

THE COMMUNICATOR

Phone: (336) 835-2511

Fax: (336) 835-5248

Email: wifm@wifmradio.com

Since January 1990

www.WIFMRadio.com

September 2023

Golf Tournament Coming

The annual Elkin Rescue Squad Charity Golf Tournament will return to Cedarbrook Country Club in Elkin on Thursday, Oct. 5.

Now in its 16th year, the popular fundraising event is presented by 100.9 WIFM Radio. The tournament brings together dozens of avid golfers, a host of hard-working volunteers, and many sponsoring businesses and organizations who together provide vital support for one of North Carolina's oldest established all-volunteer emergency response organizations: the Elkin Rescue Squad headquartered at 940 N. Bridge St. in Elkin, N.C.

Signups for players and sponsors are under way. On the day of the tournament, registration for the morning flights will open at 7 a.m. and tee-off times start at 8. For the afternoon flights, registration begins at noon and the first tee-off time is 1 p.m. There will be prizes for first-place team, second-place team, longest drive on Hole #3, closest to the pin on Hole #6, and closest to the pin on Hole #13. Scenic Automotive Group is sponsoring the prize for the first hole-in-one on Hole #8 and Mount Airy Toyota is sponsoring the prize for the first hole-in-one on Hole #17.

Features of the Captain's Choice tournament are three flights, free range balls, laminated 11-by-17 individual and team photos, and a Player Goody Bag for each participant. Bojangles of Jonesville will provide breakfast from 7 to 8 a.m. and VITROElkin is sponsoring lunch from 11 a.m. to noon.

For more information about the ERS Charity Golf Tournament, contact 100.9 WIFM Radio at 336-835-2511, stop by the office at 813 N. Bridge St. in Elkin, visit the website at wifmradio.com, or find WIFM Radio on Facebook.

For a copy of the ERS Charity Golf Tournament brochure with complete details about the event and sponsorship opportunities, plus a registration form for teams, go online to <https://wifmradio.com/events/golf-tournament> and click the button for "Download the brochure here!"

The Elkin Emergency Rescue Squad is online at <https://www.facebook.com/ElkinEmergencyRescueSquad/>.

Behind The Scenes

Please be on the lookout for those serving behind the scenes.

- Amy Samples is Surry County Schools Director of Transportation. She comes to us from the Wilkes County Schools where she served as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal. She states, "I feel called to this position. Wilkes Director Eric Barker has been my mentor and wonderful teacher." Former SCS Director of Transportation Rodney Hardy has retired after 17 years and is serving Down East as an interim and consultant.

- Bus Garage associate Stan Newman has assumed additional duties as a Driver Education instructor. He graduated from Surry Central High School in 1994 and was the Golden Eagles' outstanding shortstop in baseball. Stan's ever-present smile is endearing.

- Dale Badgett is Chairman of the Surry County Schools Board of Education. He returned to us after retiring from the U.S. Air Force. He serves Surry Community College in Career Development. We are grateful to have Dale leading our school board. His father, Gary Badgett, was a close friend at White Plains High School where he was Best All-Around of our school class.

- We congratulate Doug Dixon as our new Maintenance Director for Surry County Schools. He's recently promoted. His supervisor, Robert Draughn, reports, "Doug is an outstanding leader. He brings incredible passion, vision, and dedication to the calling. His years of experience give him a unique leadership skill and edge."

Pilot Mountain Inspiration

Professional educators are devoted to informing, motivating, and encouraging. I discovered this inspirational message while walking the halls of Pilot Mountain Middle School during Surry County Schools' annual Convocation on Aug. 8.:

Raven Leaders of the Month are:

Self-aware	Active listeners
Accountable	Considerate
Resilient	Integrous
Communicative	Empathic

We Love To See

Our closest friends are those we most enjoy seeing as they have great stories to tell — not too short, not too long; they quickly catch us up — and we can't wait to see them next time. There are countless faces at public school convocations that fit this description. The week of Aug. 6-12 was a fabulous week for annual catching up. Briefly I'll share several.

At the Surry County Schools Convocation, I spoke to White Plains farmer Chad Badgett whose granddad Grady Badgett was my father Tom's best friend in White Plains. Dad would always comment on Grady's Major League-quality throwing arm in baseball.

