off Franklin/Higlands Rd)
Sunday School: 10 a.m., Worship Service: 11 a.m.

**GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS**
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242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

**HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**
Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729
Pastor Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

**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.
Wednesdays: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376
Sun.: School 9:45a; Worship 9:09, 10:50; Youth 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7 (nursery provided ); 7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA**
Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;
Worship/Communion: 10:30

**HEALING SERVICE**
on the 5th Sunday of the month.

**Macedonia Baptist Church**
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.; Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**
at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-524-9463

**Mountain Bible Church**
743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun.: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,
4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Wed: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418
Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4 p.m.

**Scaly Mountain Baptist Church**
Rev. Marty Kilby
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.; 7 p.m.

**Scaly Mountain Church of God**
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 526-3212
Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

**Shortoff Baptist Church**
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study; 6 p.m.

**THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**
1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359
Rev. Rob Wood
Oct.-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30
June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a
Nursery available for Rite II services
Sept 6-Oct 25-Informal Evening Eucharist-5:30 p.m.
Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

**LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WILLOUGH**
Beginning Memorial Day weekend
Horse Cove - Kay Ward 743-5009
Old-Fashion hymn-sing Sunday 7-8 p.m.

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

**Whiteside Presbyterian Church**
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School: 10 a.m., Worship Service: 11 a.m.
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He said there is a doctor available at all times yet some people who come to jail or their families complain that they or their loved ones aren’t getting their medicine.

“Many times the complaint is from a family member who has talked to their family member who is incarcerated who is claiming they haven’t talked to, seen, or heard from anyone in our facility about their medical issues. Typically, we find they have been dishonest with their family hoping they will come bond them out — pulling at their heart strings,” said Holland. “So like most parents, they call me upset and demanding we take care of their child. When I have received those calls, I immediately contact the jail and 100% of the time I have found the information related by the inmate was misconstrued.”

On January 27, Macon County was responsible for 79 inmates which included 55 males, 24 females. Of those 79, 60 inmates were being housed at the detention center. Two inmates were deemed to be in safe keeping, once was at Broughton Hospital, and 16 were in other county jails.

Out of the 60 inmates being housed at the Macon County Detention Center, 25 inmates were on medication that the jail staff was directly responsible for administering daily. Of the 19 inmates that were being housed outside of the county detention center, 12 received medications.

Holland said medical issues are a priority in the jail and for the Sheriff's Office as a whole.

“Everyone knows medicine is a huge liability. We are not doctors and we refuse to pretend we are. We let our jail doctor or in some cases the ER Physician make those calls. We follow their orders to the absolute letter. Many times, inmates and their family want us to do otherwise, in fact demand it, but we refuse.”

The medications being administered to inmates in the care of the Macon County Detention Center system are purchased locally at U-Save It Pharmacy and are funded directly out of the Sheriff’s Office budget. In some cases, the county can be reimbursed for some of the medical expenses by the inmates when they pay restitution for the incarceration. The county can also charge an inmate $10 per 30-day supply of medication.

Recently, the county approved a contract with Correctional Risk Services, Inc. to provide inmates with temporary medical insurance once they become incarcerated. According to Sheriff Holland, while the inmate’s medical insurance helps bring some certainty to the county’s medical line item in terms of medical care and hospital visits, the insurance does little to help with purchasing medications, as the insurance doesn’t cover that expense.

An example of the cost savings the contract with Correctional Risk Services has brought the county is evident through the decrease in claims from Angel Medical Center.

The claim payment data for the 2015 calendar year for the detention center shows billed charges of $188,662. Because of the contract, the county ended up paying $72,231. The claim payment data for the 2016 calendar year shows billed charges of $178,053. Macon County paid $65,712.

In Jackson and Haywood counties, medication distribution is taken away from the detention center staff and is handled by a third-party nursing service.

“Jackson County Detention Center utilizes a contract nursing service, currently named Southeastern Correctional Medical Group,” said Jackson County Major Shannon Queen. “They have an on-site nurse in the facility 56 hours a week spread over all seven days of the week. The nurse distributes the medicines as prescribed by a physician. As with most medications, the time of day the dosages are administered can vary drastically inmate to inmate.”

On average, Jackson County houses about 55 inmates per day, with about 25 of that 55 receiving medications daily.

a counselor, I have witnessed some symptoms of this, including devaluing our own work, whether it is housework, clerical work, child care or scientific work; settling for less than we want; acting competitive with each other or criticizing each other; forgetting how strong we are, how brave we are, how intelligent, capable, hardworking and faithful we are. We also deny the fact that sexism is real, having been told it is all in our heads. One way to counter these symptoms is to take action in the world on issues of importance, as the participants in the Women's March did.

