School system bracing for budget uncertainties

Knowing what to budget for has long been a problem for school districts across the state. While school districts have to finalize and submit a budget to counties in North Carolina around May, and counties have to approve and implement a budget by July 1 — school districts don’t know what to budget for while waiting for state legislators to debate new laws. Counties don’t know what funding mandates and requirements they will need to fill to keep schools operating without an approved state budget.

The perfect scenario would have the state finalizing and approving a budget in Spring, giving counties adequate time to plan and budget for state requirements, which would give school districts a clear picture of what to expect for the upcoming year. Since that isn’t the way it’s done, a burden is placed on local districts that are forced to develop “best case” scenarios or

Harris Regional in Sylva to fill Mission Health void

Mission Health continues to cut services in Western North Carolina that directly impact women and children. By September, Mission Children’s Sylva office and Mission Women’s Sylva will be closing.

Employees were notified a week before the news was made public, which is more time than employees of Angel Medical Center’s Labor and Delivery Unit in Franklin got. They learned of the unit’s July closing a few hours before an official statement was released.

Mission Health’s decision to close the Sylva office takes place four years after administrators announced they would bring Sylva Pediatrics, now Mission Children’s Sylva, under the umbrella of Mission Children’s Hospital as part of a push to provide “specialized care to local, convenient settings,” was opened in February 2013.

The closing of the Sylva office is part of a total reform to women and children care in Western North Carolina under the direction of Mission which cites high costs and inefficiency as the reasons to consolidate offices.

Beginning in September, Mission Children’s Sylva will be combined with Mission Health Center — Franklin, a Service of Angel Medical Center. The consolidation process combines multiple practices under the new Mission Health Center – Franklin.

The expanded office space will be located at 190 Riverview Street to “improve access to on-site services such as laboratory and radiology services as well as primary care, on-demand primary care and occupational health services.”

Services available on-site include Angel Primary Care, and Mission My Care Now Angel.

My Care Now Angel started earlier this year to help patients avoid high costs associated with emergency department visits, long waits and higher copays at local urgent care facilities; it allowances for

Children lost too soon will forever be remembered

Families who will forever mourn the deaths of their children now have a welcoming, peaceful place to commune and remember. On Tuesday, May 30, the Memorial Plaque to Children was officially unveiled within the welcoming arms of the Kelsey fireplace memorial in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. Families gathered as President of Friends of Founders Park Nick Bazan read the names of each of the 20 children listed on the plaque. Each name was read, designer of the park, Landscape Architect Hank Ross, rang a bell. The plaque is installed to the right of the Kelsey fireplace which is a replica of founder Kelsey’s fireplace that still stands on his homsite behind Falls on Main. Listed on the plaque are Jeffrey Tyler Cannon, Michael Charles Cannon, Elizabeth Coram, James Taylor Ramey, Kelly Suzanne Black, Charles Newton Crawford, Alvin Claud Dendy, Jessie Irene Dendy, Danise Chapman Barry, Megan Elizabeth Lawson, Shane Pruett, Kathleen Prosser Hampton, John Gray Simpson, Nathan Bryan Simpson, Jr., Aaron Liebowitz, Samuel McCall Snipes, Brady Powers Mickey, Burke Lawrence Boger, Nathan Christopher Dryman and Stephen Michael Gruendel.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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At the Community Coffee with the Mayor held last Friday at the Hudson Library, I did a review of items in the proposed FY 2017/’18 town budget. Some aspects of the budget not normally reviewed were covered, specifically sources of revenue and current town debt service. Let me summarize these areas.

There are multiple sources that make up the revenue for the 5.6 million dollar general fund. The two big streams are ad valorem and sales tax revenues.

The ad valorem rate, aka property tax, will remain the same this coming year at 16.4 cents per $100 of valued property. This includes the 1.5 cent increase that was earmarked for recreation capital improvements three years ago. This tax has generated about $180,000 per year. Nevertheless, over the last three years about one million dollars has actually been spent in recreation department capital improvements. The 1.5 cent tax earmark will stay in place for three more years so the total money in recreation improvements can be mostly recovered. In this new budget, the town has appropriated over $400,000 for a new aerobics room next to the gym and to refurbish the weight and exercise rooms on the lower level. With a possible contribution by the county of $350,000 we will be able to do a final round of improvements that would have been slated for 2018/’19.

In sales tax, Town Manager Josh Ward has budgeted $900,000 in anticipated revenue. Josh tends to be conservative, as well he should be in revenue estimates. But, there is a good chance that sales tax revenues could top the million-dollar mark, or more this year. If so, the town will have a reserve cushion to cover unanticipated expenses that always occur.

The town’s general fund also obtains revenue from state franchise, gas and tag taxes, and local fees. The county currently contributes $550,000 a year to the general fund for the operation of the recreation program which is open to all county residents.

Our more than 10 million dollar enterprise revenues come from the bills customers pay for water, sewer, electricity and garbage collection. These fees have to be sufficient to operate these services without money from the general fund. This new town budget is $16.5 million dollars, (I round off numbers.)

