**Town says ‘no’ to free utilities requests**

Utility requests from two entities were the main subject at last week’s Town Board meeting.

The Wright family, represented by Linda Wright, requested water from the town to periodically hydrate a memorial garden being constructed in the back corner of Wright Square.

Over the years, the property was sold and developed except for the small plot between two buildings that border Helen’s Barn Avenue. This parcel was set aside for a monument to commemorate the contributions the Wright family has made to Highlands. Instead, a memorial garden with a simple brass plaque is planned; construction begins in September.

Wright requested a free water tap and unmetered water for an underground water source for ini-

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**J-MCA offers sustainable solutions for town**

**- Part 1 -**

By Michelle Price

J-MCA

The issue of “sustainability” is a hot potato in political circles considered by those against it as government encroachment; while those for it see it as a way to preserve the environment while promoting business and quality of life.

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance (J-MCA) recently presented its Sustainable Solutions Report to the Town of Highlands. The report findings were the result of 10 forums — Native Plants in your landscape, Sustainable Energy Solutions, Energy Audits for Highlands Civic Center and Community Building, Eco-Economic Development, State of our Forests and Streams, Sustainable Tourism, Local Food Production, Cultivating Mushrooms, Gardening 101, Air Quality, Local Issues and Solutions.

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**Annual ‘Kirkin’ this Sunday**

**Kirking of the Tartans at First Presbyterian Church at 11 a.m.**

Dr. Thomas G. Long, from the Candler School of Theology at Emory, will serve as special guest minister.

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**New Post Office opens Sat.**

The Highlands Post Office will discontinue operations at the current location on NC 28 and Highlands Plaza after Saturday, Aug. 25.

Post office boxes will be moved to the new Highlands Post Office located at the corner of NC 106 and US 64 west.

Post Office boxes will be un-available from noon – 4 p.m. on Saturday Aug. 25.

Customers may access Post Office box mail in the old location until noon, Aug. 25. After noon, on that date, customers will need to retrieve mail at the new post office location.

The Post Office box key(s) currently used at the old location will open Post Office boxes in the new location.

Questions? Call the Highlands Post Office at 526-2667.

- Richard Moninghoff
  Postmaster

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**Why should we care about Third World countries?**

By Alex Osteen

Should the U.S. do development work in the Third World? With billions of dollars and lives at stake, it’s not just a worthwhile question for tax-payers, donors and American citizens in general, it’s one that sparks serious debate both domestically and abroad.

Some contend that, as the leader of the developed world, the United States has a moral obligation to help poor countries. Others argue that, with a perpetual government deficit and an exploding national debt, the government has higher domestic priorities. “We should focus on us first.”

Having seen firsthand how some projects work and others waste money and/or do more harm than good, I have a mixed opinion, but ultimately I believe helping pays off in the end.

Some foreigners call U.S. development work just a front for 21st century imperialism that pushes American ideals of greed and consumerism on the honest and decent people of rural plac-

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**Letters**

**Feeding the bears**

Dear Editor,

I just wonder why all the bears are breaking into homes with a nose for dog food. Could it be that some of us have more money than common sense? I just could not figure out why we had so many more bears and coyotes on our property feeding on our livestock this year until just recently when I found an empty dog food bag in the road nearby with baling twine tied to it.

That seemed odd until, upon further investigation, I found two more dog food bags hanging in the trees on neighboring property in front of our home. I realize that some folks think they are protecting the bears if they can just keep them on their property but that isn’t going to happen. That saying “a fed bear is a dead bear” is so true.

If the bears come into my house to get my dog food or in my barn for the livestock feed it will be a dead bear! It is all we can do to afford dog food for our dogs while others are stringing it up for the bears and teaching them killer habits.

Don’t we advise our visiting campers to hang their food in the trees. While others teach them where to find it. Where do you suppose they will go if you do not continue providing their meals? Hence, more money than common sense!

And I don’t think they are feeding the deer and turkeys dog food from the trees so let’s not even go there.

It seems that we all have lessons to learn about living with nature as well as learning how to live with our neighbors. A little more thought and consideration can go a long way in both cases.

Audrey Keener
Highlands

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**Hawk’s Eye View**

Fred has a soft side

Dear Editor,

I just finished reading Fred Wooldridge’s column on the Sikh’s in the Aug. 16 edition.

He showed his sensitive side, which I admire and like to see being demonstrated. Thanks, for a great column.

Jack Miller
Highlands

Let’s help Stephanie

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your wonderful paper. I drive up to the Otto, NC, Post Office every week from Clayton, GA, just to get your paper and read it. I love it!

What a wonderful article you wrote on Stephanie Stanley and her family. Brought tears to my eyes.

My heart goes out to Stephanie Stanley and her precious boys. God bless her for trying to do the best she can. Stephanie and her family need our prayers so everyone, please pray that God will touch her and her family to get through all the difficult times that lie ahead. God does open hearts and doors.

There is no way that Stephanie will never keep her head above water. She absolutely has not future what so ever to lead a normal debt-free life. She could work five jobs and never be able to get ahead with her high medical bills. She’s doing everything she can to provide for her children and doesn’t want a free hand out like half of America, but she needs some help.

It seems that legal hard working struggling Americans can’t get any help.

It’s time for the American people to stand up and be heard. Somebody has got to start looking out for America and its own people.

I pray people will open their hearts and wallets and help Stephanie find some solution to all her on-going problems. She needs our help now.

Maybe someone could set up a bank account for her and the boys and people could help out when they can. Keep praying and God will open a door. God does work miracles. He is the only one with the power to do so.

God bless Stephanie and her family. Keep your spirits up. Good things are about to happen. All things are possible through our Lord.

Darlene Carver
Clayton, GA

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**Highlands Newspaper**

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**National Weather Service**

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**

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See LETTERS page 6
OBITUARY

Donald H. Elliott

Donald H. Elliott, age 80, of Highlands, NC and formerly of Delray Beach, FL, died Friday, November 25, 2011. He was married to the late Phyllis E. Elliott, who died November 6, 2010.

He is survived by three sons, Larry E. Elliott and wife Karen of Delray Beach, FL, Donald E. Elliott and wife Lisa of Cullowhee, NC and Philip N. Elliott of Franklin, NC; a half-brother, Eugene R. Elliott, Jr. of Delray Beach, FL; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by a son, Richard Elliott.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, August 25, 2012 at 2 PM at the Church of the Valley in Cashiers, NC with Rev. Steve Kerholas officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Christ Church of the Valley, PO Box 2863, Cashiers, NC 28717 or the charity of one’s choice. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

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I’ve become a Bridge slut

I know it’s my fault. I’m not blaming anyone but myself. Now I wander the streets of Highlands looking for someone to play Bridge with me. It’s worse than trying to find a black person living in Highlands….there just aren’t any. I’ve become a Bridge slut and here’s how I became such a tramp.

