

THE COMMUNICATOR

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Donna's Mural

A larger-than-life mural at the city gazebo wall south of Oak and Main streets will honor Mount Airy superstar Donna Fargo and become a vital piece of the country pop artist's legend. Born Yvonne Vaughn, she attended Flat Rock Elementary School and graduated from Mount Airy High School and High Point College. Her singing career blossomed after she moved to California, became a high school English teacher, and met her music producer and then husband, the late Stan Silver. In the early 1970s she had four consecutive No. 1 hits: "The Happiest Girl in the Whole USA," "Superman," "Funny Face," and "You Were Always There."

The mural will cost \$25,000. Property owner Dean Bray has granted permission for it to remain there for 20 years. The city owns the gazebo area, but the late Perry Robertson helped fund it as a tribute to his childhood friend, fallen U.S. Navy veteran Carlos Warren Jones.

The fundraising committee for the mural is headed by Ann Vaughn. It is staging a "Star-Spangled Donna Fargo Fashionista" at the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History at 2 p.m. on March 26. Tickets are \$20. There will be live and silent auctions and music by former Donna Fargo Band member John Rees. Donations can be sent to Ann Vaughn, 566 Crossingham Road, Mount Airy, NC 27030. Jeannie Lowry, widow of the late band member Jimmy Lowry, is a key fundraiser also.

Donna Fargo wrote all of her hits. She also has pursued other ventures, writing eight books of poetry and inspiration and more than 2,000 greeting cards. She lives in Nashville.

Jack Gentry

We met Jack Gentry at the first Sela Men's Bible Study in the spring of 2010. He and the late David Morrison and Phillip Ratley organized the 6:30 a.m. gathering at Sela Builders' corporate offices. I was blessed when we randomly sat at the same table.

During the later part of our years, Jack stayed at home to nurse critically ill wife Mary. She passed on Nov. 7, 2021. He credits Mary with the tremendous family achievements. Mary and

Jack were Elkin High School graduates and she matriculated to Mars Hill and UNC-Greensboro. She was a lifelong music teacher, church music director, and Jack's structure, influencer, and advisor. They attended Elkin Valley Baptist Church for years.

Their son, Joel, graduated from Wake Forest University and UNC-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry. He lives and practices in High Point.

Jack is now my tablemate again at the Sela Bible Study. On alternating Wednesdays we have lunch at Mazzini's. Our sharing is mostly about late wife Mary, Jack's beloved grandsons Forrest and Austin, and Bible Study focusing lately on the Tribulations and the Rapture. He recently brought to Bible Study our best-ever snack of eggs-and-sausage casserole, sausage gravy, fresh fruit salad, rolls, and toast. He said his effort to prepare the breakfast helped his grieving process.

Our conversation about son Joel's life recently included a story about Joel's choosing to come home on college weekends and choose to play golf with his dad when he could have been with same-age friends.

Taking Care

On a recent morning as I stopped in Bridge Street Pharmacy — it is next door to WIFM Radio — Gill Ripley commented about my Animal Ark monogrammed golf shirt by telling a great story. He shared, "When I take vacation, I board our puppies with Dr. Brinegar at the Animal Ark. On my last trip, our 14-year-old passed, and Richard called to share the passing. Of course we were saddened, but her passing was sort of expected. When we returned, Dr. Brinegar came here to share his grief and despair. Dr. Brinegar went out of his way to help with our loss."

We'll never forget the Animal Ark outreach and the staff concern. Dr. Richard Brinegar, DVM, has a sense of empathy for the animals in his care. As a treasured client of WIFM Radio, he is actively involved in producing his own advertising spot. He is unconditionally one of our most effective clients. We look forward to Dr. Brinegar's visit to share his "How to protect our animals and make them happy, healthy, and joyful."

The Plasters

In 2019, Gerald and Teresa Plaster graced our cardio exercise room at the Armfield Recreation Center. Each weekday at 5:30 a.m. we can count on their presence. Residents of Tom Jones Road west of Pilot Mountain, both are career UPS retirees. They love traveling, grandparenting, cooking for large family groups on holidays, gardening, attending Anchored in Jesus Baptist Church, enjoying life, and taking trips in their red Corvette.