Another area I covered at the coffee was the town debt service which is currently about $150,000 a year. In a way, this figure is deceiving. We have only one interest loan which is for the police department building. We are on the down side of this loan. The remaining debt service balance is simply pay backs to interest free loans, aka free money. Projects like the water intake on Lake Sequoyah was a federal and state grant that required the town to borrow $200,000 with no interest and a 10-year repay schedule.

With 3 million dollars in the general fund reserve and 2.8 million in enterprise reserves, the town is carrying very small debt load. The interest free loans could be repaid at will.

Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Legislative Update


This bill amends the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, among other Acts, to:

Repeal Volcker Rule restrictions on certain speculative investments by banks; with respect to winding down failing banks, eliminate the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s orderly liquidation authority and establish new provisions regarding financial institution bankruptcy; and repeal Durbin Amendment limitations on fees that may be charged to retailers for debit card processing. Certain banks may exempt themselves from specified regulatory standards if they maintain a certain ratio of capital to total assets and meet other specified requirements.

The bill removes the Financial Stability Oversight Council’s authority to designate non-bank financial institutions and financial market utilities as “systemically important” (also known as “too big to fail”). Under current law, entities so designated are subject to additional regulatory restrictions. Designations made previously are retroactively repealed.

The bill also amends the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to:

Convert the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau into a consumer law enforcement agency; subject the agency to the congressional appropriations process, expanded judicial review, and additional congressional oversight; eliminate supervisory authority over financial institutions; and limit the agency’s authority to take action against entities for abusive practices. In addition, the bill:

Modifies provisions related to the Securities and Exchange Commission’s managerial structure and enforcement authority; eliminates the Office of Financial Research within the Department of the Treasury; and revises provisions related to capital formation, insurance regulation, civil penalties for securities laws violations, and community financial institutions.

Weekend Weather

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Letter Policy:
We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

Hic’s View

“Yum Yum, its pot luck tonight.”

The fiscal side of things

Mayor on Duty

The Plaqueau’s Position
Mary Beth Houston

'it’s all about Him'

On May 26, 2017 surrounded by family, Mary Beth Houston, after a long battle with cancer went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Mary Beth was born on July 21, 1953. She was an active member of First Baptist Church of Franklin. She touched many lives with her infectious smile through her many careers as a teacher, mother and secretary. She was always very active in serving the Lord through church ministries as well as in everything she did.

Welcomed into heaven by her parents Charles and Ruth Parrish who preceded her in 2006. She is survived by her devoted, loving husband of 39 years Steve Houston; two daughters, Rebecca Tallent (Clarence) and Emily Chastain (Zeke); one son, John Houston; one sister, Margaret Calloway (Doyle); one brother, Stuart Parrish (Diane) and her beloved, precious grandchildren, Jordyn Sanford, Alex Sanford, Will Chastain, Alicia Chastain, and Morgan Chastain. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews and extended family that were dear to her heart.

Visitation will be held at First Baptist Church of Franklin on Saturday, June 3, 2017 from 2-4:00 p.m. Funeral Services will follow with Dr. Robert Brown, Rev. Jack Jarrett and Rev. Blake Arnold officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please make all donations to youth ministries of First Baptist Church, Franklin.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com.

Author hits nail on the head

The article by Jeannie Chambers for “Investing at 4,118 Ft.” in the May 18 edition entitled “Giving Back,” was really well written and thought-out. What a terrific message she shared with all your readers. I too LOVE this mountain town. It IS a work in progress, and we ALL do have something to offer this beautiful town.

Sarah Mueller

A weekend visitor first in the 1980’s, then monthly renter, to in-town home owner for 15 years, and now back to summer guest again.

The Trump Doctrine

and the way people drive

Dear Editor,

You know politics has gone bonkers when the conservative, Republican blog, RedState, posts this headline: The Real Trump Doctrine: “I Did It, I’m Glad, Screw You.” Truer words were never published, but my jaw dropped when I saw who published it. Of course, Trump and many of his followers don’t like to read anything longer than a Twitter post, so they probably didn’t see it. I’m sure that Faux News never mentioned it.

The real Trump Doctrine reflects the man in office; the fact that he is President reflects the narcissistic, greedy, bigoted, ignorant, prevaricating scofflaws many of us have become. Those character traits that got Trump elected are self-reinforcing, because we look up to the President as an example of what it is to be American. Heck, if the President’s behavior says, “I did it, I’m glad, screw you,” isn’t that something to which all of us should aspire? Something we’d like our children to emulate?

I don’t think I can exaggerate what effect Trump is having on people, encouraging them to be just as selfish as they can be, and to flaunt previously respected societal norms. If you don’t believe me, you only have to notice the changes in the way people drive. It’s a daily, in-your-face example of the growing trend away from the noble, toward depravity. The way people drive shows you their attitude toward the rest of us. Pay attention and you’ll see an increase in all kinds of driving behaviors that are square in line with the Trump Doctrine. Watch them drive, and you’ll know whether they give a hoot about anyone else.

