Thanksgiving sales strong in town

Forecasters say retail sales the weekend after Thanksgiving are an indicator of forthcoming winter business. If that’s the case, then the future—at least the near future—will be bright for Highlands businesses. "It was our best weekend ever," said Michelle Hubbell, owner of The Toy Store. "The people were pleasant and the weather was great, too." Hubbell, in business since 1993, said not only was the weekend great, "the previous two weeks were awesome as well."

Christmas Parade an annual tradition in Highlands

The Christmas Tree on the Hill and the Highlands Chamber of Commerce will co-sponsor the Olde Mountain Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 11 a.m. The parade will begin at 6th Street and conclude at Main and 2nd streets. Grand Marshalls for this year’s parade will be the Fighting Highlanders, the varsity boys soccer team from Highlands School who advanced to the final four of the state championship. The other special guest is of course Santa Claus. Participants are asked to meet at the school area by 10 a.m. "We think this will be the biggest parade ever," said Chair Cynthia Dendy of First Citizens Bank. "The parade should last about an hour." Following the parade at noon, there is a Holiday Gift Show & Sale sponsored by the Highlands Plateau Craftsmen from noon to 6 p.m. at the Conference Center, and Christmas caroling in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary beginning a 2 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day sales are strong in town as forecasts say retail sales the weekend after Thanksgiving are an indicator of forthcoming winter business. If this is the case, then the future—at least the near future—will be bright for Highlands businesses. "It was our best weekend ever," said Michelle Hubbell, owner of The Toy Store. "The people were pleasant and the weather was great, too." Hubbell, in business since 1993, said not only was the weekend great, "the previous two weeks were awesome as well."

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Photo by Jim Lewicki
The outcome of the Nov. 16 public hearing on Extra Territorial Jurisdiction has been haunting me for several weeks.

First, the Town Board’s decision to exempt the Cullasaja Club and Highlands Falls Country Club from ETJ inclusion was in my opinion, a big mistake.

Yes, the clubs already have building and land use ordinances in place, but deleting them from the original plan gave the impression that the opinions of citizens living behind the gates of those clubs mattered more than the opinions of citizens in other communities outside the town limits. There are other places in the ETJ area which also have strict covenants but to them commissioners said “Good, then you won’t even notice.”

Second, I thought the behavior of those speaking against ETJ was disrespectful. People have told me since “That’s the way those hearings go,” and “That’s how those people act.” What’s that supposed to mean?

Many of those who spoke against ETJ spoke of the freedoms fought for by our forefathers. Freedom of speech is one of the rights our forefathers fought for but it was obviously not one of the freedoms the group against ETJ deemed important when people at the meeting spoke for ETJ. They were only concerned with property rights. The booting of those with different opinions was rude.

Third, fresh lines have been drawn in the sand demarcating sides and that’s disturbing.

There has long been a “Them vs. Us” attitude in Highlands. It’s either “The County vs. Highlands” or “Real Highlanders vs. Newcomers” or “Year-rounders vs. Seasonal Homeowners.” Aunt Matt Brooks and Irene James said in their day there was a “Town Kids vs. Country Kids” thing going on and that’s one reason they opted to live with their mom’s sister in Cashiers and attend school there for a while.

The Nov. 16 ETJ ruling has exasperated the situation.

For a brief time, commissioners did what would seem impossible — they united people outside the gates with those inside the gates. Neither side wants to have anything to do with Highlands, not if Highlands is going to tell them what to do with their property or levy taxes on them should annexation be in the cards.

The ETJ issue even managed to bring families together whose common thread is land stakes going back four generations and various branches on a prolific family tree. They might not hang out on Friday and Saturday nights, but they come together for funerals, weddings and public hearings concerning property rights.

Many of the people against ETJ whose ancestors have been on the plateau for generations consider themselves to be the Real Highlanders – even though they made conscious decisions not to live within the town limits.

They resent the Town Board because it includes only one “local,” but since they don’t live in the town limits, they can’t do anything about that. To change anything they’d have to vote, but voting privileges can only be granted with annexation and they definitely don’t want that.

However, there are people who live in the ETJ area who have since told me they would have preferred annexation over ETJ because then they’d have a say via voting. And lately there are lots of developers who petition to be annexed so they can tap into the town’s infrastructure. Adhering to land use regulations doesn’t bother them because they’ve had to deal with that stuff elsewhere. Go figure.

So who are Highlanders? The people who send their kids to Highlands School, frequent the grocery stores, buy gas in gas stations, use the Highlands Post Office, the Hudson Library, pay taxes, attend churches in town? Who knows? The lines are blurry now.

They know that people who live outside the town limits depend on the town for one thing or another. Likewise, people in town depend on businesses outside the town limits.

No one lives in isolated hollers anymore and those who live in gated clubs aren’t deep in the wilderness.

Communities and societies are dependent by nature. Generations of people in Horse Cove, Clear Creek, Blue Valley and Shortoff have in years past and now turned to Highlands as either a recipient of goods grown on their farms, as a place of employment, a place to purchase dry goods even a place to send their kids to school. And the same goes for those in country clubs now.

