

Highlands Newspaper

Volume 21, Number 50

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., Dec. 12, 2024

Multiple fire crews save burning home on Upper Lake Road

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

In the middle of the Nov 21st Worksession/Town Board

meeting, Highlands Fire & Rescue responded to a call reporting a house fire at 6:40 p.m. along the 400 block of Upper Lake Road.

When sirens alerted, Mayor Pat Taylor said that Commissioner Eric Pierson, who is a member of

• See FIRE page 17

•INSIDE THIS ISSUE•			
Mayor on Duty	2	HS Homecoming	11
Weather	2	Parade Pix	12-13
Snapshot.....	2	Town Lighting.....	16
Obituary.....	7	Spiritually Speaking	18
Letter	7	Police and Fire.....	19
Investing at 4,118 Ft.....	8	Classifieds	21

Highlands Festivals, Inc. gives back

Highlands Festivals, Inc., a 501c3 organization, and producer of both the Highlands Food & Wine Festival and Bear Shadow music festival, presented charitable donations to Friends of Founders Park, the Louis Osteen Legacy Scholarship as well as local and regional nonprofits toward their hurricane relief efforts.

On Monday, Dec. 9, Friends of Founders Park, represented by Hank Ross received a check for \$10,000.

The donations represents a significant portion of the proceeds from this year's Highlands Food & Wine Festival. The check for Friends of Founders Park was presented by Highlands Festivals, Inc. board members, Jack Austin and David Bock.

• See FESTIVAL page 4

King & Queen for the night



Kasen Mitchell and Mallory Shriver were crowned King and Queen at Highlands School Homecoming Dance, Saturday night, Dec. 7 held at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. See photos on page 11

Photo by Sunset Yearbook Staff

HCLT to conserve 100-acre tract of pristine land in Cashiers

By Julie Schott
Development Director
HCLT

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) is under contract on 100 acres of raw and pristine land in Cashiers.

Fully surrounded by the US Forest Service, this property is visible from Whiteside Mountain and protects streams in the Chattooga watershed. Located off Bull Pen Road, it is home to many rare and endemic species of plants and animals.

Thanks to the support of a generous private foundation and HCLT's Donors, the Twigg Tract will remain untouched and conserved forever, a huge win for conservation!

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is a nationally accredited non-profit organization that has been conserving land on the Plateau since 1909, making it the old-

est land trust in North Carolina and one of the oldest in the state. HCLT works with private landowners to voluntarily conserve their property for the purpose of protecting the natural places that give us so much including clean water, fresh air, moderate temperatures, and unparalleled beauty.

As we face continuing challenges from biodiversity loss and a changing climate, the work of HCLT is more important than ever. The devastating aftermath of Hurricane Helene highlights the urgent need for resilience and action to protect the natural places that provide our best defense against these growing threats.

Conservation is a powerful way to make a difference. Forests store carbon, reducing greenhouse gases while providing stunning landscapes, recreational opportunities, and critical habitats

• See HCLT page 17

Amazing Views of Whiteside, Terrapin and Black Rock



224 Lost Trail, Highlands

3 BEDROOMS | 3.5 BATHROOMS

MLS# 106271 | \$3,695,000

Highlands Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Jody Lovell | (828) 226.6303

McCULLLEY'S

The largest selection of
Scottish cashmere in the U.S.A.

In Highlands ...on the hill

242 S. 4th St. • 828-526-4407

Open 7 days a week

www.mcculleys.com

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

• SNAPSHOTS •

Last Town Board meeting of 2024 is tonight

Thursday, December 12, is the last Town Board meeting of the year. The board meeting will begin at 7 pm at the Highlands Community Building next to the ballfield. You can remotely access the meeting via the portal on the town website. No workshop session before the board meeting is scheduled for this month, but they will resume at the beginning of the new year.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Normally, the board meeting in December has a light agenda. This time, there are some major items to be reviewed before the end of the year.

The most important item will probably be a request from Highlands Festival Inc. to move this year's Bear Shadow event to Founders Park at the start of May. For several years, Bear Shadow has enjoyed a successful run at a farm property in Scaly Mountain. That property is no longer available, and the organizers have not been able to locate a comparable venue in the area. A few years ago, a proposal was floated to hold the event in Horse Cove, but that idea was not well received by the residents of Horse Cove.

I am sure the board will have several questions and issues about allowing Bear Shadow in Founders Park. For instance, how many tickets would be sold, 1,000, 1,500 or more? How would sound levels be controlled? How would parking and facilities be managed?

Another issue would be how the sale of alcohol would be handled. First, the board would have to grant permission. The town also has an alcohol policy that generally allows folks to bring their own alcohol to designated music events in the Park. That limited alcohol policy has worked well.

As mayor, I like the policies of no alcohol sales in Founders Park and always being open to the public; going forward, I believe we should affirm and continue these policies.

Since the Park opened over a decade ago a policy evolved not to allow ticketed events like concerts. It has worked well, although there has been a recent shift or creep toward allowing some ticketed events in Founders Park. Nevertheless, the Highlands Car Festival, the Rotary Art Shows, the Twilight 5k, the Dahlia Festival, the Farmers Market, and SnowFest are all public events requiring no entry fees to Founders Park.

My concern is that Bear Shadow would be a major, ticketed event in our public Founders Park. I have also had similar concerns about the recent Highlands Food & Wine Festival when the Truckin' and Shot at Redemption events were held in the park, where the entire Park was cordoned off, and folks without tickets, including myself, were not allowed in the Park. One resident came to my office the morning of the event complaining Truckin' staff told her she could not use the public restrooms. She was in my office because they said the mayor ordered the restroom closure. Town staff corrected the misunderstanding immediately, and the restrooms we opened to the public.

I'm sure the town board will thoroughly review the Bear Shadow request and make the best decision for the community. I am also sure that they have received a lot of feedback about the request, pros, and cons.

• See **MAYOR** page 4







Photo by Kim Lewicki

Three Turtle Doves ...

Do you have a heart-felt, funny, interesting, or beautiful photo you would like to share in our new "SnapShot" section? Email it to highlandseditor@aol.com or text it to 828-200-1371, with a brief description and a name. No anonymous photos will be accepted.

• WEATHER •

Thu, 12-Dec	Fri, 13-Dec	Sat, 14-Dec	Sun, 15-Dec
 44°F 23°F	 47°F 28°F	 46°F 36°F	 46°F 36°F
Sunny and breezy	Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy	Mostly cloudy, a little rain
RealFeel® High: 37° Low: 8°	RealFeel® High: 50° Low: 27°	RealFeel® High: 47° Low: 31°	RealFeel® High: 46° Low: 40°

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

Highlands Newspaper

www.highlandsinfo.com

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Kristin Fox

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N.C 28741

All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.

Letter Policy:

There is a 500-word limit. We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

HIGHLANDER ROOFING SERVICES INC.

New & Re-Roofing Applications Including:
Asphalt • Cedar • Metal • Synthetic Materials

Showroom: 1511 Highlands Rd • Franklin • O: 828-524-7773
info@highlandernc.com • www.highlandernc.com



Give the Gift of
Comfort & Joy
Old Edwards Gift Cards



BUY TODAY

Breakfast
8-10:30a
Lunch

11a to 3p

Open Mon. - Sat. for Breakfast & Lunch

Pet Friendly Place Where Friends Meet

With the same menu, low prices, FREE coffee and an older more mellow attitude!

Come by for a visit and enjoy those Appalachian Fries and a Gyro!