Here in the mountains, people have always “straightened out the curves” when the road was clear. But since the election, I have observed a marked increase in crossing the yellow
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Kim Bonsteel
Highlands

Dear Editor,

I want to thank Lee Lyons for last week’s letter-to-the-editor because it not only amplifies the positives of our

•See LETTERS page 22
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Just like our mountain roads, life is a series of twists and turns. We start out crawling only seeing floors without realizing there are walls and ceilings we are yet to explore. Once we are courageous enough to stand alone and take a first step – no matter how wobbly we may be – a whole new perspective of the world begins.

Exciting but frightening in many ways, we begin our journey into life. We depend on our parents to teach us and protect us from the things that have the potential to harm us – electrical outlets, stairs, and anything visible on the floor or in unlocked cabinets.

Some of us “hit the ground running” while others are slow to follow. We begin to grow mentally and physically without knowledge of where our journey will lead us or how it will end.

We make monumental decisions as young people – choosing a career, choosing a life partner, choosing our first home. Some will get it right and some will get it wrong. But with each experience we learn that life is a blessing filled with many lessons. No one is exempt from hurt, pain, jealousy, sickness, and an occasional bad decision.

This is the real book of life and we should live each chapter with love and enthusiasm. Some chapters we will wish we could relive – some we wish we could skip. But there is always an ending to this book we live. Everyone’s book is personal and intimate and it is ironic how we all are writers and create our chapters – for better or worse. The final chapter is never easy but it can be filled with love and marvel at what we did achieve or regret that we didn’t live life to its fullest. Every day is a new opportunity to change the final chapter and find a sweetness in death and life beyond.

I experienced this when my dear husband, the other Pat Allen, died in my arms suddenly on May 15, 2017, while I was driving him to the Mayo Clinic. We had held hands in the car and he kissed my hand - we knew the love each had for the other. A massive stroke took him from me but as I held him and prayed, I was thankful I was with him in that moment and the dementia and prolonged suffering in his future had ended. His book of life ended with a sweetness – the final chapter was read and I will read it every single day. As I’ve heard many times: “Live each day as if it’s your last because one day it will be.”

I hope you all enjoy your time in our magical town and make memories for a new chapter someone someday will cherish.

---

**UPDATE continued from page 2**

The House indicated that this bill would be considered in the week ahead.
Congressman Mark Meadows (Co-sponsor); Office 202-225-6401; Email/Website: meadows.house.gov
Senior Senator Richard Burr; Office: 202-224-3154; Email/Website: burr.senate.gov
Junior Senator Thom Tillis; Office: 202-224-6342; Email/Website: tillis.senate.gov
Adorable 3bd/3ba Rondette sits on a beautifully landscaped yard with a small brook that runs through the back yard. Mother-in-law suite with kitchenette and separate entrance. Offered fully furnished! $174,900 MLS #86068

LOT LISTING
Over an acre of pristine waterfront property in gated Rocky Knob community. Roughly 123 feet of Lake Osage shoreline. Borders Forest Service Land and has 4 bdmr septic permit. $195,000 MLS #84092

Sitting at the end of a cul-de-sac, this 3bd/3ba home is located inside the gated Heatherstone Tops community. Enjoy the long range views or gaze at the stars from your expansive deck. Open floor plan, large windows, hand hewn timbers, high quality finishes throughout. Truly magical, must see. $675,000 MLS #85309

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

Move in ready and fully furnished! Perfect for guests and big families. Spacious kitchen open to living room with rock fireplace. Large master suite on main, 2 guest suites on upper level and 2 more bonus rooms with full baths in the lower level. $620,000 MLS #86069

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

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

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...HARRIS from 1

walk-in care. Patients can now be seen for acute primary care needs spanning colds and flu to minor injuries.

The Mission Health Center also includes Mission WorkWell, Angel Surgical Associates and in the newest addition to the center, an office for women and children’s care. While Mission hasn’t released an official statement on women and children care consolidation, employees and patients were notified that two pediatricians and two OBGYNs will be retained in the office in Franklin.

Citing a lack of growth and demand for the services, Mission Hospital is pulling services at Angel Medical Center and moving women and children’s care to Asheville for residents of the westernmost part of the state, But Sylva’s Harris Regional Hospital is expanding and citing the opposite.

Rather than supporting Mission Health’s claims that birth rates are stagnant in the region, Harris is investing millions of dollars in their Labor and Delivery unit to meet the needs of the community – exactly opposite of what Mission

**See HARRIS page 18**

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**THE INK PEN**

How smart are you?

A ctually, the question is, “how smart do others think you are?” I was intrigued by an article in the WSJ: How to Look Smarter. The premise is that no matter how smart you may be, behaving in certain ways can cause others to perceive you as not so smart. It’s often when people are trying to look smart that their actions and words backfire.

I especially liked the point that using big words doesn’t make people think you’re smart: “... positive first impressions may be shattered, however, as soon as pretentious language starts interfering with others’ ability to understand and communicate with you. People who embellish their writing with long, complicated words are seen as less intelligent by readers, according to a 2006 study in Applied Cognitive Psychology.”

As a communications professional in corporate America, I advocated the use of what I call “kitchen English.” When you’re trying to explain a point, either in writing or conversation, you want the audience to understand you easily. You don’t want them to struggle to figure out what you mean or think you’re wordy, confusing or uppity.