See FORUM page 8
Call Pam Taylor at 526-9027, 342-6988 or 526-2520, anytime.

This remarkable new home will allow owners and guests ample space to enjoy the view of Whiteside and a mountain stream. The attention to detail is obvious from the entrance to the lower level living area. Complete with glass elevator, 2 kitchens, oversize 2-car garage, wood, Travertine & tile coloring, media room, 3 fireplaces and much more. In Highlands Point. Shown by appointment. $3.5 million.

Obituaries

Mary Alice Chalker

Mary Alice Chalker, age 92, of Highlands, N.C., died Saturday, November 26, 2005, at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was a native of Midland, Maryland, a daughter of the late James A. and Edna Goodale Stevens.

She was married to the late Selwyn Chalker, Jr. She taught school at Orange Park Elementary School in Florida. She worked as Director of Education at St. Catherine Episcopal Church in Jacksonville, FL. She was a volunteer for the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. She is survived by a son, Selwyn Chalker, III, of Highlands, N.C.; a grandson, Selwyn Chalker, IV and his wife Andrea of Highlands; three great-grandchildren also survive.

Memorial services were held Monday, November 28 at 11 a.m. in the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, with Father Mike Jones officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, PO Box 729, Highlands, NC 28741 for Haiti Mission.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day

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Madison’s Restaurant and Wine Garden

• OBITUARIES •

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Madison M. (Ken) Chastain

Madison M. (Ken) Chastain, 90, Highlands, N.C., died Monday, November 28, 2005 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Ezekial F. and Martha Picklesimer Chastain. He was married to Marie McCall Chastain who died in 2002. He was a retired caretaker for the VZ-TOP Home Owners Association. He was a devout Christian, loving father & grandfather and was the pillar of the community. He was a member of the Clear Creek Baptist Church for over 60 years where he was a former choir member.

He is survived by his daughter, Linda Vinson and her husband, Buster of Highlands, two sisters, Mozelle Burrell of Highlands and Etta Nielsen of New Jersey; a grandson, Kevin Vinson and his wife Monica; a granddaughter, Kelly Vinson Arnold and her husband, Russell; three great-grandchildren, Ryan and Dylan Vinson and Darius Arnold. Several nieces and nephews also survive. He was preceded in death by four brothers and three sisters.

Funeral services were held Thursday, December 1 at 2 p.m. at Clear Creek Baptist Church with Dr. Dan Robinson and Rev. Walter Wilson officiating. Burial was in the Clear Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. Den Chastain, David Chastain, Charlie Hides, Gary Wilson, Eric Chastain, Bert McCall, Craig McCall, Jerry Crisp and Russell Arnold will serve as pallbearers. Clarence Wilson Neville Wilson, Wade Wilson, Darius Arnold and Dr. David Wheeler served as honorary pallbearers.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.
Looking at all the ho-hum parakeets on store to buy her another bird. After amount of time, I headed for the pet and flowers. I did the singing, if you can imagine. After waiting a respectful complete with soft music, a headstone had a formal funeral in the back yard, bedroom, break open a bird chipmunks, she was able to sneak into my daughter’s bedroom, break open a bird cage and attack her parakeet.

My daughter grieved for weeks. We had a formal funeral in the back yard, complete with soft music, a headstone and flowers. I did the singing, if you can imagine. After waiting a respectful amount of time, I headed for the pet store to buy her another bird. After looking at all the ho-hum parakeets on display, I spotted this magnificent pearl colored cocktail in the back of the store.

I thought, “Bigger is better. My daughter will be thrilled with this beauty.” I presented her with the bird but she was not impressed, especially after it bit her several times. In fact, no one in the family liked this bird, including me. The store wouldn’t take it back, so guess what? I got stuck with it. To this day, I am not quite sure why I named her Kitty Hawk.

Mind you, I like birds a lot. But I like the kind that fly wild and poop in my shirt.....or worse, on my sandwich. (Don’t ask!) After Kitty Hawk had lived with us ....Oops, I mean me, for about a year, I could take no more. I offered it to all my friends who laughed at me. Then, I heard about the “bird lady.” Supposedly she would adopt any bird who needed a home.


It was a modest home way out in the western part of Broward County, Florida. The house was spotless inside because there was not a bird in sight. I began to wonder. Then she escorted Kitty Hawk and me through her home and out into the backyard. I was shocked.

It was immense and set up like a tropical paradise. Two oversized Tiki huts sat just beyond the pool and, at first glance, I would guess I was looking at over a hundred birds and not one of them in a cage. Beyond her yard, nothing but dense vegetation. There were birds at the wet bar, birds basking by the pool, birds in the bird bath. Bird poop was everywhere.

“Vot is dis Kitty Hawk name? Vot is dat mean?” Embarrassed a little, I said. “Ha, oh that, it was my daughter’s idea. You know how kids are... why don’t any of these birds fly away?”

