The offices at Highlands School will have a new face this fall, as long time Assistant Principal Jim Draheim will be retiring from his post.

“Jim is a consummate professional. His steady hand, and the consistency we have had for 10 years has proven to be a real positive for teachers, parents, and students,” said Highlands Principal Brain Jetter. “I’ll miss his experience, thoroughness, and outgoing personality. He has built strong relationships with students, parents, and faculty.”

Draheim began his tenure in Macon County in August 2007 and has served the students of Highlands for the last 10 years, but has more than 40 years in public education.

“Mr. Draheim truly cared about the students and the school as a whole,” said Macon County Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. “His drive to ensure the success of

BCBSNC to become out-of-network provider for Mission Health system

Unless an agreement is reached, BCBSNC in-network services will cease by Oct. 5, 2017

As if Washington's inability to put politics aside for the sake of the health of the citizens of the United States weren't enough, now providers and health care systems in Western North Carolina are at odds.

Last week Mission Healthcare and Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC (BCBSNC) each announced that their relationship will likely come to an end Oct. 5.

With Mission the main healthcare provider in Western North Carolina including in Highlands and Franklin, and with BCBSNC the only option for those enrolled in the Affordable Care Act, that is devastating news.

Last month Mission announced the closing of its OBGYN facilities in Franklin which means a trip to Asheville for such care or to Harris Regional in Sylva.

Now due to both entities’ inability to come to terms, BCBSNC customers must find other in-network providers in the area for everything.

BCBSNC suggests people seek in-network care under the LifePoint umbrella at Harris Regional in Sylva or Clyde in Jackson and Haywood counties, respectively.

In-network is a plus, but it means a long drive for everything from primary care to surgery, which is definitely a downside.

However, according to both Mission and BCBSNC, policy holders can still use their insurance for care at facilities under the Mission umbrella, it's just that such care will be considered out-of-network, which means services will cost more.

Wildfire arson gets five years

Fire damage repaired at Whitewater Falls

A Macon County man was sentenced to five years in prison for setting two wildfires this fall that resulted in burning 16 acres.

Though those 16 acres dims compared to the dozens of wildfires that burned thousands of acres across Western North Carolina, Keith Mann, 50, was sentenced last week for admitting to setting two of them on federal land in Macon County.

On Monday, December 5, Keith Eugene Mann appeared in federal court for a detention hearing after being charged with one count of destroying real property of the United States by means of fire. The charge carries a mandatory minimum penalty of five years in prison and a maximum of 20 years in prison.

Mann was sentenced by U.S.
I am a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Last Sunday I took my “little brother” fishing on Lake Sequoyah. I inherited a fishing boat, a jon boat from my late father-in-law, Buck Trott. He would have been pleased to see his boat being used to help mentor a young person through a community nonprofit organization. Buck also loved fishing, especially at Cliffside.

When I pulled up to the boat ramp near the Sequoyah Dam, no one was there. But, as soon as we were ready to launch the boat, two other fishermen pulled in with their boat. Both our boats were outfitted with electric trolling motors that allowed quiet cruising around the lake in pursuit of those big bass, bream, crappie and trout. Two years ago after completing the dam repair and new water intake system, the town restocked the lake with the species mentioned above. The boat ramp access was also improved. The Town Board and I wanted to make the lake facilities better than before construction began. As a fisherman, I also wanted to make sure we had a thriving fish population. Healthy fish in a reservoir lake is to me analogous with the proverbial canary in the coal mine. As a resort community, facilities like Lake Sequoyah are value-added amenities to both our residents and visitors.

As we rode around the lake catching our share of fish, I noticed a lot of folks on the water. One young woman was paddle boarding across the lake. A pontoon boat with several couples was making a smooth lake cruise. I saw several kayaks and canoes.

As we were passing by a canoe on the way back to the boat ramp with the string of fish in tow, a man asked if I knew whether the lake had been restocked after it had been drained a while back. I identified myself as the mayor and assured him the lake had been restocked and that fishing was great. We all laughed.

As we approached the boat ramp, I saw that it was crowded. There was a canoe docked on the shore and an inflatable raft nearby. Several parents and children were on the shore and rocks with lines were in the water. It was good to see families playing and fishing together. What a wonderful way to spend a lazy Sunday afternoon in Highlands.

As for my little brother, he made statements that make me think he is a fisherman for life. Even with a nice string of fish, he lamented we could have caught more. He caught several small bass which I told him we needed to release so they could grow larger. He wants to catch the big bass that he knows must be in the lake. He asked me when we were coming back to fish again. I replied soon.