N.C. District 36 State Sen. Eddie Settle said he is loving his first term. His liaison and assistant is wife Sheila. They planned later in the day to visit the Mount Airy Rotary, Melissa Hiatt and Becky Carson at the Surry County United Fund, and Executive Director and full-time volunteer Nancy Dixon at the Surry Medical Ministries.

Since meeting Clark Goings on a fishing trip to Morehead City, we've bonded in many ways. His career at North Carolina Farm Bureau Insurance was legendary. He honorably serves the Church of Latter-Day Saints and is Vice-Chairman of the Surry County Schools Board of Education. On our trip back to Surry County, Clark shared his monumental knowledge of the Bible's King Solomon who prayed to God for wisdom.

My photo of the day at the SCS Convocation was a stunning head shot of East Surry High School Social Studies teacher Darrin Haywood. He was wearing a crimson-red East Surry blazer, French-cuff shirt, and solid-black bowtie — almost needless to say, the best-dressed person at the event. His wife Lindsay teaches math at East Surry and is a former East Surry and Surry County Teacher of the Year. Darren also coached football at East Surry for years.

Elected officials at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Mount Airy Parks & Recreation Department's new Pickleball courts at Highway 104 and Riverside Drive included City Commissioner Phillip Thacker and N.C. House District 90 State Representative and Speaker Pro Tem Sarah Stevens. Mayor Jon Cawley cut the ceremonial ribbon. Comments were offered by Interim City Manager Darren Lewis and Parks & Recreation Director Peter Raymer. Former Surry Community College President Dr. Jim Reeves led the effort to have the City of Mount Airy meet the expanding need for Pickleball courts.

Phillip Money was honored at the R.T. and Barbara Chatham Courtyard's dedication ceremony for his creative design and fabrication of a steel gate to the garden. He shared that he early on took

a year of welding at Surry Community College and after learning the basics and with lots of God-given talent, "one sort of learns and on one goes." His creation was a hit at the celebration and an honored contribution. Z Curtis, one of Mr. Money's admirers, added, "Phillip can make anything."

Celebration

The Surry County Schools system annually honors its Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year at a celebration on the morning after Convocation at The Barn at Heritage Farm on Heritage Road just west of Dobson. The award winners for 2023 are Principal of the Year Dr. Paige S. Badgett of North Surry High School and Teacher of the Year Heather Grant of Gentry Middle School.

Dr. Badgett holds a Bachelor's degree in business administration-accounting (1996) from Wingate University, a Master's in School Administration (2006) from Gardner-Webb University and a Doctor of Education (Ed.D) in Education Leadership (2020) from High Point University. She was J. Sam Gentry Middle School Principal in 2010-15 and has been North Surry High School Principal since 2015.

Heather Grant is a 17-year veteran educator who teaches eighth-grade Social Studies. A National Board Certified Teacher, she has served at Gentry Middle School for 10 years and previously taught at Chestnut Grove Middle School in the Stokes County Schools system.

SCS winners for 2023 Principal of the Year and Teacher of the Year were announced in February.

Lessons We Learn

Oftentimes we are at the right places. In the summers of 1961 and 1962, I had a good summer job working as a laborer for the Sherman Simpson Construction Co. and my "big boss" was Uncle Johnny Johnson, my mom's brother. We reconnected in the late 1980s, and he introduced me to Charlie Hull, a late Surry County lumberman. Mr. Hull is a most honorable man, and whatever he says one can believe 100% and take to the bank. Uncle Johnny shared a powerful saga. In the late 1980s, he was building a road in Lenoir County, N.C., and circumstances were dealing him desperate times. He was facing bankruptcy and liquidation when he connected with Charlie Hull who virtually bailed out Uncle Johnny by lending him equipment on a pay-me-when-you-can basis. Well, that gift turned Johnny's future prospects from darkness to light, and in a few years he retired with cash in the bank. Uncle Johnny said, "Whatever Charlie Hull offers when making a deal will always be fair for both parties."

Chamber Outreach

Many of our outstanding Chambers of Commerce offer training programs. Yadkin County Chamber of Commerce sponsors "Leadership Yadkin County," a course designed to develop potential leaders by increasing their knowledge about the county, how it works, and its people.