When I read the example of someone repeatedly using the word ubiquitous because they’d just learned it, I laughed aloud and recalled a college English professor crossing through the word “utilize” on my paper and writing, “why not simply say use?” Perhaps that’s what started me on my path to promoting kitchen English.

It’s not that I don’t enjoy learning new words and using them in Scrabble and Words With Friends; I just don’t sprinkle them in edgewise, your natural intelligence can shine through.

There are, however, still some age-old stereotypes about intelligence: Wearing glasses or having a middle initial in your name will make folks initially perceive you as intelligent. Just don’t blow that first impression by over talking or using big words, and don’t use gestures, asking them questions and letting them get a word in edgewise, your natural intelligence will make folks initially perceive you as intelligent. Just don’t blow that first impression by over talking or using big words, and don’t use gestures.

The good news for me is I use my maiden name, I have no choice but to use it. When we talk, I gesture with your hands and arms. That should extend beyond that.

• Find Kathy’s book, “The Ink Pen: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday,” at The Molly Grace in Highlands, at Books Unlimited in Franklin, or on her website www.inkpenn.com. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com and join her at the Molly Grace on the corner of Oak and N. 4th Street in Highlands on June 17th from 11 am - 2 pm for a book signing.

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Class of 2017 Graduation - Sat., May 27

Photos by Kim Lewicki

Processional by piper Michael Waters, Invocation by Rev. Jennifer Forrester, Song by David Parrish and Mr. A, Welcome by Salutatorian John Murphy, Commencement address by Coach Brett Lamb, Farewell by Valedictorian Ben Miller.
Class of 2017 Graduation - Sat., May 27
Highlands Area Events

**Ongoing**
- Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Friday - Tuesday: 2, 5, and 8 pm. Sundays 2 & 5 only.
- Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.
- The Nature Center will be open Tuesday-Saturdays from 10am-5pm and from 12pm-5pm on Sundays. The Nature Center is closed on Mondays.

**Mon., July 3, and Aug. 7**
- Botanical Garden Tour. 10:30 am - 11:30 am • Free. All ages. At the Highlands Botanical Garden. Learn to identify and remove non-native invasive species from your garden and the surrounding forest.

**Mondays, June 5, 12, 19, 26 (4 sessions)**
- Thinking Bridge: Play of the Hand (intermediate), 9:30-11:30 Cost $80/$90 Instructor: Duane Meeter. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

**First Mondays**
- Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm
- At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

**Mon. & Wed.**
- Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

**Mon. & Thurs.**
- The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.
- Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30am. Contact Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information.
- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
- Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6 lanes and Monday –Thursday 5pm-6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 5:15.
- Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15am-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15pm-6pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-noon.

**Tuesdays**
- FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.
- The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library.

**First Tuesdays**
- The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. For info call 369-7385.

**2nd and 4th Tuesdays**
- OccupyWNC meets at the 7PM in the Sneak E Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva). Visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524
- Sapphire Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Contact Majestic 828-367-9477

**Third Tuesday**
- The Macon County Poultry Club meets at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd.,Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public. Call 828-369-3916.
- Tuesday and Thursdays
- Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m.
- Pickle ball from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.
- Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.m.

**1st Wednesdays**
- Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

**3rd Wednesdays**
- Family Movies at the Highlands Playhouse. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.
- Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

**Thursdays**
- Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.
- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.
- Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more information call 770-823-0601

**2nd Thursdays**
- Manna Food Bank’s 2017 Blue Jean Ball. Travel by motor coach to Asheville. Depart from Cle Highlands at 9 am. Call 828-369-9477.

**Fridays & Saturdays**
- Art’s at the Lodge. Live Music 4-8 p.m. Cocktails in Art’s or on the lawn at the Lodge.

**Saturdays**
- Farmers Marketplace in K-H Founders Park from 8a-12:30p.
- At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.
- Scrabble at Hudson Library from 1-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome.
- The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

**SUMMER REC CAMP PROGRAM**

The program will run for 10 weeks this summer. The first day of camp will be Monday, June 5th and will run through Friday, August 18th. We will be closed the week of July 3rd through July 7th for the July 4th holiday. Campers may be dropped off as early as 7:30 and must be picked up by 5:30pm. Each camper must have a registration form filled out and submitted before the camper is left their first day of Rec Camp. Call the Recreation Department for more details.

For more information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

**HCP auditions are Sunday, June 11**

Auditions for HCP’s production of the romantic comedy “Crossing Delancey” will be held Sunday, June 11, 3 p.m. at Highlands Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Scripts are available to read in the Highlands and Cashiers libraries. Performance dates are August 24-27 and August 31-Sept. 3.

The play, directed by Dr. Ronnie Spilton, has a cast of three women and two men.

**The women:** Isabelle, a single modern young woman, 20s to 30s, Bubbie, her grandmother, a feisty, sharp-witted woman, 70s to 80s, Hannah, 40s to 60s, a professional matchmaker.

**The men:** Tyler, in his 40s, a writer, charming, self-involved, and Sam, 30s to 40s, in the pickie business, appealing, intuitive, very wise for his years.