Hope to see you at the lake, on the greenway or at the park. There are so many outdoor activities to do this summer.
Highlands School will be difficult to replace. We certainly wish him the best in retirement.”

During the June meeting of the Macon County Board of Education, board members voted on Draheim’s replacement, hiring Stacey Overlin, whose first day on the job will be Monday, July 17.

“A graduate of Annapolis, Overlin played football there and is a four-year Navy veteran. Overlin’s career in education started in the classroom where he served as a high school science teacher and football coach. Overlin also has administration experience, serving as a past assistant principal and most recently, a principal at Paducah Middle School in Kentucky.

According to Jetter, Overlin was “by far the most experienced” of the candidates he interviewed. “He got rave reviews from his superintendent, his asst. superintendent, and his asst. principal,” said Jetter. “He is very personable, outgoing, articulate, intelligent, and experienced. While he’ll be a new, and his own dynamic in the school, I think in many ways he’ll be much like Mr. Draheim.”

Stacey Overlin announced his resignation as Paducah Middle School principal last month, with his last day there being June 30.

Before resigning from his post in Kentucky, Overlin was the target of an investigation conducted by the Kentucky Office of Education Accountability (OEA) which called into question Overlin’s hiring practices, non-approved curriculum changes, meeting schedule practices and a lack of documented meeting minutes.

According to the investigation, Overlin was criticized for failing to comply with state statutes and the school’s council bylaws. The investigation included interviews with Overlin, the school’s principal for four years, as well as members of the middle school council.

“The investigation finds that Principal Overlin has impeded the implementation of SBDM (school-based decision making) at Paducah Middle School by failing to comply with KRS 160.345 and by failing to abide by the Paducah Middle School Council policies and bylaws,” the report states.

Overlin said he reviewed the findings in the report and agrees that the SBDM processes need to be improved.

“This just was not included in our meeting minutes.”

By all accounts Overlin cooperated fully with the OEA investigation and although the report identified areas for growth and areas that need to come into compliance the school saw significant academic growth.

“Those discussions definitely took place. I take full responsibility for that, and corrections are being made,” said Overlin.

Regarding hiring vacancies for the middle school, the report states that Overlin hired people without consulting with the council.

“Principal Overlin merely tells the council who has been hired for vacancies at the school,” the report explains saying this practice failed to follow KRS 160.345 (2) (f), which says the school council shall determine, within the parameters of the total available funds, the number of people to be employed in each job classification at the school.

In addition, KRS 160.345(2)(f) states that the council shall determine the curriculum of the school.

According to the report, Overlin added Spanish to the curriculum and informed the council after the fact. The report states that he also added French to the curriculum, and council members learned of it by word of mouth and not at a council meeting.

In addition, the minutes of council meetings throughout the 2014-’15 school year had “a striking lack of action taken by the council,” according to the report.

Despite the report’s findings, which were released a few weeks before Overlin resigned, Paducah Public School District is...
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  - Dinner:
    - Wed - Sat: 5:30p - Close.

**THIS WEEK’S FEATURES**

**APPETIZERS**
- Meat Cake Sampler
  - One each of Greek beef, Provencal pork and Turkish lamb in separate sauces with pepper confetti.
- Stuffed Potato Dumplings
  - Garlicky potato puffs filled with sausage Topped with gruyere and served with butter sauces.

**ENTREES**
- Smoked Pork Roast
  - Slow cooked and garnished with our peach-Vidalia onion chutney. Served with vegetable of the day.
- Savory Wild Mushroom & Apple Sautee
  - Presented on flat noodles Served with sauteed spinach or vegetable of the day.

**SOUP**
- Creme Saint-Germain
  - A light bisque of green peas, shallots, garlic and vegetable stock. We add a little Madeira wine to kick it up. Served with horseradish
  - Reservations appreciated but not required.

**Outside Dining • Now Open Sundays, too!**

| Kick up your heels and come join us!
| Reserve your table today! |
The exception is emergency room care at Mission Health facilities. It will still be considered in-network care as will care through BCBSNC’s Continuity of Care Program that deals with those who are currently pregnant or living with chronic illnesses. Even in-network, ER care costs more than through the in-network primary care physician.

BCBSNC officials say those individuals in the Continuity of Care Program “may qualify for in-network care and may be able to continue seeing their current doctors at Mission Health facilities or providers for a period of time without paying higher out-of-network fees.” Exactly how much time is unknown at this time.

What happened?