Classes meet from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. one day each month for seven months. Participants visit venues, meet county leaders, acquire new friends, and grow in awareness of local social issues, education, and economics. Subject matter covered includes law, education, manufacturing, marketing, distribution, government, and more.

Leadership Yadkin County invited me to conclude its class with a few words of appreciation for the participants and sponsors. They were involved, engaged, and inspired.

Leadership Yadkin County is now accepting applications for the Class of 2024. All aspiring go-getters need to get on board. Should you choose to take advantage of this enrichment, contact Jamie Johnston at 336-679-2200. The \$300 investment will be well spent.

Bow Hunting

A month ago I introduced myself to 18 Pickleball players at the City Courts on Standard Street in Elkin. In the group was Brian Blankenship. A few weeks later, I connected with him at Scenic Motors in Mount Airy and our conversation covered his youth in western Carolina, college education, and his 30-year career as a North Carolina Game Warden.

Brian is a passionate hunter. His treks have led to stalking and killing moose, elk, deer, turkeys, wild boar, and antelope in the United States, Canada, and Mexico with bow, rifle, and shotgun. His next trip will be to Iowa for white-tailed deer, he said, and getting a tag may take three years. Many of his hunts were to Third World countries where the poverty and living conditions are dismal.

Brian has been my guest on 100.9 WIFM Radio, and his stories are intriguing and revealing. He said his love for animals led him to his complete conversion to bow-and-arrow hunting. He said the experience leading to the kill is as important as the actual hunt, he dresses and preserves all animals he kills, and the most delicious meat is moose.

On our show, Brian demonstrated a moose call. He said moose hunting in Canada requires having a certified guide. The animals are hunted only during the rut season. Preferred shots are at 30 yards or less into the area of the heart behind the front leg.

Go to www.wifmradio.com for that episode of "People Doing Good For Others" and more in our long-running series. Enjoy!

L.S.A.T.

During a conversation with Andrew Knight of Wilkes County, a student at N.C. State University preparing to follow a career as a lawyer, he shared his preparation to take the Law School Admission Test. Commonly known as the LSAT ("ell-sat"), it is a standardized test administered to prospective law school students. It is designed to assess reading comprehension as well as logic and verbal reasoning proficiency. The average score is 150. The top 10 law schools require a candidate to score at least 165.

Not having any understanding of the LSAT, I asked Andrew to share the essence of the examination and what is a good score. He answered, "150 is an average score. However, it all depends on where you want to go to school. I want to attend the UVA School of Law" — University of Virginia — "and I'll have to make a high score." Andrew gave me a quick insight: The higher the ranking of the school, the higher the score one must make.

We never know when we'll be blessed with great lessons. I made a new friend and learned a lot about the LSAT.

Andrew has earned full financial aid from NCSU, has a 3.8 GPA, and will graduate in three years. I plan to invite him to share his story on WIFM. His grandmother is Betty Knight, a retired West Wilkes High School teacher.

Role Models

- Diann Beamer, our region's No. 1 real estate sales agent, representing Beamer & Kirkman Realty at 1060 S. Main St. in Mount Airy, is a 30-year veteran. She credits her success to her work ethic, integrity, and presenting her clients a significant gift card at each and every contract closing. She states, "I want my client to know his or her specialness. My gift says, 'You matter.'"

- Astute feature writer Robert Bell, Assistant Communications Director at Guilford College, says great writers "show and don't just tell a story." Painting a vivid picture is the art of great writers. Anyone can share a story; however, great writers bring a story to life by giving it a heart and soul. A good example is instead of writing, "The player had an assist," Robert says, "The player got the ball to a player who could score."

- Jamie Johnston, a superstar at the Yadkin County Chamber of Commerce, completes every request for assistance by fulfilling the promise immediately instead of adding it to a to-do list. Jamie is the epitome of having a dedicated servant's heart who is not only willing but able to provide a need.

Surry Medical Ministries

After the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect in 1994, it triggered the movement of countless U.S. manufacturing jobs to other countries. Surry County alone lost more than 8,000 textile and furniture jobs.

Sensing the negative impact of NAFTA on people in this area, local medical field advocate John Lockhart, Dr. Roger Kerley, Dr. John Cain, the late Dr. Barry Gates, and Millee Beal founded Surry Medical Ministries whose goal was to help those with no access to health care and the medically underserved. Some 30 volunteers comprised the clinic's startup staff.

