

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 14, Number 22

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Thurs., June 1, 2017

## 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

•See SCHOOL SYSTEM page 16

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## 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 allows for

•See HARRIS page 10

## 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. As 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 homesite 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 Pruitt, Kathleen Prosser Hampton, John Gray Simpson, Nathan Bryan Simpson, Jr., Aaron Liebowitz, Samuel McCall Snipes, Brady Powers Mickey, Burke Lawrence Berger, Nathan Christopher Dryman and Stephen Michael Gruendel.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## •MAYOR ON DUTY•

### The fiscal side of things

**A**t 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



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

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.

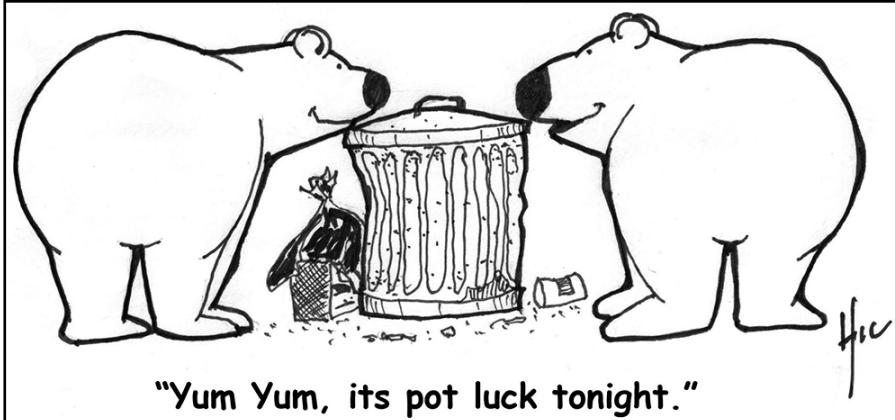
The town's general fund also obtains revenue from state franchise, gas and tag taxes, and local fees. The county currently contributes \$550,000 a year to the general fund for the operation of the recreation program which is open to all county residents.

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.

## •HIC'S VIEW•



"Yum Yum, its pot luck tonight."

## •LEGISLATIVE UPDATE•

### H.R. 10: Financial CHOICE Act of 2017

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.

•See UPDATE page 8

## •WEEKEND WEATHER•

FRIDAY JUN 2	SATURDAY JUN 3	SUNDAY JUN 4
 73°/53°	 76°/56°	 74°/59°

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[www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather

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Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

[www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

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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.

# • OBITUARY •

## 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.

Welcome 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](http://maconfuneralhome.com).

# • LETTERS •

## Author hits nail on the head

Dear Editor

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

•See LETTERS page 6

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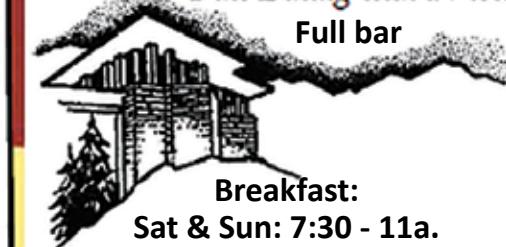
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### THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

#### APPETIZERS

**Salmon Tartare**

*Chopped and molded gravlax  
w/cucumber dill dressing. Served cold.*

**Cheese Crusted Asparagus  
Sticks in a Parmesan Cradle**

#### ENTREES

**Brined & Grilled**

**Bone-in Pork Chop**

*Thick cut chop brined in apple juice and  
spices. Served w/andoullie cream sauce  
and sweet potato bacon hash*

**Linguine Marinara**

*Tomato flavor shines in this  
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#### SOUP

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- Great American Short Novels (Novellas) SOLD OUT!**
- Mexico's Drug Wars**  
Wednesday, June 7 Time: 2:00-4:00
- Race and War: Soldiers of Color on the Western Front in WWI**  
Thursday, June 8 Time: 2:00-4:00
- Checks But No Balance? The Role of the Supreme Court as a Policy Maker**  
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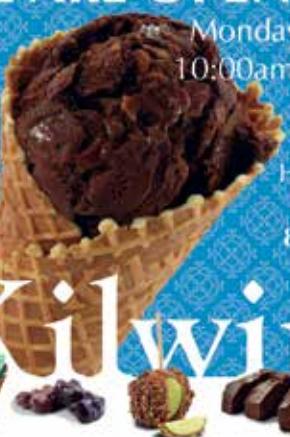
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## ...LETTERS from page 3

line right in the face of oncoming traffic. This is when they're sober. Usually it's a heavy pickup or a large SUV, which people own as an armored symbol of their status and power. They come around the corner in my lane, forcing me to the white line, or off the road, to avoid a collision. "I did it, I'm glad, screw you." This is downright dangerous. One day, a little old lady with slow reflexes is going to get hit by some yellow-line-crossing idiot in a Hummer, and that's all she wrote.