**The plot:** Grandma thinks Isabelle should be married, employs the services of her friend Hannah, the matchmaker, to come up with some candidates other than Tyler with whom Isabelle is smitten. Sam is suggested, but Isabelle doesn’t like the idea of a pickle vendor who lives on the “wrong side” of Delancey Street in NYC. When she finally gets acquainted with Sam, however, romance blossoms.
community event visit www.hicashlt.org.

**Sun., June 4**
- At the Nature Center, Birds of the World - All Ages • 7 pm • Free. In collaboration with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Come for a presentation by the Carolina Raptor Center (CRC) featuring live raptors from across the globe. Contributions to CRC are appreciated. For info, call 526-2221.
- Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Birding in Panthertown Valley with Brent Martin, Southern Appalachian Regional Director with The Wilderness Society. Meet at 7 AM at the Cashiers Rec Center. Bring water & your camera. Long uphill walk on return leg will be taken slowly!
- The Bascom’s Collective Spirits Private Home Wine Dinners at 6 p.m. Call 828-526-4949.

**Mon., June 5**
- Covert Actions of the CIA, 10:00-12:00 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: Todd Collins. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com
- Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Chapter Pot Luck Dinner at 6 PM followed by a presentation by NC Audubon’s Curtis Smalling speaking about “How Our Local Birds are Doing: A Species Rollcall.” The presentation will begin at 7:30 PM. Both events are at the Highlands Civic Center, 600 N 4th Street.

**Tues-Fri., June 6 – 9**
- Cycling Through Nature. Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 6 - 9 • 9 am - 11 am daily • Cost $110 per child. The natural world is very cyclical. From life cycles of plants and animals to the water cycle and even the seasons, things tend to happen in circular patterns. We will explore the richness of these cycles throughout the week.
- The Movies of Burt Lancaster: An American Hero, 10:00-12:00 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com
- Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Chapter Pot Luck Dinner at 6 PM followed by a presentation by NC Audubon’s Curtis Smalling speaking about “How Our Local Birds are Doing: A Species Rollcall.” The presentation will begin at 7:30 PM. Both events are at the Highlands Civic Center, 600 N 4th Street.

**Tuesdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27**
- Great American Short Novels (Novellas), 5:30-8:30 Cost $110/$120 Presenter: Brian Railsback. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

**Wed., June 7**
- Mexico’s Drug Wars, 2:00-4:00 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: Erik Ching. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com
- A Dining Extravaganza with Chef Johannes. Meet in the CLE parking lot and travel by van to the Library Kitchen and Bar in Sapphire, NC 6:00-7:30 pm. Sharing pool with lap swimmers and Saturday mornings from 11:15am-Noon. Cost $95/$110. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

**Thur., June 8**
- Race and War: Soldiers of Color on the Western Front, 2:00-4:00 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: John H. Morrow. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com
- Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Birding in Panthertown Valley with Brent Martin, Southern Appalachian Regional Director with The Wilderness Society. Meet at 7 AM at the Cashiers Rec Center. Bring water & your camera. Long uphill walk on return leg will be taken slowly!
- The Bascom’s Collective Spirits Private Home Wine Dinners at 6 p.m. Call 828-526-4949.

**Fri., June 9**
- Checks But No Balance? The Role of the Supreme Court as a Policy Maker, 10:00-12:00 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: Todd Collins. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com
- The Bascom’s Collective Spirits Private Home Wine Dinners at 6 p.m. Call 828-526-4949.

**Sat., June 10**
- At the Nature Center, World Oceans Day - All Ages • 11:30 am – 4:30 pm • Free The ocean is integral to all life on Earth and no matter where we live, we all have an impact on our ocean. Celebrate the ocean and the link we share with it from the Mountains to the Sea. Find out more about how the ocean affects us and what we can do to protect it! For info, call 526-2221.
- At The Bascom. Collective Spirits Lively Gala with cocktails, dinner and dancing to “Class Act.” For tickets call 828-526-4949 or visit the website at www.thebascom.org.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5-mile hike on the Appalachian Trail, elevation change 700 ft, from the Telfico Gap to Wesser Bald Lookout Tower with 360 degree views of Smoky Mtns. Nat’l, Park, Fontana Lake, Blue Ridge Parkway and other areas. Meet at Huddle House in Sylva NC at 8:30 a.m., drive 65 miles round trip. Hikers from Franklin can meet at Lost Bridge Hwy. 28 N. Call leader: Jody Burtner. 828-788-2985 for reservations. Visitors welcome.

**Sat. & Sun., June 10-11**
- Free Mozart’s “Coronation Mass” Concert at the Church of the Incarnation Episcopal Church at 4 p.m. Performing are the Western NC Singers with Grat L. Rosazza, Artistic Director and Conductor.

**Thurs., June 1, 2017 - 828-200-1371 - Page 15**

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**SUMMER POOL SCHEDULE**

Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7-10am - 6 lanes and Monday –Thursday 5-6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics at 5:15 p.m.
Public Swim Monday-Thursday 11am-5pm & Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 6-7:30pm, Friday and Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday 1-5pm.
Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15-6pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15am-Noon.
Group Bookings available Wednesday 6-8pm.
Pool available for pool parties Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings 6pm-8pm.
Call the pool at 828-526-1595 if you have any questions concerning the pool.