Kitty Hawk was just beginning to get comfortable with her clipped status and surroundings when Tony arrived, a grayer version of Kitty Hawk. He took to her immediately and began strutting his stuff in front of her, kind of like our politicians do right before elections. My baby girl would have nothing to do with Tony. Anyway, I decided, in spite of Tony, this was a good place. Kitty Hawk would live with the bird lady.

About six months later I called her to check on Kitty Hawk. By that time she had three children, all from different fathers, claimed the bird lady so obviously Kitty Hawk had made her way in the world and was doing just fine.
County's 'High Impact Ordinance' explained

At the Nov. 16 extra territorial jurisdiction public hearing, questions about the county's attempt at zoning came up - specifically referring to its recently adopted High Impact Land Use Ordinance.

Commissioner Alan Marsh said one of the reasons he was for ETJ was because it's been difficult to get land use stipulations hammered out in the county.

By Highlands' standards it doesn't sound like much but the county now has an ordinance regulating high-impact land uses in Macon County.

Over the years, attempts at a comprehensive land use ordinance for the county was reduced to just “high-impact” uses because the county’s planning board and its ad hoc committees ran into the “Citizens Against Zoning” wall.

But finally, 22 months and 1,500 man-hours later an ordinance was drafted and accepted by the Macon County Commissioners.

“We tried to use a common sense approach to this,” said Ronnie Beale, head of the ordinance committee. “Obviously some people wanted more in the ordinance, others wanted less.”

The High-Impact Land Use Ordinance applies to all unincorporated areas of the county lying outside the corporate limits and the extraterritorial jurisdiction of any municipality.

Its purpose is to promote health, safety and general welfare of citizens by diminishing the impacts of certain land uses which by their nature, produce noise, odors, vibrations, fumes, light, smoke, dust and other impacts which interfere with the quiet enjoyment of adjacent lands and disturb the peace and dignity of the county.

The following high-impact uses are addressed and allowed in the county with location, screening, buffering and mitigation stipulations outlined.

The uses are: airfields/airstrips, asphalt plants, bulk inflammables, chipmills, commercial incinerators, concrete suppliers, helicopter sightseeing operations, mining and extraction operations and quarries, motor sports activities, sawmills, slaughtering and processing plants, and solid waste management facilities.

The ordinance also deals with existing high-impact businesses which are considered non-conforming. These existing businesses will be unaffected by the new ordinance as long as they stay in business and don’t shut down for renovations or repairs for more than six months.

If an existing high-impact business temporarily closes longer than six months, it must come into compliance as per the ordinance.

Included in the ordinance is a variance process, an appeal process and a penalty process.

... AGENDA continued from page 1
Edward Jones taps Perkins and Rawlins

Callie Rawlins and Ryan Perkins were recognized as the Edward Jones Scholar Athletes for the month of October, Thursday, Nov. 17 PTO meeting.

Rawlins is a senior who was a leader on the girls’ varsity volleyball team that made the playoffs this fall. She especially enjoys studying subjects in the arts and humanities. She is active in many other organizations at school including the student film club, Model UN, Beta Club, French Club and the Drama Club. She is considering attending Flagler College in Florida.

Ryan Perkins played goalie on the boys’ soccer team that made it to the final four in the state tournament. Perkins also plays baseball for the school. His favorite subject is drafting. He is looking into joining the Navy when he finishes his senior year.

... ETJ continued from page 1

We have to ask the County what it wants to do,” said Planning Board Chairman John Cleaveland. “Because nine people on the Planning Board is too many to work with.”

The current Zoning Board doesn’t have anyone on it from outside the town limits. But since zoning districts will be delineated in the ETJ area, the board must now include members from the area.

Since the makeup of the Planning Board is part of the Town Code, at Wednesday’s Dec. 7 Town Board meeting the Town Board can decide if it wants to expand the board to nine people forever or just through June.

But because the makeup of the Zoning Board is part of the Zoning Ordinance, any decision regarding its size...

See ETJ page 9

After the Christmas Parade....

Shop Early for one-of-a-kind Christmas Gifts!

A Holiday Gift Show & Sale

By the Highlands Plateau Craftsmen & the Bascom-Louise Gallery

Saturday, December 3 noon - 6 p.m.

at the Highlands Conference Center

Shop Early for one-of-a-kind Christmas Gifts!
The score says it all

It was neck and neck all the way.
At Tuesday night’s game the Highlanders played skillfully against their matched opponents, the Robbinsville Knights. The final score was Robbinsville 55, Highlands 53.
The Highlands team knows each other cold and shows it with orchestrated moves and plays all the way. They stole the ball 15 times and had 13 assists.
Top scorers were Alec Schmitt and Ryan Bears with 17 points each and they each made 4 assists and stole the ball twice.
Jason Aspinwall scored 11 points, made 5 assists and stole the ball 3 times. Nick Kerhoulas scored 6 points and stole the ball 3 times.
David Parrish made 2 points, blocked once and stole the ball 4 times.
“They took us to a half-court team instead of a full-court team and we need to be playing a full-court game,” said Coach Butch Smart. “They took us to a two-one-two zone defense. We need to be running up and down the court not running on half a court.”
Smart said if the team played the entire game the way they played the first quarter it could have won the game.
Win or lose, the team is worth the ticket price. The next home game is Friday, Dec. 2 against Walhalla. The girls play at 6:30 and the boys at 8.