It was mid summer when I announced to my loyal Bridge friends I couldn’t take it anymore. I was drowning in systems. I was having Mel’s rule of two dreams. I wanted to beat up a person I didn’t even know named Cappelletti. I also dreamt the li’l missus divorced me and I was forced to marry Bridge czar Audrey Grant. Ahhhh! Then I had a dream I died and went straight to hell where everyone is forced to play Bridge 24/7. I woke in a cold sweat.

So I told my friends, “I can’t take it anymore. I’m taking a sabbatical from Bridge.” It was good at first, being off Bridge drugs. I cleaned the garage and got everything organized. I found things I hadn’t seen in years, I watched old movies while the li’l missus fed her addiction with a new partner. But I had forgotten I’m an addict.

I should have known I couldn’t do the “cold turkey” thing. Few addicts can just quit. Now, my problem was I needed to get back in the game and because I’m a less than ho hum player, no one wanted me. (Tissues, please)

More time went by and I was becoming desperate. I made a large sign and stood at 4th and Main streets. It asked, “Will you play with me?” Bad, bad move. Oh, I got lots of takers but none of them played Bridge. I realized the sign might be worded wrong. My next sign said...
We really wanted to come home from Key West last Monday, after arriving Sunday, but bravely stuck it out until Saturday, our scheduled return. Last week, I wrote about our first night at the hotel. We ended up staying in the same room with an armada of fans and an open freezer door. I can best describe the Key West experience as spending six days on a treadmill; without Café du Monde. We limited ourselves to one activity a day. We visited the Hemmingway House.

Lizzie heard another tourist say she had felt the presence of Hemmingway’s ghost, but when we bought our tickets, didn’t know a personal visit was an option. We went scuba diving on the Vandenburg, a Navy missile tracking ship which was sunk as a diving adventure. According to our dive master, the sinking was eight years in the planning and cost $2,000,000. Your government at work! We were surprised to learn there are only a few tiny beaches on Key West, all of them man made.

We met a Jamaican couple on a sunset cruise. It was too cloudy to see the sun, but it got dark so I didn’t feel like we could ask for a refund. I did jokingly request a discount for a future cruise. The somber answer was, “we don’t control the weather”. The Jamaican couple was charming.

We visited Ripley’s and Fort Zachery Taylor, but on an impulse, bought $50 worth of tickets for a raffle sponsored by Bikers against Drunk Driving, or some similarly named club. The grand prize is a replica Shelby Cobra and a Harley Davidson. Bull

**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

Feedback is encouraged.

email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

**See SALZARULO page 18**
... LETTERS continued from page 2

Transparency is key

Dear Editor,

I read the letter from Mr. Gary Drake in the July 26 edition of Highlands Newspaper about his integrity being questioned concerning violations of the North Carolina “Sunshine Law” by Publisher/Editor Kim Lewicki about which she also asked Town Attorney Bill Coward.

As a past city official for a city in Florida and current consultant to several Florida cities, I am very sensitive about the Florida “Sunshine Laws” that are much more restrictive than the North Carolina laws. There are actually two sets of laws in North Carolina that relate to the issue at hand of two or more elected Town officials meeting in private. One is the North Carolina “Sunshine Law” and the more appropriate set of laws is the North Carolina “Open Meetings Law”.

The North Carolina Sunshine Law concerns the right of the media and the general public to obtain records of public meetings and business of a town or other public agencies referenced in the law.

The North Carolina Open Meetings Law addresses the official meetings of public bodies like town council meetings saying that these official meetings are to be conducted openly.

In the article as described by Mr. Drake, it is obvious that no law is being broken relative to several Town Council members meeting together with the town manager as long as there is not a quorum of council members meeting on town business.

While there is no violation of North Carolina law taking place, there is certainly a violation of the “Spirit of the law.”

This was a serious problem in Florida a number of years ago which came to the need for the State of Florida to improve the Florida Sunshine Laws.

In Florida, it is now against the law for any two elected city officials of a city to meet in private or even socially and discuss any business of the city. Such a violation results in the immediate termination of the elected officials from office. This law is carefully discussed by the city attorney of most cities on an annual basis in a city council meeting to remind all of the elected officials of their duty to obey the Florida Sunshine Law and be properly informed of what the law requires.

While meetings of two Town Council meetings with the Town Manager to discuss town business is not a violation of North Carolina law, it would appear that such meetings are not good policy.

The Town Manager is responsible to communicate with all of the elected officials in a manner acceptable to each elected official, however, such transfer of information should be done in an equal basis and not performed in small group meetings with some elected officials included and others not included. Such meetings give the appearance of inappropriate political strategy even though this may not be the case.

I suggest that the Town consider, in a public meeting, the best means of communication between the Town Manager and each elected official and that meetings of two or more elected officials concerning town business be avoided to improve the transparency of Town government by Town operations policy.

Bob Brotherton
Dunedin, FL

Abel’s words not true

Dear Editor,

In Margery Abel’s letter to the editor in the Aug. 16 edition of Highlands Newspaper, she criticized Senator Jim Davis supporters for wearing red T-shirts at the League of Women Voters August 9th public candidate forum, calling it “red shirt tactics.” Abel also mischaracterized enthusiastic
When I was a kid, I used to love baseball for several reasons, but the primary reason was because I played. While I have chronicled a few of my earlier baseball experiences in this space, I forgot something about baseball that I haven't had to realize in the past 19 years. See, since the Pirates were always at the bottom of the standings in May or June, I forgot just how long the baseball season really is.

While I must admit that I am enjoying watching meaningful baseball in August, I have a newfound appreciation for baseball players and the grind that they must endure throughout a 162 game season. 162 days is a long time, particularly when you are spending 81 of those days in a different city other than your hometown—it is pretty amazing the mental focus that these players must have in order to play day in and day out.

While the game itself is somewhat physically taxing, I think the real issue for these guys is to avoid mental fatigue, and I think that the mental aspect of the game is very underrated. After all, how else could you explain how a guy like Rick Ankiel can go from one of the best pitchers in baseball to not being able to throw a strike…but I digress.

Anyway, football is starting soon, and I think that one of the reasons that Americans love football so much is because it is great for people like us who have short attention spans. The NFL season only lasts 16 games, so every game has a ton of meaning and can have a profound effect on a team's season.

In baseball, teams go on hot streaks and cold streaks over the course of the season (as Lou Brown would say, “gentlemen, we won last night, we won tonight, if we win tomorrow, that's called a winning streak. It has happened before.”) Therefore, it is hard for one regular season game to keep us on the edge of our seats in the way that an NFL gam might. While it may be difficult, this season I have remained on the edge of my seat each night, watching my beloved Buccos despite their current struggles. (I'm pretty sure that Chase Headley takes it personally that the Pirates didn't trade for him, as he has single-handedly destroyed the Pirates this season.)

The Pirates aren’t going to make the playoffs—primarily because I jinxed them a few weeks ago—but also because they are too young in some places and too old in others. The weight of a playoff race has begun to take its toll on the shoulders of Andrew McCutchen, and teams like St. Louis and Los Angeles are just flat out better. However, the most enjoyable thing about this season has been rediscovering what it feels like to care about regular season baseball again.
Bang bang you’re dead

Wikipedia says this: “A hollow-point bullet is an expanding bullet that has a pit or hollowed out shape in its tip, often intended to cause the bullet to expand upon entering a target in order to disrupt more tissue as it travels through the target.