Salads • Pitas • Burgers • Philly Cheese Steak • Shrimp Pita • Susan's Rueben
 Italian Sausage • Appalachian Fries • Onion Rings • Jambalaya • Kabobs
 Shrimp Gumbo • Soups

Dine in or Call in your order for Pickup! • 828-482-1513
462 Dillard Road, Highlands (across from Dusty's)

DON LEON'S

...FESTIVAL continued from page 1



Pictured are David Bock and Jack Austin with Highlands Festivals and Hank Ross with K-H Founders Park.,

The mission of Friends of Founders Park is to generate, organize and apply financial resources and volunteer resources for the maintenance, improvement and protection of Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park in cooperation with the Town of Highlands.

"We are proud to support organizations like Friends of Founders Park and the preservation of Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park. This cherished space sits at the heart of our community, bringing people together to connect, celebrate and create lasting memories," shared David Bock, President of Highlands Festivals, Inc.

Additional proceeds raised from this year's Highlands Food & Wine Festival also supported the Louis Osteen Legacy Scholarship for which \$22,500 was donated, as well \$21,670 to hurricane relief efforts via nonprofit organizations – Highlands Emergency Council, Highlands Food Pantry, Be-Loved Asheville, Equal Plates Project, and the Southern Smoke Foundation were all recipients of the festival's proceeds.

"These donations are part of Highlands Festivals, Inc.'s ongoing commitment to promote Highlands as a year-round culi-

nary, retail, shopping and outdoor lifestyle destination while also contributing funds and resources that directly benefit local initiatives and strengthen the Highlands community," said representatives.

Plans are already underway for 2025 Bear Shadow event.

Thursday night at the December Town Board meeting, representatives will request permission to hold the 5th annual multi-day event in K-H Founders Park Thursday, May 6-Sunday, May 11.

About Highlands Festivals, Inc.

Highlands Festivals, Inc. is a non-profit organization that produces the annual Highlands Food &

Wine and Bear Shadow festivals in Highlands, NC. The organization is dedicated to promoting Highlands, N.C., as an inspiring place to live and visit by producing world-class events that showcase, enhance and support the region's vibrant culinary, visual and performing arts organizations while contributing funds and resources that directly benefit similar local initiatives and strengthen our community.

– Submitted



Highlands Sotheby's International Realty

POST AND BEAM...WORK OF ART

4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Private gate, 4.56 Acres

Lake, walking trails, pet friendly

MLS # 106188 Offered for \$2,395,000



Andrea Gabbard
 c: 828.200.6742

AndreaGabbard@gmail.com

Highlands Sotheby's
 INTERNATIONAL REALTY

*The Coolest Golf Course
 in Georgia*

Sky Valley
 COUNTRY CLUB

• Incredible Views

• Par 72 Championship Course

stretching 6,900 yards of Peaks and Valleys

• Open Daily • Year-Round • Public Golf

2 hrs. northeast of Atlanta • 20 Minutes from Highlands, NC

**For Tee Times, Membership Information or Event Rentals,
 please call 706-746-5302**

www.skyvalleycountryclub.com

...MAYOR continued from page 2

The board will also hear a presentation and summary of the recently completed town audit filed with the North Carolina Local Government Commission. I have

been informed that the town has a clean audit with no deficiencies cited.

Hope to see you at the meeting or tune in with the video link

UNRIVALED LUXURY



#1 in the Carolinas
Since 1957



141 Rushing Springs Lane

Sapphire, NC 28774 | \$1,249,000 | MLS #106399
Kelly Ramsay | 828.556.1252



703 Dog Mountain Road

Highlands, NC 28741 | \$1,185,000 | MLS #105829
Pat Allen & Julie Osborn | 828.200.9179



HIGHLANDS-DOWNTOWN OFFICE | 828.526.8784
CASHIERS OFFICE | 828.547.0022
SAPPHIRE OFFICE | 828.507.3156
WILDCAT CLIFFS OFFICE | 828.526.4525

Scan to see our luxury listings



A HOWARD HANNA PARTNER



Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP

Rooted locally. Connected globally.

Leading

REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES
OF THE WORLD



• HIGHLANDS DINING •

WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT & WINE BISTRO



**American Cuisine with a
Creole Twist and German Flair**

Celebrating Our 30th Year
Taste the Difference, Always Fresh!

Wednesday - Sunday
Bistro Opens at 4pm | Dining Room at 5:30pm



474 Main Street | 828.526.3807
wolfgangs.net



The Secret Garden

Sandwich shop and gourmet food market

Open Year-Round

Mon.-Fri. 11:30a to 5p • Sat. 12-5p



208 N. 5th St. • Village Square • Next to Pine St. Park

Offering a variety of hot and cold specialty sandwiches, various salads, desserts and charcuterie prepared by a Johnson & Wales certified chef. Stop by and enjoy a hot sandwich, a cup of homemade soup and a daily pasta salad. We have indoor and outdoor courtyard seating, and a large variety of drink options including wine and beer.

Can't linger?

Call (828) 305-7509 to place a pick-up order.

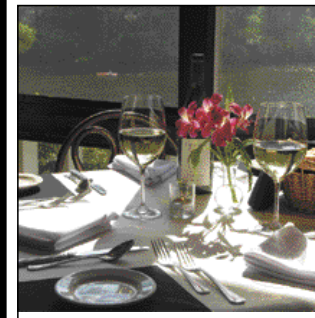


Open Mon.-Sat. 11a to 8p • Sun. 11a to 7p
Closed Tuesdays
828.526.3554
595 Franklin Rd. Highlands, NC



...on the Verandah
Restaurant
on Lake Sequoyah

42 Years of Fine Dining



Open
5:30-9p
7 Days a
Week

828-526-2338
US 64w • Highlands

www.ontheverandah.com

The Ruffed Grouse Tavern & Highlander Mountain House



Open for
LUNCH
Wednesday-Saturday
11:30-3p
Open for
DINNER
Wednesday-Saturday
5:30-9p
Open for
SUNDAY BRUNCH
with Blue Grass music
10a-3p

290 Main Street • Highlands • 828-526-2590
highlandermountainhouse.com



828-526-4035

Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round
Gourmet Foods & Full Service Bar
Town Square at 348-D Main St. • Highlands



Open
7 Days
a Week
Lunch: 11a-3:30p
Dinner:
5:30p - 9p



Open Tuesday - Saturday
Dinner Starts @ 5:30 PM

Outdoor Dining / Dine-In Art Gallery / lakesiderestaurant.info



531 Smallwood Ave 828-526-9419 HIGHLANDS

• DINING •

A HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE HOTEL

OUTPOST

☮ ☺ ☻ ☹ ☺ ☻ ☹ ☺

COFFEE BAR NOW OPEN



Thursday through Sunday —
from 8am —



790 North 4th Street, Highlands | info@outpostinnhighlands.com | 828-482-7736

HIGHLANDS BURRITO



NEW
DINNER
HOURS!

Monday - Thursday, 11 am - 3 pm
Friday - Saturday, 11 am - 8 pm

226 South 4th Street • Highlands, NC
Highlandsburrito.com

Christmas WITH DUSTY'S

Every holiday gathering can be unforgettable with delicious food on your table from Dusty's! Appetizers to dessert, entertaining made delicious!

December Open
Wed-Sat.

Christmas week open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat.
828-526-2762
498 Dillard Road

• OBITUARY •

James 'Leland' Cooper

James "Leland" Cooper, 81, passed away Sunday, December 8, 2024. After a brief period of declining health.

He was born to Lawrence and Callie Watson Cooper of the Yellow Mountain community in Jackson County. Leland enjoyed the beauty and the blessings of living on Flat Branch his entire life.

Leland loved many things. He loved the Lord Jesus. He faithfully read and studied scripture, knowing there was always more to learn. He loved his neighbors, and his generosity was surpassed only by his empathy for anyone in need. Leland loved his family. He treasured time spent with his sister, Wilma Haskett, niece, Lisa Hudson, her husband Bill, and his nephew Phill Looper in Pickens, SC.

Leland spent his final days in Pickens being well cared for by Lisa and Bill. Leland loved his church. He served as a deacon, Superintendent of Sunday School and Song Leader at Pine Creek Baptist Church.