Gerald, a master mechanic, keeps copious vehicle records and services, repairs, and maintains their fleet of five cars and pickups. They recently sold a Nissan and spent a few weeks shopping for a "knock-around" pickup. He found a 1998 S-10 Chevy in Lexington with 111,000 miles and seeing great potential and hidden value bought it after a test drive. Gerald said its biggest need was a good wash and shine with Meguiar's Car Wax. In the ensuing weeks he has aligned the brakes, replaced the shocks, totally serviced the engine, and replaced the wipers and radio antenna. Seeing it at the Armfield Recreation Center, it looks like new. Gerald says, "The best part is that there have been no substantial surprises. My test drive was a great indicator. The former owner is an honest man."

Gerald has rehabbed his S-10 without spending one cent on labor. He stated, "There is really very little I can't do in repairing vehicles. I also own every tool needed to repair virtually any need."

He taught me to change a commode flapper chain. Way to go, Gerald.

David Smith

A portion of Smith's Diesel is a wrecker service involving a 40,000-pound Kenworth wrecker capable of picking up and hauling a damaged road tractor to owners' shops in or near Surry County. The unit's drivers are CDL Certified and DOT log compliant. David Smith recently completed a 3,085-mile trip to west Texas and back that involved more than 120 hours of driving, sleeping, dining, and safe, accident-free transport.

Surry County is the home of more than 4,000 tractors and trailers that primarily haul dry freight west and bring fresh produce from California and Arizona to East Coast grocery retailers. A team of two professional drivers can do a West Coast turnaround, 5,000 miles, in three days.

A forerunner in this industry was H&W Trucking started by the late Bobby Harold and Norman Webb. Their primary hauls were manufactured furniture to the West Coast and bringing fresh produce from the Salinas Valley to Vernon Produce in Winston-Salem. In those days, before the interstates, a round trip took 6-1/2 days.

Carolina Farm Credit

WIFM Radio is grateful to have Carolina Farm Credit, headquartered in Statesville, as a premier client. Our personal contact person is Jocelyn Roten. Carolina Farm Credit sponsors a golf team annually to support our Elkin Emergency Rescue Squad.

Am significantly impressed by Farm Credit's logo called "The Biostar." A white star is outlined by three green leaves and stylized grass roots. The leaves stand for its three types of lending: long-term real estate, short-term operating, and cooperative financing. The roots that extend from the bottom symbolize the Farm Credit System's cooperative structure and its long history of grassroots support for rural America. The star in the middle represents vibrancy and direction. Finally, the brilliant green color represents the nature of its stockholders' business: to grow, produce, and harvest food and fiber. The logo is neatly placed above Carolina Farm Credit's entrance door.

Mercy & Truth Ministries

Established in 2016 by Rebekah Simpson under the auspices of Thanks to Calvary Baptist Church at 1522 Austin Traphill Road in eastern Wilkes County, Mercy & Truth Ministries is reaching the needs of many. From serving one family the first year, at Christmas 2022 it benefitted 5,800 individuals and was assisted by more than 200 volunteers. The nonprofit is led by Rebekah and Brianna Simpson, and minister Jeremy Simpson carries a Christian message to nine public schools. Mercy & Truth Ministries is funded by private donations. In an interview on WIFM Radio, several community leaders for the Christmas outreach were Jeff Eidson, Rudy Holbrook, and Marty Roberts. Names of client families come from the North Carolina Department of Social Services. Gifts are collected year-round and distributed on Christmas Eve.

Bridge Street Pharmacy

Pharmacist Gill Ripley grew up in Ohio and graduated from University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill's School of Pharmacy. He's owned Bridge Street Pharmacy in Elkin for 42 years, and he takes great pride in its storefront and shining green-and-crème linoleum floor installed in 1972.

Master floor specialist Jessie Stonewall of North Wilkesboro cleans, buffs, and shines Bridge Street Pharmacy's floors monthly, a ritual that started 22 years ago. Seeing Jessie's burgundy Nissan at the storefront on each month's last Friday morning signals Bridge Street Pharmacy's floors are receiving a makeover.

