



## Yancey County supports classroom teachers and students with new innovative programs

As another school year begins, Yancey County Government and the Board of Commissioners want to express to all Yancey County classroom teachers how much they are appreciated for their service to the children of our county. Yancey County government recognizes the valuable work of our public school classroom teachers and that too often their hard work is overlooked or taken for granted. Teachers are vital to our community and valued for their dedication to educating the children of Yancey County.

Each year, teachers spend a lot of money out of their own pockets for classroom supplies that are needed to provide a quality education for our children. The state is responsible for providing funding to teachers for classroom supplies but rarely is that funding adequate to meet the need for standard classroom needs as evidenced by those familiar student shopping lists. At a time when North Carolina lags behind in teacher pay, it is not reasonable for teachers to have to spend their own money for basic supplies.

The Yancey County Commissioners respect the dedication of our County's teachers and desire to help teachers with purchasing supplies for their classrooms. This summer, the Yancey County Board of Commissioners created the Yancey County Classroom Supply Assistance Program. This County program will provide an annual \$150 stipend to every Yancey County classroom teacher to purchase instructional supplies and materials for their classroom. While the County realizes that this amount may fall short of the personal investment by teachers, it is hoped that this stipend will provide teachers needed resources to offset the amount spent out-of-pocket for



Commissioners Jill Austin and Jeff Whitson, along with County Manager Nathan Bennett visited each school in the county last Friday to deliver these classroom supply stipends to teachers. They are pictured above with the teaching staff at Micaville Elementary.



Commissioners Jill Austin and Jeff Whitson, along with County Manager Nathan Bennett make a presentation to Mountain Heritage Principal Kevin Huskins.

the classroom supplies. Yancey County has also invested in technology equipment for students. Several years ago the Golden LEAF foundation provided grant funds to begin a one-to-one technology program at Mountain Heritage High School. This program provides every high school student a Chromebook computer to be used for educational purposes. The grant funding for this highly successful program ended this year and without another source of funding the program would end. Yancey County Commissioners recognize the critical importance of keeping computers in the hands of our students. This year the

County provided the school system nearly \$75,000 to continue the one-to-one technology program. In today's economy, students must have a thorough understanding of computers and possess the skills to excel in their use in the workplace. This one-to-one program is a critical part of developing those skills for our students to be successful in the 21st century workforce.

Yancey County Government is grateful for the close relationship shared with the Yancey County Board of Education. By working together we can ensure Yancey County students and staff have the facilities and equipment necessary to succeed.

# Readers' Forum

## Trails at Cane River Park are multi-use

I am writing in response to the Readers' Forum letter titled "On Trails Bikes and Pedestrians Don't Mix" printed in the August 16th edition. I felt the need to respond as I am the cyclist in question.

The first thing that needs to be made perfectly clear is that Mr. Lynch does not own the park. He does not work for Yancey County Parks and Recreation. He does not set policy for them nor is he there to enforce it.

In simplest terms, he has absolutely no authority at the park and has no right to tell anyone what they can or cannot do there.

I would also like to note that no Parks and Rec employee has ever asked me to stop riding my bike at the park. In fact, when I spoke with an employee there, he indicated that they had always intended for the trail to be shared by walkers and bicyclists. In fact, he indicated that it was their plan to add additional trails for cyclists.

I am a resident of Yancey County and I pay my taxes. In fact, my father-in-law has probably paid more in taxes here in Yancey County than Mr. Lynch and everyone Mr. Lynch knows. While I do not believe this en-

titles me to special treatment, I do believe it entitles me to ride my bike at a public park that has no rules against it.

Everyone that has visited the park knows that the path is certainly wide enough for bikes and pedestrians (I have proven it for years), as long as each tries to stay toward one side or the other and shares the path. I believe I have always done just that, but I am not always shown the same courtesy.

In those cases, I leave the path until I have passed the individuals that don't believe in sharing.

I would note that if everyone walked in the same direction, bikes could move in the opposite direction and each would see the other in plenty of time to move toward the edge of the path and greatly reduce the chance of an accident.

Beyond this, I would like to note that I have biked at the park for almost as long as it has existed and I have never hit anyone with my bike or even come close, ever.

Given this history, I actually believe the question is if an accident occurs, not when because I do not believe it is a foregone conclusion.