You see the same attitude when you're doing 55 and people pull right out in front of you, forcing you to hit the brakes. There have always been people who did this unconsciously, but since the election, pulling out in front of you deliberately has been on the rise. It's a measurable trend. Again, most often it's a big gas-guzzling armored status symbol. They don't mind running stop signs either. The principle of yielding the right-of-way is out the window. A narcissist believes whatever he does is right. "I did it, I'm glad, screw you."

I know I'll get hate mail if any Trumpies happen to read my opinion. Maybe they'll notice the headline. It's less than 140 characters. I can almost guarantee their attacks will be in basic Trump Doctrine format: "He's President, I'm glad, screw you."

Kim Bonsteel  
Highlands

## In response to Lyons' letter

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

## Now Showing

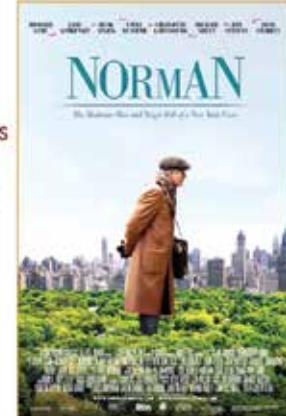
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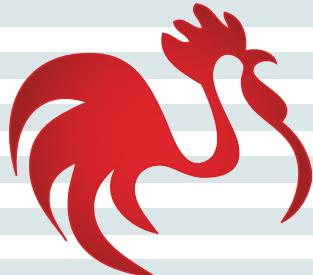


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Just like our mountain roads, life is a series of twists and turns. We start out crawling only seeing floors without realizing there are walls and ceilings we are yet to explore. Once we are courageous enough to stand alone and take a first step – 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 can 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.

**Pat Allen**  
Broker-in-charge  
Cell: 828-200-9179  
Office: 828-526-8784

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](http://meadows.house.gov)

Senior Senator Richard Burr; Office: 202-224-3154; Email/Website: [burr.senate.gov](http://burr.senate.gov)

Junior Senator Thom Tillis; Office: 202-224-6342; Email/Website: [tillis.senate.gov](http://tillis.senate.gov)

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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 bdrm 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



Pristine 2bd/2ba condo in Highlands Falls CC. Many upgrades including new flooring, crown moulding and fresh paint. Vaulted ceilings and stone fireplace grace the living room. Walk out on to your deck to enjoy mountain and golf course views. Offered furnished. \$269,000 MLS #85050

#### LOT LISTING

Easy build .81 acre lot in prestigious Cold Springs Saddle & Lake Club. Private lake access and just minutes to downtown Highlands. \$82,500 MLS #83190



4bd/4ba with great view of Whiteside Mtn from the large open deck. Bright open home with vaulted ceilings, kitchen with large island, pantry and office area. \$1,250,000 MLS #71891



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

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



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



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



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Walking distance to town/dining/shopping. In Old Edwards development, enjoy all the amenities the world renowned Inn & Spa has to offer. Well appointed 3bd/4.5ba is sure to impress. \$1,695,000 MLS #85172



Meticulously maintained 3bd/3.5ba home with separate guest quarters, private pond, grand workshop and beautifully kept yard. \$495,000 MLS #85284

#### LOT LISTING

3.90 acres in Tuckasegee. Ridge line and mountain views with some trimming. \$51,000 MLS #84488



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



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

# •THE INK PEN•

## How smart are you?



**Kathy Manos Penn**

use words properly, not about wanting to show off.

Does it tickle me when a friend contacts me to ask about a word? Well yes, but honestly if you read as many books as I do and you also taught high school English in a past life, you ought to know more words than the average bear. I still chuckle when

I think about the phone call I got one evening from a friend laughing with her husband and another friend. They were debating how to conjugate the word spin, and she just knew I'd have the answer. I don't know that I'd ever conjugated it before, but I compared it to drink, drank, drunk and came up with the right answer—spin, span, have spun.