Official Fried Apple Pie Festival

Region promoter William Bottomley has prompted N.C. State Sen. Ralph Hise, R-District 47, to introduce a bill to enact a law designating Sparta's Fried Apple Pie Festival as the official Fried Apple Pie Festival of the State of North Carolina. William, a Sparta native, founded the Christmas Lights Festival in Galax, Va., which includes 40 nights of 250,000 lights at the Galax Memorial Park off Highway 89.

The Fried Apple Pie Festival will be staged at the Alleghany County Fairgrounds on May 6 where winners will receive old-fashioned ribbons. Also featured will be children's games and typical fair exhibits. William is a retired WXII-TV cameraman and WIFM Radio personality. He's a classic goodwill supporter of the galas happening in Sparta, Alleghany County, and Galax.

Below is the text of Hise's Senate Bill 85 which is in committee for review. When the bill passes, I'll join William in Raleigh at the official signing.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT DESIGNATING SPARTA'S FRIED APPLE PIE FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL FRIED APPLE PIE FESTIVAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the first annual Fried Apple Pie Festival will be held in the Town of Sparta on May 6, 2023, at the Alleghany County Fairgrounds; and

Whereas, the Festival will have a fried apple pie contest with awards given to first, second, and third place winners as well as an award for the best fried apple pie chosen by those in attendance; and

Whereas, the Fried Apple Pie Festival will be a unique event held in the State and should be adopted as the official fried apple pie festival of the State of North Carolina; Now, therefore The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 145-52. Official fried apple pie festival.

The Fried Apple Pie Festival, held the first Saturday in the month of May of every year in the Town of Sparta, is adopted as the official fried apple pie festival of the State of North Carolina."

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

North Wilkesboro Speedway

North Wilkesboro Speedway, one of NASCAR's first racetracks, opened in 1947 by the Staley, Lawson and Combs families, was bought by Bruton Smith in 1996 as the race dates were moved to Texas Motor Speedway and New Hampshire International Speedway at Loudon. The economic impact of losing the two races was more than \$26 million (in 1996 dollars). Under the leadership of

Terri Parsons, wife of the late NASCAR Champion Benny Parsons, Linda Cheek, the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce, the N.C. Department of Tourism, Dale Earnhardt Jr., and thousands of Wilkes hopefuls, racing will return on May 19 with an All-American feature. Ronald Queen is the track's Director of Operations.

Ms. Parsons and Chamber Executive Linda Cheek starred in a Yadkin Valley Lunch & Learn on Feb. 8 in the Yadkin Valley Chamber & Visitors Center's conference room and shared the importance of timing in bringing the track back. The event, attended by 30 interested colleagues, was sponsored by All-Star Rental and its astute owner Joe Walker. The North Carolina Department of Tourism contributed \$19 million to the cause. Ms. Parsons, a most eloquent and dynamic speaker, is the former State of Florida Director of Tourism for 12 years. She also stated that late husband Benny, as his last wants, listed reopening the track high on his list. Another monumental impact was Charlotte Motor Speedway's CEO Marcus Smith's keynote address at the 2022 Wilkes Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting at Wilkes Community College. At the encouragement of Ms. Parsons, Marcus got the ball rolling and then Gov. Roy Cooper, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Linda Cheek, and a plethora of hoppers were resilient.

Word Match

Match the word on the right with its definition from the left. See answers on Page 7.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 1. mope | _____ | A. explain |
| 2. hippodrome | _____ | B. verdant |
| 3. quintessence | _____ | C. myopic |
| 4. baroque | _____ | D. supply |
| 5. genre | _____ | E. aberrant |
| 6. sanctification | _____ | F. appease |
| 7. proverb | _____ | G. precipice |
| 8. expository | _____ | H. arbitrary |
| 9. tribulation | _____ | I. apathetic |
| 10. provision | _____ | J. unique style |
| 11. placate | _____ | K. special purpose |
| 12. nearsighted | _____ | L. bourgeois |
| 13. cliff | _____ | M. art style |
| 14. divergent | _____ | N. anxiety |
| 15. Daytimer® | _____ | O. shallow |
| 16. green | _____ | P. pompous |
| 17. random | _____ | Q. planner |
| 18. knows all | _____ | R. stadium |
| 19. cloven | _____ | S. eureka |
| 20. triumph | _____ | T. imperative |
| 21. middleclass | _____ | U. cleft |
| 22. peremptory | _____ | V. hot dog |
| 23. flippant | _____ | W. adage |
| 24. show-off | _____ | X. professionalism |

See answers on Page 7

Mr. Lanier

Mr. R.O. Lanier was the first principal to lead newly consolidated Surry County Schools' Surry Central High School in 1961. Schools that merged were Dobson, Copeland, and Mountain Park. Today, Surry Central has 650 students, is a North Carolina High Schools Athletic Association Division AA competitor, and is located at 716 S. Main St., Dobson, NC 27017, adjacent to Surry Community College on U.S. Route 601 South.