If bikes can be banned from

the park because of the possibility of an accident, then perhaps dogs should be banned from the park because of the possibility that someone might get bit. I am hearing more and more about people being bitten by dogs at the park and I believe this is a far more serious issue. In fact, I've had dogs lunge at me and exhibit threatening behavior, but I'm not asking for dogs to be banned.

While I understand that I might ride at a faster rate than most children at the park, I'm probably a more experienced cyclist and less likely to be involved in an accident as I am probably better able to make sudden adjustments as needed.

Young riders often make sharp or sudden turns or maneuvers that can lead to accidents. I believe I am the epitome of courteous and safe behavior, but in the interest of safety, I will install horns on my bikes before riding at the park again.

I just hope the sudden blast of noise at 96 or 110 dB (depending on which horn I choose) doesn't cause anyone to suffer a heart attack as I don't want to cause injury while attempting to avoid it.

Alan Hall  
Burnsville

## Stop destruction of confederate monuments

I implore all Americans to help put a stop to the senseless destruction of our confederate monuments. The conflict between the northern and southern states, which I prefer to call "The War For Southern Independence," was about much, much more than slavery.

That war is an important part of American history that deserves to be studied honestly and be better understood by all of us.

How far shall we go to wipe out all memory of this

part of our history? Where will it stop? Washington, Jefferson and many more of our founders were slave owners. Shall we take down their monuments and rename cities graced with their names? They wrote our constitution. Shall we strike it down too?

The Egyptian pyramids were built by slaves. Shall we censure Egyptian history and dynamite the pyramids?

Once begun, there is no conceivable end to this madness. Slavery, in America at

least, is dead and I think that all of us are thankful that it is. Let's move on!

The "War For Southern Independence" is a part of my personal history.

A number of my ancestors served the Confederacy. They fought for home, family and country. I am proud of them. I am proud of my heritage. I will not be a part of erasing their memory. How about you?

Sincerely,  
Bob Musick,  
Green Mountain

## An inconvenient history of the USA and CSA

The present media meme is that the evil Confederacy had all the slaves and the righteous Yankees invaded the Confederacy to free the slaves. It is a great lie.

During the 1800's, 90% of federal income came from "protective tariffs", a tax on all imported goods. The southern states were responsible for about three fourths of this amount due to their agricultural product sales to Europe. By 1860, southern states were paying 80% of this tax and most of the revenue was spent on northern infrastructure, much to southern dismay!

After the bank crash of 1858, a political move was made to increase the tariff via the Morrill Tariff, which raised the tax on foreign payments from 15% to 37.5% immediately, and increasing to 43% in three years.

Lincoln was a strong champion of this tariff increase and it was the key plank in the Republican platform for the 1860 election. Lincoln called for troops to enforce collection, if necessary.

Southern states were to see their taxes tripled to protect northern factories and manufacturing industries. The value of their cotton, sugar cane, rice, and indigo was to be almost cut in half. They lacked the votes in congress to stop the tariff increase.

So, seven most-affected southern states left the Union and formed the Confederate States of America. (CSA) Initial approval of the Yankees turned to panic as they realized that the US had lost its major source of tax revenue, the Mississippi, a major trade route, now was in Confederate territory, and that the US with its high import tariff would be at a severe disadvantage with the free-trade Confederacy.

Lincoln declared the seven states to be in a "state of rebellion" though nothing in the constitution prevented their leaving the Union they voluntarily joined.

The remaining 26 states including 8 slave states were ordered to raise 75,000 troops to invade the CSA and force them back into the union.

Four slave states given

such an order joined the original seven. Four slave states with 430,000 slaves (1860 census) remained in the Union that invaded the CSA in June of 1861.

July 25, 1861, the US Senate passed the Crittendon Resolution stating that the SOLE PURPOSE of the invasion was to force the southern states back into the Union and any state rejoining the Union could keep all its slaves.

In 1863, West Virginia became the fifth slave state in the Union when it was admitted as the 34th state without freeing any existing slaves.

So the Union had about 1/2 of a million slaves within its borders for the duration of the war, freed only by the 13th amendment.

When the US invaded and blockaded the CSA, THEY said it was for the sole purpose of forcing them back into the US. The CSA fought for their independence from the US and called their struggle "the second American revolution" fought over unfair taxation as was the Revolutionary War. Independence from the US was their "lost Cause".

Two years into the war, Lincoln under his declared martial law confiscated the property (slaves) of those in "rebellion" and freed them to keep Britain and France from recognizing

## Reader admires work of Robert Towe

I hardly know where to begin with my praise of Robert Towe's column "Milkweed, Monarchs and the Green Corn" in the August 16th issue.