I'm sure that the women marching, not only in our own country, but all over the globe, had their own differing personal reasons for doing so. I heard reasons like education, health care, equal pay for equal work, clean air, clean water, our national parks, and for children protected by the DREAM act. Though some marched against what they see as unfair treatment, the marchers I know joined together in favor of equal rights for themselves and all other groups of people who experience oppression in our world. Women are natural allies, not only for our gender, but for people everywhere who want to be able to use their God-given talents and abilities to contribute to a kinder, more enlightened world. When one group begins to shed its oppression, it allows the rest of society to become freer as well. Truly, we are all in this journey together.

Last weekend it was the Women's March. This past weekend it was the March for Life. I honor all of you for standing up for what you believe in and letting your voices be heard. I am so grateful to live in a country where this is a hallmark of our democracy.

So, go, my sisters, go. I’m sure you know that “women’s work is never done.” Never settle for anything less than absolutely everything right for women, and for all people everywhere, whatever that personally means to you. Express yourselves in peaceful ways and help create a better world. I’m with you.
Police & Fire Reports

ITEMS FOR SALE
MAYTAG GAS DRYER, $100. Office furniture by Cashiers Custom Furniture. 2 desks, bookcase, file cabinet. Call 828-226-2083. (st. 7/28)

KOBALT DIAMOND SHIELD REGULAR TRUCK BED TOOLBOX. Deep low profile full size. 17”x69”x19” fits most full size trucks OBO. Call Frank in Scaly Mountain 828-526-1953. (st. 5/11)

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OFFICE ASSISTANT: Seeking office assistant for small, friendly Cashiers office. Ideal candidate will have prior office experience and proficiency in Microsoft functions including Word, Excel, Outlook, excellent organizational and communication skills and attention to detail and accuracy, professional phone manner and personal presentation and friendly demeanor. Benefits include health insurance. Email resume, including references, to peter@peterapaul.com or call 828-743-5200. (st. 1/26)

TELL YOUR FRIENDS “I WORK THERE!” That’s right, you too can work at The Ugly Dog Pub in Highlands and Cashiers. Running a pub takes all sorts of people. People who are excited about food, wine, beer, and cocktails. People who are excited about working in a kitchen (because you want to own your own restaurant one day). People who enjoy excellent service to customers, whether it’s delivering food to tables, cleaning up, taking orders, or mixing great cocktails. You might have a lot of experience or you might just be looking for new opportunities (that’s why you’re reading this, right?). Either way, at The Ugly Dog Pub we value people for their unique personalities and qualities, not just for their prior experience. If this agrees with you give us shout, send us an email, or stop by and see us. theuglydogstaff@gmail.com 828-526-8364 If you don’t know where we’re located then look us up! www.theuglydogpub.com (st. 1/16)

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

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY IS HIRING FOR FULL-TIME positions in the Deli. Please come in person to 521 East Main Street in Highlands to apply, or call 828-526-2400.

PIANIST WANTED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH, HIGHLANDS. One service per week, easy liturgy and 3 hymns, piano only. No choir, no extra rehearsals. (keyboard available). $85 per week. Please contact Pastor Margaret Howell at 704-516-7893. Students welcome! (st. 12/1)

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

BROKES记者采访

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

Jan. 22
• At 1:35 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.

Jan. 23
• At 4:09 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106.

Jan. 25
• At noon, officers responded to a call of damage to a screen door at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

Jan. 27
• At 2:10 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Wilson Road.

Jan. 28
• At 5:05 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Jan. 23.

Jan. 23
• The dept. responded to a fuel spill at Buck Creek Road and Cheney Lane.

Jan. 24
• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident at US 64 east and Hospital Drive.

Jan. 26
• The dept. responded to a fire alarm on Hospital Drive.

Jan. 28
• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Foreman Road.

The information will be combined with input provided by the local fire departments and merged into a comprehensive study of the fire system to be presented to the Macon County Board of Commissioners in late spring or early summer.

“Feedback from citizens is very helpful to us and any assistance is greatly appreciated,” said Cabe.

...SURVEY continued from page 1

survey is available on the Macon County webpage at www.maconnc.org.

Copies of the survey may also be obtained from the Macon County Emergency Services office located at 104 East Main Street in Franklin. Information will be collected until 5 p.m. February 17.

The information will be combined with input provided by the local fire departments and merged into a comprehensive study of the fire system to be presented to the Macon County Board of Commissioners in late spring or early summer.

“Feedback from citizens is very helpful to us and any assistance is greatly appreciated,” said Cabe.
BROKERS:
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Sherman Pope
828-342-4277
Cy Timmons
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