Mr. Lanier is a healthy 102, and we visit and share lunch often. On Feb. 15, I ordered three carry-out plates from Harry's Place on 135 Front St. Opened in 1954 by the late Harry and Nancy Smith, Harry's is respected as Elkin's landmark eatery. The rich tradition continues under the astute leadership of daughter Teresa Smith Chatham. It features a lunch Monday through Friday and dinner on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. A notable report heard recently was, "A carload of retired men weekly drive up from Winston-Salem to shop at Tee Time Golf and have lunch at Harry's."

The meal for Mr. Lanier, caregiver Stephanie of Home Instead, and me included pulled BBQ, chicken casserole, and choice of 13 country cooked vegetables. Mr. Lanier said as he enjoyed his meal, "I've been a Harry's regular since moving here from Rowan County in 1961."

The wait staff on duty was Pam Foster, Drea Sebastian, Lynne Hayes, and Priscilla Gutierrez. My thank-you note said "World's Best Service, Quality, Value, and On Time."

Precious Memories

- A wall sign at a local school: You are kind, smart and important.
- Trey Wiggins, a Pilot Mountain Middle School teacher driving the activity bus to bring contestants to the MathWorks session at Central Middle School.
- A breathtaking poinsettia gifted by Jim, Judy, and Jay Mitchell to us a few days before Christmas. A picture by my iPhone will be a classic. Jay recovers from brain surgery to cure epilepsy seizures at the Baptist Hospital.
- A painted rock and lettering in front of C.B. Eller School that challenges students to "Celebrate Life By Living Drug Free."
- At the corner of the Northern Regional Hospital's entrance reception desk is always a fresh-cut floral arrangement by Airmont Florist. Mount Airy Modern Gardeners has sponsored it since 1956. Our late friend Eleanor Powell was a charter member.
- Several snapshots of Cedar Ridge Elementary School Principal Diana Bledsoe celebrating her selection as North Carolina District 8 Principal of the

Year. In April she'll be in competition for the state's top principal.

- A friendship relationship I deeply admire is that of exercise buddies Mike Felts and Jimmy Thomas. They met at the Armfield Civic and Recreation Center in Pilot Mountain and walk several miles daily. A third partner, Tom Childress, is a companion. Tom and Mike co-lead a GriefShare weekly session at the Pilot Mountain United Methodist Church (see story below).

GriefShare

Twenty-five Pilot Mountain-area citizens are gathering at 4 o'clock on Sunday afternoon for the GriefShare program sponsored by Pilot Mountain United Methodist Church. Facilitators are Pinedale Christian Church certified leader Mike Felts, Methodist Church Minister Jeremy Pegram, and church leader Tim Childress. Tim served his church's need and Mike has lost two wives. Rev. Pegram is a most effective organizer. We are blessed by empathy.

Empathy

A dear friend invariably asks, "Is someone empathetic?" Google says empathy is defined as understanding another's experience by imagining oneself in that other person's situation. "Sympathy" is more of a feeling of pity for another, or a feeling that we care about and are sorry about someone else's trouble, grief, misfortune, etc. Sympathy separates us from the person struggling and empathy joins us.

Hoby Childress

Each month for more than a decade, Air Force veteran and retired farmer Hoby Buford Childress of Geraldine, Alabama (population 910), personally delivered a folded \$100 bill to a local pharmacy to cover prescription costs for anyone who couldn't afford to pay. Hoby's secret donations helped children needing Epi-Pens for allergic reactions, families in between insurance coverages, and people just leaving the hospital. Pharmacy owner Brooke Walker remembered, "He said, 'Don't tell a soul where the money came. If they ask, just tell them it's a blessing from the Lord.'"