Jason Aspinwall #12  Ryan Bears #23  David Parrish #10
Alec Schmitt #22  Eric Chen #25  Andrew Billingsley #15
Adam Hedden #4  Esra Herz #13  Michael Lica #1

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Team falls short against Robbinsville

Tuesday night’s game against Robbinsville found a team learning to work well with each other but still having trouble completing the play. More than half of the opposing team Robbinsville’s points came from free throws and that hurt. The final score was Robbinsville 63, Highlands 37.

Keri Raby led the team with 8 rebounds, Toni Schmitt followed with 7 and Katie Bryson had 5. Top scorer was Allison Winn with 9; Toni Schmitt with 8; Bryson and Becca Wyatt each with 7. Bryson also had a monster block in the late fourth quarter. Maggie Dearth and Bailey Buck each scored 2 points and Kaylie Buras and Keri Raby each scored 1 point.

“The girls are improving daily,” said Coach Brett Lamb. “I am pleased with the effort and heart from them. We need to work on making our shots count and making free throws.”

He and the girls are looking forward to getting better and winning more games.

Emotions ran high at the game and Coach Brett was asked to leave the court after two technicals.

... FORUM continued from page 2

So what makes a Highlander? I know my family will never be considered one, but that’s OK, I’m used to it. We lived in downtown Charleston, S.C. for 16 ½ years and weren’t considered Charlestonians because we didn’t have kin buried in the right graveyard on Church Street. Rachel and Megan were born there, but without the right ancestors, they can’t be Charlestonians.

I was raised in Setauket, New York — a Long Island pre-revolutionary town packed with history and family trees — lived there until I was 21 but was never considered a native because my relatives didn’t die on the green in front of the Presbyterian Church during a Revolutionary War skirmish.

No, my people come from Hazelwood, N.C., a close-knit community made up of McClures, Hyatts, Winchesters and Plotts — whose descendants live today in Highlands, Cashiers, Franklin, Sylva, Webster and Waynesville. Jim’s people are from Brooklyn, NY and before that, Poland.

Are we Highlanders? I guess not, but we feel like we are.

It’s connection to a community — not just family trees or inherited land — that make people card-carrying members.

As communities grow, issues like ETJ and annexation are used as ways to cope. Similar battles are being waged across America. Drive through any community and you’ll see the signs, “Say No to Zoning,” “Say No to Annexation.”

Will ETJ be a lasting thing in Highlands, should it be? Maybe, maybe not. No one says we have to agree, but we do have to continue living together and that’s why the lines of demarcation should be erased.
Anna Herz of AnnaWear said the Friday after Thanksgiving was her best day ever. Visitors flocked to Highlands’ and second-home owners returned to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday amidst Highlands’ “Norman Rockwell” ambiance where shopping and strolling a genuine Main Street is not atypical of the past.

“We were booked solid Thanksgiving weekend,” said the folks at Mitchell’s Lodge and Cottages. The Chambers Agency rented more vacation rentals over this Thanksgiving than they ever did before.

The first Holly Days in Highlands Shopping Spree, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce resulted in receipts totaling $39,268.27 being turned into the Chamber. “I think that amount was probably the tip of the iceberg,” said Chamber Chair Jim Mullen. “This was the first year and many of our visitors didn’t know about it. The stores were so busy they couldn’t explain the contest.”

Each person who spent $100 at a store and turned the receipt into the Chamber had a chance at prizes. Winners were: Jim Rutkowski of Kennesaw, Ga., who won two nights at Mitchell’s Lodge and Cottages; Mr. and Mrs. Gary Howard of Dalton, Ga., who won two nights at The Old Edwards Inn & Spa; Earl Shell of Atlanta, Ga., who won two nights at the Coral Reef donated by Mountain High Lodge and Highlands Suite Hotel; Juliana Stottlemyer of Highlands and Stewart Manning of Athens, Ga., who won gift certificates to Wolfgang’s Restaurant and Wine Bistro; and Ralph Spalding of Hendersonville, N.C., who won an antique salt and pepper set donated by Colonial Pines Inn.

Highlands Wine & Cheese and The Christmas Tree both reported sales better than this time last year. “It was a strong weekend,” said Bob Kieltyka with The Christmas Tree.

Alan Mayer, owner of The Dry Sink, reports the best November since he’s been in business.

Linda Bubenick, owner of Oak Street Café which opened the spring of 2005, said the Friday after Thanksgiving was her best day. Folks were lined up two deep at the reception area. “It was similar to the Fourth of July. We served 188 lunches,” she said.

The folks at Twigs said business was huge. “We were trampled!”

Chuck Willhide of Radio Shack & Star Pony Electronics puts numbers to his weekend. “We had a 173 percent increase over last Thanksgiving.”