The hollow point bullet has several purposes - hollow points are designed to increase in diameter once within the target, thus maximizing tissue damage and blood loss or shock.”

I’m going to commit the cardinal sin – asking a question, not knowing the answer and I’d like to hear back from you.

Why are various governmental agencies placing large orders for hollow-point bullets?

From rt.com (the first Russian 24/7 English-language news channel - see, I really do scan the globe to bring you the “right stuff”): “After 9/11, the United States government created the Department of Homeland security to prevent future acts of terrorism and deal with other domestic issues. Now, in order to keep doing such, the agency is asking for 450 million hollow point bullets. This was followed by another DHS solicitation asking for a further 750 million rounds of assorted bullets, including .357 mag rounds that are able to penetrate walls.

The DHS has signed off on an “indefinite delivery” from defense contractors ATK that will include, for some reason, nearly 500 million high power ammunition for .40 caliber firearms. The department has yet to discuss why they are ordering such a bevy of bullets for an agency that has limited need domestically for doing harm, but they say they expect to continue receiving shipments from the manufacturer for the next five years, during which they plan to blow through enough ammunition to execute more people than there are in the entire United States.”

Somehow, you can almost understand why an agency with the words Homeland Security in their name may have some need for arms. If the Department of Justice, through the ATF can play with fire, why shouldn’t DHS get into the arms race? From Infowars: “The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has put out a contract for 46,000 rounds of hollow point bullets along with 500 paper targets. Despite initially asking the bullets to be delivered to the National Weather Service, NOAA claimed that this was a ‘clerical error’ and insisted the ammunition was being sent to the Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement. Why powerful hollow point bullets that are designed to tear apart internal organs are needed for practice shooting at paper targets has not been explained.”

Continuing on from Infowars: First it was the Department of Homeland Security, then it was the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and now……. the Social Security Administration is set to purchase 174,000 rounds of hollow point bullets that will be delivered to 41 locations across the country. A solicitation posted by the SSA on the FedBizOpps website asks for contractors to supply 174,000 rounds of .357 Sig (?) 125 grain bonded jacketed (worst of the worst) hollow point pistol ammun-
By Ryan Potts

The young members of the Highlands Highlander soccer team opened the season with a 4-1 non-conference loss to the Brevard Blue Devils.

Brevard traveled to Highlands with 11 seniors, and it became apparent early on that the Blue Devils strategy was simply to make the game as physical as possible. The young Highlanders held up well for a half, only trailing 1-0 at the break, but the experience and physicality of Brevard began to wear down the Highlanders in the second period.

Ryan Vinson scored the lone goal for Highlands in the 4-1 defeat. Highlander Coach Chris Green felt like his charges played well, saying that “it says a lot about what we have done in recent years in that we are expected to win games like this, but the fact remains that they are a much larger school who brought up 11 seniors and 7 juniors, so it was a little much for the young guys on our team to overcome.” Green also added that “people may look at the score and think one thing, but we actually played pretty well, we just had some bad luck on our chances and that made the score look a little worse than it actually was.”

The Highlanders will continue non-conference play this week with road games against Franklin and Tuscola.
I recently celebrated my 62nd birthday. Unlike many women who hide their age - as well as their dress and shoe sizes - I embrace getting older. Maurice Chevalier, a compatriot of mine, said a number of things which were witty and wise. “Many a man has fallen in love with a girl in a light so dim he would not have chosen a suit by it.” The finest Chevalier quote is still the one for which he is best known. When interviewed at his 80th birthday party, and asked how it felt to be so old, he quipped, “Old age is not that bad when you consider the alternative.”

I am enjoying my birthdays more as I get older. Although I have a few friends in Highlands who are my age - or younger - many of them are a bit older than me. When I mention having a birthday, and give my age, it’s great to hear choruses of “Why, you’re still just a kid!” and “You sure don’t look your age!” I should ask for it in writing.

One good thing about aging is the ability to celebrate birthdays whenever and however we choose. In the United Kingdom, the birthday of the reigning monarch has been celebrated since 1748. King Edward VII was born November 9th, but moved the ceremony to the summer, hoping for good weather. The current Queen’s birthday is celebrated on the 1st, 2nd or 3rd Saturday in June, even though she was actually born on April 21st. The big event of the day is the Queen’s Birthday Parade called “Trooping the Colour.” Please note the wording of this expression, because it is often erroneously called “the Trooping of the Color.”

This error is probably made by the same people who insist on calling our town “The Highlands.” Watch the weather forecasts on local TV stations. They divide the weather patterns into “Mountains” and “Upstate,” not “The Highlands” and “Upstate.” Locals stifle a chuckle when they hear people boast, “My family and I have been coming to The Highlands for years!” The Highlands? Still, you can understand the dilemma. Men walking around the streets sporting kilts, fiddle and bagpipe music played on the local radio stations, and the proliferation of haggis in the supermarkets and served up in local restaurants can really play tricks on you. It was a relief to see the photograph in last week’s paper which actually shows the new sign in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park. There it is, clearly marked “Highlands” – no “the” in sight, though rumor has it that the Highlands police will be patrolling the area nightly to make sure no one sneaks over to amend the sign.

This year, August 17th wasn’t just my birthday, but it was the day of the Relay for Life event at the Highlands Recreation Park. It certainly wasn’t the most cheerful way to celebrate, but it was a very important one. Naturally, I would rather have been out drinking champagne, but then, so would John. This Monday, August 20th, will mark the second anniversary of John’s death. Any event for cancer has to walk a fine line between celebrating the lives of cancer survivors, while acknowledging the folks who didn’t make it. Because of this, I often feel a bit awkward at these events. The first lap of the evening was for cancer survivors, while their caregivers were asked to join them for the second lap. I hesitated. Are you still a caregiver when the person you cared for did not survive? Well, I guess you are. I looked over at the survivors, who must have seen my hesitation. They held out their arms, and I rushed out to join them.

Of course, my husband would have had an opinion about all this. As Ben Franklin, John had a very public persona, but he was essentially an extremely private person. He didn’t like people knowing his business, and questions about his health made him uncomfortable. In spite of his cancer diagnosis, he was determined not to become the poster child for it. John insisted that his cancer was the least interesting thing about him. He hated what he called “cancer-speak,” all the euphemistic language he felt sugar-coated the reality of the disease. Comments like “your journey with cancer” made him wince. John attended cancer events reluctantly, but he was enormously proud that his article “The End of My Cancer” encouraged a number of family members, friends, and perfect strangers to schedule colonoscopies. He even helped save a few lives that way, and lived long enough to know it. John was a rare and complex man, so his reaction to this know they weren’t the only ones to try to make sense of death and widowhood. There are also people who disliked the same columns, and they have not hesitated to share that with me, too.

