

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## Mother's Day

The date June 19, 1979 still remains inside my head. No matter how much I try to shake it, the date remains a constant with me. That's the day that my mother died. I was 18 years old and I felt like I had been robbed. I still feel a sincere sense of loss. The hardest part of my mother's passing was having to answer when someone, who had not heard of her death, asked me how she was doing. All I could say was that she died June 19, 1979.

### Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



I remember her today, just like it was yesterday. She was my barber, and yes, her favorite hairstyle for me was the buzzcut. I didn't like it then, and I don't like it today. It's just not for me. I had little choice back then, and my brother and sisters loved to tease me after every haircut. Of course they didn't tease me for long. You see, my mother would let them know that the buzzcut was in style - and they could be next. My mother was my biggest fan. She loved to read my short stories. She encouraged me to become a writer. I learned early on that I could express myself on paper. I wrote a lot of short stories about the Atlanta Braves. I love baseball as much today as I did in my youth. Only the names change in baseball. My favorite Brave in my youth was Joe Torre, yes, the Hall of Fame manager of the New York Yankees. Torre grew up in the Braves' organization as a catcher. He started playing for the Braves in Milwaukee and moved with the team to Atlanta in 1966. He was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals in 1968 for Orlando Cepeda. I cried my eyes out when the news came that Torre was a Cardinal. It was my mother that comforted me, and reminded me that I could choose another Brave as my favorite player. It turns out that player was Cepeda, a well-known hitter and first baseman. My mother was always there to comfort me when I needed a little extra attention. I was her youngest child, and she loved me with all her heart. Remember your mother on Mother's Day. I can never forget mine even though she's been gone almost 36 years.

## Beatitudes for Mothers

Mothers' Day is a reminder that every mom needs a prayer, and a blessing that can only come from God. Rare is the mom who really feels up to the task. So to that end I offer these beatitudes about mothers.

### All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Blessed is the mother-at-heart who never could have a child. May you find meaning in nurturing those that are in your life. Blessed is the one who grew up without a mother. May that relentless longing be fulfilled in the love of family that you do have, and of your heavenly Father. Blessed is the mother that adopted a child, for you are providing a loving, nurturing, safe home that another mother could not. Blessed is the expectant mother. May you find peace and contentment that displace your fears about the child's health and delivery. Blessed is the single mom. May Jehovah-jireh ("God will provide") strengthen you as bread-winner, homemaker, and caregiver. Blessed is the mother that had an unplanned baby. May your choice to give life be returned to you as the greatest choice you ever made, next to believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed is the mother of a sick or special needs child, for you can cast all your cares on Him who cares for you and your child. Blessed is the mother of a rebellious child. May you have tough love, patient endurance, and wisdom beyond your years. Blessed is the mother whose nest is newly empty, for you have not stopped being a mother, only entered a new chapter of life. Blessed is the mother whose grown kids are not living the way they were raised, for you gave them your best and now they are responsible for their choices, not you. Blessed is the mother whose kids turned out well. May you have grace for your sisters since, 'but for the grace of God, See Fowler, page 5A

## Questions and Answers

**Q. When will the Byron Herbert Reece Center open this year?**

A. The center is already open this year. They are open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. This site offers not only an insight into Byron Herbert Reece, the poet laureate of Union County, but a visual history of life growing up in the mountains and how tough it was in the 1930s and 1940s. It also shows Byron as the farmer he was and the struggles he always had balancing the two.

### Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



**Q. What is there to do and see out at the Byron Herbert Reece Center?**

A. There are lots of interesting and educational exhibits at the BHR Center. First of all, they have the Welcome Center, which is the Reece family house that was relocated and completely renovated. It contains a walk through museum depicting the life of Byron Herbert Reece, who was a local poet. The main barn has been completely restored and contains seven farm exhibits which give visitors an idea of what it would have looked like when Reece was living there. There is the paved poetry trail which has six stone boulders inscribed with some of Reece's poems. Finally, there is the large pavilion right next to Wolf Creek that is available to rent for weddings, reunions, and family gatherings. You can get more information on renting the pavilion or the Reece Center in general by visiting <https://byronherbertreeceociety.wordpress.com>.