Many will remember the long lines on Tuesday evenings at 813 Rockford St. in Mount Airy as clients hoped to meet their health-care needs. The most prevalent needs are treatment for hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and diabetes.

Most recently, the noted nonprofit organization has bought a 9,000-square-foot facility at 951 Rockford St. It is open Monday through Thursday. Its patient-care load is 1,400; it serves more than 9,000 individuals annually. More than 100 volunteers serve the free clinic and love the cause. More volunteers are always needed, and people who feel the call to serve should please contact Executive Director Nancy Dixon.

Nancy herself serves as a full-time volunteer. She describes her husband, David, as "a missionary baby" and fellow volunteer soldier. She has lived in Africa and he in Peru. She feels the opportunity to serve others is a gift from God, and the will to help the needy access quality healthcare is a sacred privilege.

Dr. Swanson Richards

Met Dr. Swanson Richards in 1955 when I was a fifth-grader at White Plains School (then a first-through 12th-grade school) and he was teaching high-school subjects that had not been taken or assigned. He also coached all sports — boys' and girls' basketball and baseball — and he drove the school and athletics buses. In 1957 he joined the Surry County School Superintendent's Office, assisting Superintendent J. Sam Gentry.

The Surry County Board of Education at the time included Chairman Joe Pell, Clinton Moseley, Ford Cockerham, Cecil Ring, and Dr. Joe Folger. School consolidations were a significant challenge as the county had 12 schools: Lowgap, Beulah, Franklin, Flat Rock, White Plains, Mountain Park, Dobson, Copeland, Pilot Mountain, Shoals, Westfield, and Eldora (the only 1-8 grade school; all the others were 1-12). Consolidation created North Surry High School (1959), Surry Central High School (1961),

and East Surry High School plus 11 elementary schools. In the future were added the Central, J. Sam Gentry, Meadowview, and Pilot Mountain middle schools and the Cedar Ridge and Rockford elementaries. Lowgap and Beulah were closed.

Dr. Richards went on to meritoriously lead Surry Community College from 1972 to 1994. He and wife Ruth live at Ridgecrest in Mount Airy. At age 93 he made the 2022 keynote address at the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce annual meeting. His recall is amazing.

Arnold Lakey

Arnold Lakey enjoyed a 41-year career with the Lowe's Companies and retired in 1998. He began his career in Durham. When we bought WIFM Radio in 2004, I asked Linda Cheek, the executive director of the Wilkes County Chamber of Commerce, to list 15 people of significance in Wilkes County's leadership, and the first person she listed was Arnold Lakey. He's been a member of the Wilkes Rotary Club for 54 years, is a trustee at Wilkes Community College, and is an advocate for public education. A member of the Wilkesboro United Methodist Church and its Methodist Men, he is a noted philanthropist. Arnold Lakey continues to be our region's most noted contributor.

Let's Share

A recent caller asked if I had time to meet for breakfast and of course I made time. Being available is a valuable trait for having and keeping relationships. The late Bobby Harold, who bestowed more good on others than anyone we know, always was available. We met in 1982, he passed in 2013. He never turned me down for a chat or counsel; he would say, "Come on up." He was a keen listener, never judgmental, and would often send me off without any abrupt dismissal, and have heard him say, "I don't know. Let me think about it."

Now We Know

- Every second Wednesday at 9 a.m. at Mount Airy's Chick-fil-A, a full house gathers for bingo. Clients play for fun and Chick-fil-A-approved prizes. In a rich tradition, all Chick-fil-A events are resounding successes. Needless to say, every seat for bingo is filled and parking places are limited. The bingo caller is Cindy Fontaine. Consummate cheerleader Gladys Hernandez is a keynote crowd member; her smile is contagious and blends well.

- On a bench behind the soft drinks and coffee vending area at the Jonesville Bojangles is a free offering of the Elkin Tribune available for customers. The Tribune prints a Thursday edition and publishes online daily. The newspaper was founded in 1911.

Be A Supporter

Industries, retail businesses, service providers, and other organizations in Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties can show their support for a vital community service by becoming sponsors in the Elkin Rescue Squad Charity Golf Tournament.