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**Brushy Face Trail Celebration is Saturday!**

On Saturday, June 3, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) invites you to the grand opening of the Brushy Face Preserve trail! June 3rd is both National Trails and National Land Trust Day. To mark the occasion, HCLT will celebrate the opening of a new public trail on Brushy Face Preserve, our newest property.

From 10a-3p stop by to join us for free food, fun, and a family friendly walk through the forest. Drop in at any time to walk the trail, 1.4 miles round trip, and try your hand at painting, crafting, and creating! Free snacks and drinks will be available at the trailhead all day, with lunch served from 11a-1:30p.

For the more adventurous, join an HCLT-led hike along the challenging 5.4 mile round-trip route from Brushy Face Preserve to and from the summit of Satulah Mountain Preserve. Arrive by 10 AM and bring water, a lunch, and good shoes. The hike will take several hours and is not recommended for young children. No reservations are necessary.

To reach the trail head from Highlands, go 1.3 miles down US-28 South and turn right onto Brushy Face Road. Take the immediate left onto Old Pine Drive, and the next left onto Pineland Drive. Parking is available along this cul-de-sac and the trail head is at the end.

In the event of severe weather, we will reschedule to Sunday, June 4th.

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**Wholesale Market**

Natural Products Store

Carrying a wide variety of natural products for your Mind, Body & Home.

**NECTAR Juice Bar**

Located at 680 N. 4th. St., Highlands
Open Mon-Sat 10a to 5p
Organic Fresh Juices & Smoothies and Salads “On the Go!”

526-5999

On the corner of 3rd & Spring Street

**COREY JAMES GALLERY**

Objects d’art, paintings, sculpture, fountains, furniture, repairs & restorations. Open Everyday!
SCHOOL SYSTEM continued from 1

When taxpayer dollars are being used to supplement the school system, county leaders need to be as accurate as possible. So, when Macon County Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin submitted a budget to the county in the amount of $7.3 million, a $200,000 increase over the current allocation from the county, he justified the $200,000 increase based on “guesses” on what the state and federal government “might” do.

When County Manager Derek Roland proposed his budget to county commissioners, he left the school system’s allocation at $7.1 million for operating expenses. Roland justified his decision by stating that the $200,000 increase the school system needed to pay for six teaching positions that would have been required by state mandate if House Bill 13 wasn’t passed. Because House Bill 13 was passed, Macon County no longer needs those positions.

Days after Roland submitted his budget, school leaders announced that while the funding was no longer needed because of House Bill 13, because of additional proposed legislation, the district was looking at cutting anywhere from 10 to 17 teachers, all based on a “what-if” scenario regarding the budget released by the North Carolina Senate. School leaders acknowledged that what funding would actually be needed depended on what compromise the North Carolina House released, and still needed governor approval, but for the time being, funding for those 10 to 17 positions needed to be made to coun-

...SCHOOL SYSTEM continued from 1
BREAKFAST
Full breakfast made to order every morning until 11:00am
Cage free eggs, waffles, French toast, bacon, sausage, ham, biscuits, muffins, croissants. Espresso bar and coffee roasted in-house.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WINE MARKET & CRAFT BEER
An excellent, comprehensive selection of wine with the best prices in town, and run by a friendly knowledgeable staff. Craft beer and wine available by the glass while you shop and dine.

BAKERY
Full service scratch bakery making rolls, baguettes, sandwich breads, pastries, birthday and wedding cakes, cookies and seasonal specialties.

BUTCHER SHOP
We sell only 100% Premium Angus beef, hand-cut and ground in house. Seasonal seafood, all natural chicken, made-in-house sausage and more.

SPECIALTY CHEESES
Dozens of cheeses, tapenades, olives and specialty items including our made in-house crackers.

ARTISAN OIL AND VINEGAR
Over 30 extra virgin olive oils and vinegars to choose from. All available to sample.

AND MUCH MORE – VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT MFGRO.COM
Have You Fixed Your Dirt Crawl Space?

Dry Crawl Spaces

There are three things that destroy materials in general and wood in particular: water, heat and ultra violet radiation. Of those, water is by far the most destructive.

- Mold
- Bugs
- Structural Damage
- Smells & Odors
- Loss of Storage Space
- Radon Gas
- Rising Energy Costs

The earth in your dirt crawl space is the major source of moisture in your home! This moisture is carried up into your house from the natural upward air flow created from rising heat.

Call for a FREE Estimate on the Dry Crawl Spaces Crawl Space Encapsulation System.

DryCrawlSpaces.com • 828-743-0900

...HARRIS continued from page 10

is claiming to be the trend for the region.

With dwindling services in Franklin at AMC through Mission, Harris is working to meet the needs of the community. Harris Regional Hospital currently operates an outpatient in Franklin that features a 25,000-square-foot building with a full-time family practice, a full-time orthopedic surgeon, clinic hours with all of Harris’ rotating specialists, a full lab, physical therapy, a sleep lab and a full range of imaging services with the exception of a CT scan.