What other behaviors should you avoid if you want to appear smart? Talking too much, too loudly or trying to look serious. Once you nail how to converse more clearly and confidently and how to engage others by nodding, asking them questions and letting them get a word in edgewise, your natural intelligence can shine through.

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 throughout my daily conversations.

I have a subscription to A Word a Day and enjoy the emails with words and quotes, and I routinely describe myself as a word nerd and grammar geek, but that's more about being interested in words, keeping a dictionary handy and wanting to

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**Drink sales begin at 5 O'CLOCK**  
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**Dinner & Drinks 6 - 8 O'CLOCK**  
\$55 Ticket includes tasty Low Country Boil Dinner, Dessert and Two Drink Tickets Available at The Dry Sink, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust office, Highlands Chamber of Commerce or [www.foundersparkhighlands.org](http://www.foundersparkhighlands.org)

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•Find Kathy's book, "The Ink Pen: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," at The Molly Grae in Highlands, at Books Unlimited in Franklin, or on her website at [www.theinkpenn.com](http://www.theinkpenn.com). Contact her at [inkpenn1@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn1@gmail.com) and join her at the Molly Grae on the corner of Oak and N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Highlands on June 17<sup>th</sup> from 11 am - 2 pm for a book signing.

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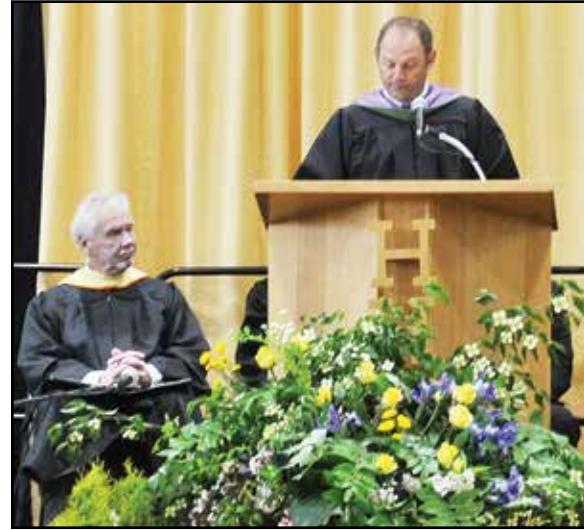
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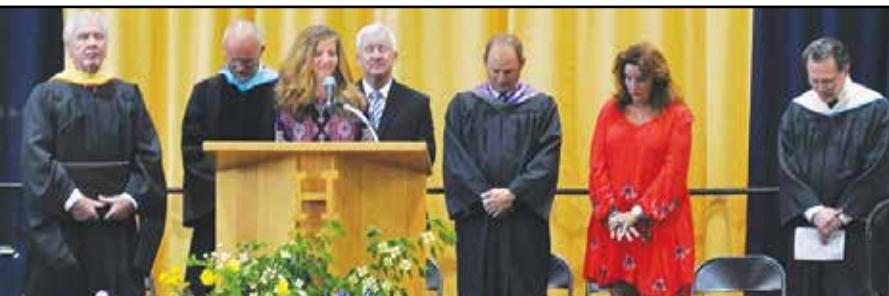
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# Class of 2017 Graduation - Sat., May 27