I received a phone call from a high school friend on Friday. While it was nice to hear from him, I was puzzled by his advice that I should “move on.” What does that mean? I don’t wear black any more than any other woman in town. I volunteer, take courses, and sing in the choir. I regularly attend concerts and plays. I studied for and got my Learner’s Permit. I try to be a good friend and a good neighbor. I continue to write this column. While I still talk about John, I certainly don’t talk about him all the time. In what way have I not “moved on?”

Should I stop wearing my wedding and engagement rings? Surely that’s nobody’s business, but mine. Should I never mention John’s name, or the time we spent together? If so, how do I explain my presence here in Highlands? Was I just minding my own business in Manhattan when one day I was swept up and deposited here by fairies? What makes people so uncomfortable? I don’t know what their problem is, but it isn’t mine.

I guess that in the end, you just have to live your life the best you can, and realize that you can never please some people. If only they would heed the words of old Ben Franklin: He that would live in peace and at ease, must not speak all he knows nor judge all he sees.
supporters as exhibiting "loud inappropriate bursts of applause and stomping" and "arriving early to grab strategic seats." There were no inappropriate bursts of applause or stomping, and there was adequate seating for all as evidenced by photographs in the Franklin Press. In addition, Mrs. Abel even suggested that supporters were stealing lunches at the event. If there is compelling evidence of that, which I doubt, Senator Davis and the Republican Party will compensate the League. I'm sure that won't be necessary.

The forum was a question and answer format between Republican and incumbent State Senator Jim Davis and former Democratic Senator John Snow. Snow is running against Davis in the General Election. While the forum is described by the League as a "non-partisan informational forum", it's hardly that considering it's a modified debate between a Republican and Democrat, with attendees of both major political parties as well as independents in attendance.

A subsequent email to me from the League’s forum coordinator and moderator Susan Ervin read in part, “it was great to see such a good turnout for the forum…. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming forums and hope you will become a member.”

The wearing of a red T-shirt with the words “Re-Elect Senator Jim Davis,” “Responsible Governing” is one of those basic examples of (free) political speech that makes us the free people we are. Individual citizens entering a forum wearing a T-shirt in support of their candidate honors the political process that makes us such a great nation. We do support a policy of not bringing signs into the forum as it may distract and visually impair attendees’ ability to see the candidates.

If Mrs. Abel is to describe one candidate’s great numbers of supporters as “high jacking” an event just because the other candidate had a poor showing of his supporters, than she is doing the process itself an injustice. Senator Davis supporters are not responsible for the poor turnout Mr. Snow had.

We will continue to show support for our candidates by wearing T-shirts (of any color) and other appropriate and legal means and will applaud supporters of other candidates who do so as well. We appreciate League Coordinator Susan Ervin’s well run forum and look forward to participating in future ones.

Chris Murray, Chair
Macon County GOP

League conducts ed. forums not rallies

Dear Editor,

Recently, the League of Women Voters started a membership campaign and in our invitation, we stated that at campaign forums conducted by the League, to maintain the spirit of a non-partisan informational forum, there should be no partisan or candidate signs, banners, t-shirts, hats, or other campaign paraphernalia.

We have had objections to this policy from the local leadership of one of the political parties, based on the right to freedom of speech.

The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. (For more information on League positions and history, please visit www.lwv.org.)

We have worked for voters’ rights and voter education throughout our 92 year history. At our forums, we wish to provide a balanced, fair, educational, comfortable space to all candidates and to all of those in attendance, and this is the reason for our preference for no campaign displays.

We have been conducting forums in Macon County for over 15 years, and are well-regarded for the quality and fairness of our forums. However, in respect for freedom of speech, we will not apply the no campaign display rule to non-objectionable t-shirts or other apparel.

Campaign signs and banners cannot be displayed. Those officially representing the League may not wear or display any candidate or partisan materials, though individual members may, at their own discretion.

We do ask that guests respect the fact that we choose to conduct educational forums rather than rallies.

Susan Ervin and Mathel Shindelman
League of Women Voters of Macon County

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Art Rosenbaum: Voices Takes Center Stage at The Bascom
Labor Day Weekend includes Artists’ Talk and Barn Dance

Art Rosenbaum: Voices, featuring a small collection of monumental paintings of one of Rosenbaum’s favorite subjects: American Folk Musicians, opens in the Loft Gallery at The Bascom on Saturday, September 1 with a reception from 5 – 7 pm.

Rosenbaum’s works depicting rural Southern life are combinations of both real and imagined people, places and events. Ethnographer, as well as artist, he brings storytelling to life in the form of folk tale paintings full of vibrant, sweeping color. His most recent painting completed for this exhibition is “The Stone Mountain Wobblers.” The exhibit runs through November 10th.

In addition, during Labor Day weekend:
• Margo Rosenbaum’s black and white photographs of the folk musicians in Rosenbaum’s paintings will be on display in the permanent collection space in the Balcony at The Bascom.
• On Sunday, September 2 from 2-3 pm, Art and Margo Rosenbaum will present an Artists’ Talk at The Bascom.
• The Bascom Barn Dance on September 1 from 7-10 pm will feature the music of The Stone Mountain Wobblers who are represented in Art Rosenbaum: Voices. The Bascom Barn Dances, sponsored by The Bascom, The Ugly Dog Pub, the Highlands Historical Society and Mountain Fresh Grocery, bring back the nostalgia of Highlands’ yesteryear.

Ron Rash will sign copies of his books, including his new novel, “The Cove,” when he lectures for the Highlands CLE ("The Cove: An Exchange") at the Old Edwards Inn conference center from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, August 26. Rash is the author of the New York Times bestselling “Serena” and other highly praised novels and short-story collections; he is a recipient of the O. Henry and Sherwood Anderson prizes, and holds the John Parris Chair in Appalachian studies at Western North Carolina University. “Burning Bright,” his most recent short-story collection, won the Frank O’Connor Award. Rash is a great speaker and reader: if you can enroll in the CLE course, do so; if there’s no more room, stop by Shakespeare and Co. Books for an informal book signing after 4p on Sunday. For more information call Highlands CLE at 526-8811 or Shakespeare & Co., 526-3777.

