

SPOTLIGHT

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your news and announcements and we will run some here and some online at gastonagazette.com. Please be sure to include a telephone number where we can reach you to verify information. Polaroids not accepted. **Fax:** 704-867-5751 **Email:** wmacdonald@GastonGazette.com **Mail:** P.O. Box 1538, Gastonia NC 28053 **In Person:** 1893 Remount Road

QUESTIONS? Contact Lifestyles Editor Will MacDonald at 704-869-1838 or wmacdonald@gastongazette.com

CALENDAR

TODAY

LINWOOD TERRACE COMMUNITY WATCH: 2 p.m., 1612 Conrad Ave., Gastonia, in the community room.

VILLAGE SQUARE COMMUNITY WATCH: 2 p.m., 1400 Paige Court, leasing office.

MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER: 7 p.m., Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 805 S. York St., Gastonia. The guest speaker will be Dr. Sam Nadler, author and founder of Word of Messiah Ministries. He will discuss the significance of the Jewish Passover and some details of Christianity's Jewish roots. The program is free and the public is invited. For more information, call the church, 704-864-0378.

THURSDAY

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY WATCH: 6 p.m., Christ Community Baptist, 1128 N. Ransom St., Gastonia.

GASTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN: Noon, Jackson's Cafeteria, 1453 E. Franklin Blvd., Gastonia. N.C. Rep. John Torbett will be the guest speaker. He served two terms on the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, first elected in 2002 and again in 2006. He was elected to his seat representing eastern Gaston County in the General Assembly in 2010 as well as 2012 and 2014. The speaker for the April 21 meeting will be Gaston County Manager Earl Mathers.

POSTON CIRCLE COMMUNITY WATCH: 6 p.m., Balthis Drive, Gastonia, in the clubhouse

FRIDAY

POOR MAN'S SUPPER: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., First Free Will Baptist, 2316 Union Road, Gastonia, presented by the Golden Age Club. Cost is \$5 per plate which includes pinto beans, cornbread, slaw, fried taters, onions, dessert and drink with eat in meal only. Delivery available for orders of five plates or more. Call 704-460-8585. You can eat at the church or take your food to go.

SATURDAY

WHALE OF A SALE: 6:30 a.m., Gastonia Farmers Market, 410 E. Long Ave., presented by the Junior League of Gaston County. Proceeds go to support the work the Junior League does in the community.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., downtown Clover. The 18th annual celebration features a St. Pat's Dog Show and the Leprechaun Leap 5K Run-Walk. Registration for both events are available at Clover Town Hall, 116 Bethel St. and online at www.CloverSC.org. Other highlights include a musical performance by Lauren Light, amusement rides, a kids zone and food vendors. For more information, contact Amy Gonzalez, special events coordinator, 803-222-9493 or email her at agonzalez@cloversc.org.

FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS: 10-11:30 a.m., Gaston School of the Arts, 825 Union Road, Gastonia, taught by Randy Ouzts from Climbing the Walls flower shop. The \$50 cost for the class includes flowers, materials and instruction. It's suited for mature students through adults. Class size is limited. Payment is due when registering. Call 704-866-8882.

GARDENING WORKSHOP: 10 to 11:30 a.m., New Hope Greenhouses, 2703 Beaty Road, Gastonia. Topic: "Get Ready! Bed prep, mulching and maintenance." All seminars are free and light refreshments will be served. Pre-registration is requested. Call 704-824-1799. Coming up: "Landscape design" and "How Bees Help Your Gardens" on April 2 and "Annuals, perennials and combo plantings" on April 9.

CLUB NEWS

Divas do lunch at O'Charley's

The Glitzy Divas celebrated St. Patrick's Day at O'Charley's. The group will meet again at 11:30 on April 15 at Jia Asian Fusion, 3826 S. New Hope Road, Gastonia. New members are always welcome.



The Glitzy Divas at lunch at O'Charley's in Gastonia. SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE.

AROUND TOWN

'Race to Remember' crosses the finish line



WILL MACDONALD

The Kelly Guffey Race to Remember hits the streets in Dallas for the final time Saturday.

The race starts at 8 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, 301 W. Main St., Dallas. The cost to participate in the 5K is \$20 per runner.

When the final participant crosses the finish line, the annual event will be one for the history books. The race didn't fall victim to a lack of interest or participants. Actually, because of the support the nonprofit Remember Kelly Inc. has received from local businesses and private donations, the run and walk has fulfilled its purpose. The \$1,000 scholarship awarded annually to a North Gaston High School graduate planning a career in nursing since 2006 will continue indefinitely.

In her short life, Kelly did more living than a lot of people: She traveled the world, studying science in England during her junior year at UNC Chapel Hill. She got a job in Paris where she lived for several months so she could master the French language, and she followed in her mother's footsteps as a teacher when she came back home. When the cancer diagnosis came at age 29, she didn't give up: She decided to climb another mountain in life. She had always wanted to be a pediatric nurse, so she enrolled in nursing school in Charlotte and took classes and exams while going through grueling cancer treatments and stomach and brain surgery.

Through her determination, she graduated and worked for three months at Carolinas Medical Center before succumbing to cancer at age 32.