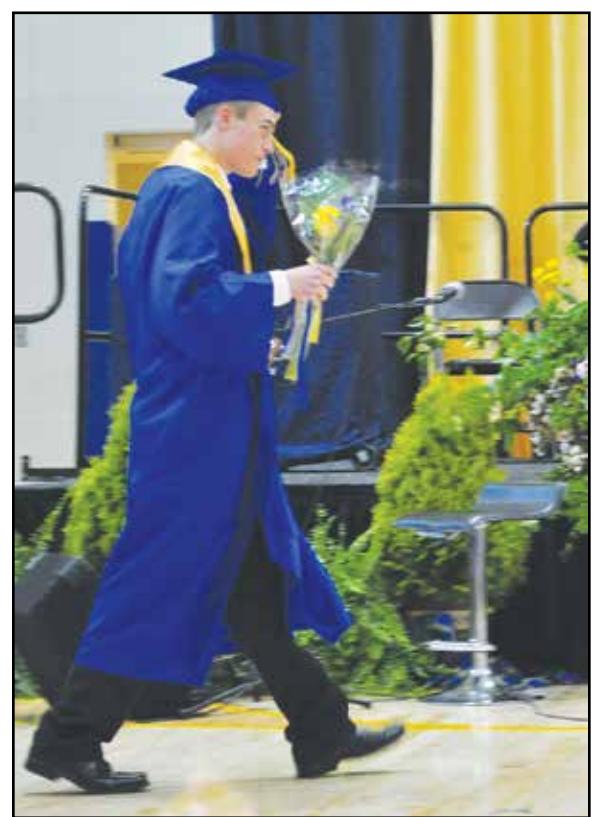
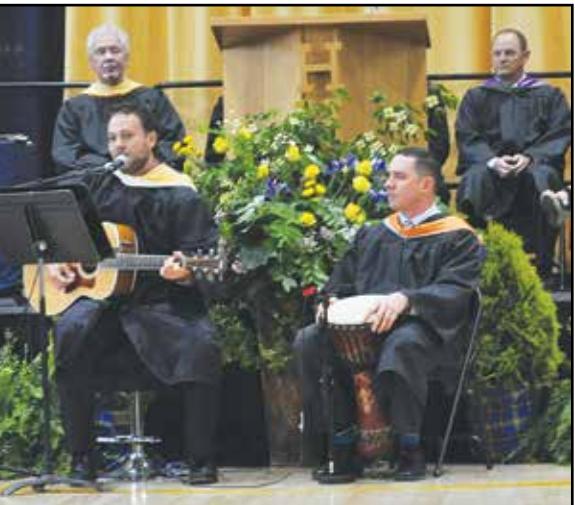


Photos  
by Kim Lewicki



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.

**Mondays, 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.

## 'Obsession' at PAC Saturday



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the National Theatre of London's production of Obsession starring Jude Law on Saturday, June 3 at 1pm. Ivo van Hove (NT Live: A View from the Bridge, Hedda Gabler) directs this new stage adaptation of Luchino Visconti's 1943 film.

Gino is a drifter, down-at-heel and magnetically handsome. At a road side restaurant he encounters a husband and wife, Giuseppe and Giovanna. Irresistibly attracted to each other, Gino and Giovanna begin a fiery affair and plot to murder her husband. But, in this chilling tale of passion and destruction, the crime only serves to tear them apart. Obsession is rated R in the US. Saturday, June 10, Peter Pan. Fun for the whole family. Tickets available online: [www.hIGHLANDSPAC.org](http://www.hIGHLANDSPAC.org) - at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

**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](http://www.clehighlands.com)

**First Mondays**

- Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm

**Mondays**

- 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.

**Mon., Wed., Fri.**

- 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.

**Mon.-Fri.**

- 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**

## 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 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 pickle 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.

- 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](http://www.occupywnc.org) or call 828.331.1524

**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. \$5.

- 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**

- Recently released movies at Hudson Li-

brary 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

- NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

**2nd Thursdays**

- Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

**3rd Thursdays**

- Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

**Fridays & Saturdays**

- Art's at the Lodge. Live Music 4-8 p.m. Cocktails in Art's or on the lawn at the Lodge. On Spring Street.

**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.

**Sat., June 3**

- Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Birding for beginners and beyond at Cashiers Commons with Russ Regnery, President of HPAS. Meet at the Cashiers Rec Center at 7:30 AM. Easy walking; loaner binoculars available.

- Reviving and Reshaping North Carolina after the Civil War, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Stephen Nash. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

- Manna Food Bank's 2017 Blue Jean Ball. Travel by motor coach to Asheville. Depart from CLE at 4:45 Cost \$110 per person (age 21 and older). To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

- "Brushy Face Grand Opening Celebration" Come celebrate the brand new public trail on National Trails Day/Land Trust Day at one of our newly conserved properties. Bring the kids and visit environmental education stations along the way. For the more adventurous, join us for a challenging hike from our newest public property, Brushy Face, to the summit of our first property that was protected in 1909, Satulah Preserve. To learn more about this free

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

community event visit [www.hicashlt.org](http://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.

#### **Mon., June 5**

- Covert Actions of the CIA, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

#### **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 ani-mals 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.

#### **Tue., June 6**

- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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-. Cost \$95/\$110. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

#### **Thur., June 8**

- Race and War: Soldiers of Color on the

## **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.

Western Front, 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: John H. Morrow. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://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](http://www.clehighlands.com)

- The Bascom's Collective Spirits Beer, wine and spirits Market. 5:30-7:30 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.