Though few in numbers, there were some retailers who said business was off for them.

Macon County Commission Chairman Allan Bryson said he has some people in mind for the positions on the Planning and Zoning boards and will discuss the issue at upcoming county meetings.

... ETJ continued from page 6
Nature provides perfect backdrop for holiday kickoff

Snow started falling about 9 p.m. Monday night and by the time it stopped sometime Tuesday, Highlands was coated with a soft wet snow that covered every twig, blade and limb outlined the town like an artist’s etching. It made for a picture-perfect Thanksgiving and holiday shopping the next day. Merchants, restaurateurs and innkeepers reveled in the masses of people who came to shop, dine and stay in Highlands for the long weekend.

If the result of the first “Holly Days in Highlands Shopping Spree Contest” was any indication, business was booming in Highlands this Thanksgiving weekend. Receipts totaling $39,268.27 were turned into the Chamber of Commerce as a way of tallying shopping proceeds. Each person who spent $100 at a store and turned the receipt into the Chamber had a chance at prizes.

“I think that amount was probably the tip of the iceberg,” said Chamber Chair Jim Mullen. “This was the first year and many of our visitors didn’t know about it. The stores were so busy on Friday that the employees didn’t have time to tell the shoppers. It’s something we will continue in the future.” Prizes included two nights at Old Edwards Inn & Spa, two nights at the Coral Reef in Myrtle Beach, S.C., certificates at Wolfgang’s Restaurant & Bistro and an antique salt & pepper shaker set.

Saturday night Main Street was full of visitors and locals who waited for Santa and Mrs. Claus to proclaim the season had begun with the official Town Lighting. Highlands Town Carolers sang Christmas carols for and with the crowd and Santa heard wishes in his tent at Town Square.
New Medicare D coverage program to be explained

Confused about the new Medicare D coverage program? Here’s a chance to get answers.

One-on-one individual meetings will be held to help individuals decide on what to do concerning the new “Medicare Prescription Drug Part D” coverage.

Darrell Authier, retired CPA, will explain the different options available so you can make the right decision.

Even if you are presently covered with a previous employer on Medicaid, have drug coverage with your present Medigap policy or do not take any prescription drugs at this time, you should look at the new plan.

Sixteen companies with more than 40 different plans are available in North Carolina. The new program is not complicated, but very, very confusing.

The free sessions are open to the public. Enrollment began Nov. 15 and continues through Dec. 31.

To keep your continued coverage and to join without a penalty you much decide by May 15, 2006. Enrollment after May 15 will cost one percent per month more until you finally enroll. That’s one percent per month times 12 months which equals a 12 percent higher premium for as long as you are enrolled.

The sessions are free and will be held Monday through Friday from noon to 3:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Call the church office at 526-3175 or 526-3896 for more information and to register for your one-on-one session.

Zip Code caps to fund club’s scholarships

The Mountain Garden Club of Highlands received a new shipment of Zip Code Caps just in time for the Holidays.

The latest fashion for head wear is catching on big time in Highlands and beyond. The caps come in black, red, kaki and blue with 28741 stitched on the side in white, red, blue or kaki and the price is $20. Zip Code Caps make a great gift and have become popular for both men and women the club is scrambling to keep up with the demand. This is a “good thing” because the money raised from the sale of the Zip Code Caps helps the club financially support its many projects.

One of these projects is the Dorothy Wertzler Memorial Scholarship which has provided over $20,000 in scholarships since 1996.

The Scholarship Committee announced this week that they are accepting applications for consideration. The application and accompanying papers must be in the hands of the committee by January 15, 2006.

Criteria for the Mountain Garden Club scholarship: Complete high school with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5; Major in horticulture, botany, environmental studies, forestry, landscape architecture, marine biology or a related field in college; be a resident of Highlands or Scaly Mountain, North Carolina (zip codes 28741 or 28775) or a graduate of Highlands School.

For more information about the scholarship program and an application, please contact Molly Leonard at 526-8730. To purchase a Zip Code Cap, visit Bonnie Earman at the Visitors Center or any of the Garden Club members. Look for the Mountain Garden Club members to be wearing the caps in the parade December 3.

Highlands-Cashiers Area’s First and Only Assisted Living Center

Fully licensed and professionally staffed, The Suites at Chestnut Hill provide a wide range of services. One monthly fee includes:

• A spacious suite (several floor plans to choose from)
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• Check out our SALE room

526-4660
In the Galax in the middle of Main Street
**Bear Mountain Outfitters**

30% - 50% OFF Select Merchandise
Men’s • Women's Sportswear & Highlands Wear Boots • Shoes • Accessories
Open daily: M-TH 10-5, F-S 10-6, Sun 12-5
Oak Square • 526-5784

**Cool Cats Hot Dogs**

“Unique Items for People and Their Pets!”
Lots of Great Sales
OPEN:
Mon. - Thurs. - 11 to 4
Fri. & Sat. 10 to 5
526-9990
256 S. 4th St. ...on the Hill

**Silver Eagle**

- Sterling Silver Jewelry
- Rugs & Pillows
- Minnetonka Moccasins
- Painted Ponies
- Original Art & Artifacts
- Books, Incense and Candles

468 Main Street • 526-5190

**The Exchange for Men**

Featuring:
- Sunsablet • Riscatto • Raffi
- Allen-Edmonds • Remy
- Johnston & Murphy • Oliver-Hilton
- Alexander Julian • Jhane Barnes
- Individualized Custom Shirts

“Shop with us for the Holidays!”