Near the end of his life, finding it harder to get around, Hoby finally told the secret to his daughter so she could deliver the money. At 80, he passed away on Jan. 1. However, his family, friends and admirers are continuing the endeavor. People who want to help can donate in person at the pharmacy or mail checks labeled for the Hoby Childress Fund.

This benevolent gesture is played out in many local pharmacies in the Yadkin Valley.

Art Elo

Art Elo grew up near Pittsburg, Pa., was a talented high school baseball player; and spent his career working in steel mills. He was Jonesville Elementary School Principal Ida Weisner's late father. During a recent gathering, folks were asked to share influential life mentors. Mrs. Weisner offered, "Dad was my closest advisor, and I grew to always go to him when I was pondering a meaningful life decision. He was an active listener and after I would lay out a challenge I was facing and considering should I do it or not, he would invariably say, 'What happens if you don't do it?' I would always leave our counsel session having decided what to do, and wiser and more experienced. Dad had a way of helping me see future realities. The most critical help he gave me was facing the opportunity of moving to Yadkin County and taking my first teaching position at Courtney Elementary School. I and three friends came down, and today I'm a school principal, happily married with two children, and look forward to every day of my life. A key decision followed Dad asking, 'What happens if you don't take the position in Yadkin County?'"

Wonderful, Art Elo.

Fortunately for me, I've been involved in Jonesville's School Backpack Program and was invited to join Jonesville Elementary's staff for a most informative bus tour of the Town of Jonesville and a staff picnic.

How We Are Known

Austin Caviness, a career superstar for years as a meteorologist at WXII-TV, left that role to become a minister in 2014. Recently he stated that he's chosen to love God more than anything else. In Dobson and Surry County, after leaving WXII, he's been at Salem Fork Christian Church in the Zephyr community at the intersection of Zephyr Road and I-77 Exit 93. He's a full-time pastor. In December he helps Surry County Sheriff Steve Hiatt's Give A Kid A Christmas fundraising telethon which raised \$40,000 in 2022. I shall remember his black T-shirt that read "CHOSEN" inside a colorful wreath. To be "chosen" is an awesome feeling, I'm sure.

Austin always draws an audience. At well over 6'5" he has a commanding presence. We spoke at the Eldora Rotary Ministers' Honoriam and he shared the major success of his church men's charity golf benefit at Solo Run in November. Collectively we praised the contributions of Jim and son Matt Wilmoth.

Jim is a retired teacher/coach and chicken farmer. We agreed that Jim, when he accepts a challenge, such as the tournament, it will be successful. The Wilmoth name in western Surry

County, established by his father Howard, stands for good character, community advocacies, and stellar sports achievement. The Wilmoth good name has brought countless blessings to athletic teams and community enhancements.

Those Who Matter

- Dr. Steve and Sue Isaacs for years sponsored teams in the Elkin Rescue Squad Charity Golf Tournament. He also supervised the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital Emergency Room. Wife Sue cares for a special-needs family member at home.

- David Jones for decades served the Northern Regional Hospital Pharmacy, was a Mount Airy Rotary Club regular, and served virtually all notable Mount Airy nonprofits.

- Ron and Ann Ashman have blessed the Yadkin Valley nonprofits since moving here in 1983 from Brooklyn, N.Y. She is a charter member of the Yadkin Valley Rotary Club, founded a most successful insurance company that is the parent company of The Life Store at Bridge and Main streets in Elkin.

- Robert and Sue Rizoti are renowned Wilkes County benefactors. They travel to Smithfield weekly to visit Sue's mother, 94. Sue introduced me to Robert in 2005, and the friendship has been life-changing. His Oakwoods Grocery is legendary, and its monthly 300-meal carryout raised more than \$500,000 for needy causes. We cherish the memory of Oakwoods' Methodist Men Charity Golf lunchtime bologna sandwiches, Christmas fruit baskets, and full-service gasoline.

Seldom Seen

All of us have close friends we've collected over the years, and a few minutes' chat catches us up. Frank Belichick and I coached at Bucknell University in 1967. He resides with wife Carrie in Eagle Nest, N.M. A recent call had him sharing news of a 4-foot snowfall and minus-30-degree temperatures.

His ways of communicating are renowned. He explained the intricacies of football techniques unlike anyone I've known. Every player on our team held Coach Belichick in highest regard. When he was around, all attention was on Frank.