Harris Regional Hospital employs an obstetrician that keeps office hours in Franklin once a week but with Mission discontinuing its practices, Harris Regional plans to feature a full-time obstetrician to provide a full, comprehensive range of services for the community. By the summer, Harris also hopes to open a full-time, fully staffed pediatric practice in Franklin.

...SCHOOL SYSTEM continued from page 16

County Commissioners are set to hold a budget work session on Thursday, June 8, at which time Macon County Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin will argue the case for additional funds for the school system, based on the senate’s budget.

The county is slated to pass a final budget on Tuesday, June 13, which will likely be before a final budget from the state. If the county provides the school system with additional funds based on anticipated “what-ifs” from the state, but then the state ends up changing its budget, the school system will not write a check back to Macon County or to taxpayers for the difference.

This happened over funding for driver’s education during the last budget cycle. The state was adamant that funding for drivers’ education was no longer going to be provided at the state level. Recognizing the need for the program, county commissioners increased their allocation to the school system to make up the difference.

By the time the state passed its budget, funding for driver’s education was included. The additional funds were placed into the school system’s fund balance and used elsewhere.
Did Forrest Gump Get It Right?

Senior Pastor
Community Bible Church
Dr. Gary Hewins

“I am not a smart man Jenny, but I know what love is,” said the fairly simple-minded Forrest Gump.

Who would disagree that living our lives in love is the most important calling upon each of us? Maybe Forrest Gump did have it figured out, but I am not sure I have quite mastered living a life of love. I am a work in progress. How about you?

The very subject of love has its challenges. Love means so many different things to each of us. We each were “taught” love as a child and we each “caught” love as adults.

The underbelly of eros love says, “I want, I need, I desire” and I deserve”. Eros love reaches up to pull others down so they can basically meet our personal needs. Eros love says, “I, me, my and mine” and is concerned with others second.

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The underbelly of eros love says, “I want, I need, I desire” and I deserve”. Eros love reaches up to pull others down so they can basically meet our personal needs. Eros love says, “I, me, my and mine” and is concerned with others second.

Eros love means that every loving relationship is going to have its struggles. These struggles are not a problem…when we each say, “I love you” we actually mean “I love you” and that is a misunderstanding of the differences. We say, “I love you” and that is a misunderstanding of the differences. We say, “I love you” and that is a misunderstanding of the differences. We say, “I love you” and that is a misunderstanding of the differences. We say, “I love you” and that is a misunderstanding of the differences. We say, “I love you” and that is a misunderstanding of the differences. We say, “I love you” and that is.
Ron Griffith  
(828) 482-9309

**Highlands References...**

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

– Davis Picklesimer  
Highlands Wine Shoppe

**Fire Reports**

May 23  
The dept. responded to a miscellaneous fire on Lower Lake Drive.

May 24  
The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.  
• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at VZ TOP.  
• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Stoney Creek Road.

May 25  
The dept. was first-responders to a location on Spring St.  
The dept. investigated smoke on Goldmine.  
The dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

May 26  
The dept. provided mutual aid to the the Scaly FD.  
The dept. provided public assistance to a resident on Brushy Face.

May 27  
The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Sawmill road.

May 28  
The dept. stoodby for the MAMA helicopter at Zachary Field.  
The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Moonlight Lane.

May 29  
The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.  
The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.  
The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sequoyah Ridge.  
The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

...SPIRITUALLY from page 19

supposed to be enough. Eros leads to pain for many. Agape leads to restoration for many.

When Jesus began to teach, he used this unused word “agape” for love. People must have been perplexed. Maybe you are perplexed about this love as well? If you need some of this agape love to share with others, I know where it can be found and enjoyed. Agape love only comes from Christ. He is the only one who possesses agape love. In fact, he is agape love. He doesn't talk about agape love, he demonstrates it. He reaches down to grab your hand to pull you up. He reaches out to pull you in closer. Christ is patient with you and kind towards you. Those around you want and need an agape love from you. What will you give them? Will you give them a temporary, semi-selfish conditional love or an eternal, unconditional, sacrificial love rooted and established in your friendship with Christ.

One love will only get you by for a season…the other love will radically transform your relationships. What do you want to receive and share…an eros love or an agape love? It is your high calling for your life. How do you want to live it? Human imperfect love leaves you wanting and unsatisfied. God's love propels you forward into reaching out and pulling up. It's your life…Christ or no Christ? Eros or agape? Check out 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 and ask yourself if you want the faith to believe God for the even greater love.
HELP WANTED

**$$$$ TOP EARNINGS $$$$**
PAOLETTIS on Main Street is now hiring Servers & Busers for the the 2017 Season. GUARANTEED TOP EARNINGS IN THE REGION. Call for interview: 828-526-4906 or Send Resume to: amp28741@yahoo.com. (st. 5/18)

**BEAR MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS** is now hiring a full-time sales associate. $11/hr depending on experience. Please stop by 302 Main St, Highlands, NC for an application. (st. 6/1)