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

**Thurs., Aug. 23-26**
• HCP’s presents Ken Ludwig comedy, “The Fox on the Fairway.” Evening performances at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

**Thursday, Aug. 23**
• At the Zahnier Lecture series 7p at the Nature Center, Dr. Karen Kandl, associate director at HBS, will speak on “Biodiversity of the Southern Appalachians: Learning outside of the classroom.” She will discuss examples of place-based learning at the HBS, and how teachers can use these methods with students of all ages.
• At Hudson Library, Michael Hardy, Lecturer on Civil War in Western North Carolina. 4:30 p.m.
• Ballroom Dancing at the Franklin (NC) Community Building, Hwy 441 South across from “Whistle Stop Mall.” Thursday from 6:30 to 9 PM. Music by “Swingtime Band”

**Fri. & Sat., Aug. 24-25**
• At the Hen House on Main Street. Ray Pottery Signing, Fri.,noon-5p; Sat. 10:30a-4:30p.

**Saturday, Aug. 25**
• Putt Putt For Life, 9-11a Highlands Fall Country Club. Come enjoy championship quality putt putt golf in Highlands! Special Fred Gehrisch designed 18 hole putt putt course on the Croquet Field at HFCC. Cost is $20 and prizes for kids, teenager, and adult categories. Call Mike Murphy at 828-526-1841. Bring a putter or use ours.
• Audubon bird walk around Lake Fairfield in Sapphire. Meet at 7:30 AM in Highlands Town Hall Parking lot near the public restrooms or at 8 AM behind Wendy’s in Cashiers. This is two- to three-mile walk on a good path which is fairly level. Call Brock Hutchins, 787-1387 if questions.
• Friends of Panthertown is seeking volunteers to help with trail work in Panthertown Valley on Saturday. Volunteers will meet at the Salt Rock Gap entrance at the end of Bredlove Road in Cashiers at 9:30 a.m. and will maintain the Blackrock Trail, Overlook Trail, Carly’s Way, North Road Trail, and Panthertown Valley Trail with stops at the Overlook Trail and Salt Rock Gap overlooks. Hand tools and instructions will be provided and all ages and skill levels are welcome to join. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and wear good shoes. Expect to hike about 5 miles on easy to moderate trails and be finished by 2:30 p.m. Call (828) 269-HIKE (4453) or visit www.panthertown.org.
• Scaly Mountain Pancake Breakfast, Saturday, 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the Old Scaly School House on the corner of Highway #106 and Buckknob Road. The cost of the breakfast is $5.50 for adults and $3.50 for children. You can also order “take out,” if you choose. Come to the breakfast and join the friendly folks in Scaly Mountain for an unforgettable breakfast in the mountains. You will find our new cookbook “Second Helping,” aprons and dish towels at the Scholar Store at the breakfast. For additional information, contact Susan Bankston (828) 526-9952. www.scalymountainwomensclub.org

**Sunday, August 26**
• Relay for Life “Live Auction” Scuders Auction House, 3-5pm, featuring fabu...

Rash booksigning at CLE & Shakespeare & Co.

Bel Canto Sold Out

For the first time the Bel Canto Recital has sold out three weeks prior to the event and has raised a record amount for the three beneficiaries. A waiting list has been created and a request has gone out to our subscribers that may not be able to attend due to unforeseen circumstances asking them to return their tickets for resale. “This is a wonderful state of affairs for Bel Canto” said Stella Zambalis, artistic director, “but an unfortunate one for those who waited to purchase their tickets.”

This year is the 20th anniversary concert and will feature four vocalists and Dr. Stephen Dubberly as accompanist. Dr. Dubberly has performed at Bel Canto for every concert since Bel Canto’s inception. Two new performers will appear, Carol Sparrow, mezzo-soprano, and Percy Martinez, tenor. Returning for the first time since the tenth anniversary will be Mark Walters, baritone, and for her fifth appearance, Stella Zambalis will sing soprano. Stella has not sung at Bel Canto since taking over the duties of artistic director in 2008. For more information and to get on the waiting list, please call 828.526.1947 or 828.526.2609. You may also want to call to be put on the mailing list for next year’s performance so as not to miss out on another wonderful concert of “beautiful singing.”
Upcoming Events


• At First Presbyterian Church, Kirtig of the Tartans at the 11 a.m. service. Dr. Thomas G. Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching and Coordinator of the Initiative in Religious Practices and Practical Theology at the Candler School of Theology at Emory, will serve as special guest minister for that worship service. To carry a banner call Skip Taylor at 526-4280 or 526-3175.

• Ron Rash will sign copies of his books—including his new novel, "The Cove," when he lectures for the Highlands CLE (“The Cove: An Exchange”) at the Old Edwards Inn conference center from 1-3p on Sunday.

• Ron Rash will sign copies of his books, including his new novel, "The Cove," at Shakespeare & Co. in Village Square at 4 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 27
• The main fundraiser for Dr. Baumrucker’s Bolivia mission, an auction at the Cullasaja Club on Monday, begins at 5:30p. The $125 cost of admission includes dinner, a silent auction and a live auction conducted by Al Scudder of Scudder Galleries. Valet parking will be provided. The auction features jewelry fashioned by local jewelers from stones brought from Bolivia, many Bolivian artifacts and several golf packages donated by local country clubs. Tickets can be purchased or more information obtained by calling 526-3605.

• HPAS program: Dr. Jeremy Hyman will speak on "Song Sparrows," at the Highlands Civic Center. Refreshments at 7 PM, followed by the program at 7:30 PM

Tues.-Thurs., Aug. 28-30
• At The Bascom, a Empty Bowls-a-thon workshop whose goal is to make 1,000 bowls. 10a-4p. To participate, call 526-4949.

Tuesday, Aug. 28
• American Red Cross, Blood Drive. State Employees Credit Union Blood Drive, 245 Cunningham Road, Franklin 10a to 2:30p. Please call lawren Cress at 369-3536 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors are automatically entered into a drawing for $3,000 gift card!

• CLE presents Syria: A Conversation with Sandra Mackey is scheduled for August 28 at 7p at the Highlands Playhouse. CLE has designated this program as part of its outreach to the plateau community. Therefore admission will be $10 for both members and non-members.

• At the Hudson Library, Gary Carden will be presenting stories from his latest play, ‘Outlander,’ a story relating to the creation of the Smoky Mountains National Park, at 4 p.m., Hudson Library, 554 Main St. Highlands.

• Folksinger/storyteller, Lee Knight on stage of the Village Commons in Cashiers.

• The High Mountain Squares will dance Wednesday night at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30 to 9 PM. Bob Morrison from Winder, GA will be caller. Call 828-349-0905, 828-524-4930, 828-524-2280.

HCPs ‘Fox’ opens this weekend!


“The Fox on the Fairway,” a new comedy opens the Highlands Cashiers Players new season on Thursday, August 23 at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. The play is phenomenally funny, written by the acknowledged master of farce, Ken Ludwig, whose many comedies, such as “Lend Me a Tenor,” have been produced on Broadway and from coast to coast in regional theaters.

Here’s the basic plot of “Fox,” Quail Valley Country Club, desperate to end its five year losing streak against Crouching Squirrel Club in the annual golf tournament, attempts to find a crackerjack player who will join their club and lead them victory. Thus begins the belly-laughs marathon of non-stop action, clever dialogue, and improbable romance, full of ups and downs, but an unlikely surprise ending brings everything to a happy conclusion. Director Tanji Armor and the cast, some of HCP’s best actors, Ronnie Sploton, Stuart Armor, Michelle Hott, Chris Hess, Lance Trudel, and Laura Zepeda urge all to join them for an evening (or matinee) of fun on the fairway!”

“FOX” runs Thursday, Aug. 23, through Sunday, September 2, Thursdays through Sundays, at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands, with evening performances at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. For reservations, call 828-526-8084.

• At CLE, Presidents I Have Known with Jack Edwards, 10:30a-12:30p at the Hudson Library. $10/$15. To register, call 526-8811.