**Q. Why does our transfer station and recycling center not accept glass as a recyclable?**

A. This is a question that is asked very often. There are several reasons we do not accept glass, but the biggest one is there is no longer a market for recycled glass. Most glass recycling companies are now charging to accept glass instead of paying for it. If we have to pay the recycler to take the glass plus pay to transport it almost 200 miles it gets pretty expensive. If we separate it and are not able to sell it, the only option we have is to store it. Glass recyclers require we bring them a semi-trailer load at a time of each individual color of glass. We would have to keep three semi-trailers at the Transfer Station, one for each color of glass, and it would take several years to fill one. If one colored bottle gets broken into a

See Paris, page 5A

## Letters to the Editor ...

### Keep up the good work

Dear Editor, It is said: "big things come in little packages." Well, the best example of that was the "Steel Band" concert at Woody Gap School on Thursday night. With fewer than 10 students they performed wonderfully - at the end of the concert, we learned that before January only one of them played an instrument. As a retired Woody Gap faculty member, I want to give a big thanks and congratulations to the band instructor, Doug Roberts, and thanks to the school and county administrators for your support of the band program at Woody Gap. Keep up the good work, kids. We're proud of you. Pat Shaffer

### Battling hypocrisy

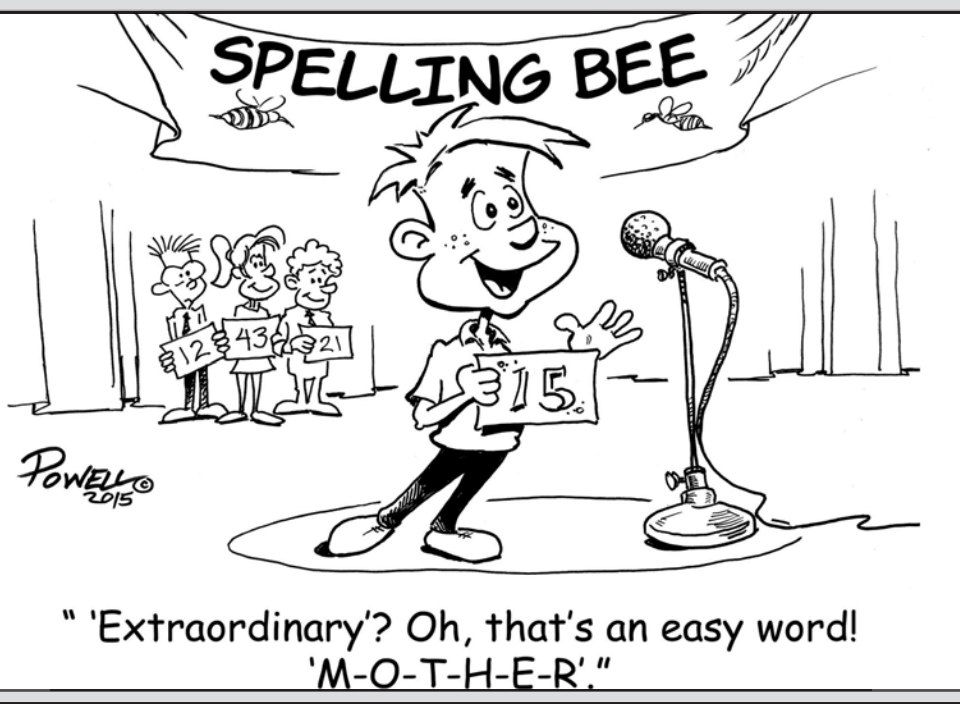
Dear Editor, Rush Limbaugh, the long-time symbol of the Republican Party and the Right, in general, is currently married to his fourth wife - his previous marriages having been dissolved by way of divorce. Poof! With the mere signature of a judge, these marriages went with the wind, as never having been. Limbaugh's shameful marital record notwithstanding, this hypocrite dared to attack same-sex marriage as "immoral," warning: "The institution of marriage has been targeted for destruction, essentially, and the road to destroying is being paved." Who would know better than Limbaugh - isn't divorce the ultimate way to destroy a marriage? Those who read my letters to the editor and have trouble comprehending the meaning of my words, end up making amusing assumptions. This time, surely, that I must be a lesbian and support same-sex marriage; instead of calmly noting that I am criticizing moral and/or religious hypocrisy, wherever it comes from. A 90-year-old lesbian? I await the charge with much amusement. Sincerely, Ruth Elizabeth Ramsey