**Nancy’s Fancies**

“The finest and most complete selection of ladies clothing, jewelry, lingerie, and accessories.”
The Unique Boutique
526-5029
322 Main Street • Enter from both Main or Oak Streets • 1-800-526-6770

**Vivace**

Famous designer jewelry, stylish lines of clothes, hats, trendy handbags, scarves, rainwear, and much more.
Most Everything on SALE!
Mon.- Thurs. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
526-1880

**Holiday Shopping in Highlands**

For Her
- Sterling Silver Jewelry
- Rugs & Pillows
- Minnetonka Moccasins
- Painted Ponies
- Original Art & Artifacts
- Books, Incense and Candles

468 Main Street • 526-5190

For Him
- Fine Furniture & Accessories for the Home
- Designer Clothing, Handbags, Jewelry & Silks

Start Your Holiday Shopping With Us!

Hours:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday-Saturday

**The Old Rangoon**

290 S. Fourth St. • Highlands • 828-526-8288
On the Hill

“On the Hill”

www.theoldrangoon.com

**For all your holiday decorating needs!**

Highlands' Original Christmas Shop

- Dept. 56
- LGB Trains
- Patricia Breen
- Christopher Radko
- Byers’ Carolers
- German Nut-crackers

Hours:
Mon-Sat 10-5 • Sun., 4th St. “...on the Hill” • 526-3687 • 800-523-6558 12-5

290 S. Fourth St. • Highlands • 828-526-8288
On the Hill
**PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU**

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**
NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**
Rev. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15 a.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**
(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
Steven E. Kerhoulas, Senior Pastor
www.cbchandlelands.com 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
Prayer – 6:15 p.m.; Choir – 7:30 p.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sunday School – 9:30 & 9:45.

**Buck Creek Baptist Church**
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**
Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor’s residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 9 a.m. – choir
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sun: School – 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
Wed: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities – 6 p.m.

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**
Rev. Deemer Chilton, Pastor, 2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30 a.m.

**Madison Baptist Church**
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Sabolab
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Rev. Tien, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD**
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; Evening Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

**SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
Wed: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**
Rev. Maureen Millar (part-time) 526-9769
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

**WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**
Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby Church Nursery, on US 221 near West Jefferson. North Carolina is contributing approximately 500 trees to this endeavor.

Trees for Troops

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation – in cooperation with FedEx, New Holland and the North Carolina Christmas Tree Association – announce a Trees for Troops program that will provide real Christmas trees to more than 3,500 troops stationed around the world.

An international shipment of the fresh, farm grown trees departed Columbus, Ohio on Nov. 15. Trees bound for troops and families at U.S. bases are being collected.

FedEx will pick up trees from North Carolina between 8 a.m and 10 a.m. on Monday Dec. 5 at Cline Church Nursery, on US 221 near West Jefferson. North Carolina is contributing approximately 500 trees to this endeavor.

The Trees for Troops program provides a way for all Americans to show their appreciation for the sacrifices that U.S. troops and their families are making this holiday season. Members of the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA) and 17 state/ regional Christmas Tree Associations are donating Christmas trees. FedEx is providing free shipping.

New Holland is providing logistical support.

Interested citizens can show their support by visiting www.ChristmasSpiritFoundation.org and leaving a message for the troops and/or by making a contribution to support the program.
**Police & Fire Log**

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Nov. 16-30.

**Nov. 16**
- At 12:20 p.m., officers responded to an accident on U.S. 64 at Cullasaja Drive. There were no injuries.
- At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-car accident on Log Cabin Road. There were no injuries.

**Nov. 19**
- At 11:30 a.m., a motorist on N.C. 28 south was cited for speeding 53 mph in a 35 zone.
- At 4:30 p.m., a resident on Thistle Drive reported household goods and antiques and collectibles valued at $8,100 missing from his home.

**Nov. 24**
- At 1:15 p.m., a resident on Cobb Road reported antiques and collectibles valued at $6,250 missing from her home.
- At 11:15 a.m., a visitor from Texas reported losing his driver’s license.
- At 4:45 p.m., officers responded to an accident on U.S. 64 and Little Bear Pen Road.

**Nov. 25**
- At 10 a.m., The Grinning Frog reported $170 in cash missing from the cash register.
- At 1:45 p.m., an employee at Cafe 460 reported $55 missing from her pocketbook.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Nov 16-30.

**Nov. 16**
- The dept. responded to a call of a brush fire on Woodland Hills Drive. There was no damage to structures.

**Nov. 14**
- The dept. responded to an accident on U.S. 64. There were no injuries.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on McCall Road. There was no transport.