**HIGHLANDS INN & HIGHLANDS INN LODGE** now accepting applications and interviewing for all positions. Front Desk, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Night Audit, Breakfast Host & cook. Full time and part time available. Call 526-5899 for appointment or stop by 526 Main Street in Highlands to apply or call 828-526-2400

**Retail clothing sales experience preferred.**

**PART TIME HELP NEEDED. RETAIL.** Working knowledge of computers a plus. Customer Service and ability to think on your feet is an added plus. Flexible Hours. Seasonal but could become year round. Contact by text 615-400-5498 or email: colleenk959@gmail.com. (st. 3/30)

**FURNITURE MAKERS/TRIM CARPENTERS/CABINET INSTALLERS** for full-time work in High-end cabinet shop in Highlands, NC. Please send resume to: info@warthconstruction.com. (st. 3/2)

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

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

**SMILING FACES AND DEPENDABLE PEOPLE NEEDED** for part time and full time positions. Apply at SweeTreats Deli, Corner Main St. and So. Fourth. 526-9632. (st. 4/13)

**THE MOUNTAIN FRESH PIZZA DEPARTMENT** has two positions available for the 2017 summer season. Candidates must be energetic and team oriented. Positions require a range of skills including customer service, food prep, utility assistance and line cook. Evening coverage needed. Please contact Mountain Fresh Grocery at 526-2400 and speak with Missy or stop by in person at the corner of 5th and Main.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

**SECRETARY PART TIME** proficient with QuickBooks Black Bear Construction Highlands 828-200-0949. (st. 5/18)

**EXPERIENCED LEGAL ASSISTANT:** Seeking Legal Assistant for Cashiers law office. Must have experience with Real Estate Closings and legal document preparation. Proficiency in Microsoft Office, excellent organizational and communication skills and attention to detail and accuracy, professional phone manner and personal presentation and friendly demeanor desired. Email resume to peter@peterapaul.com or call 828-743-5200. (st. 5/11)

**SKYLINE LODGE** requires a housekeeper for the day shift and a front desk clerk to work evenings from 4-10 p.m. Experience an asset but not essential. Call 828-525-2121 for an appointment. (st. 5/18)

**C.N.A. WAITSTAFF NEEDED FOR ASSISTED LIVING.** Please apply in person at Chestnut Hill of Highlands, 24 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. (828)526-5251. (6/1)

**CAR IS IN PERFECT SHAPE.** Black exterior with black leather interior. Car can be driven anywhere & has been serviced at the Range Rover dealership. This will make an excellent vehicle that is very dependable. $16,500. Call Doug at 678-914-6900 (6/8)

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**

**FALLING WATERS.** Gated community, beautiful mountain land. Just 2.4 miles from Main St. Cottage lot with small waterfall $159K. Premium waterfall (above pix) $439K. Other lots $169k to $259k. From Main St. and Hwy 106, turn west on 106. Go 1.8 miles just past Glen Falls sign... turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3/10 mile, turn left on Moonlight. Entrance is on the right. Contact onsite developer for plat and info. 828-508-9952. fallingwatersnc.com. (st. 5/11)

**SERVICES**


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

**HANDI- MAN** – Electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry, yard work. Call Al at 828-332-7271 or 828-369-6245. (3/9)

**HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN IN VINCEN** – scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 3/16)

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

**LETTERS from 6 friends of founders park, new park, but also touches on a number of issues that we at friends of founders park have wrestled with over the last 44 months in building the park. I would like to address the main criticisms Lee raised.

To begin with, Kelsey-Hutchinson Foundations Park was designed as the culmination of widespread community involvement to be an urban park used by visitors and townpeople on a daily basis, not a wilderness area or a pasture. After all, we started out with only a .33-acre site on the old post office property which through good luck and community support has grown to an effective size of just under 1.5 acres.

In order to serve our community and recognize our history we needed to provide the facilities to support the needs of an urban park. I believe that Hank Ross’s plan provided ONLY those structures which were needed to achieve our urban and historic intent. The threat of structure creep eating up open space was a concern that guided us throughout construction and needs to be guarded against from now on.

The three sites in the park to house either permanent or rotating art pieces – one of which is the permanent circa 1885 wagon wheel to symbolize our pioneers mode of transportation – will not take up any existing green space.

I can relate to Lee’s comment about the amount of time that the park has been a topic of discussion and extended fundraising. It took four years before the Pine Street Park Committee began raising money to purchase the old post office property – the last remaining piece of open ground in downtown Highlands. It took them two years to raise the money to purchase the property and then due to politics and the economy the property sat idle for six more years until October, 2013 when the Founders Park Coalition (now Friends of Founders Park) began its push to build the park.

Now that the park is near completion Friends of Founders Park will continue to work with the town to insure that the park is not forgotten, that the public is informed about what is going on in the park, and to listen to input from the public and pass that information on to the Town’s Recreation Committee and, when necessary, to the Town Board. We welcome your input and I hope that everyone, including you Lee, will join us on June 17 for our annual Low Country Shrimp Boil. Tickets are available on line at wwwFOUNDERSparkhighlands.org. We sold out last year so get them before they are gone!!!

Nicholas Bazan
President of Friends of Founders Park