The late Dale Nunn exponentially fostered our efforts at Neighbors. I once asked why he was so driven to our causes and he replied, "You want to see us succeed so desperately, I'm committed to see it happen." Dale once shared how he had been responsible for ruining eight tires on a tanker. I replied, "Have we replaced the damaged carcasses?" He had admitted his mistake and I was concentrating on the 90 percent of his decisions that were right. Dale delivered on promises unlike anyone who served us!

Presley Is Determined

Going to church services on Sunday morning is an essential part of my week. Between our Sunday School and worship service is a 30-minute break, and usually I stop by pianist/organist Kitty Martin's area to say "Hello." She is most interesting as her private-lesson students are most gifted and possibly on the prodigy level. Acoustic guitarist Presley Barker from Traphill, N.C., has been a student and she will invariably speak to his acumen. On a recent stop-by we discussed his long-term ambitions, and I shared writing a personal recommendation on his behalf. During my writing he had sent me a list of accomplishments at East Wilkes High School and his plans to attend Wake Forest University and pursue a credible law school.

Mrs. Martin reflected upon Presley's talent, work ethic, confidence, and character, and said her best description of Presley is that he is **Determined**. She explained, "After I present an intricate ensemble, he'll play it until he feels accomplished in its mastery. He will for sure play it more times than anyone in my lifetime. In fact, his determination is astounding."

Letter Of Reference

It's an incredible honor to be asked to write an original letter speaking to someone's attributes, character, potential, and background. When I'm asked, I say "Yes," and ask for to whom it will be addressed, time frame, where to send it, and who might be reading it. For me, it's a high honor to be asked and never taken lightly. I usually spend a couple of days rehearsing my content. There are many outline suggestions in etiquette books and YouTube. I'm always searching for these facts I know that may be unique and special. Another helper is to encourage the recipient to send career hopes and achievements. I aspire to show the candidate's finest moments. For instance, I learned Presley Barker's highlight is playing at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn.

We are also encouraged to be totally original when accepting a request. We never know when our submittal may reach the desk of an influential person who recognizes one's form letter with the name changed. Grasping the significance of recommending and vouching for another is of paramount importance. To say it's a privilege and honor is an understatement. Also, follow up by contacting the recipient to make sure he or she did receive the document and by all means keep the original for later reference. Writing an uplifting and informative letter of recommendation is an art and reward. Doing it will give someone a great sense of gratitude. After accepting the assignment, do it now.

High Point University

In 2004, miraculous visionary, President, and CEO Dr. Nido Qubein took the reins at the staid High Point University. In 19 short years, he has transformed HPU into an institution no one could imagine. To grasp the enormity of the changes one would have to have known HPU before and to see it now. My close confidant is Chris Dudley, Executive Vice President of Advancement. He gave son Alan his first opportunity in radio in 2003.

Hopefully, the measurable changes below will reveal the substantial and awesome growth:

	2004	2022	Change
Enrollment	1,836	5,863	+219%
Campus visitors	996	8,316	+735%
Assets (\$000,000s)	\$56	\$1,300	+2,221%
Sq. footage (000s)	650	6,500	+900%
Acreage	91	520	+471%
Faculty	108	351	+225%
Employment	385	2,000	+419%
Giving (United Way)	\$28,000	\$270,000	+865%

This letter tells the story, too!

Dear HPU Friend:

As you know by now, High Point University has differentiated itself over the last decade with academic relevance and with deserved merit. Some refer to the transformation as the "Miracle on Montlieu Avenue!"

It's true. The growth has been amazing — especially in the midst of the worst economic disruption in the last 50 years of America's history. Stellar educators with accomplished credentials are attracted to this academy in large numbers each year. Students come to campus with a desire to learn and grow. Alumni are getting involved with renewed enthusiasm. Parents have become our best advocates. College counselors recommend HPU with spirited credibility. And our "philanthropic investors" are energized by the profound growth of the institution, and they generously resource it with a continuing reservoir of gifts.

The numbers tell the story.