Now in its 16th year, the popular event presented by 100.9 WIFM Radio will return on Thursday, Oct. 5, to Cedar Creek Country Club in Elkin. The Charity Golf Tournament brings together dozens of avid golfers, a host of hard-working volunteers, and vital sponsors who show their support for one of North Carolina's oldest established all-volunteer emergency response organizations: the Elkin Rescue Squad.

Complimentary registration for a four-person team and the opportunity to include promotional items in the ever-popular Goody Bags are offered to sponsors at the \$500 level and higher. Depending on the level of support, starting at as little as \$100, a sponsor may choose to advertise its name and logo conspicuously on tournament publications, hats, range balls, table placards, hole signs, or even on the beverage cart or the courtesy range shuttle. There also are a limited number of co-sponsorships for popular competitions such as longest drive, closest-to-the-pin holes, and top finishers.

Sponsorships are very affordable, but the number of sponsorships is limited and some already have been reserved. For more information or to sign up for your Elkin Rescue Squad Charity Golf Tournament sponsorship today, contact Charlotte York, 336-374-9600; Joel Hooper, 336-835-2511; or Jerry Atkins, 336-374-9608.

Business Cards

For people in sales, a unique business card that makes a statement is a must possession. It's a badge of arrival and it says, "I'm proud to be where I am, doing my best, and when you and I exchange cards I cherish yours and hope you treasure mine." I suppose my first card came from Shell Oil, my first business employment. Upon joining York Oil in 1970 we designed a card with raised black letters.

Today, all too often, a new acquaintance will have forgotten his or her card, or the company has not provided one. In our opinion, an employer who does not provide business cards may not have the intensity needed to promote its representative's career. A sales rep without a business card has a distinct disadvantage. Being able to exchange cards is a legacy and shows pride and confidence.

When a person commits to employment, he or she should expect to receive a card, a valuable asset, during the first moments of coming on board. Regardless of the job description, an employee should have at all times a clean card in a case that

protects the integrity of the document. A stately card is also a notification to others that "I matter" and "My company believes in my worthiness." Employment is never casual or irrelevant. It goes both ways: pride in one's station in life and the employer's belief in the value of the client.

Thank-You Notes & Letters

When I share techniques for nonprofit organizations to run successful fundraising campaigns, my most important advice is that every solicitor send a same-day "thank-you note" to every client who has been asked to give, and also a follow-up note 10 days later to remind potential givers of the opportunities and needs. Conscientious contact works.

I also like to keep copies of my notes, letters, and epistles and look back at what I wrote. The following note went to a new friend:

"During my journey through a very blessed life, I've only met a few people who I felt like I had known for years. I appreciate your words of encouragement, and asking my opinion is an awesome gift. Your letters and pictures are uplifting and make my day go better. Love, Gary."

To another peer and colleague, I wrote:

"You're a day-brightener, a do-gooder, and a lifter-upper. Our community is so thankful for you. When I know I'll meet you, I'm inspired and encouraged. As we meet, greet, and eat, I thank our Lord for connecting us, and I hope we'll stay close and giving. Respectfully, Gary."

Stellar Plus

Each Monday at 9 a.m., WIFM's sales people meet to share last week and project the success we hope to have coming up. I'm usually last, and these were my discussion remarks. My initial point was thanking Terry Phillips, the owner of Ace Music & Pawn Shop, for inviting me to have lunch on Friday — a cheeseburger from Harry's Place — and the fascination and curiosity I have for the goings-on at his company. Among other attributes, Ace Music & Pawn Shop has a reputation for attempting to fix anything that's not working. Should anyone be challenged with a keepsake that's on its last legs, come by Ace Music & Pawn Shop at 117 W. Main St. in Elkin and speak to Terry, Bill, or Tanner.

Having had the opportunity to socialize with several Pickleball enthusiasts, I also have the fever. At WIFM we are talking of developing a daily news program on the highlights of the local Pickleball "craze." We can provide the Yadkin Valley with the latest on challenges, new venues, tournaments, the latest in new equipment, etc. Municipalities are answering the call of available players searching for a convenient court. We'll keep you posted.

Obituaries

We'll always leave a Celebration of Life reminded of a promise, committed to a task, and even inspired to reach out to a forgotten friend. Funerals, although sad and solemn, will touch our hearts and bring us to action. One of our greatest honors is to be asked to give a eulogy for a friend.