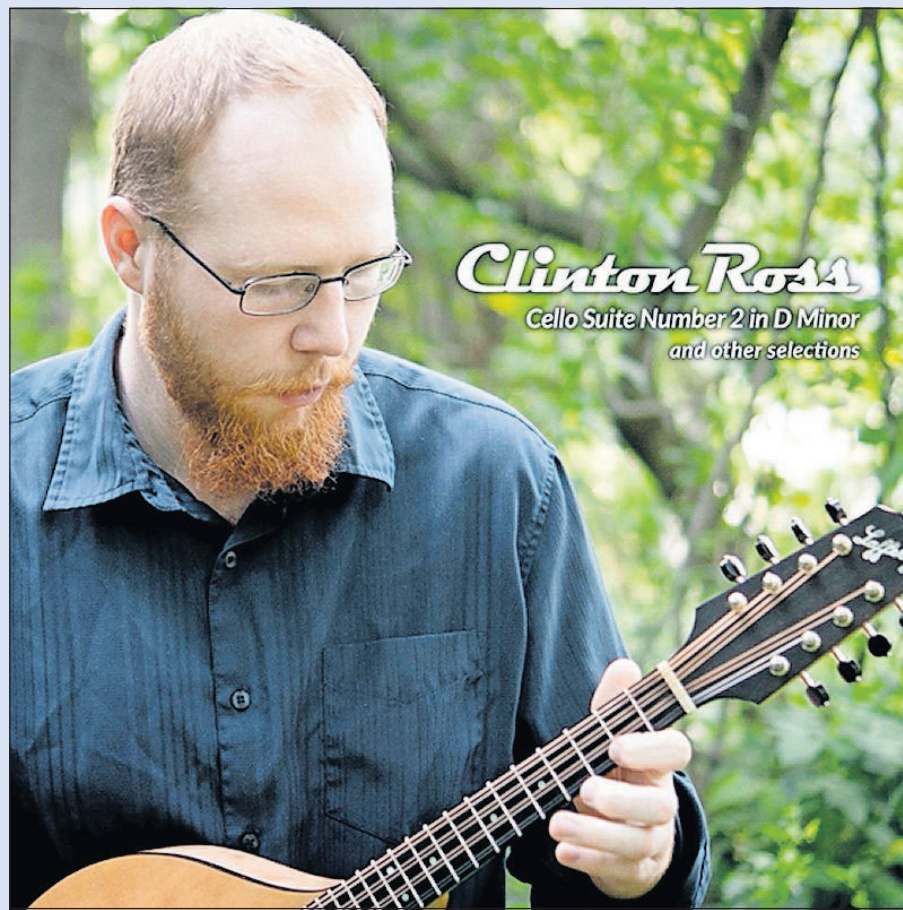
Undoubtedly the success of Remember Kelly Inc., established in 2006, is because of the hard work of friends and family members who have put hundreds and hundreds of hours into the nonprofit during the past decade. But its success is also because of the person it was created to remember.

"Kelly was very vivacious," her mother, Carolyn, said in a 2011 interview. "She was the type of person that when she entered the room, everybody knew she was there."

The end of the annual 5K on Saturday will be a celebration not just for the participants who finish the 3.1 mile course but also for the foundation and for the spirit of Kelly Guffey.

NAMES

Former Gaston Musician featured on public radio show



The cover for the CD recently released by Clinton Ross, a former resident of Gastonia. SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE.

From staff reports

Clinton Ross, a 2010 graduate of Gaston Christian School and former Gastonia resident, was featured on South Carolina's public radio's "Sonatas and Soundscapes with Kate McKinney." He was interviewed Tuesday about his first CD release, self-titled "Clinton Ross."

Although he has a degree in Bluegrass, Old-time and Country music from East Tennessee State University, his first CD release is a classical album - selections from the Cello Suites by J.S. Bach played on mandola. Ross and McKinney discussed Bach, the mandolin family and more. Readers can listen to Sonatas and

Soundscapes with Kate McKinney from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday on South Carolina Public Radio 90.1 in the upstate, 91.3 in the midlands and 89.3 in the low country. They can also listen at <http://etvradio.org/#stream/0>. To download the musician's CD, visit www.CDBaby.com/cd/clintonross.

GASTON TOGETHER

Clergy and law enforcement sign pact to work together

From staff reports

The Gaston Clergy & Citizens Coalition, an initiative of Gaston Together, will be signing a covenant with Law Enforcement in Gaston County on Thursday. The signing ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. at St. Stephen's Unity Place, 201 W. Franklin Blvd., Gastonia. The ceremony will be open to the public.

As part of a community leader speaker series, the coalition met with the chiefs of the Gaston County and Gastonia Police Departments as well as Gaston County Sheriff Alan Cloninger in January 2015. They discussed

in general terms how clergy, citizens and police might work more closely together for better community relations. Following the events of racial unrest across the country in the summer of 2015, the coalition decided to be proactive and build on their relationship with law enforcement in a more visible and action-oriented way.

They began work to develop a covenant between clergy and law enforcement. Several meetings followed with the coalition's executive committee, the two chiefs and the sheriff to arrive at a document that recognized positive work from the past yet acknowledged there was still

work to be done to build stronger community relations. The covenant includes commitments on both sides to provide support for community improvement and engagement. For example, clergy will open their houses of worship for frank and candid dialogue during times of crisis; law enforcement will demonstrate best practices in their work.

By signing the covenant, both clergy and law enforcement will pledge, "to work together to make the interactions between our residents and our law enforcement personnel a model for others to follow." The coalition is hoping the covenant will serve as a testament to their

work to establish a positive bond and network between and among clergy, law enforcement and the citizens of Gaston County to bring the community together for the common good. Strategies to implement the covenant will be developed in the next few months.

Formed in 1997, Gaston Together was created to bring people together to tackle big community challenges. Current initiatives include the Gaston Clergy & Citizens Coalition, the Gaston Community Healthcare Commission, the Community Dashboard, Community Pride Building programs and the Leadership Institute.