Leland loved his country. He was a U.S. Army veteran and served as an aircraft mechanic in Vietnam.

Leland loved good music. He enjoyed playing the ban-



jo and was delighted to pass the love for playing Blue Grass to Christopher Tucker who was the apple of his eye. Leland loved the outdoors. He had a keen eye for spotting anything with fur and four legs. Or feathers and two legs. He preferred being outside and retired from a job he loved as a self-employed heavy equipment operator.

For the past 31 years Leland shared the things he loved with his other love, Joyce Tucker, of Pine Creek Community.

Left to cherish his memory are; Wilma Haskett, Lisa and Bill Hudson, Phil Looper, Joyce, Dana, Chris and Carla, and Christopher Tucker. Step-daughter, Tammy and Chad Bryson, Justin and Deanna McCall and baby Korra McCall. His Pine Creek Church Family and close friends Steve and Sharon Houston. And many friends in the Pine Creek, Yellow Mountain, Jackson County area.

Services will be held at Pine Creek Baptist Church on Thursday, December 12th. Visitation will be from 1-2pm with the Funeral to follow at 2pm. Interment will be at Stewart Cemetery.

• LETTER •

Money and politics

Dear Editor,

I thoroughly enjoyed Bud Katz's "Here's the Thing" column entitled, Supremely Wrong, in the Highlands Newspaper on December 5, 2024.

Most of his argument resonated with me. Special interests have come to dominate our political system. But we are human. To expect more is to expect too much. In fact, we spend a shockingly low amount on politics when viewed in the proper context.

National GDP is roughly \$30 trillion per year. The Fed Government's spending accounts for roughly 25% of annual GDP, or \$7.5 trillion. Thus, if amortized over a four-year Presidential term, the \$16 billion spent on the 2024 campaign equates to 0.0005% of the Fed Government's spending over the Presidential term in question.

Accordingly, there may be no better ROI for the wealthy, as illustrated by the immense influence Musk acquired for \$250mm of donations to Trump. Can we blame him? After all, his companies are highly dependent on the Federal Government for subsidies.

If we want less money in politics, then we should reduce the size and scope of the Federal Government. That will reduce the ROI. If we rely on legal restrictions, the money will not simply exit politics; it will merely find other, less transparent, means to achieve the same end.

Drew Estes
Atlanta, GA

Don't Let Your Drinking Spoil the Holidays

AA is here to help
24/7

CALL 828.349.4357 For Help and Information

Dusty's
TOY ROOM!

Remember to shop our toy room while you are shopping for tasty treats!

OPEN WED - SAT
IN DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS WEEK OPEN
MON, TUE, THUR - SAT

493 Dillard Rd
Highlands, NC

828-526-2762



LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF THE HOLY FAMILY

*Christmas Eve
Service*
2:30 pm

2152 DILLARD RD, HIGHLANDS

Come and fellowship with us!

*Join us in celebrating the birth
of our Savior at the
Highlands United Methodist Church*

All services are in the Sanctuary
**Family-oriented Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**

5pm

Christmas Eve Eucharist Service

(approx. 30 min.)

7pm

Lessons and Carols

(approx. 30 min.)

9pm

Midnight Eucharist

11:45pm

(approx. 15-20 min.)

Pastors Randy Lucas and Christine Murphy
315 Main Street • 828-526-3376 • highlandsumc@icloud.com

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

Investing in Highlands' future

A popular internet joke during Donald Trump's first Presidential term was related to the administration's use of "Infrastructure Week" and the fact that it never fully came to fruition during those four years.

Here on the plateau, we are facing down the prospect of our own growing need for an infrastructure related time period.

Infrastructure is one of those unpopular things to think about that isn't really considered a problem until it is a problem. A perfect example of this is the recent closure of NC 106 for repairs. It may not have been glaringly obvious how important NC 106 is as a main entryway into Highlands until it was closed, and it has created a great inconvenience for businesses, residents, and school students in Highlands and Rabun Gap School students.



W Terry Potts
Country Club Properties of
Highlands
More than 5 generations in
Highlands
828-421-3417

As Highlands continues to grow and change, we enjoy the fruits of our new visitors and prospective residents, but growth also places a strain on our resources. As a plateau, there is limited space

for growth, but in such a protected environment, we cannot grow "up" in the same way as a city might. Therefore, the solution for many has been to increase our population density in order to "grow" the space that we do have.

For example, an investor chooses to buy a single-family home on 2 acres and replaces that property with six, new single-family homes using .33 acre lots each – though such a scenario wouldn't be allowed within the town limits without special conditional zoning. While this is an excellent way to make a profit and bring more people to Highlands, it also creates a greater strain on our water system, cell towers, road usage, garbage, schools ... you get the idea.

There is an old Greek proverb that reads, "A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

If we want to truly make Highlands (and to a larger extent, America) great, and sustain growth at the rate it is occurring, there are going to have to be investments made in the future of Highlands so that we can keep our mountain paradise that services its residents while being a place that all can enjoy.

Meanwhile, Bryson's Paving and Grading, a local company, is working feverishly to get the repairs done to give us a safe, accessible road for residents and visitors alike.



Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Christmas Eve Masses

Our Lady of the Mountains • 2 pm

St. Jude's Catholic Church (Sapphire Valley) • 4 pm

Christmas Day Masses

St. Jude's Catholic Church (Sapphire Valley) • 9 am

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church • 11 am

New Year's Day Masses

St. Jude's Catholic Church • 9 am

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church • 11 am

315 N. 5th Street, Highlands • 828-526-2418

www.olmhIGHLANDS.com

3011 U.S. 64, Sapphire • 828-743-5717

www.stjudeofsapphirevalley.org

**Read Highlands Newspaper
for free from everywhere ...
on the street or on the web.**

Go to www.highlandsinfo.com. Click on Local News.

**Delivered and uploaded
every Thursday AM**

For advertising

**information email
highlandseditor@aol.com**

**or call or text
828-200-1371**

Main Street **COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES** Mtn. Fresh

Wright Sq. 828-526-2520 | www.ccp4highlandsnc.com | ccp4terry@gmail.com



The main house has 4bed/4ba a free-standing guest quarters with one bedroom, one bath. The dwellings are completely renovated and ready to move in. Updated, professionally designed kitchen, exterior Carolina Room with a fireplace. is grandfathered for rental with the town, has ample parking and a usable yard. Offered at \$3,250,000. mls #103911



Million dollar views minutes from downtown Highlands in VZ Top. Upper level unit with one-level living Two bedrooms, two updated baths, an open kitchen with breakfast bar, living room with a wood burning fireplace, and custom built-ins. Offered at \$530,000 mls # 104136



Located in the wonderful Highgate community just beyond Highlands Country Club, this 4 bedroom 5 bath is located on one level with a level usable lot. The living areas are open and spacious with heavy beams and walls of French doors that open onto a covered porch with fireplace. There are 5 additional fireplaces in the living and bedroom areas. The primary bedroom has 2 accessible baths and additional den. The lower level has a game room , garage, and huge basement storage areas. This is one of the most reasonably priced homes in the Highgate area and a do not miss. Offered at \$2,899,000. mls#104513



Own a truly unique Highlands Cabin! Located less than 3 miles from Main Street and having over 19 acres of usable land, this true log cabin was added to an existing farmhouse, barn, meadow, views off the upper tier. A blank canvas to improve to your personal taste and have a family heirloom for another chapter. 4 bedrooms, stone fireplaces, retro kitchen, fantastic sleeping porch. This property has endless possibilities! Offered at \$3,575,000. mls #103398



Cabe Place. Freshly renovated with real wood doors and shiplap, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath has good rental history and is a nice getaway, or for year-round living. Recently renovated kitchen, and baths. Custom fire pit and masonry pizza oven. A very nice home just waiting for you! Offered at \$925,000. mls #103899