Elkin friend the Rev. Bill Johnson is a most respected eulogist. He recently spoke at the R.T. & Barbara Chatham Courtyard dedication and painted beautiful scenes with his words when he said, "We are dedicating a garden within many gardens."

Sister Anne Fehring honored our mother, Marian Johnson York, with a timeless church brochure. I'm choosing to share this issue. Mom was born May 1, 1922, and passed on May 14, 2019, at Northern Regional Hospital in Mount Airy. Her service was at White Plains Friends Meeting. Speakers honoring her were Nelson Puffinbarger, Brent McKinney, Jake Penley, and Gary York. Beautiful music was presented by Kitty Martin and soloist Tim Nichols. Pallbearers were Alan York, Taylor York, Garrison York Schmidt, Johnson York, Dr. Keith Fehring, Thomas York, Rachel Fehring Wixted, Andrea Miller, Katherine Fehring, and Amanda Miller.

We are sure Mom chose the following tribute to living a good life and being ready to meet her Lord.

Miss Me But Let Me Go

By George R. Monseru

When I come to the end of the road
and the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.
Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little, but not too long,
and not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that was once shared.
Miss me, but let me go,
For this is a journey all must take
and each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master's plan,
a step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart,
go to the friends we know,
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.
Miss me, but let me go.

Tried And True

During our Friday-morning Bible Study at Sela Building, 2004 CC Camp Road, we studied this quote: "When we tolerate the wrong, we contaminate the right." Accepting inappropriate behavior or joining in the same, invariably we'll adversely affect our good traits. Instead of walking the line, one wobbles and goes astray.

Carpenter's Best

We are always blessed in several ways by attending viewings, usually prior to funeral services. On a table at Moody's Funeral Services in Mount Airy, at the late Brian Mosley's gathering, was his carpenter's belt that included his hammer, sliding-scale rule, several tools of his trade, and his hard hat. A flower arrangement was in his toolbox. The display denoted his love for his trade and was possibly a wonderful indication of where he found much happiness. The belt was included, the tools necessary, to do his work and complete his calling.

A significant tribute was Brian's cadre of friends. Well-wishers stood for up to two hours to pay respects. I asked Moody's owner and funeral director Bob Moody how he deals with such a challenge. He said, "A few minutes before the service is to start, we approach the family to share the situation." In that case, another hour of well-wishers was in line, and the family chose to let Brian's friends have the opportunity to speak to his family. The funeral scheduled for 11 a.m. began at 12. What a tribute to an honorable man who passed way too soon. Our deepest sympathies go to his family and relations. Those tools of his trade told his story and his love of God, family, and friends.

Hunter Yurachek, Guilford '90

An awesome feature article about University of Arkansas Director of Athletics Hunter Yurachek by Guilford College Assistant Director of Communications and Marketing Robert Bell is a highlight of the Guilford College Magazine's April 2023 edition. "Big Man On Campus" is on page 10.

Hunter felt his first yearning for a career in major-college athletics while taking Sports Management classes under the legendary Dr. Herb Appenzeller at Guilford in the late 1980s. The pursuit of his dream became the driving force in Hunter's life. He now leads a University of Arkansas Athletics Department that includes 19 varsity sports and 425 student athletes. Arkansas Razorbacks compete in a Power Five conference.

As an aspiring writer, I sought insight into how the article came about. Hunter Yurachek's administrative assistant arranged a phone interview and Robert Bell worked his magic to capture Hunter's rise to greatness. In Robert's portrayal of Hunter's journey he recounted more than 30 game-changing events and painted a vivid picture of A.D. Yurachek's odyssey. Several stories of note are:

- Unpaid internships.
- How longshots keep coming through.
- Unpaid grunt work, button-busting proud.
- Rags to riches, sleeper into a powerhouse.
- No programs oozing success — being relentless.

Influencers

Sitting in the Masonic Lodge on Franklin Street in Mount Airy in 2005, Ararat Masonic Lodge #558 member Clyde "Pete" Welborn quietly sat to my left and said, "Gary York, we don't know each other. I'm Pete Welborn from the Ararat Lodge #558 and my wife Paulette and I have been awaking to 100.9 WIFM for 30 years, but here lately from 5:30 to 7 your station does not tell us the time. Can WIFM develop a system that will give us the correct time several times each hour?"