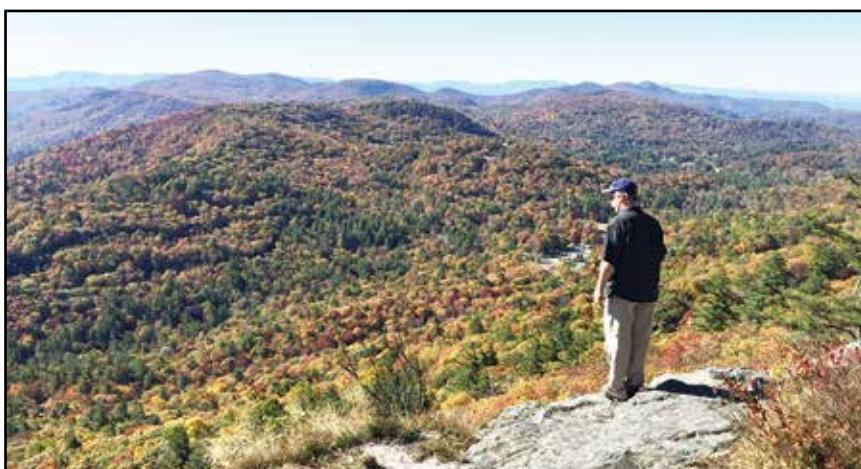
- At The Bascom. Collective Spirits Lively Gala with cocktails, dinner and dancing to "Class Act." For tickets call 828-526-4949 or visit the website at [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5-mile hike on the Appalachian Trail, elevation change 700 ft., from the Tellico 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.

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>.



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# ...SCHOOL SYSTEM continued from 1

what Macon County Schools refer to as "best guess" budgets.

But the school system's "best guess" budget leaves county leaders "guessing" what the school system may need.



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crease 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-

• See SCHOOL SYSTEM pg 18

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

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

## Tuesday - Oven Off Night

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

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

**Thursday - Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs** - cooked until fall-off-the-bone-tender. Served with house made 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 over night and hand pulled to order. Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon baked beans, and yeast rolls  
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## ...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

ty leaders, "just in case."

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.

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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## 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.

**W**ho 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 a child. Our definition of love varies. Some people started out thinking love was something to be defined in the context of a dysfunctional and at times toxic family environment. Others only wish they had a family. Others came up in a fairly-functional nurturing environment. So here is the problem...when we each say, "I love you" we actually mean different things. So, how do we get on the same page?

First, we must understand that there is a "love" between people that the Greek language defines as eros love". 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 is what many long for because it temporarily fills voids in our lives. We all have eros love within us on some level whether we admit it or not. If you think you are void of an eros type of love then you are making my point. Eros love denies such an admission. Eros love is something that is exclusively exchanged only between imperfect people. Eros love is an attempt to solve the human dilemma with something that sounds and feels good but doesn't quite get the job done.

There is another word for love in the Greek language that remained hidden in the dictionary for many years. Nobody seemed to be aware of it or ever use the word agape for love. Agape love reaches out and pulls others in. Agape love reaches down and pulls people up. An eros love takes and an agape love gives. Agape love is sacrificial, selfless, patient and kind and is without envy.

When a man and a woman share their wedding vows, an agape love is assumed. Many get married with an eros love only to later realize that it isn't strong enough to keep the vows. An eros love won't hold up when the storms come. Eros isn't supposed to keep a couple together and it doesn't. Most divorces take place because of a presence of eros love and an absence of agape love and a misunderstanding of the differences. We say, "I love you" and that is

• See SPIRITUALLY page 21

## Proverbs 3:5

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

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Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

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Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm; Ch. 5p

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### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729 • Pastor Nathan Johnson  
Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p  
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09,10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell rehearsals, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided ); 7pm

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## • FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from May 23.

**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 motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

- 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.

- The dept. stoodby for the MAMA helicopter at Zachary Field.

- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Moonlight Lane.

**May 28**

- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sawmill Road.

- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brock Court.

- The dept. was first-responders to a location on S. 4th Street.

**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.

## 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



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**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

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**...LETTERS from 6**

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 Founders Park was designed as the culmination of widespread community involvement to be an urban park used by visitors and townspeople 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 sure 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 www.foundersparkhighlands.org. We sold out last year so get them before they are gone!!!

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