All you need are clothes and a toothbrush to move into this completely furnished home. Two bedrooms, two baths on a secluded hill in town. Gas fireplace for those chilly nights. Full kitchen, nice covered and open deck to enjoy. Covered carport and ample parking. All for only \$615,000. mls #104652



This authentic Highlands Charmer is located close to town on all paved roads. Home sits level to entry and has a side yard with a firepit, view of Mirror Lake The cottage has a kitchen/dining room, primary bedroom and bath on the main level with porch. The terrace level has a living room that opens to the side yard, 2 bedrooms and a bath. This one is a grandfathered Short-Term Rental. Ready to use. Furnishings negotiable. Offered at \$749,999. mls #104017



Need a great storage building for cars or an office with a half bath and storage? This lower-level storage condo is just what the doctor ordered. Will hold several cars. Offered at \$300,000. mls #103900



Highlands Cove at Old Edwards Club This lovely condo features easy access directly Off of Highlands Cove Drive and is close to the clubhouse, swimming, tennis courts, and Golf course. Three bedrooms, three baths, all on the main level, Coffered High ceilings, move in condition. Lovely decks and porches to enjoy the cool summer air. Furnishings are negotiable. Offered at \$899,000. mls #105964



Located close to town, this cottage features 2 bedrooms and 3 baths. One car garage could be converted to a family room. 3 levels that house a living-room/kitchen/dining on main, bedroom and bath on 2nd level. Primary bedroom, bath, den and full bath. A patio-deck overlooking rushing water of the Cullasaja River overflow from Mirror Lake. Offered at \$499,000. mls #103969



Flat Mountain Located on Flat Mountain Road on over 3 acres is this 4-bedroom 2 bath 1969 Farmhouse family home. It needs some renovation but has great bones and has a multitude of possibilities. Charming Knotty pine and wood floors to start, renovate the kitchen and baths to make it heaven. An Additional home site or two is a possibility, with a septic already in place for a guesthouse or rental. Offered at \$1,200,000 mls #106379



Move-in condition, off Buck Creek Road on Western Rhodes Road. 3 bedrooms, plus additional flex spaces. Multiple fireplaces. Open Great Room concept with custom kitchen, plank wood floors, stone fireplace in the Covered porch with hot tub spa. Masters on main and upper floors, plus guestrooms Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #100481



One-of-a-kind mountain cottage minutes from downtown Highlands. Home is bordered by its own majestic waterfall. Enter across the rocking chair front porch the open-concept kitchen/dining/living room area. Updated kitchen, an original stone fireplace, beautiful wood floors, and vaulted ceilings. Two bedrooms and a shared bath flank one side of this open living space and a spacious master suite and screen porch flank the other. Also a cute guest cottage with a bath and kitchenette. Great vacation rental. Offered at \$1,985,000. mls #10451



At Highlands Mountain Club. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, great screened in porch. View overlooks a pristine lake. Open pass through kitchen/dining living makes entertaining a breeze. Furnishings negotiable. Offered at \$575,000. mls #104466



Lovely year round living with this 3 bed/3 ba dwelling that has a small yard. The house has a nice living room and open dining and modern kitchen. split bedrooms each with baths. rear deck and a covered side porch. Lower level has a bedroom and bathroom, 2 car garage and great workshop with storage. In excellent condition. Offered at \$695,000. mls#103898

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

Festival of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 15, 5 pm
 Join us for an evening of Christmas Carols, old and new and a recounting of the Christmas Story.



Christ Anglican Church
 464 U.S. Hwy 64E, Cashiers, NC
 828-743-1701 • ChristAnglicanCashiers.org
An offering will be received to benefit the CAC Music Ministry

Read Highlands Newspaper for free from everywhere ... on the street or on the web. Go to www.highlandsinfo.com. Click on Local News. Delivered and uploaded every Thurs.AM

WINTER POOL SCHEDULE
 Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri. 6am-9:45am, and Saturday 10am-11pm - 6 lanes.
 Water Aerobics: 18 y+ Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers.
 Adult Swim: 18y+ Mon.-Thurs. 11am-3:30pm, Friday 11am-1:30pm
 Public Swim: Mon. thru Thurs. 3:30-7pm, Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday 1-6pm

ALL WEEK

- Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. Women's Group 5:30, Tuesdays. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Monday at 8:30 AM, Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. For more information, please visit www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357.

PICKLE BALL

- At the Recreation Dept. every Monday - Friday 10am-1pm

indoors for the winter (notice the days and time has changed),

Mon.-Fri.

- Nantahala Tennis plays at the Highlands Rec Park 9a-1p.

Mon-Wed-Fri

- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9am at the Rec Park.
- Balance, Stretch & Strengthen Class at the Rec Park 8:30-9:30am. The cost for the class is \$30 a month. The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

Second Mondays

- The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women with financial need who want to return to school or further their education meets at 10 a.m. More meeting places call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004
- Indivisible Highlands from 5:15-6:15pm at the Hudson Library Meeting Room.

1st Tues. through Dec.

- HUMC's Community Table Dinner at the Community Building at 6 p.m. Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5 and Dec. 3.

2nd Tuesdays

- Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings. For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

Tuesdays

- Strength Training at the Rec Park 8:15-9:15 am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone. Learn proper form and range of motion to safely target all muscle groups for a metabolic boost and feel great.
- At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers – Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM. Facilitated by Sam Renken, this group has a simple mission: to foster and provide consistent community for local writers thereby giving writers of all ages and genres the opportunity to write, read, revise, and present their work to the group.
- ESL classes are held at the

Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 6:30-7:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? call 828-526-0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

2nd Wednesdays

- Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend. The November 1 program is Dementia: A Deeper Understanding. Reservations are required for this free event. To register, stop by the library or call 828-526-3031.

2nd & 4th Wed.

- Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library the second and fourth Wednesdays 1PM - 3PM of each month to help patrons with their tech needs. Bring a smartphone, laptop, or other digital device to receive free assistance and support. No appointments are required - all are welcome.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

- The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a-6p.
- Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at the Rec Park at 5:30. A combo class with different types of exercise. Call the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

Thursdays


- Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 am. at the Rec Park. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. No martial arts background necessary. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.
- At Hudson Library, special children's events will be on tap on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 Kids Zone programs.

Fridays

- At Hudson Library, Friday afternoons at 2 PM, there's a variety of children's programs including board games, STEM programs, and crafternoons.

Saturdays

- See EVENTS page 14



Christmas Eve
 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

5:00 PM
 CBC HIGHLANDS

3645 CASHIERS RD
 HIGHLANDS NC 28741

Highlands School Homecoming Sat., Dec. 7



Photos by Sunset Yearbook Staff

Highlands Christmas Parade - Sat., Dec. 7



Photos by
Kim and Jim Lewicki
and Linda Harness



Highlands Christmas Parade - Sat., Dec. 7



• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

WE HAVE YOUR HOLIDAYS COVERED

- ✓ Gifts
- ✓ Loungewear for Men & Women
- ✓ Complete Men & Women's Clothing
- ✓ Shoes for Men & Women

Hancy's & The Exchange
for Men

2060 Dillard Road, Highlands, NC, 2 miles South of Main Street
828-526-5029

For advertising information email: highlandseditor@aol.com

• **Story Ballet** - a gentle ballet & creative movement class for Children 3-4. The flow of class follows a story or theme that changes each month, engaging imaginations! Saturday 5:30-6:30pm. 828-421-6720

• **Adult Ballet** - crafted for beginners, but mindfully taught for all levels. Ballet is an excellent way to move, grow stronger, improve balance, flexibility and coordination while having fun. 6:30-7:30pm. 828-421-6720.

2nd Saturdays

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. thru Nov.

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend - email ncpost370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9 AM.