I was totally caught unaware. After speaking to on-air personality Danny Hall, we concluded that Pete Welborn was exactly right, and we quickly corrected the situation and became a frequent provider of the correct time. Pete became a valuable friend, and we are grateful for his honesty and candid demeanor.

On Dec. 6, 1999, Dr. Jim Harrell Jr., Fred O'Neal, and Gary York were sworn in as Surry County Commissioners for four-year terms. Being Democrats, we changed a Republican-led government to Democratic. In those days, political alliances were quite partisan and having three votes was crucial. In the first three months, or the first six meetings, party lines usually prevailed.

Then I happened to be in County Manager Dennis Thompson's office and shared the direction I was taking on a crucial vote. Upon hearing my side, Dennis said, "Commissioner York, you might want to rethink that. It could be costly and lacking judgment." I did rethink, and he was right on the money. I changed my opinion and decision and reappointed a board member. From that day forward I asked Dennis Thompson's opinion before every option. Oh, how wise and learned was Dennis Thompson. I became a competent Surry County Commissioner thanks to Dennis Thompson's wisdom and judgment.

Faith And Vincas

Wife Charlotte, who surely has two "green thumbs" for growing things, started a day in mid-June by visiting Mitchell's Nursery and Greenhouse in King, N.C., and purchasing 30 Vinca plants. After a couple of hours of Miracle-Gro garden feeding and soil cultivation, she delicately rooted the plants in WIFM Radio's flower beds at 813 N. Bridge St. in Elkin. She concluded her plantings with a good soaking. Our office staff has continued the watering three days a week. Charlotte said faithful watering is a must to get transplants off to a good start.

Every day, someone compliments Charlotte's tender loving care and gardening expertise. Charlotte says Mitchell's sells the highest-quality plants. We have a most admired presentation. Vincas are annuals, and will bloom through autumn.

Ageless Advice

My mother's mother, Christine Nichols Johnson, gave me a treasured copy of Alfred Armand Montapert's "Distilled Wisdom" (1964) for my graduation gift as I finished at Guilford College in 1965. The book's dedication is, "To all who realize the responsibility of building a constructive life and who listen when great men speak and give their most precious thoughts, learning thereby to conduct themselves so that they live a full, rich, and complete life, not merely exist." The following observations from Montapert's book are at least 59 years old and as true today as when they were copied and posted. I like the shorter ones best!

- The road to the top is steep, not cheap.
- The life of achievement is a life of hard work.

—Councillor.

- Act as though it were impossible to fail.

—Brande.

- Adversity introduces a man to himself.
- Adversity is a great teacher.
- Storms make oaks take deeper root.
- Advertising is the mouthpiece of business.

—James A. Davis.

- The sign brings customers. —La Fontaine.
- Whatever advice we give, be brief. —Horace.
- If we wish to gain affection, bestow it.

—Seneca.

• Age is a matter of feeling, not of years. —Dr. George William Curtis

- If we do not agree, let us disagree agreeably.

—M.R. DeHaan

- Hitch your wagon to a star. —Emerson
- The greatest remedy of anger is delay.

—Seneca

- Anxiety is the poison of human life. —H. Blair

Crape Myrtles

Many of us are amazed by the beautiful Crape Myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*) that flower from June through September when most trees in the South are not blooming. They have stunning colors (white, pink, and purple) and distinctive variegated, peeling bark. We see them often, but they're not native to this area. They originated in the Indian subcontinent.

Crape Myrtles (common spelled "crepe" in the South, but pronounced with a long "a") may grow two feet per year, and they're usually healthy for 25 years. Young trees typically bloom after three to five years. Crape Myrtles need full sunlight and light fertilization. In dry spells they may need watering, but overwatering is to be avoided. Deadheading promotes growth; pruning is not needed. Contrary to popular belief, they are not immune to disease or infestations, but they're hardy. The most common variety in this area is Natchez.

The Communicator

A Publication of:
100.9 WIFM
Post Office Box 1038
Elkin, NC 28621

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JOIN US FOR THE
16TH ANNUAL
ELKIN RESCUE SQUAD
CHARITY GOLF
TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 5, 2023

CEDARBROOK
COUNTRY CLUB

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 835-2511