According to BCBSNC, the cancellation is happening because Mission Health has demanded rate increases that it can’t in good conscience ask its customers to pay.

“Blue Cross NC customers already pay more for care at Mission Health than at many other health systems in the state. High costs directly contribute to higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs for our customers, and continued, significant price hikes are not sustainable.

“Hospital costs for outpatient procedures and inpatient hospital stays account for nearly half of all medical costs for Blue Cross NC customers. Mission Health is among the most expensive facilities for common inpatient procedures such as deliveries, knee replacements and imaging procedures like chest x-rays and CT scans.

“When hospitals ask for increases in the fees we pay them, but that directly translates to higher insurance premiums for our customers. Rising medical costs are one of the most urgent issues facing North Carolina families.”

BCBSNC officials say recently 43 other hospitals across the state have agreed to work with them to slow down unsustainable cost increases under terms consistent with Blue Cross NC’s proposal to Mission, but Mission chose to dismiss the proposal.

Mission’s Side

According to Mission, contracts with health insurance companies like BCBSNC greatly impact a health system’s long-term financial and operational sustainability.

“This is the case even more so with BCBSNC, which is the state’s largest health plan with 72% market share leaving little room for error,” said Charles Ayscue, senior vice president and chief financial officer at Mission Health.

“Given the pending shift to Insurance-Company run Medicaid in North Carolina and the extraordinary Affordable Care Act repeal and replace discussions occurring in Washington, Mission Health must carefully evaluate its business relationship with BCBSNC to ensure the health system can continue providing affordable, high-quality care and remain financially viable for the long term,” said Ayscue.

Ayscue said BCBSNC’s latest proposal imposes effective payment rate reductions to its health system at a time when modest annual increases are more important than they have ever been.

“Even if we earn every dollar of pay for performance incentives offered by BCBSNC, we could at best get back to zero for three straight years. It’s simply impossible to keep up with rising medical supply, pharmaceutical, and other operating costs, let alone provide future wage increases to our fantastic team members without appropriate annual adjustments to our payment rates from BCBSNC in the coming years,” he said.

Mission Health served its notice of intent to terminate its contracts with BCBSNC if ongoing negotiations fail to reach an agreement by midnight Oct. 4, 2017. At that point, effective Oct. 5, 2017, Mission Health and its facilities and physicians will be out of BCBSNC’s network.

A dire scenario but one Mission defends.

“Mission Health is uniquely positioned as the region’s only safety net provider for all of western North Carolina. Our responsibilities go far beyond providing healthcare services to residents of this community, and we take that very seriously. A contract that puts Mission at risk, puts the entire community at risk,” said Ayscue.

He said the intent to terminate the contracts with BCBSNC should not be a barrier, but rather bring needed focus to discussions.

“The intent to terminate creates a deadline for resolution. At present, there is no incentive for BCBSNC to agree to adjust our payment rates because failure to do so would result in contract renewals with a perpetual zero percent increase. The notice of our intent to terminate is a routine course of business between an insurance company and a provider during negotiations.”

Ayscue said Mission Health has agreed in principle to most of BCBSNC’s terms except for payment rates.

“We have embraced BCBSNC’s performance-based measures that pay us for quality and improved outcomes. We are committed to pay-for-performance because it means improved quality and efficiencies for our patients,” Ayscue said. “However, it is also true that these arrangements must be built on a foundation of fair payment rates from BCBSNC and a recognition that Mission already outperforms most health systems nationwide. No other health system has ever been named a Top 15 Health System as we have between 2012-2017.”

Ayscue said Mission Health values it’s long-standing relationship with BCBSNC, and is committed to continuing good-faith negotiations to reach a new agreement.

Mission Health will keep the community updated regularly on how the negotiations are progressing and how in-network access to Mission Health services may be impacted in the future.

For now, all Mission Health hospitals, outpatient facilities and most physicians will be out of network beginning Oct. 5. Some Mission Health physicians within the health system will remain in network until March 2, 2018.

BCBSNC encourages its customers to contact Mission Health to confirm when their doctor will be leaving the Blue Cross NC network.

– Kim Lewicki
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  Presenter: Marie Sumner Lott

- **4-Minute Fitness**
  Tuesday, July 18  Time: 10:00-12:00
  Instructor: Penney Marshall-Parker

- **iOS For Intermediate Users**
  Tue./Thur. July 18 & 20  Time: 10:30-3:30
  Cost $135/$150  Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith

- **The Resurrection of Richard III**
  Wednesday, July 19  Time: 10:00-12:00
  Presenter: Joan Parsons Mitchell

- **Classical Interiors: Past and Present**
  Thursday, July 20  Time: 2:00-4:00
  Presenter: Elizabeth Meredith Dowling

- **College Football 2017: A Preview**
  Friday, July 21  Time: 10:00-12:00
  It’s KICK OFF time! Nationally known football reporter, Tony Barnhart will preview the upcoming college football season with special emphasis on SEC and ACC teams.