Sundays

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Sunday

Service: 10 AM Sunday Morning. Stick around for visitation and coffee hour immediately after service. (Coffee hour is replaced by potluck dinner the 1st Sunday of each month).

MOVIES

• Movies at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at PAC on Chestnut Street. See ad on page 17.

Through-March

• The Highlands Parks and Recreation-managed Ice Skating in the Park The hours are Thursdays, 3:30-8pm, Fridays, 3:30-10pm, Saturdays, 1-10pm, Sundays, 1-5pm. The price is only \$8, with or without skates. Coffee and hot chocolate are available for purchase.

Thurs., Dec. 5

• At The Molly Grace, a Christmas Party from 4-7 p.m., Sales, sips and shopping!

Through Dec. 27

• At PAC, Mountain Theater Company's "Home for the Holidays" features an all-star cast from across the nation singing festive favorites and original holiday arrangements, plus dazzling costumes and theatrical magic that will leave the entire family in amazement.

• **Saturdays thru Dec 24**

• Photos with Santa in the K-H Founders Park.

Sat. & Tues., Dec. 14 & 17

• At Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, Lux Nativitas" a beautiful new tradition that brings the nativity story to life. Through Scripture readings, classic Christmas music, and mesmerizing performances in dance and circus arts, Lux Nativitas walks us through the Gospel account of Christ's birth, celebrating the light and joy of the season. Performance is at 7 PM in the Rearden Theater at RGNS. Tickets are available at rabungap.org/tickets

Sat., Dec. 14

• At the Rec Park, Saturday Market ... same group that is at at the park through October ... 10a to 3p.

• A Wreath Across America Ceremony will take place at the Highlands Community Bldg. 869 North 4th Street at noon with Wreath Placement Immediately

• See EVENTS page 15

Highlands Mercantile on Main



WESTMAN ATELIER



Fine goods for your family and home.

Books • Chocolates • Coffee • Guy Gifts • Home • Skincare

322 Main Street, Highlands • 828-482-0818



Monday appointments available

NOW OPEN!



Beauty Specialists

Danielle

Adriana

- Hair Cuts and Color
- Eyebrow Tints and Facial Waxing
- Dermalogica Facials

322 Main St Highlands NC • 828-482-1112

...EVENTS from 14

following the ceremony. Shuttles will take volunteers to and from the cemetery to lay veteran wreaths. Please contact Phil Potts 828-200-9753 or ppotts63@frontier.com

- At The Bascom, photos with Santa 2-4 p.m. Hot chocolate and festive treats.

- At the Highlander Mountain House a holiday oyster roast in the courtyard from 3-5 p.m. Thanks to our friends LowCo Oyster Company, there will be clusters straight from Charleston's waterways freshly roasted on site. Tickets are \$30 and include all you can eat oysters and one draft beer courtesy of Munkle Brewing. We'll have football on the big screen and your favorite drinks at the bar for purchase. For tickets, go to highlandermountainhouse.com.

Thurs., Dec. 19

- Shop with a Cop Rotary Bingo is 6:30- 8:30 p.m. at the Community Building next to the Ballfield. Bingo Cards for \$15 for the players to play 15 games that are played. There may be a surprise visitor or two, too! To sponsor a table at SWAC Rotary Bingo it is \$50. Contact Caroline Cook at 828-526-2742.

- Highlander Mountain House final Salon Series performance of the year featuring The Secret Sisters whose kaleidoscopic sound boldly blurs the edges of country-folk. For tickets, go to highlandermountainhouse.com.

Fri.&Sat., Dec. 20 & 21

- Mountain Findings Hours: 10a to 1p.

Fri., Dec. 20

- Senior lunch at the Rec Park at noon in the Meeting Room. Senior Lunches are free and held the third Friday of each month through April.

Wed., Dec. 25

- At the Ruffed Grouse Tavern a cozy Christmas Day supper between 2-6 p.m. Enjoy signature dishes alongside a roaring fire. Reservations required. Go to highlandermountainhouse.com. • Lighting of the Menorah in KH Founders Park at 5:30pm.

Mon. Dec. 30

- At PAC, Fabulous Equinox Orchestra PRE-New Year's Eve Party and Concert at 7:30p.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Laurel Garden Club grant cycle begins

The Laurel Garden Club Opens Grant Cycle for 2025 Laurel Garden Club of Highlands is now accepting applications from community organizations for 2025 grants.

To further the purposes of Laurel Garden Club, grants are awarded to protect and conserve our natural resources and to enhance the beauty of our town and its native mountain landscapes.

In recent years grants have been awarded to environmental preservation organizations including Highlands Biological Foundation, Coalition for Non-native Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM), Highlands Cashiers Land Trust, and The Mountain.

To promote community beautification through landscaping with native plants, grants have been awarded to local non-profit organizations including The Bas-

com, Highlands Historical Society, Hudson Library, Highlands Performing Arts Center, and Peggy Crosby Center.

Laurel Garden Club is a non-profit educational organization. In keeping with its purposes, the Club periodically engages in fundraising activities such as cookbook sales, kitchen tours, and other ticketed events, the proceeds of which are donated as grants to recipient organizations.

Since 2002, Laurel Garden Club has given a grand total of more than \$230, 000 through grants to community organizations.

The deadline for grant applications is January 31, 2025. To apply for a grant, visit www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com and use the search bar to download Guidelines for Grants and the Laurel Garden Club Grant Request.

Rotary hears about trips

At the Rotary Club of Highlands meeting last Tuesday, the program was provided by our

own members, Andy Chmar and Ricky Siegel. Andy detailed his trip to Rwanda and Kenya on the African continent, and Ricky described his trip to South Africa. Both brought back amazing pictures of the places and wildlife they encountered. Andy chronicled his experiences with silverback gorillas in The Rwanda Volcanoes National Park and his visit



President Randy Foster, Ricky Siegel, Andy Chmar.

to The Reteti Elephant Sanctuary in Kenya. Ricky 's trip included visiting sites in Cape Town and the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa's wine country, and seven days of safaris on the Thornybush and Sabi Sands Game Reserves. To echo their words, while the photos were great, one could never capture the feeling of being there.

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 22 at 10:30 am
Main Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm
Main Sanctuary
(nursery available)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25 at 10:00 am
Historic Chapel

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Monday, January 6 at 5:30 pm
Historic Chapel

520 Main Street, Highlands, NC
incarnationwnc.org

Season of Advent

Sunday, December 15
11am - Sunday Celebration

Thursday, December 19
12pm - Service of Light

Sunday, December 22
11am - Sunday Celebration

Tuesday, December 24
4:30pm - Harp Prelude
Jillionna Plemmons, Harpist
5pm - Christmas Eve Service with Candlelight
Jan Saltmarsh, Soprano

All are welcome - Please join us!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
471 MAIN STREET, HIGHLANDS NC 28741 | 828.526.3175

Town lighting Sat. Nov. 30 kicked off the Holiday season



Photos by Kim and Jim Lewicki



...HCLT continued from page 1

...FIRE continued from page 1



the home that caught fire on Nov. 21 and had minimal damage around the chimney.

HF&R, might have to leave but as it turned out volunteer and paid staff as well as mutual aid departments handled the call.

HFR Chief Ryan Gearhart said fire crews were able to knock the fire down quickly and even though the home was inhabited, there were no injuries.

“There’s some damage, but it’s pretty minimal,” said Gearhart. “There’s a lot of charring around the fireplace itself. It started to get into the attic, but we caught it pretty quick.”

He added that the fire would not have been knocked down as quickly without the assistance of other departments.

“Also, a huge thank you to our staff both paid and volunteer as well as our mutual aid departments Cashiers-Glenville FD, Rabun County station 8, Macon Co. Squad 4, Macon County EMS, and Macon county dispatchers,” said Gearhart. “Great work by all involved which resulted in a great save.”