• At The Bascom, 3-D Projection Mapping Installation Project at 7 p.m.

• Free Interlude concert at 2 p.m. Dress is casual at the Episcopal Church.

• The High Mountain Squares will dance Wednesday night at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30 to 9 PM. Bob Morrison from Winder, GA will be caller. Call 828-349-0905, 828-524-4930, 828-524-2280.

• At The Bascom, 3-D Projection Mapping Installation Project at 7 p.m.

Thurs., Aug. 30
• Movie at the Cashiers Library at 4p. The King’s Speech.

• At the Zahner Lecture series 7p at the Nature Center, Dr. Jennifer Frick-Ruppert on an exploration of the “Nocturnal Adaptations of Plants and Animals.”

Thurs. - Sun., Aug. 31-Sept. 2
• HCP’s presents Ken Ludwig comedy, “The Fox on the Fairway.” The play concerns two rival country clubs who are preparing for their annual golf tournament against each other—a contest which the Crouching Squirrel Club always wins. Tickets: 526-8084.

... J-MCA continued from page 1

and Upper Cullasaja Watershed Plan Review.

There were also six partnership meetings including over 30 entities. All told, approximately 350 people directly participated in the events and the local media reached about 2,500 households on a weekly basis where it’s estimated 1,000 people were engaged through reading.

The purpose of this project was to foster community involvement in planning that builds on natural resources and encourages sustainable development. Sustainable development includes community conservation, environmental and economic needs of the community.

J-MCA with help from project partners used the methods and principles in the Region A Toolbox as a guide to complete this project.

The Toolbox is an economic development guide published by the Southwestern Commission.

Highlands was one of the communities in Region A – the seven most western counties in NC – that was not using the toolbox as a guide for economic development and growth.

J-MCA took the Region A Toolbox off the shelf and began the process of engaging the community – to document its ideas and to capture best practices from technical experts for the benefit of the Town of Highlands.

In the process, the community discussed the current state of the environment and technical experts explained the best ways the Town of Highlands can grow more sustainably. Sustainable growth balances the needs of the local economy and residents while working to protect and preserve the natural environment.


Governor Beverly Perdue proclaimed May 16th as Tourism Day in North Carolina, celebrating travel and tourism as a major industry that is vital to the economic stability and growth of the state.

Domestic travelers spent a record $18.4 billion in 2011, an increase of 8.2 percent from 2010. Each North Carolina Household saves over $430 in state and local taxes as a direct result of visitor spending in the state.

Highlands offers a natural and scenic beauty to residents and visitors that cannot be exported.

Highlands is unique with a rich environment and historical and cultural heritage that should be embraced and celebrated with residents and visitors.

With cooperation and collaboration, the Highlands community can be made more livable and more economically viable – a community that cares for its residents and visitors and ensures a high quality of life for all.

To ensure success, stakeholders, technical experts, decision makers and funders need to come together to develop and implement solutions. Community solutions developed after thoughtful consideration and collaboration will maximize the chances for healthy growth.

The Highlands Sustainable Solutions Project fosters community involvement in planning that builds on natural resources and encourages sustainable development which includes planning for economic, environmental and social needs to ensure future generations have a functioning local economy, a functioning natural environment, clean water to drink, and fresh food to eat.

For instance; jobs can be developed that help Highlands grow without the negative side effects.

• Next week in Part 2: The specifics per category: Economic Sustainability, Sustainable Tourism, Preparing for a Year-Round Community; Environmental Sustainability, Social Sustainability and more. Plus, town officials will weigh in.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place to Worship</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>283 Spring Street</td>
<td>Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965</td>
<td>Tuesdays: 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Men's Prayer Group &amp; Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah</td>
<td>Pastor Roy Lowe, (828) 526-8425</td>
<td>Sundays: 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Worship – 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC</td>
<td>Senior Pastor Gary Hewins</td>
<td>Sun.: 9:30 am</td>
<td>Adult Sunday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>985 Sierra Drive, 828-526-3228</td>
<td>Pastor Jim Kinard</td>
<td>Sun.: 9:30 am</td>
<td>Youth Group 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>5505 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC</td>
<td>Senior Pastor Gary Hewins</td>
<td>Mon.: Bible Study</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION</strong></td>
<td>3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC</td>
<td>Senior Pastor Gary Hewins</td>
<td>Wed.: 6 p.m.</td>
<td>CBC University Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>131 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212</td>
<td>Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526-4153</td>
<td>Mon.: 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Women's Cursillo Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>283 Spring Street</td>
<td>Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor</td>
<td>Sun.: 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Men's Cursillo Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>Rev. Carson Gibson</td>
<td>Sun. Worship – 11 a.m.</td>
<td>8 a.m. – 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD</strong></td>
<td>85 Sierra Drive • 828-526-3228</td>
<td>Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376</td>
<td>Sun.: School 9:45a; Worship 8:30 &amp; 10:50; Youth Group 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Worship/Communion – 10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212</td>
<td>Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376</td>
<td>Sun.: Worship – 11</td>
<td>Worship/Communion – 10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>270 Buck Knob Road; Rev. Oliver Rice, Parish Associate 526-3175</td>
<td>Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011</td>
<td>Mon.: Bible Study</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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John 3:16

**PLACES TO WORSHIP**

**Proverbs 3:5**

A comedian
I’ll never be

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” John 6:51

This is a pretty outlandish statement from Jesus. The people who heard it respond to it with the question, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

Now Jesus has been working with them bit by bit trying to get them to understand the depth of what he is saying. This verse follows just after he has fed the five thousand. They continue to think only physically, materially. And to that way of thinking, Jesus would be asking them to be cannibals. To eat his flesh and drink his blood sounds like cannibalism.

Which reminds me of a joke.

Two cannibals are eating a clown. One asks the other, “Does this taste funny to you?”

Ok, maybe it is not that great a joke. But what is the basis of all jokes? It is a word play. A word has two meanings and that’s what makes the joke funny. Funny means strange but it also means something that makes you laugh. Well, if a joke needs to be explained, then it is not a very good joke.

How about this one: Three guys walk into a bar. The fourth guy ducks.

If this works as a joke, it is because of the two meanings of bar. A place to have drinks and something to hit your head on.

Ok, I know that explaining jokes doesn't work. If you have to explain it, it's not funny. But isn't this the basis for what Jesus is saying? Not telling a joke. He is more serious though than a play on words or a joke. Jesus uses things that are material, that are part of our physical world to point to something of greater importance, the spiritual world.

In the Church, whenever we celebrate a sacrament, like baptism, we do the very same thing. Water is poured which is a way to wash ourselves physically, to make us clean. But what happens is a deeper spiritual reality: sins are washed away.

This is what Jesus is talking about. We are in this world now; we hope to be with the Lord in a world beyond space and time – heaven. For now what do we need? Jesus gives it to us.

First the physical. As I said before, Jesus miraculously fed the five thousand. But that only satisfied them temporarily. They wanted more and he gives them more. More than transient bread. He gives them bread that comes down from heaven. Bread that really satisfies. Bread that is more than bread. It is Jesus himself, entirely, completely. If they eat this bread, they will no longer hunger or thirst. They will be raised on the last day. It is true food, true drink, not just digested and wasted. It remains with the person who eats it and it ultimately brings life.