**A Passion for Sonoma: An Amazing Culinary and Wine Adventure**
Wednesday-Sunday, September 6-10
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**ARSON continued from page 1**

District Judge Martin Reidinger to five years in prison for destroying real property of the United States by means of fire, announced Jill Westmoreland Rose, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina.

Mann was also ordered to serve three years under court supervision.

“Mann set forest fires which damaged natural resources and potentially put many lives at risk, because he ‘wanted to see something burn.’ Thanks to the swift and thorough investigative efforts of our law enforcement partners, Mann was quickly apprehended and he will be punished for his selfish and irresponsible actions,” said U.S. Attorney Rose.

After an interview with Special Agents with the U.S. Forest Service, Mann confessed to starting two wildfires. According to authorities, Mann said that after his wife recently left him, he didn’t think he had anything to live for and wanted to “see something burn.”

Mann pleaded guilty to the federal arson charge in March 2017. All federal sentences are served without the possibility of parole.

Mann was only responsible for two fires in Macon County, but the region is still recovering from the dozens of wildfires that consumed National Forests in Western North Carolina.

On June 30, access to one of the highest waterfalls east of the Rockies, Whitewater Falls, was reopened to the public the weekend of July 4.

The falls, which stand at 350 to 400 feet, now have a newly-paved path and staircase to an overlook and shelters for picnicking.

Due to fire damage to the staircase leading to the observation deck, Whitewater Falls, located in Cashiers near the South Carolina border, was closed last fall.

“The damaged area around the falls was about 20 acres. And about $85,000 was the suppression costs for it,” Nantahala National Forest Ranger Thom Saylors said.

Although the staircase to the observation deck is now open, work will continue for a few weeks to fix the Foothills Trail that heads across Whitewater River.

**HIRED continued from page 3**

sued a statement in support of Overlin.

“Stacey Overlin is highly valued as a principal and instructional leader. He has made significant improvements in both the academic program and school culture at Paducah Middle School over the past four years. Mr. Overlin cooperated fully with the OEA investigation on following SBDM policies and is addressing the concerns from OEA.”

Principal Jetter said everyone involved in the hiring of Overlin for the Assistant Principal position read the above referenced report prior to approval.

“In effect, Mr. Overlin was doing what he thought was what he was supposed to do: inform the school council of things he was doing. As a first-year principal, he didn’t know nor had he been given training on the process in Kentucky,” said Jetter. “In Kentucky, the school council has to vote on everything a principal does, and everyone he hires. In effect, the council runs the school.”

Jetter noted that one of the things Overlin was criticized for was putting in Spanish for advanced 8th graders as well as a French class.

“Seems like a good thing, to me, but because he didn’t have the council vote on it, the state criticized him,” said Jetter.
The Exchange
For Men
322 Main St. & Oak St.
526-5029 or 526-1029

The Highlands Police log entries from June 26. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

June 26
• At 10:10 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint at a residence on Picklesimer Road.

June 27
• At 5:45 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

June 29
• At 5:20 p.m., officers responded to a report of a 60-year-old missing woman who disappeared without warning or contacting the family.

June 30
• At 1:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.
• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a report of a man attempting to pass a counterfeit check at Wells Fargo Bank in the amount of $4,782.31.

July 1
• At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

July 2
• A little past midnight, Russell Morgan Bronski, 29, of Smyrna, GA, was arrested for DWI, driving without a license and having an open container of alcohol in the vehicle when pulled over on US. 64 east. He was issued an unsecured bond of $2,000. His trial date is Aug. 28.

July 3
• At 2:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

July 4
• At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a report of vandalism to property at a residence on Dog Mountain Road where someone “roared and bellowed before attacking a defenseless screen.”
• At 9:10 p.m., Michael Williams Capron, 38, of Atlanta, GA, was arrested for DWI when pulled over on Main Street. He was issued a $1,200 unsecured bond. His trial date is July 27.

July 5
• At 1:31 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Upper Lake Road where a man was arguing loudly with neighbors.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from July 3.

July 3
• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Big Bear Pen.
• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Biscuit Rock.