Brittany Walker

Brittany Walker in Surry Communications' Elkin store has a kind way of empathizing with a customer. When I stop to get my iPhone "unjammed," she'll say, "Let me see it. Mine does the same thing. You are not alone; 90 percent of all users have the same problem. Sit down and rest. I'll reboot it and it will work like new! Oftentimes you'll need it to work, and that, Mr. York, is why we are here to help."

Dear Friend

A close friend has a thriving business in Elkin. He lives in Florida from September to March. Monthly he stops in to encourage his staff and deal with major equipment glitches. On these weekends we have a meal and catch up.

In his February visit we were to meet for lunch. At 12:30 he called, somewhat exhausted, and shared his regret concerning his need to cancel it. I quickly replied, "No worry. First things first. You take care of your business and we'll meet in March." At the end of his second apology, I said, "You know where my heart is, and I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that should I need you, you would drop whatever you are doing and come to my rescue. Please never forget that I'm in your corner."

When we met and I asked for a donation to the Elkin Rescue Squad, he readily offered to enter a team in our Charity Golf Tournament; he has supported us for 16 consecutive years. He enjoys playing golf three times weekly, he reads and plays the drums. He and his wife love to travel, and regardless of where he is on Sunday they attend church. His favorite local eatery is the Jonesville Bojangles. He never fails to mention his children and spouses and to highlight his grandchildren.

Job Interviews

Surry Community College in the early 1990s attracted stellar applicants as the result of its education reimbursement program. Each candidate was interviewed, usually by three staff members, and I enjoyed being a part of the process.

One young lady from a local high school was an excellent prospect, and at the conclusion of my session I felt called to help her. I said, "We are high on you, especially your goal of becoming an elementary school teacher. However, we'll want to help you improve several habitual grammatical mistakes." She replied, "Would you please help me? I know I need to improve. For years I've been hoping to find help." We did, and she overcame several problematic areas. Today she is a middle-school principal.

Years ago, I became aware that Hampden-Sydney College published a pamphlet entitled, "To Manner Born, To Manners Bred" and gave it to each freshman entering the college. Several key points from its chapter on interviewing for a job are:

1. Use good stationery in making application.
2. Immediately after the interview, thank the interviewer in writing.
3. Have hair cut, clean nails, and shined shoes.
4. Shake hands firmly. Ask questions.
5. Should you make a mistake, apologize.
6. Excellent table manners are a must.
7. Pleases and thank-yous are essential.

To Manners Bred

*From "To Manner Born, To Manners Bred,"
Office of the Dean of Students, Hampden-
Sydney College.*

Table Manners

Good table manners should be practiced constantly, even in the Commons. You will find it increasingly difficult to remember to use proper table manners only when it is important to do so.

Basic Rules For Eating

- Never chew with your mouth open.
- Never talk with your mouth full.
- Never cram your mouth with food.
- Never mix food on your plate.
- Never take a drink with your mouth full unless the food is so hot or spicy that it is burning your mouth. Never blow on food to cool it; wait for it to cool by itself.
- Never put your arms or elbows on the table while eating; it is quite correct, however, between courses or after the meal, if the dishes have been removed, to rest your forearms, not elbows, on the table.
- Never reach across the table so far as to necessitate your rising from the seat.
- Never shout across the table; speak to everyone near you.
- Never leave a mess where someone else must eat.

Love And Tolerance

Love and tolerance of others is our code.

—Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 84

I have found that I have to forgive others in all situations to maintain any real spiritual progress. The vital importance of forgiving may not be obvious to me at first sight, but my studies tell me that every great spiritual leader has insisted strongly upon it. I must forgive injuries, not just in words, or as a matter of form, but in my heart. I do this not for the other person's sake, but for my own sake. Resentment, anger, or a desire to see someone punished are things that rot my soul. Such things fasten my troubles to me with chains. They tie me to other problems that have nothing to do with my original problem.

Word Match answers


(from Page 3)

- | | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. I | 6. K | 11. F | 16. B | 21. L |
| 2. R | 7. W | 12. C | 17. H | 22. T |
| 3. X | 8. A | 13. G | 18. D | 23. O |
| 4. M | 9. N | 14. E | 19. U | 24. V |
| 5. J | 10. D | 15. Q | 20. S | |

The Communicator

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
and rains fall soft upon your fields
Until we meet again, May God hold
you in the Palm of His hand.**

Traditional Irish Blessing

**100.9
WIFM**

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