**Nov. 18**
- The dept. responded to trash fire in a truck on Arnold Road.

**Nov. 19**
- The dept. responded to an alarm at Highlands Country Club. It was false.

**Nov. 20**
- The dept. responded to a call of smoke in a house on Holt Road. It was due to a faulty fireplace. There was no damage.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly Mountain but it was cancelled en route.

**Nov. 25**
- The dept. responded to a call of smoke in a house on Holt Road. It was due to a faulty fireplace. There was no damage.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at Chestnut Hill. It was set off by workers.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Howell Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a resident on Laurelwood Ridge Road. There was no transport.

**Nov. 26**
- The dept. responded to a dumpster fire at Highlands Country Club.

**Nov. 27**
- The dept. responded to a report of an accident on Buck Creek Road. It had occurred the night before.
- The dept. responded to an accident on N.C. 28 south. There were no injuries.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. It was cancelled on route.

**Nov. 29**
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Edwards Creek Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

**Highlands Eateries**

- **Hill Top Grill**
  - “Quick Service Not Fast Food”
  - Hamburgers ~ Fries
  - Sandwiches & Salads
  - Open for lunch Mon-Sat
  - “Celebrating 53 years in Highlands”
  - 526-5916

- **Dusty’s Rhodes Superette**
  - Prepared ready to serve & bake hors d’oeuvres, breads, pastas, cookies & entre
  - “We cut the BEST steaks in town!”
  - Mon-Sat • 493 Dillard Rd.
  - 526-2762

- **Don Leon’s Deli Cafe**
  - “Fast food is not good... Good food is not fast.”
  - Sandwiches, Cajun & European Specialties
  - Hours: 11-4 • Tues. - Sun
  - 526-1600
  - Corner of Main St. & N.C. 106

- **Sweettreats**
  - Now serving light fare (all day):
    - Soup, Salad, Sandwich
    - Full Coffee and Wine Bar
    - Delectible Desserts
    - Custom Made Ice Cream & Yogurt
  - Wireless Internet
  - Mountain Brook Center
  - (828) 526-9822
  - OPEN 11:30 until?

- **Buck's Coffee Cafe**
  - Sun.-Thurs. 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
  - Fri & Sat . 7:30 a.m. - 11p.m.
  - Live music Fri & Sat
  - Coffee, tea, wine, pastries, sandwiches
  - 384 Main Street
  - Hours: 11–4 • Tues. – Sun
  - 526-1600

- **Brick Oven Pizza**
  - Made-to-order pizza, calzones & salads.
  - Open for lunch & dinner
  - 526-4121

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**Support Northland's Annual Toys for Kids Drive**

Spread joy this holiday season by helping a child in need.

Donate a new toy valued at $15 or more and receive 90% OFF cable or Internet installation.

**Budget now for your 2006 advertising in Highlands’ Newspaper and quarterly Map & Guides.**

Call 526-0782 for ad pack or email request to highlandseditor@aol.com
After the Christmas Parade on Dec. 3...

Come Sing Christmas Carols in the First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary!

Singing begins at 2 p.m.

Come early and listen to Angie Jenkins playing the Wicks Pipe Organ.

Main Street across from Wolfgang's

Highlands Community Players
Annual Gift to the Community
“Christmas Reading”
Thursday, December 8
7 p.m.
Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street

All are welcome to the performance & refreshments.
It’s Free!

“Shop with a Cop”

No tax dollars are used to fund this program. Your contribution is needed to make this year’s event a huge success. Help give a child and his/her family a Christmas they’ll remember for years to come.

Please send checks by December 12 to:
Macon County Sheriff’s Office
“Shop with a Cop”
1820 Lakeside Drive, Franklin NC 28734

UPCOMING EVENTS

Through Dec. 16
• Sign-ups for Macon County Boys Basketball for boys ages 7-14. Applications are available at the Highlands Civic Center. The cost is $30. Birth certificates are required. For more information contact Michelle Munger at 526-8029 or 342-3551.

Ongoing
• On Mondays, from 4-6 p.m., “Shop with a Cop” is held at the Macon County Sheriff’s Office.
• On Saturdays, from 9-12 a.m., “Shop with a Cop” is held at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Highlands Community Players will again host a program of readings appropriate to the birth of Jesus, carols, and visit with Santa Claus. Children may bring a toy for the Angel Tree, which will be given to children in need.

Highlands United Methodist Church is hosting their annual Christmas Caroling event. This year’s event will feature live music by the Highlands Community Players and a performance by the Highlands Plateau Craftsmen and Bascom-Louise Gallery.

Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center

On Chestnut Street

Grades 2-5, Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 p.m.; Grades 6-9, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4-6 p.m. until close.

Barn every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night from 6 p.m. until close.

Highlands United Methodist Church

Macon County Sheriff’s Office

Please send checks by December 18 to:
Highlands United Methodist Church
526-3376

เหน 25 miles round trip. Call Leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations.