July 4
• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.
• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Azalea Rd.
• The dept. responded to a miscellaneous fire on Wilson Rd.

July 5
• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sky Lake Dr.
• The dept. was first-responders to a S. 3rd St.
• The dept. was first-responders to Main St.
• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dog Mtn. Rd.

Highlands Playhouse Season Continues with ‘A Funny Thing Happened …’ Opens TONIGHT!

Get ready to laugh, Highlands! The Highlands Playhouse will present the smash hit musical comedy, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Forum, July 13-July 29. The farcical romp was made famous by the comedic stylings of Zero Mostel and Phil Silvers and contains classic songs by the legendary Stephen Sondheim. The musical has had numerous successful productions on Broadway (starring Mostel, Nathan Lane and Whoopie Goldberg), and is rumored to be returning to the Great White Way in the near future.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Forum takes audience back to ancient Rome. Pseudolus, a slave who dreams of his freedom, is set on a zany path of lover’s quarrels, mistaken identity, and long lost family reunions. This comedy will have you rolling in the aisles, as you encounter a slew of larger than life characters, and talent that the town of Highlands will be buzzing about for weeks!

“We have been committed over the past few years to presenting classics of the Broadway cannon. A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Forum is perhaps one of the funniest musicals ever written. The audiences in Highlands are going to love it,” says Artistic Director Bill Patti.

The actors this season are a mix of familiar faces and talented newcomers. Patti, the Playhouse Artistic Director, will take the stage for only the third time in the Highlands Playhouse. She is performing in his record breaking touring national credits, and I assure you, we have incredible talent– you have to see it to believe it,” Patti said.

“We hired many of these actors out of New York. They are coming to Highlands with major national credits, and I assure you, we hired the best of the best.”

Individual tickets are $38 for adults and $15 for children 12 and under. Show times are Wednesday- Saturday at 8 pm and Wednesday & Sunday Matinees at 2 pm. For additional information or to order tickets, call the Box Office at 828-526-2695 or visit www.HighlandsPlayhouse.org.
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Looking for creative hostess gifts?

Whether we’re visiting friends or relatives for a weekend or heading to a friend’s house for dinner or a party, I always seem to be looking for hostess gifts. I like to pick up unique items at craft festivals or on vacation to put in my gift drawer so that I’m not desperate at the last minute.

Running out at the last minute may be why, according to the Wall Street Journal, so many of us are recipients of “boring, superfluous candle[s].”

There’s almost an entire paragraph devoted to the inappropriateness of candles: “Generally, scented candles top the list of no-nos . . . and many hosts are saddled with drawers of unwanted wax.”

I’d never thought of candles as a problem. Yes, I have received lots of candles over the years and do have them stuffed away in several places in the house. I tend to burn the Thymes Frasier Fir scented candle my sister gave me that gives off a subtle aroma. The others are tiny votives that I bring out from time to time in the winter to burn while I’m at the computer. I find them soothing.

That doesn’t mean I need any more, though. And, now that I’ve read this article, I’ll probably strike them off my gift-giving list. Fortunately, the article offers other ideas for thoughtful hostess gifts, some I’d welcome, others I’d rather not see come in the door.

I agree that food items like unique olive oils and vinegars, chocolates, a hunk of parmesan, crackers, and pastries are welcome. If you’re arriving with children for the weekend, a casserole in a dish you’ll leave or a cake on a pretty cake dish makes a useful and thoughtful gift. Placemats and napkins also made the list. I’d be happy to receive any of these, and I still use the cloth napkins a friend brought me years ago.

A bouquet of flowers from your garden or elsewhere is usually welcome as are smaller gift books. I smiled at the book suggestion as I’ve long recommended my book, “The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday” as a unique hostess gift, available on Amazon or locally at The Molly Grace.

The one idea that didn’t appeal to me was coffee mugs. I have to clean out my mug collection now and then, perhaps because I got so many during my corporate career. After I’ve moved a few all over the house to use as pen and pencil holders or makeup brush holders, the rest end up in my sideboard before they make it to the thrift store.

When we visit my sister-in-law’s mountain cabin, we take useful items like a throw for a new room she’s added or a gift certificate for a local restaurant. My sister, who also has a mountain home, has asked friends and family not to bring decorative items, as she has decorated her cottage just the way she wants it. She is so generous about letting us all use the cabin; she would be overwhelmed with trinkets without this rule. I found the way to her heart with a rub from Radio Chef Rubs, www.theradiochefrub.com.