Do you want this life? Satisfaction now, eternal life with the Lord? Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

No joke.
As we approach the end of August instead of asking: “Who let the Dawgs out?” (Yes, I’m a Georgia fan!) brokers are asking: “Who let the buyers out?” And for real estate in Highlands and Cashiers, that is a great thing and a great question.

Sales this year are already up 24% compared to the same time last year! What has prompted this? I did some research when I had time to catch my breath!

The Bush tax cuts are on the chopping block and will expire at the end of this year that allowed for a $250,000 per single and $500,000 per couple capital gain reduction on the sale of your home. A new 3.8% real estate tax implemented as part of Obamacare will begin on January 1, 2013. Therefore sellers want to sell this year and have priced their homes to sell quickly or are willing to negotiate. Mortgage rates are historically low and inventory is high. Good news for buyers.

Buyers now see that we have reached the “bottom.” Affluent buyers are in a shopping mood! Research by Barclays found that 57% of the wealthiest want to increase their residential property portfolio in 2012. What better place to invest and own property than the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau! We will be glad to help, of course.

If, on the other hand, you are a seller, I can’t stress enough that your home must be well-maintained and have excellent curb appeal. The potential buyer knows within eight seconds if they are interested in your house according to statistics!

The price must be seen as a true value because the competition is so great with over 1,300 homes for sale in Highlands and Cashiers! If you have had over eight showings without an offer, stats show you are over-priced.

If you’ve been listed over 90 days with only a few or no showings, it is time to lower your price to stimulate interest. I suggest you have a home inspection yourself and do repairs to offset buyers using their own inspection to negotiate much lower because it “needs work.” We can show you competitors in your price range as listings have been added since yours went on the market.

We, as brokers, are so glad that this year we have seen a change from the “foreclosure seekers” to serious buyers who understand the value of buying in Highlands. It is on Barron’s list and ranked #4 in the country as the BEST place to invest in a second home! Or move on up and join us as a full time resident. We would love to welcome you as part of our great “hometown” community!

Pat Allen is BIC/owner of Pat Allen Realty Group and a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist. She is consistently ranked as a top seller and was voted Best Realtor in Highlands by the readers of The Highlander. Contact Pat at 828-526-8784 or 828 200 9179. Email her at pat.f.allen@gmail.com and check out her website at PatAllenRealtyGroup.com. Also on Facebook and Twitter.
es. That irks me, but if we're being honest, the U.S. hasn't always been totally innocent in other countries over the years. In Central America alone, according to locals' perspective, our companies, charities, and government are responsible for practically enslaving fruit workers, overthrowing more than one sovereign government and, by getting involved with the Sandinista-contra rebellion, fostering regional instability.

Also, as a Peace Corps volunteer I witnessed how even the well-meaning intentions of some non-profits or government projects can have unwanted negative consequences at the local level. One way this happens is when charities actually undermine local start-up businesses and thus the economy by giving away free products to poor people who would otherwise seek to buy them from their neighbors.

Of course, another example is when aid money gets funneled through local political channels and often doesn't reach its intended beneficiaries in its entirety. As a case in point, my town's coffee co-op was involved in a Canadian government environmental project and of the approximately $7 million Canadian investment, about $2 million was going to the local administrators' salaries and to big Honduran banks. Yikes. In fact, I was invited to a huge barbecue paid for by this Canadian project that, needless to say, didn't do a whole lot to promote the environment. Corruption of all shades and colors does exist in the Third World.

If you only focus on the negative side of foreign involvement, however, you're missing a crucial part of what's going on.

Development is not the same as implanting McDonalds, Wal-Marts, SUVs, parking lots and rush hour traffic in the Third World. It is helping people meet their basic needs first and foremost: a poor person can't worry about going to school, recycling or starting up a business if they are sick or aren't getting enough to eat or don't have clean water to drink.

But once people's basic needs are met, development becomes about building human capacity levels, allowing people to see what they want to change in their lives and getting them to the place they need to be in order to make those changes. In fact, the hope is that Honduras and the rest of the developing world will develop even better than we did and then, one day, will have something to teach us.

I think that what makes development happen is taking fresh perspectives on the current state of things, being creative about their solutions, and getting people enthusiastic enough about changing them to actually change them, all while helping them attain the appropriate training and skills they need.

And really, who better to do that than a dynamic foreigner with a warm heart, someone with an outsider's perspective who is easy to work with and who wants to help? That being said, if people choose to live rural, poor lives and get happiness and satisfaction out of it, then excellent, perfect. Nobody should do anything to change that. That would be imposing our ideals on them. But we should help make sure they actually have that choice.

Considering the globalized world we live in today, it simply isn't practical to promote isolationism. In the end, every dollar that the U.S. government or non-profits spend on well-designed development projects throughout the Third World is an investment. It's an investment in the world's future that ultimately benefits us all. The freedom to live your life the way you want to; having access to adequate health, nutrition and education; personal empowerment; friendship and mutual understanding are all end-goals of development. They're also fundamental human rights and don't happen spontaneously or overnight.

If we can achieve this level of development, future generations will live in a productive world, full of innovative people able to solve problems, who aren't tempted to join gangs, drug cartels or terrorist organizations but who rather seek peace and prosperity. In my opinion, these are the best of America's ideals.

*Note: I am grateful for all I learned as a Peace Corp volunteer in Honduras. I have also been inspired by the generosity of people in Highlands who have donated over the months to the Health Clinic project that is still happening in my town. The project is moving forward very well. I will carry all my experiences in Honduras with me to graduate school at Duke University where I am studying the cross sections of energy, the environment, and practical economics solutions.*
Police & Fire

Highlands PD log entries from July 6. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

July 2
- At 11 a.m., officers received a call about a missing Porsche key and Mauu Jim sunglasses valued at $250 missing from a retail establishment in Town Square.
- At 3:55 p.m., a suspicious person was reported at Colonial Pines Inn.
- At 10:30 a.m., vandalism was reported at a church on Spring Street where a wall and bush were damaged.

July 4
- At 4 p.m., officers received a call about a person who had fallen.
- At 7:15 a.m., officers received a call about a missing iPod, 4G valued at $359.

July 7
- At 6 p.m., officers received a call about a vehicle parked on N. 4th Street.

July 18
- At 11:03 p.m., Ashley Marie Adams, 39, of Highlands was arrested for DWI while driving left of center on NC 28 south with a revoked license.
- At 10:30 a.m., officers received a call about a missing iPod, 4G valued at $359.

...Utilities continued from 1

He said for years the store was fortunate to operate rent-free, but now with increased operational costs and the fact that there may be an ABC Store in Cashiers, the store is counting its pennies.

A store in Cashiers has a great deal of concern about the long-term viability of this store, he said. “The increase in revenue to this store could be somewhere between $200,000 and $400,000 a year,” he said. “But that is just an estimate.”