Pumpkin Cream Cheese Roll-ups, pecans, peanuts, jelly, jams and other baked goods FOR SALE, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the corner of Second and Main streets between the Masonic Lodge and HUMC and on the corner of Fifth & Main streets near the Presbyterian Church. Proceeds fund Highlands Chapter of the Eastern Star charitable programs.

Dec. 4
The Nantahala Hiking Club will take two easy short hikes for a total of 2.5 miles in Blue Valley to the amethyst mines supposedly operated by Tiffany’s years ago and to Pidolisers Rock House, where a waterfall falls over a huge overhanging shelf under which prehistoric people once sheltered. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. Bring a drink, a lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Drive 25 miles round trip.

Call Leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820.

Dec. 5

Dec. 6
HS Basketball at home against Franklin. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys 8 p.m.

Dec. 8
On Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street, the Highlands Community Players will again present a program of readings appropriate to the holiday season, some humorous, some serious and informative, some heart-warming and sentimental—all entertaining—interspersed with live music by community performers. It’s free.

Dec. 10
Highlands United Methodist Church will host “Breakfast with Santa” on Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Join them for a pancake breakfast, a craft, a story about the birth of Jesus, carols, and visit with Santa Claus. The cost is $10 per family. Space is limited. Please call the church at 526-3376 to make a reservation.

Dec. 14
The Highlands United Methodist Church will host their annual Christmas Caroling event. This year’s event will feature live music by the Highlands Community Players and a performance by the Highlands Plateau Craftsmen and Bascom-Louise Gallery.

Dec. 15
The Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center will host a program of readings appropriate to the birth of Jesus, carols, and visit with Santa Claus. Children may bring a toy for the Angel Tree, which will be given to children in need.

Dec. 16
Highlands United Methodist Church is hosting their annual Christmas Caroling event. This year’s event will feature live music by the Highlands Community Players and a performance by the Highlands Plateau Craftsmen and Bascom-Louise Gallery.

Dec. 18
The Nantahala Hiking Club will take two easy short hikes for a total of 2.5 miles in Blue Valley to the amethyst mines supposedly operated by Tiffany’s years ago and to Pidolisers Rock House, where a waterfall falls over a huge overhanging shelf under which prehistoric people once sheltered. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. Bring a drink, a lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Drive 25 miles round trip.

Call Leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820.

Dec. 19

Dec. 20
HS Basketball at home against Franklin. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys 8 p.m.

Dec. 22
On Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street, the Highlands Community Players will again present a program of readings appropriate to the holiday season, some humorous, some serious and informative, some heart-warming and sentimental—all entertaining—interspersed with live music by community performers. It’s free.

Dec. 24
The Highlands United Methodist Church will host “Breakfast with Santa” on Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Join them for a pancake breakfast, a craft, a story about the birth of Jesus, carols, and visit with Santa Claus. The cost is $10 per family. Space is limited. Please call the church at 526-3376 to make a reservation.
HELP WANTED

CREATIVE CONCEPTS & BODY WORKS – Needed at Highlands location. Massage therapist, esthetician, hair stylist, nail technician. Call Deb at 404-226-5415.

OFFICE MANAGER AT HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Must have skills in Quick Books, Excel, Windows, Word, good organizational skills and the ability to work well with people. Qualified applicants only need to apply. Send resume with references and salary requirements to President, P.O. Box 62, Highlands, NC 28741.

CONTROLLE...
Chesnut Hill of Highlands will officially open its new Assisted Living Center - The Suites at Chestnut Hill - at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8, with an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Suites at Chestnut Hill is located within the private senior living community of Chestnut Hill of Highlands, near Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and is the first and only assisted living center in the Highlands-Cashiers area.

The public is invited to the event, which will also feature guided tours of the 26-suite center, and the Chestnut Hill senior living community. State and local dignitaries will be on hand and light refreshments, prepared by Chestnut Hill’s executive chef, will be served.

“The opening of The Suites represents the fulfillment of a much-needed, long desired addition to our senior and adult retirement community,” said Frazier Jackson, executive director of Chestnut Hill of Highlands. “Not only does it complete Chestnut Hill's offering of full-service continuing care, but it brings an added dimension to the quality of life our residents enjoy and for those who choose to retire in the Highlands-Cashiers area.

The fully licensed center provides residents with 24-hour personal assistance. This includes the monitoring and scheduling of medication, as well as help with daily routines such as dressing, bathing and grooming.

Several floor plans are available ranging from 388 square feet to 637 square feet. Services and amenities at The Suites include (but are not limited to) three full-course meals a day, plus snacks; personnel on duty 24 hours a day, recreational, educational, religious and cultural programs; a full calendar of events and activities, scheduled transportation; as well as housekeeping, flat linen and laundry service.

For more information, contact Frazier Jackson at 526-5251.

On Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street, the Highlands Community Players will present its annual Christmas program.

Actors will perform readings appropriate to the holiday season, some humorous, some serious and informative, some heart-warming and sentimental—all entertaining—interspersed with live music by community performers. It’s free and appropriate for all ages.