I had read only the first two paragraphs when I exclaimed to my wife, "Listen to this!" I read the entire column to her.

The first descriptive word that came to mind was poetry. Of course, it isn't, but Robert's command of the language and his marvelous prose are every bit as beautiful as a fine poem. His love of this area shines through every word.

His account of late sum-

mer morphing into early fall is mesmerizing. His powers of observation and his ability to communicate what he sees is magical. Robert, please keep writing, sir!

You have a gift and I, for one, deeply appreciate you sharing it with us. On a lighter note, it occurred to me that with such a smooth delivery and a silver pen (perhaps tongue as well?) Robert Towe must be very successful selling real estate in the surroundings he so obviously loves.

"Kevin" Wayne Buttram  
Burnsville

Letters must be signed to be published, with address and phone number included for verification purposes only. Please keep comments civil and refrain from hate speech, name-calling and personally attacking others for their views. Deadline is noon Friday. Send to: Times Journal, PO Box 280, Burnsville, NC 28714 or email: david@yanceypaper.com.

## Seeing more theological leadership disarray

On Sunday, Aug 20, 2017, Jerry Falwell Nazi sympathiser and President of Liberty University stated: "My support for the president is his bold and truthful willingness to call terrorist groups by their real names, and that's something we haven't seen by presidents in recent years." Chris Gaumer, a former LU Student Government Association president called Trump's comments "disgusting and abhorrent."

Gaumer said that in siding with Trump, Falwell was siding with Nazi and white supremacist sympathizers. That makes him "and it seems to me, the university he represents, complicit."

The communication min-

ister for Netanyahu, Israeli's Prime Minister urged Israelis to prioritize their support for Trump over their denunciation of neo-Nazis. Netanyahu's son sounded Trump's irresponsible blather: "However the thugs of Antifa and BLM who hate my country (and America too in my view) just as much are getting stronger and stronger and becoming super dominant in American universities and public life." "The man (Netanyahu) has lost any semblance of a moral compass," Stav Shaffir, an opposition lawmaker, wrote in a Haaretz op-ed this week.

The Nazi's in Charlotteville were shouting "Jews will not replace us!" and Blood and Soil. The latter is a Nazi slogan which

held that ethnicity is based solely on blood descent and the territory one maintains. It would be a stretch to find these statements in a dissertation or explanation of the 'virtue' of these monuments to traitors. In what way are the likes of Lee and Jackson et al, any different than Benedict Arnold?

The only "monument" to Arnold is a boot stuck upside down in the ground. Based on his writings, Lee was not a fan of statues honoring Civil War generals, fearing they might "keep open the sores of war." Should that, coming from the man himself, be considered "fake news"?

William Cottrell  
Burnsville

## Concerned citizen speaks out on healthcare

As a concerned citizen of Yancey County, I attended the meeting of SEARCH - (Sustaining Essential and Rural Community Healthcare) on August 17 in Micaville. I want to apologize to the dedicated physicians, nurses, staff of the

medical community and other concerned citizens for the way I reacted to the decision by the Mission Board of Directors that our rural area is not worthy of their services, because we do not help their bottom line (dollars).

Yes, to them this has become a business. Life of rural citizens in this great country of America no longer matters.

This is my opinion, I am sorry to say.

Eva K. Geouge  
Burnsville

## Register now for stroke camp retreat in WNC

The Mission Stroke Program is partnering with Retreat and Stroke Camp to bring its 4th annual retreat to Asheville for stroke survivors and caregivers. Stroke Camp was started

in 2004 and is growing nationally. It was the 2013 winner of the RAISE award given by the National Stroke Association. This 3-day event will be held at the Lake Junaluska Confer-

ence Center, 20 minutes west of Asheville.

The camp will run from Friday, September 8 to Sunday, September 10.

The mission of the Mission Retreat and Refresh Stroke Camp is to improve the quality of life for stroke survivors, caregivers, and their family members.

This is accomplished through weekend retreats that bring together four key program elements: education, socialization, relaxation and support. Survivors and caregivers discover that they can laugh and enjoy life.

Registration is now open at [www.strokecamp.org](http://www.strokecamp.org). Please click on Camp dates/Registration and scroll down to the Mission logo.

Once you fill out the registration form, you will receive additional information.

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