He said the town hasn’t been charging the store for water and other utilities, so if it would waive electricity, too. Later Town Manager Bob Frye said the ABC Store pays all utilities.

“We currently charge the ABC store for all utilities. We’re not sure where Mr. Calloway got that they don’t pay the utilities,” he said.

The ABC Store pays about $480 a month for electricity – about $5,400 a year – and $7,700 a year in rent. After operational expenses, including the cost of goods sold, by law, ABC stores in North Carolina give 70% of net profits to their county or municipality. In Highlands, profits go to the Highlands General Fund, but no ABC Store proceeds benefit the store.

He said for years the store was fortunate to operate rent-free, but now with increased operational costs and the fact that there may be an ABC Store in Cashiers, the store is counting its pennies.

A store in Cashiers has a great deal of concern about the long-term viability of this store, he said. “The increase in revenue to this store could be somewhere between $200,000 and $400,000 a year,” he said. “But that is just an estimate.”

He said the town hasn’t been charging the store for water and other utilities, so if it would waive electricity, too. Later Town Manager Bob Frye said the ABC Store pays all utilities.

“We currently charge the ABC store for all utilities. We’re not sure where Mr. Calloway got that they don’t pay the utilities,” he said.

The ABC Store pays about $480 a month for electricity – about $5,400 a year – and $7,700 a year in rent. After operational expenses, including the cost of goods sold, by law, ABC stores in North Carolina give 70% of net profits to their county or municipality. In Highlands, profits go to the Highlands General Fund, but no ABC Store proceeds benefit the store.
The synopsis to the solicitation adds that the ammunition is to be shipped to 41 locations within 60 days of purchase. A separate spreadsheet lists those locations, which include the Social Security headquarters in Baltimore as well as major cities across the country including Los Angeles, Detroit, Oklahoma City, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, Denver, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Seattle.

It is not outlandish to suggest that the SSA is purchasing the bullets as part of preparations for civil unrest. Social Security welfare is estimated to keep around 40% of senior citizens out of poverty. Should the tap run dry in the aftermath of an economic collapse which the Federal Reserve has already told top banks to prepare for, domestic disorder could ensue if people are refused their benefits.

Let me quote one more time from a speech given by Obama in July of 2008.

"We cannot continue to rely on our military in order to achieve the national security objectives we've set (what are those objectives, we wonder). We've got to have a civilian national security force that's just as powerful, just as strong, just as well funded."

Why are various governmental agencies placing large orders for hollow point bullets to be distributed around the country? I have my thoughts, but I'd be interested in yours.

We're going to try something new – a newspaper blog. Why do you think the government is rushing to scarf up all the ultra-destructive bullets they can and have them delivered around the country? Email me your answer in 25 words or less and I'll print some of the replies next week.

You must give your name and agree to have it printed. I really do want to know what you think.
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*WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4*

“Will you be my partner?” Another, bad, bad move. Same results. I gave up.

Finally, just as I was about to be strapped to a table at the funny farm, a Bridge player took pity on me. He said, “I like you, Fred, but you’re dumb as toast when it comes to Bridge. But you’re not a rule-a-holic and I like that. Let’s forget about all those stupid rules and play by instinct.”

I wanted to hug him but I knew that would start rumors. We played well and my need to beat up someone named Drury, who I also don’t know, began to wane. Other players began to notice my scores and picked me up. I’m making a comeback. The li’l missus still wants no part of me but I’m bettin she’ll come around once I apply a little new minor forcing, coded nines and grill her a slab of fresh salmon.

And if my column has made you want to rush out and take Bridge lessons, please call me at 1-800-bad-habit.

Fred is at the Farmer’s Market each Saturday morning peddling his books. Drop in and play a few hands with him. Bring cards and money.
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**Highlands Newspaper • Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012 • 828-526-3228 • Page 21**
HELP WANTED

PART TIME – The Center for Life Enrichment is looking for an energetic and multi-talented individual for a part-time position to assist with marketing (e-blasts, Facebook, ad writing), technical assistance (setting up projectors, mics, etc) and office responsibilities. Please submit resume to clehighlands@yahoo.com. (st. 8/23)

CASHIER POSITIONS available at Mountain Fresh in Highlands. Apply in person or call 828.526.2400. (st. 8/9)

SECRETARY NEEDED, $10/hr. Full- or part-time. Highlands. 828-200-0949. (st. 8/9)

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, Part time to full time. Must work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-1703 or 828-484-2118. (st. 8/1)

NOW HIRING MED AIDE, CNA, LPN, AND COURTESY OFFICER – Please apply at Chestnut Hill of Highlands, 24 Clubhouse Trail, in Highlands, NC. (828)526-5251. (st. 7/12)

MISSING PETS

LOST COCKER SPANIEL, Blonde, buff. Male. Name: Topher. $2,000 reward. Last seen at...on the Verandah Restaurant. Call 407-421-1818 or 828-962-2251. (st. 8/10)

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PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE RENT: Includes broadband internet, off street parking easy access. Color copier scanner fax. $250 per month. Two blocks off Main St. Call 828-342-1621. (9/6)

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES. Three bedrooms plus den with three full baths, an open living area, two stone fireplaces, three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Rate dependent on term. Non smokers only; not pets. Deposit required. Weekly, monthly or yearly rental. Call 678-358-9675 or 770-639-2682. (st. 8/16)

TOP OF SATULAH RIDGE, Available month of October. 2 bed/2bath split floor plan. Hardwood floors, high ceilings, rock fireplace, huge, rocking chair porch with winter views. $3,000/month. 828-526-8335. (8/23)

LUXURY VACATION RENTALS, Sherman Pope 828-342-4277. Harry Norman, Realtors. (st. 6/21)

JUST RIGHT FOR TWO – Extra nice, very private, upstairs garage apt. nestled in the woods, built in 2008 and seldom used. Full kitchen, new king bed (Westin Hotel Heavenly Bed), light, airy and nicely appointed. Located in Falling Waters, a well-groomed community just 2.6 miles from Main Street, Highlands. Rates from $195 per night and from $1,050 per week. Call 828-526-9622. (st. 5/31)

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CHARMING HOUSE FOR SALE, 2/2, totally renovated, furnished and ready to move in. $299,000. 828-526-9828. http://highlandsnc-homesforsale.com/ (st. 8/23)

50 ACRE SCALY MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY, Septic in, Well permit in hand, Nice private lot with no restrictions, Cleared site, Tress surround. $39,000 Tonvaughn@aol.com or (850) 363-1436. (ST. 6/23)

SEE FALLING WATERS – 52-acre community just 2.5 miles from Main Street. Secluded but not remote, no road noise, no thru traffic. Peaceful, quiet and private. Offered in parcels of .75 acres to 10+ acres. Carve out your creekfront, waterfall view or multi-use estate. Owner financing. 828-508-9952. From Main St. take Hwy 106 1.8 miles just past Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mr. Laurel Dr., 3-tenths mile turn left on Moonlight. Entrance on right www.highlandsnchomesites.com (st. 5/3)

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