With the WSJ list in mind, why not rethink your gift drawer by visiting the many shops in Highlands? Check out this week’s Shop the Dog Days of Summer shopping sections for shops on and off Main Street!

• Look for Kathy’s new book “Lord Banjo the Royal Pooh” due out in late August and find her collection of columns, “The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday,” locally at The Molly Grace in Highlands and Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpen119@gmail.com.
Top harpists from around the country will perform in a one-night-only concert July 13, 7 p.m., at the Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The musicians are part of the prestigious Young Artist’s Harp Seminar (YAHS) program, which has become an annual tradition just down the mountain in Rabun Gap, Ga. For more information visit harpseminar.com.

“YAHS was a life-changing experience and completely changed my career path,” says Angela Schwarzkopf, a former student and now Director of Development for the program. After attending YAHS, Schwarzkopf went on to become a professional harpist. She hopes Thursday’s concert, which will benefit the program’s scholarship fund, will give other students the opportunity to attend YAHS.

The concert will feature highlights from the two-week program, including solos from the classical harp repertoire and works for two to four harps. A post-concert reception will give audience members a chance to meet the artists, many of whom are scholarship recipients.

YAHS has nurtured the talents of hundreds of young harpists from around the world who have gone on to pursue careers in harp at top music schools such as Juilliard, the Curtis Institute of Music, and the Paris Conservatory, to name just a few. Participants have traveled as far as Europe, Asia, and Central America to attend the program, which is held every July in Rabun Gap. For more information visit harpseminar.com.

HARP performance July 13 at First Pres
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Highlands Events

Tues.-Fri., July 18-21
• At The Bascom, Summer Camp: Session 5 - Digital Art. 9a-noon and 1-4p. Get ready for a high-tech creative experience with digital art. Students will learn how artists use digital technology to create amazing images, and even short films. To register call 526-4949.

• Eco-Trekkers: Round 2. Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 11 - 14 • 9 am - 4 pm daily • Cost $150 per child. Campers will travel off-campus to explore the wonder and beauty of the Blue Ridge through all-day hikes. Adventure awaits as we investigate natural habitats, reflect through journaling, and practice Leave No Trace ethics!

Wed., July 19
• 4-Minute Fitness, 10:00-12:00 Cost $25/35 Instructor: Penney Marshall-Parker. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• iOS for Intermediate Users, 10:30-3:30 Cost $135/$150 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• Experiencing A Flavorful Taste of Portugal, 4:00-6:00 Cost $90/$100 Presenter and Chef: Melissa Pekly-Hass. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• Aery Chiropractic & Acupuncture Free Health Lecture Series from 6-7 p.m. Upstairs – 2655 Dillard Road. This week: Thomas Taulbee, Teas, Making the Magic Brew.

Mon., July 17

• Classical Interiors: Past and Present, 10:00-12:00 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: Elizabeth Meredith Dowling. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• College Football 2017: A Preview, 10:00-12:00 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: Tony Barnhart. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Sat., July 22-23

Summer Colors Fine Art Show indoor exhibition and sale at Sapphire Valley Community Center 10a to 5p. Presented by the Art League of Highlands-Cashiers.

Sat., July 22

• Chamber Music: Strange Bedfellows: Beethoven and Czech Music, 10:00-12:00 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: Stephen Crist. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• At The Nature Center, Flower Faerie Festivities - All Ages 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Free. Join us as we celebrate summer in a faerie nice way! Drop in anytime to participate in building fairy houses, a flower fairy scavenger hunt through our Botanical Garden, and more. Dress as your favorite fairy or gnome and join the costume parade. Let your imagination reconnect you with nature! For info, call 526-2221

Mon., July 24

• See EVENTS page 16

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LUNCH
Grill – every day of the week starting at 11:00 until close
Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade potato chips, daily soup specials.

Deli – Serving all day
Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade potato chips, daily soup specials.

Wood Fire Pizza Oven – Every day from 11:00 to close
Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from scratch, fresh mozzarella, basil, crushed tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage, pancetta, and daily specials.