Gearhart said investigators are leaning towards something catching fire in the chimney as the cause of the blaze.

Nov. 21 was a cold evening with significant winds. Gearhart said that while the fire was knocked down within 15 min., crews spent a significant amount of time making sure everything was extinguished before leaving the scene.

“We did a lot of overhaul to make sure everything was extinguished,” he said. “You make that good of a save on a house,

you better make sure everything is out. Especially with the wind that night. One spark and you’re back there at 2 in the morning and half the house is burned down.”

HFR crews had just returned from a call for a wreck on Franklin Road on Nov. 21 when the call for Upper Lake Road came in. Gearhart said they were fortunate they had just returned, as two other trucks were out on other calls.

“We were fortunate, we had several people here and made it to Upper Lake in 5-6 min.,” he said.

COREY JAMES GALLERY & Estate Consignments

**Bronze sculpture • Paintings
Vintage & Antique Collectables &
Furniture • Costume Jewelry**



(828) 526-4818

On the corner of 3rd & Spring



Located off Bull Pen Road, the tract it is home to many rare and endemic species of plants and animals.

for wildlife. Wetlands act as natural sponges, absorbing stormwater to prevent flooding and releasing water during droughts to sustain ecosystems, improve water quality, and support diverse species.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is protecting forests and wetlands across the

Plateau and safeguarding the natural beauty and resilience of our region. To learn how you can help to create a healthier and more sustainable future for people and nature contact HCLT at info@hcltnc.org or 828-526-1111.

ccs
CREATIVE CONCEPTS SALON

Hair • Nails • Waxing
• Tanning
• Facials

Walk-ins Welcome!
Open at 9a Tues.-Sat.
828-526-3939

Owner/Stylist:

Lacy Jane Villardo

Stylists:

Heather Escandon

Maggie Barden

Desiray Schmitt

Lauren Buckely

Nail Tech:

Jenna Schmitt

Upstairs and Across the
Walkway at Falls on Main, Highlands

MOVIES at PAC's MLPC

507 Chestnut St. Highlands



**Fri., Dec. 13 – 2 & 5:30p
Sat., Dec. 14 – 2 & 5:30p
Sun., Dec. 16 – 5:30p**

Tickets:

Adults: \$13.20 • Children: \$11

boxoffice@
highlandsp Performingarts.com
828-526-9047

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



Let's ready our hearts and minds

Emily Wilmarth, Pastor
First Presbyterian Church

The word “repent” has never struck me as a very Christmasy word. Not like the words “peace,” “hope,” “joy,” or “love,” for example. But here we are in this season - Advent - preparing for Christmas. In the church, we think of Advent as a time of readying our hearts and minds for the birth of Jesus.

How do you get ready for a baby to arrive? What should you do to prepare for a little one to enter your life? If you're unsure, you can reference one of countless websites that will guide you through a pregnancy. They're chock full of information about how the baby will develop during each month or trimester, advice about what and how to feed your newborn, and what to take with you to the hospital when the time comes.

Strangely, none of these websites has any information about repentance. These days, it's just not what to expect when you're expecting.

But in the time of Jesus, there was a prophet, a messenger of God, named John the Baptist, who told anyone who would hear what to do in order to prepare for the Christ child to be born. He didn't say anything about cribs or diapers or sleep training. Instead, he told people how to prepare their hearts and minds to receive the best news the world has ever heard. Things don't have to remain the way they are. War and violence and discord don't have to be our way of life. The reign of God is coming to bring all of us peace, hope, joy, and love!

The word “repent” means to turn. To turn one's heart and mind to God. Writer and theologian Dan Clendenin explains repentance so helpfully: “Repentance doesn't mean to feel bad; it means to think differently. To repent doesn't mean to grovel in self-hatred, morbid introspection, or pious sorrow. It consists of both outward acts and an inward disposition. When you repent you turn around, change directions, choose a different path, and make a radical rupture. Repentance signals an abrupt end to life on auto-pilot or to business as usual.”

In my experience, Christmastime usually brings out the best in us. Perhaps more than any other time of year, we are full of good cheer during December. For example, charitable donations peak in December. The anticipation of Christmas makes way for more generosity, more good will, more kindness. The joy of Christmas has the power to call forth a change in our spirits. It seems as though repentance (changing our hearts, turning around, stopping with the business as usual attitude) is actually a thing during this season. We just didn't know it!

• See SPIRITUALLY page 19

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (828) 421-1315
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298
Sundays: School at 9:30; Worship 10:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Rev'd Dr. Michael Matlock, Rector
464 U.S. Hwy. 64E, Cashiers, NC

CAC@christanglicancashiers.org • 828-743-1701
Sunday: 9a Fellowship; 9:30a Adult Christian Ed; 10:30a
Holy Eucharist Wed: 6p Bible Study and Prayer

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIER

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470 www.cashiers.church
Sun. S.S 9:30a, 10:45a; Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.;
Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

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 • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am
Wed.: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mon. 4:30pm, Tues.
10am; Men's Bible Study: Wed. & Thurs. 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30
am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel,
Morning Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Women's 10:30 am

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Emily Wilmarth, pastor, Kelley Connelly Asso. Pastor
828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.
Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
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 • Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship 11a & 7p. Bible Study 6p
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road
The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily
sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.
Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376
In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services
909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional
www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Rev. Ken Langsdorf

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.
Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m. Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguenc.com.
Services: 1st Fri. and 3rd Sat. and Rosh Hashanah & Yom
Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church. 4224 Big Ridge
(4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Youth Group 6 p.m.; Bible Study 6:30 p.m.;

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418
Tues. - 9:30am; Thurs. - 9:30am; Sat. 4pm; Sun. - 11am

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 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.

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri. noon; Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood
Sunday Rites-Holy Eucharist 9 & 11 am; Coffee Hour
following 11 am Service

Bazaar Barn is open Friday & Saturday 10a-2p

www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers • 828-743-2122
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Nov. 13. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Nov. 13

• At noon, a Dog Mountain resident reported four trees on her property had been cut down without permission.

Dec. 5

• At noon, at resident on NC 106 reported fraud.

Dec. 8

• At 6:31 p.m., reported being assaulted while at work when she was bumped into at the sink at Wolfgang's Restaurant by a male co-worker.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Dec. 2.

Dec. 2

• At 10:44 p.m. the dept. responded to a call of a brush fire on Cobb Road.

Dec. 3

Dec. 3

• At 7:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

Dec. 4

• At 8:08 a.m., the dept. provided

public assistance at a location on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

Dec. 5

• At 11:22 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 9:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Satulah Road.

Dec. 6

• At 2:55 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Pierson Drive.

Dec. 7

• At 5:57 a.m., the dept. assisted HPD at a residence on Barney Road.

• At 2:34 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear View Lane.

Dec. 9

• At 7:06 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.,

• At 8:54 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Pierson Drive.

• At 7:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a small kitchen fire in a residence on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

Dec. 10

• At 2:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Orchard Road.

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

The real challenge is to let the change that takes over us in the Christmas season stick. To make our repentance, our turning toward a more loving, more compassionate, and frankly, more livable path permanent.

John the Baptist says "Bear fruit worthy of repentance." In other words, the things we do, the words we speak, the behaviors we engage in should reflect our changed hearts. Because when we bear the fruit of our repentance, the world we live in looks a lot more like the holy reign of God.

So, here's to a very merry season of repentance to us all, dear Highlands community! May it last throughout the year.



HAGAN BINDER
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Maximize the full potential of your property!

466 Dillard Rd | Highlands NC
haganbinder.com

Read Highlands Newspaper for free from everywhere ... on the street or on the web.

Go to www.highlandsinfo.com. Click on Local News. Delivered and uploaded every Thurs. AM



REJUVENATE
LASER CENTER

Fall in love with your skin this November with our ThreeforMe laser treatment at 20% off!