### Seasonal High Tunnel

The Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D's mission is to help the citizens in the 13 NE Georgia counties it serves find ways to make their businesses, farms, and lives more productive and improve their way of life. Here is something that fits that bill perfectly, a Seasonal High Tunnel that is a project for farmers or anyone who has a few acres and wants to get serious about growing things such as vegetables, flowers, fruit, or any high value crop that can be grown in a confined area. A seasonal high tunnel, also known as a hoop house, is a polyethylene covered structure that is used to cover crops to extend the growing season. They are used to extend the growing season for crops by approximately 2-3 weeks on each end of the season by increasing the temperature surrounding the crop and minimizing heat loss during the night. Temperatures in the high tunnel during the growing season are controlled by using manual roll-up side vents and by opening end doors to provide ventilation. Unlike greenhouses, seasonal high tunnel systems are seasonal and are considered temporary structures although they are firmly anchored to the ground. Crops can be grown either in the natural soil profile or by installing permanent raised beds. The goal of the High Tunnels is to save water, reduce pesticide use, maintain vital soil nutrients, and increase crop yields. The high See Riley, page 5A

### RC&D Executive Director

Frank Riley



### Economics 101 Don't overlook the basics of free enterprise

By: Fred Hayek for Joshua's Warriors

Recent reports have declared the United States a breeding ground for a nation of illiterates in geography, science, and mathematics. Add one more to the list: economics. A study of exit exams indicated that 75% of college-bound students were unable to define the effects of inflation (rising prices) and what constitutes a government budget deficit (government spending exceeds revenues).



George Bernard Shaw quipped that if all economists were laid end to end they would not reach a conclusion. Still, wouldn't you agree that given the current economic malaise and government's massive intervention into the market place, we ought to know more about economics?

With the middle class stuck in neutral and our markets and economy stagnating, one would think that we all would be digging out our Economics 101 text books. If we do, we may run across a guy named Adam Smith, who in 1776 published a collection of his writings that formed the moral foundation of the American free-enterprise system.

"An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations" is a systematic presentation of modern capitalism. Economic freedom (free enterprise) was a unique idea back then. It may become unique again. Without the freedom to try, freedom to buy, freedom to sell, and the freedom to fail, economics can become hamstrung.

It is these very freedoms that motivate self-sufficiency, innovation and risk taking -- America's economic strong points. Our Founding Fathers embraced Smith's ideas and the moral basis behind them, and within 100 years America became the most prosperous nation on Earth with the largest middle class.

Capitalism is a sacrifice of consumption today for a greater reward in the future. Smith demonstrated that a self-sufficient society creates excess production (savings) that can be employed as capital (stock). Excess savings may be lent to a bank or business or invested. A bank or business will then invest the sum as capital or loans to others who may in turn purchase capital. Money is valueless without goods or services for which it can be exchanged. This dynamic is called "the great wheel of circulation" and why every "frugal man is a public benefactor."

Smith would argue that government should be in the business of fostering a legal and regulatory environment where capitalism can thrive and everyone is treated equally. In other words, when it comes to the economy, a decrease in central planning brings an increase in results. However, that is hardly the case today. See Hayek, page 5A

### Wyatt and Gincy Cummings

My great, great, great grandfather, Wyatt Cummings, fought in that awful War Between the States. At the time of the war he lived in North Alabama. He voted for Lincoln because he was opposed to the war. When Alabama succeeded from the Union most of the people in his community tried to sit out the war for three reasons. First, they didn't own slaves. Second, they were opposed to fighting against the country so many of their ancestors had helped create. Third, they didn't want to fight against their own brothers in the south. However, the Home Guard tried to force my ancestor and others to fight for the South. So, Wyatt and his brother Absolem, slipped through the lines to Savannah, TN to sign up with the North and fought the remaining years of the war with the 2nd Tennessee Mounted Infantry a Federal Army.

### Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



There was nothing glamorous about this war. Many people died as a result of their wounds and it was nearly one hundred years before the Tennessee Valley pulled out of the depression caused by the "War Between the States". Wyatt and his brother fought many battles in middle Tennessee, especially around the Duck River which is located around Winchester and Tullahoma. However, neither of the young men was wounded. Unlike Wyatt, Absolem never made it home from the war. He died not of a bullet, but, of dysentery.

After the war Wyatt came home first to a neighbor's house. At the time his wife, Gincy, didn't know whether he was alive or dead. Wyatt was afraid of sending letters home for fear of retribution from the Home Guard. Wyatt sent the neighbor's son to his home with a message. The boy went to the Cummings home and told Gincy, "There is a man down at our house that is offering you \$25 for your milk cow". He explained to Gincy that the man felt it was not proper for him to be in her home without her husband being present. Money was hard to come by during that period of time and \$25 was a lot of money. Since Gincy needed the money she went to the neighbor's house to dicker with the man about the price of the cow. Much to her surprise she found her husband whom she had not seen in three years.

We do not know what was said between Wyatt and his wife. But, the event must have been a joyful homecoming. Wyatt's son was only 1 1/2 years old when he left to fight in the war. Soon other siblings would come along. So, the family appeared to be happy and content. But, many other people were angry and wanted retribution for events that occurred during the war.

During the war the Home Guard had committed many atrocities. Men were killed for refusing to fight with the South. Even those which fought with the South were not immune to harassment by the Home Guard. Close to See Cummings, page 5A

## Take 5 with Linda Lawrence

I am excited to announce that the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce has hired Linda Lawrence as our new Membership Coordinator. Linda joined the Chamber team on April 13, 2015, and will be supporting new and established members with special events, programs, and benefits. Having worked for Walt Disney World Resorts for 25 years, she brings a strong love of customer service and a desire to engage the public in all that the Chamber has to offer. Like the rest of the Chamber staff, she shares a deep love of Blairsville-Union County and brings an impressive skill set and friendly personality to our organization. Here are a few of her candid responses to my Take 5 questions.

### Blairsville - Union County Chamber

Cindy Williams



1. What is your favorite quote?  
"If you can dream it, you can do it" - Walt Disney

2. What is your favorite thing about your job?  
Without a doubt, my favorite part of this job is meeting the folks in our community; although my husband, Richard, would say I have found another venue to "talk a lot." It has been such a pleasure to visit with the business owners, local residents, and even our out-of-town visitors. People have been so warm and welcoming since I started this adventure, and I am very excited to get to know everyone out there.

3. If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?  
See Williams, page 5A

## Hitting the Bullseye

The waterfalls of the North Georgia Mountains are nearly deafening this time of year. The April rains have created thousands of gallons of water pouring voraciously over rocks, a site and sound not to be missed by nature lovers who travel to our neck of the woods, intent on experiencing Mother Nature's faucets full open.

### Farmers Market Moment

JoyAnne Leone



Long Creek Falls is one of Fannin County's most popular water sprays. Just down the road from the Falls is the farm Jay Tipton was born and raised on; a few acres in the middle of the Chattahoochee Forest, overlooking the Toccoa River. It's the kind a place we refer to as "God's Country", and even that might be understating its beauty.

Jay was one of nine children and the oldest of the last four boys Claude and Jessi Mae Tipton raised. Seventy years ago, Claude Tipton, like most of the local farmers at that time, harvested crops and raised livestock to sustain his family. He had one cash crop he took to market-acres of green bell peppers.

When the boys weren't playing by the bridge down along the river, they spent their summer days in the fields helping their dad. Jay remembers being just 10 years old, plowing the fields behind a mule, setting the land for the corn seed they'd drop, eventually to be harvested and milled for their own use, hopefully enough to last them throughout the next winter.

The few cows they kept were more like pets, until the time came to butcher one of them to keep this family fed. Roaming freely through the property, the bovine grazed as they pleased. One day, one of the calves decided to taste Jessi Mae's flowers. This mother of nine had eyes in back of her head and caught the calf in action. Instinctively, she picked up and threw a small rock at the calf to motivate it to move away from her prize blossoms. Her pitch hit the calf square in the head and the cow dropped, never to rise again.

Jay left the farm and headed to the "big city" when he was still a teenager. For the next forty years he worked as a mechanic for Da- See Leone, page 5A

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