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR
Every Sunday from 11am – 3pm
Skillet fried chicken, country Angus steak, skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire soup & salad bar.
$12.95 (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

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

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

Monday – Low Country Lobster/Shrimp Boil – Maine lobster tails, wild caught large shrimp, red bliss potatoes, summer corn, house made sausage, all steeped in our seasoning. Served with drawn butter and cocktail sauce. $36.95 serves two

Tuesday – Oven Off Night
Two natural chicken breasts grilled with our Tuscan herb infused olive oil, served on a bed of greens with stuffed brie, spiced pecans, our extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar on the side with two cups of homemade gazpacho and a baguette from our bakery. $26.95 serves two

Wednesday – Prime Rib with Baked Potatoes & Salad – Premium Angus standing rib roast, cooked medium rare w/red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes & a large Caesar salad. $35.95 serves two

Thursday – Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs
- cooked until fall-off-the-bone-tender. Served with house made BBQ sauce baked beans and potato salad. $27.95 serves two

Friday – Wild Caught Shrimp: fried or steamed. Wild caught North Carolina shrimp either lightly breaded in our seasoned corn flour mixture, and then properly fried in peanut oil & served w/hush puppies; or steamed to order in our low country seasoning. Both come with coleslaw and rosemary sea salt broiled red potatoes, tarter & cocktail sauce. $28.95 serves two

Saturday – In-House Smoked BBQ
Hand rubbed pork butt, pit-smoked over night and hand pulled to order. Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon baked beans, and yeast rolls $25.95 serves two

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The Life of a Real Estate Broker

I have been asked many times why I became a real estate broker and why I am willing to work so hard. I rarely have time to sit and ponder this but will share my thoughts with you and what it really takes to be successful in this highly competitive business.

Few jobs are as time intensive as being a real estate broker. It’s somewhat like being in a tourist town. Being in a tourist town gives us a very small window of opportunity indeed. The evening, if that’s the only time a buyer can go. Being in a tourist town gives us a very small window of opportunity indeed. The weather adds another variable and trips get cancelled after brokering has arranged access to homes. MANY phone calls are made and rescheduling is necessary.

Market trends, home features, neighborhood features, buyer preferences – these are hundreds of things I must remember. Either need a fantastic memory or a detailed note system. I have been known to pull the car over and write on the back of a grocery receipt many times when a call comes in from a client!

Many times I’m asked to do a CMA – comparative market analysis - for sellers who never call back and will list with someone else who gives them an unrealistic sales price. I start my day every morning researching our MLS system to see what is new on the market, what has sold, what is pending, and what is in due diligence. This allows me to guide buyers and sellers with current market values – not last year’s values!

I network with colleagues to learn what is coming on the market and to make them aware of my listings and any changes that are forthcoming. I create flyers and email blasts to do the same. Flyers are time-consuming to say the least. I schedule professional-type photos – an iphone camera just doesn’t do justice to a home! I write a detailed description for each listing that visually invites you to come and see the house.

I have “dreaded” deadlines for ads in both Highlands’ newspapers, WHLC radio, the Buyer’s Guide, The Laurel and other magazines. I also advertise on the online versions of the newspapers. Our website must be updated, and hundreds of other websites checked for accuracy. The list goes on and on!

My weekends are never free since that is when most buyers come to town. Also, sellers who live out of state usually schedule listing appointments on Saturdays or Sundays as well. I work many holidays since potential buyers are here then.

Being in a luxury and second-home market, I realized the difference between first-home and second-home buyers and became certified in luxury home marketing and just received my Resort and Second Home Property Specialist (RSPS) certification.

With all this said, I LOVE my job. I meet so many nice people and the fact that they allow me to help with such an important decision in their lives is very rewarding. I make lifelong friendships and we often share meals, struggles, joys and goals. People are fascinating and the fact that I can help someone with serious health problems sell his/her home quickly or help prevent foreclosure by dealing with banks for four years – yes, this has happened - is my motivation to continue. The best closing is a “win-win” for both buyers and sellers and that is what I strive for in this business.

So I have concluded that the real estate industry in Highlands and Cashiers is as much a part of the hospitality industry as a sales profession. To be successful requires the tools of both industries and if they come naturally to you, you are already ahead and will rise to the top.

Pat Allen is owner and Broker-in-Charge of Pat Allen Realty Group located at 295 Dillard Road. Contact phone is 828-526-8784 or visit patallenrealtygroup.com.
**LOT LISTING**

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

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

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

**LOT LISTING**

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

Mountain, lake and fairway views from custom home in Cullasaja Club. 4bd/4ba/2 half bath, large stone fireplace, chef's kitchen, master suite, 2 guest suites, bunkroom, family room w/ breakfast bar, billiards area and more. $1,350,000 MLS #85998

Great 5bd/5ba in Highlands Falls CC. Granite and stainless steel appliances in kitchen. Vaulted ceilings, 2 car garage and golf cart storage. Huge decks and porches on every level. $719,500 MLS #84668

Golf course cottage sits on the 6th fairway of Lake Toxaway's premier golf course. Popular open floor plan, features hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings with a floor to ceiling stone wood burning fireplace. Large master bedroom off the main level. Two bedrooms upstairs each with full baths. Enjoy outdoor dining on the large covered deck with panoramic view of the golf course. Offered fully furnished. $499,000 MLS #83669
Words and actions matter

Here in the months of July and August the summer time air is hot. The hot temperatures remind me of a story about a minister who announced in the local newspaper the title for his next sermon. He was going to preach on “The Member of This Church I Would Most Like to See in Hell.”