December brings savings on all Injectables. A Holiday gift for you or someone on your Christmas list!

Call today for more information.
Highlands - 828-482-4430
Franklin - 828-349-1280



Merry Christmas
from the family of
First Baptist Church Highlands

- Founded on Biblical Truth
- Fueled by Christ Exalting Worship
- Focused on Making Him Known

Sunday Service
10:45 a.m.

220 Main Street, Highlands, NC
www.fbchighlands.org

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

9a Sunday mornings
LIVE STREAM: Andy Stanley



Following Jesus makes your life better,
And makes you better at life!

For details, text Bee at 404-307-1415

Align Therapeutic, PLLC

Mental Health Therapy and Support Services

Nicole Dilbeck, LCMHCA
nicole@aligntherapywnc.com
www.aligntherapywnc.com

828-526-6370

Locations in Franklin and Highlands, NC



LISA THOMPSON
DOG SITTING

- daily drop-in visits
 - overnight & extended stays
 - dog walking
- 828.424.4637**

Whiteside Cove Cottages

5 log cabins nestled in the hemlocks on 25 acres at the base of Whiteside Mountain.

800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222

Paul Corbin
Owner



A&O LANDSCAPING SERVICES, LLC

828-371-2240

pcorbin1631@aol.com

Kim's Compassionate Care

Skilled Hands & A Warm Heart

Kimberly Ferrell

Certified Nursing Assistant/Caregiver

CPR Certified
30+ years experience
References Available

828-347-2542



Highlands Automotive

Service & Repair



NC Inspection Station



828-787-2360



2851 Cashiers Road • highlandsautomotive.com

CHESTNUT STORAGE

Storage Units Available
Secure 24-Hour Access
Easy In - Easy Out
Great Rates - Great Terms



Call today to find out why we're "Highlands Premier Facility"

828-482-1045 *Look for our sign!*

Buck Creek Rd - 1/2 mile off Cashiers Road near the hospital



- Grading
- Excavating
- Driveways
- Build sites
- Hauling
- Septic Systems

Edwin Wilson

Cell (828) 421-3643

Office/fax (828) 526-4758

wilsongrading@yahoo.com

828-200-9217

Fully Insured

Crane Rentals Available



MENDOZA TREE EXPERT

Quality Tree Care & Removal 18+ years

estimates@mendozatreecare.com

mendozatreecare.com

360 MAIN STREET ESTATE JEWELERS OF HIGHLANDS



WE BUY AND CONSIGN OLD JEWELRY

Appointment Only!

Call: 828-526-1960

Text: 770-855-0825

Email: ejofhighlands@gmail.com

COUNSELING CENTER
HIGHLANDS, NC

864-481-0598

INFO@COUNSELING-CENTER.ORG
LOCATED AT THE PEGGY CROSBY CENTER
348 S. 5TH STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741
OFFICES: 201, 203 & 210

COUNSELING-CENTER.ORG

WE STRIVE TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL ABILITY.



Kiln dried FIREWOOD

Delivery or pickup

2460 Cashiers Road • Highlands 828-526-2395
highlandslawnandgarden.com

• CLASSIFIEDS •

Ryan M. Bears

Branch Leader

Cell: 803-271-5426
Off ce: 828-526-8784
ryan.bears@allentate.com



We are home.®



ALLEN TATE REALTORS/PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP

LOST

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHTFUL OWNER of a canoe that was left at Mirror Lake bridge. If you are missing an Old Town canoe, please call 205-577-6630. (st. 11/7)

FOR SALE

LOT WITH SPECTACULAR VIEW and easy to build upon in Eagle Ridge in Wyndham Sapphire Valley Resort. 4,000 feet elevation. Make an offer. Call 828-743-2655. Membership to the resort with all amenities included. (12/5)

PETS FOR SALE – Shih Poo Puppies. All shots. Call 706-970-1558. (st. 11/7)

LAND FOR SALE - 3 tracts, 7.5 miles south of Highlands, 8.64 acres with spring, by far the best view in the area at \$200,000; 6.12 acres with spring (already subdivided into 2, 3-acre lots) \$140,000; 3.99 acres with southern exposure, \$70,000. 828-974-1137. (11/28)

SEASONED FIREWOOD - Any size load. call 828-342-6806. (st. 1/25)

TINY HOME LOTS FOR SALE. \$55k-\$85k ea. Each lot comes with water, power, and sewer run to each lot. www.TinyMountainEstates.com for more info. (st. 11/22/24)

RV SITE - class A only - in Wildflower Creek RV Resort. Just minutes from Highlands and SkyValley. Full hook-up, concrete pad, landscaped and storage shed. \$195,000. For more info call 828-421-1709 or email bobnnancync@gmail.com. (st. 1/25)

FOR RENT

MIRROR LAKE 2/2 COTTAGE. Newly Renovated. six months to one year lease. Available starting February 2025. For more information email Scott@CottageConcierge.biz (st. 12/12)

2/2 FURNISHED RENTAL only minutes from Cashiers crossroads. King beds, fast internet, paved access in a quiet safe neighborhood. 8-12 month lease. \$2,600 month plus electric. No pets. 828-577-0748. (st. 12/5)

WORKFORCE HOUSING - 2 bedroom/2 bath and 3 bedroom/2 bath with between Highlands & Cashiers. Includes hi-speed internet, water, & washer/dryer. No dogs. Inquires, Marcy (706)982-0444 or (828)482-4239, (st. 5/2/24)

HELP WANTED

LEGAL ASSISTANT needed part time for Highlands law office. Contact 828-421-8519. (st. 12/5)

SERVICES

CAREGIVER/SITTER with 40 years experience available for part-time personal care, errands, transportation, meals, etc. Highlands full-time resident. Robert Doe 828.399.0262. (st. 8/29)

MURPHY'S PAINT CO. - interior/exterior painting/sheetrock repair/wallpaper removal/log homes/decks. Insured. Free estimates. 828-332-0525 or 828-421-8600. (12/26)

NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING

HAULED AWAY? Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (3/28)

ANYTHING GOES CLEAN-UP SERVICE

Complete property cleanup - house, garage, property, etc. Call at 828-200-2855. (st. 9/28)

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.



HIGHLANDS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LEADERSHIP HIGHLANDS

Join Our Team as the Digital Marketing Coordinator!

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC is looking for a part-time Digital Marketing Coordinator to collaborate with our Marketing & Communications Director to create engaging content, track key metrics, and maintain our digital presence. Your contributions will play a pivotal role in showcasing the beauty and rich culture that Highlands, NC has to offer.

Key Responsibilities

- Social Media & Web Content: Develop and implement compelling content and monitor performance metrics.
- Email Marketing: Create and distribute regular e-newsletters for the community, members, and visitors.
- Data & Reporting: Gather and manage data to generate insightful reports and maintain accurate distribution lists.

What We're Looking For

- Marketing Knowledge: Experience with social media, public relations, and digital marketing strategies.
- Tech Savvy: Proficient in Microsoft Office, CRM platforms, and e-communication tools.
- Organized & Detail-Oriented: Able to juggle multiple tasks efficiently while maintaining a positive attitude and keen eye for detail.

Why Join Us?

- Collaborative Team: Be part of a passionate team that values creativity and community impact.
- Make a Difference: Help shape the way people experience and connect with Highlands, NC.

Ready to Apply?

If you're self-driven, tech-savvy, and knowledgeable about Highlands, NC, we'd love to hear from you! Visit www.highlandschamber.org/live-work/job-board to learn more and apply.

ALLAN DEARTH
GENERATORS
AND SONS

▶ 828-526-9325 ◀

Generators aren't just a "thing" we do,
generators are all we do!