As you can imagine, it caused quite a stir. Also, as expected, it drew a crowd to church that Sunday! Who was the preacher going to name?

As the preacher began the sermon the moment came. He really did name someone! But to everyone’s dismay, it was the name of the best-known woman in the congregation! The people were shocked. She was everyone’s favorite Bible teacher. Most people regarded her as a real “saint.” Why in the world would the preacher say such a thing about this wonderful woman?

The preacher proceeded to explain. The reason was quite simple. He explained that he was sure that given this time air is hot. The hot temperatures remind me that all of us have the capacity to influence others for time.

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Highlands References...

“Like any small business, we have unforeseen challenges that surface. Ron has been diligent in helping us navigate these challenges while still helping us manage our business growth.”

– Davis Picklesimer
Highlands Wine Shoppe

Ron Griffith
(828) 482-9309
GARAGE SALE
FURNITURE: 2 days ONLY. July 14 & 15. 9a to 1p each day. Garage full of furniture ALL must go. 149 Hemlock Woods Drive. Highlands. Look for signs on US 64 east into Wildwood Development. 828-526-4869.

HELP WANTED
$$$$TOP EARNINGS $$$ - PAOLETTI'S on Main Street is now hiring Servers & Busers for the the 2017 Season. GUARANTEED TOP EARNING IN THE REGION. Call for interview: 828-526-4096 or Send Resume to: amp28741@yahoo.com (st. 5/18)

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

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

NOW HIRING FOR A C.A.N.A. for a 4 star deficiency free Assisted Living. Please apply at Chestnut Hill in Highlands, NC. (828)526-5251. (st. 6/29)

ALYXANDRAS is looking for part-time retail sales. Call 828-526-4378. (st. 6/15)

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

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

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

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

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)

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

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
1B/1B APT. ON MAIN STREET available for rent. $750/month, utilities not included, year-lease only. No pets. First, last, and security deposit required. Email Regina@LupoliInc.com for more information. (st. 6/29)

ITEMS for SALE
DAHLIAS DAHLIAS DAHLIAS cut flowers for any occasion Amandaflowet37@gmail.com (8/31)

CANOE. Mad River Tahoe 14”. Excellent first canoe. Rugged, lightweight (56 lbs), Royalex construction, mess seats, aluminum trip. 13’-10” long x 38” x 14” D, capacity 1,000 lbs., excellent condition. Retail $100. Asking $650. 828-342-8282. (st. 7/13)

TRUNDLE BED/SOFA white wicker, high back (79” W x 41” d x 23” h front and 43” h back), custom designer fitted cover to floor, and 6 large matching pillows, pictures available. Like new, 2 years old, cost $1,250, asking $500. 828-342-8282. (st. 7/13)

STIHL CHAINSAW model MS250c, 18” bar, with case and scabbard, used less than 15 hours, retail with case $400, asking $275. 828-342-8282. (st. 7/13)


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

SERVICES
...EVENTS continued from page 16

10:30-3:30 Cost: $75/$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• Town Hall meeting with H-C Hospital President and Chief Nursing Officer Jacqueline Medland 1-2 p.m. at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers.
• The Magical and Mysterious World of Elena Vizerskaya’s Photography, 4-6p Cost $25/$35


ALL AROUND OFFICE SOLUTIONS – Quickbooks set up and training. Bookkeeping Services, PayrollPrep, Payroll Tax Prep, Billing services, Call Mary James at 828-421-0002 or email mjames@allarounddo foulutions.com (st. 4/27)

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. 3/16)

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

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FALLING WATERS. Gated community, beautiful mountain land. Just 2.4 miles from Main St. Cottage lot with small waterfall $1,599K. Premium waterfall (above pix) $439k. Other lots $169k to $259k. From Main St. and Hwy 106, turn west on 106. Go 1.8 miles just past Glen Falls sign...turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3/10 mile, turn left on Moonlight. Entrance is on the right. Contact onsite developer for plats and info. 828-508-9952. fallingwatersnc.com (st. 5/11)

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

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