GENERAC



KOHLER

Al Stoneham

Realtor-Broker
Luxury Home Specialist
Licensed in NC & GA

Cell: 828-332-9767
al.stoneham@allentate.com



We are home.®



ALLEN TATE REALTORS/PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP
HIGHLANDS/SCALY MOUNTAIN/CASHIERS

Predator Self Defense

Byrna Co2 Launcher
Product Sales and Training

Justin Kingsland
8643734022
Predatorsd.com



THE FIREWOOD COMPANY



Highlands • Cashiers • Atlanta

828.200.3050

bobhenritze@gmail.com • www.firewoodcompany.net

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Art League donates to nonprofits dedicated to children

The Art League of Highlands-Cashiers recently donated \$1,000 to each of three area organizations whose focus is on the children of the Plateau: The Highlands Literacy and Learning Center, Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau, and Shop With a Cop.



Pictured from left are Captain Leah McCall of the Highlands Police Department, Bonnie Potts of the Literacy and Learning Center, Ariana Ramsey of the Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau, Highlands Police Chief, Andrea Holland, and Kathy Prosser, President of the Art League.

New nurse practitioner at Toxaway Health Center

Mission Health is pleased to announce the new provider leadership of Carrie Hall, NP, GNP-BC to Toxaway Health Center located at 16825 Rosman Hwy, Lake Toxaway.

Carrie has recently moved to Western North Carolina from her coastal Carolina home. She specializes in adult and geriatric

medicine with a focus on disease prevention, health promotion, management of chronic diseases and the prevention of complications associated with chronic diseases.

If you would like to schedule an appointment with Carrie, please call Toxaway Health Center at 828-862-6900.



Carrie Hall

Toys for Tots needs toys

The Rotary Club of Highlands heard from Jack Brennan, Coordinator for Toys for Tots Macon County on Dec. 3.

Jack spoke on the current decline in overall toy donations across the nation and especially here in Macon County.

Toy donations are down more than 40% so far this year compared to last year. The Rotary Club of Highlands was able to approve and distribute a check to Toys for Tots for \$4,000 to help with the efforts to serve over 900 local children this



From left: Randy Foster, Highlands Rotary Club- President, Jessica Farrell and Jack Brennan, Toys for Tots Coordinator.

holiday season.

Those wanting to donate toys may bring donations to Regions

Bank. Located at 161 Spring St. Highlands NC 28741 or call 828-533-9901 for location of other

Landmark's Creel earns ABR designation

Rick Creel with Landmark Realty Group has been awarded the Accredited Buyer's Representation (ABR) designation by the Real Estate Buyer's Agent Council (REBAC) of the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

Rick joins more than 27,000 real estate professionals in North America who have earned the ABR designation. All were required to successfully complete a comprehensive course in buyer representation and an elective course focusing on a buyer representation spe-



Rick Creel

cialty, both in addition to submitting documentation verifying professional experience.

REBAC, founded in 1988, is the world's largest association of real estate professionals focused specifically on representing the real estate buyer. There are more than 40,000 active members of the organization worldwide. The National Association of Realtors, "The Voice for Real Estate," is the world's largest professional association, representing over 1.4 million members.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH



AN UPSCALE RESALE STORE WITH 10,000 SQ FT OF SHOPPING!

1846 HWY 107N in Cashiers
(Across from Blue Ridge School)

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
10AM-2PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DONATE, CONTACT SKIP RYAN AT (828) 226-2588

SILVER EAGLE
Native American Jewelry
Crystal & Gem Gallery

349 Main Street, Highlands, NC
828.526.5190 silvereaglegallery.com

COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES
Real Estate

Country Club Properties
Your local hometown
Real Estate professionals.
3 Offices 828-526-2520
www.CCPHighlandsNC.com

Highlander Mountain House & The Ruffed Grouse Tavern

highlandermountainhouse.com

Weichert
REALTORS
Highlands Properties
450 N. 4th St. Highlands, NC
828-526-5522
www.highlandsproperties.com

Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals

Highlands is calling

Sales, Vacation Rentals,
and Property Management
Since 1941

401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-3717 www.highlandsiscalling.com
info@highlandsiscalling.com
<https://www.facebook.com/CRVRHighlandsCalling/>
<https://twitter.com/RealtyRntals>

Far from the maddening crowd.

Only 15 minutes to Highlands, this custom built family legacy home has "forever" views, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, office, 2 living rooms, wet bar.

Offered for \$1,890,000

2514 Buck Knob Road
Scaly Mountain

Darlene Conley
Mountain Luxury
Your Dream. Your Journey. YOU'RE HOME!
Dedicated to finding the home you've always wanted.
Cell: 404-427-2448
darlene.conley@allentate.com

Allen Tate Realtors
We are home.[®]

ALLEN TATE REALTORS/
PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

MITZI RAUERS
Broker / Luxury Collection Specialist
(404) 218-9123
mitzi@bhhsmmr.com

Andrea Gabbard
c: 828.200.6742
AndreaGabbard@gmail.com

Ace is the Place,

Reeves
Hardware

At Main & 3rd streets
Highlands 526-2157

Highlands Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

114 N. 4th Street
Highlands, NC

Highlands Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

114 N. 4th Street • Highlands, NC

Local Expertise, Global Connections.

Licensed in NC and GA
office: 828.526.8300 • cell: 828.337.0706
sheryl.wilson@sothebysrealty.com • highlandssir.com

Sheryl Wilson

Team Rick Steve
"The Power of 2"

Trusted advisors
providing impeccable
personalized service

Allen Tate Realtors
We are home.[®]

ALLEN TATE REALTORS/PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP
(404) 219-1349 • HIGHLANDS & CASHIERS NC

CHRISTIE'S HIGHLANDS CASHIERS
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Highlands Office | 210 N. 5th Street

Cell: 828-787-1895
pamela.nellis@yahoo.com

Christie's



MORE THAN 33 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE ON THE PLATEAU

Our clients rate us 5 out of 5 ★★★★★

VOTED AMERICA'S BEST



5



JULIE OSBORN & PAT ALLEN

828.200.6165 | 828.200.9179
julie.osborn@allentate.com
pat.allen@allentate.com



Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP



LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL

Leading

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD



HIGHLANDS OFFICE | 225 MAIN STREET

Cell: 828-736-1198

6

Office: 828-526-4663

ann@landmarkrg.com



ANN COOPER
BROKER-IN-CHARGE



Highlands

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

My deepest gratitude to my clients and friends who trust me with their real estate journeys. It is because of you; we can achieve great results.

Jody Lovell, Broker | Owner

(828) 226.6303

Number 1 Broker on MLS since 2001
Top Broker in North Carolina, per Real Trends
Top 100 Sotheby's International Realty Agent Worldwide, 2023



Open Year-Round • 6 days a week
343-D Main Street • 526-4035



Open 7 days
Lunch & Dinner
11a-3:30p & 5:30-9p

www.wildthymegourmet.com

8



DAVID BOCK BUILDERS

www.BockBuilders.com 828-526-2240



Taste the difference, Always fresh.

Wed. through Sun.

Bistro opens at 4p
Dinner begins at 5:30p



474 Main Street
828.526.3807 | wolfgang.net



People ... are the investments that matter most

CHRISTIE'S

INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

HIGHLANDS CASHIERS

HighlandsCashiersCIRE.com
210 North Fifth Street,
Highlands, NC 28731

Deborah "Bee" Gleeson
404.307.1415

BeeGlee4@Gmail.com
and

Pat Gleeson
828.782.0472

PatrickGleeson4@Gmail.com

30



...on the Verandah
Restaurant
on Lake Sequoyah
828-526-2338

42 Years of Fine Dining

Open
5:30-9p
7 Days
a week



www.ontheverandah.com

M'CULLEY'S CASHMERE

Scotland's Best Knitwear

Open 7 days a week

526-4407

242 S. 4th St. & Pop up
on Main Street

9

