

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Remember your raising

When I was a young boy growing up in Union County, I knew that my Daddy was a Chicken farmer. He knew everything there was to know about chickens.

I was actually surprised to learn that he was a pretty good dirt farmer as well.

We always had a big garden, and Momma and Granny spent many an hour processing, canning and freezing that fresh produce.

They were preparing it for a rainy day. I didn't realize it then, but there were a lot of rainy days when I was growing up. We ate those canned goods and frozen vegetables all the time. I don't remember us going to the store an awful lot. When we did, it was usually Foodland, Hamptons' Store on the Old Blue Ridge Highway, or Daventport's Store on the Murphy Highway.

Saturday at the Union County Farmers Market, I saw a ton of familiar faces. They were driving tractors, selling produce and in some instances, buying produce.

I felt right at home. These were the folks I grew up with. These were the folks that remembered my folks.

My folks were farmers, plain and simple. They fed their six children all the staples of the garden. Green beans, tomatoes, okra, cucumbers, squash, beets, onions, potatoes, well, you name it, and it was canned or in the freezer.

They also taught us to hunt and fish and be self reliant.

I feel like I'm coming home every time I make a trip to the Farmers Market and on Saturday, three individuals who made a difference to Union County farmers were recognized with a Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Bud Hill, Robert Harkins and Sid Chandler, the latter is considered a positive influence on local farmers, as he served for many years as the County Extension Agent.

I've known Bud Hill all my life, and Robert Harkins remembers my folks too. Sid Chandler, well, I'm not old enough to remember Sid. Bud Akins can talk all day long about Sid.

My point, it's nice to see farmers finally getting the recognition that they truly deserve. This was only the fourth Hall of Fame ceremony, but I see many more in the future.

One day, the likes of Harold and Freddie Collins, Ronnie Dyer, Willy Kerr, and Charles Theroer might even be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

We're seeing a new generation of farmers emerge as the children of these great farmers are stepping right into the footsteps of their fathers and mothers before them.

I see a lasting legacy at the Farmers Market, and generations to come will learn to grow, process and can their own food.

We can only hope.

Letters to the Editor ...

Still Hanoi Jane

Dear Editor,
The Vietnam War was horrific! America still suffers from the aftermath. I too believe the cause was fabricated by Johnson to promote his "Great Society." However, Hanoi Jane aside for the moment, during that era our military's ranks were basically filled by individuals who were "victims" of our Selective Service System, better known as "The Draft." Most then in military service were not patriotic enlistees. Certainly they were not warmongers. Instead, they were draftees who originally had three choices; report for duty as ordered, go to Canada, or go to jail. Of course, there were those who through luck or politics remained unscathed by Selective Service. Some were those miserable excuses for American citizens who verbally and physically assaulted our combat veterans who were fortunate enough to return home, (Bill Clinton beat them all. He went to England as a "student" and then became President of the United States).

I remember those long-haired, marijuana
See Fiser, page 5A

Constitution Day

Dear Editor:
On Sept. 17th, 1787, as the delegates were leaving the meeting hall, Mrs. Powell, wife of the mayor of Philadelphia, approached the most senior delegate and asked, "Well Sir, what have you given us?" "A republic, Madam, if you can keep it," responded Benjamin Franklin.

If Dr. Franklin or any of the Founding Fathers were alive today, do you suppose they would conclude that we have "kept it?"

My answer is no. And in fact, not much attention was paid to the anniversary until 1952 when President Harry Truman signed a bill to designate a day to recognize everyone who had become a U.S. Citizen the year before.

The date designated was Sept. 17th, and the day was named "Citizenship Day." Fast forward to 2004 when a bill was passed renaming the holiday "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day," and mandating that all publicly funded educational institutions provide educational programming on the history of the Constitution on that date (or the nearest school day to that date).

Inasmuch as this is a government project to be conducted in government funded schools, I doubt if the matter of Constitutional violations by government officials will be given much attention.

To insure "fair & balanced" coverage, parents, grandparents, etc., might want to supplement what the kids get in school by address-

See Esposito, page 5A

A true success

Dear Editor,
Seldom do we now days see simple, down home, old fashioned principles folded into a real life story. And so the inspiring story of the Guess family's entry into the restaurant business is good for the soul.

Not unlike many others, Jim, Donna and Lauren, came on hard times when the economy went sour a few years ago.

They serve as hometown examples of how a gift can be turned into a bustling business through hard work, help from friends and employees and blessings from God.

Their faith in themselves, others and
See Mallis, page 5A

Belongingness for My Loneliness

Some psychiatrists say that man's two most severe problems are depression and loneliness. Loneliness has never been a respecter of persons. Some of the world's most renowned artists, writers, composers, kings and queens have battled loneliness. No matter one's occupation, whether painter, plumber, preacher or politician, all have suffered loneliness. Some of us experience it to a greater degree than do others. There are times in our lives when we experience it more than at other times. Loneliness is not a respecter of age.

Little children suffer loneliness as well as senior adults. In fact, children sometimes will create imaginary playmates to cope with loneliness. Dr. Paul Tournier, a Swiss medical doctor, writer and theologian, said, "The most prevalent malady today, through-out all society, is loneliness. The common pain of the whole body of humanity...of all ages...of all strata of life, all levels...economic, social, intellectual.... The common pain is loneliness." Loneliness springs from a feeling of alienation and estrangement. Loneliness has its roots in our first parents, Adam and Eve. When they sinned they were cut off, separated and alienated from God the Father. All of us whether Christian or non-Christian will experience loneliness. None of us are exempt. But the question is how do I deal with my loneliness? How can I reduce its intensity in my life? Well, we need to know that we are more than a number: a phone number, social security number, bank number, or church number. We are a unique created person of God. We are loved, cared for, wanted and necessary by our Creator. We also have a purpose in life to belong. We belong to God, to family, to friends, to churches and causes by relationships. We do not overcome loneliness by isolating ourselves, running away or feeling sorry for ourselves. Self-pity does not help us heal. In fact, self-pity actually deepens our feelings of loneliness. The first step in eliminating feelings of alienation, isolation and separation is reconciliation through Christ, God's Son. "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself" (II Cor. 5:18-19). You cannot fool yourself into feeling better; neither can you feel better by trying

It's On My Mind

Danny Parris



See Parris, page 5A

Your Tax Dollars at Work

Q. I have never been to the Health Department. Where is it located?

A. The "new" Health Department is located at 67 Chase Drive off the Glenn Gooch By-Pass next door to the Road Department. The Health Department originally was on the hill across from the Civic Center on Hughes Street. They were outgrowing the building, so in 2005, the county applied for and received a CDBG Grant to build a new building. A CDBG grant is a Community Development Block Grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The grant was in the amount of \$500,000. The Building was completed in November 2007.

Q. What are the hours of operation?

A. The Health Department is open the following hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m. for lunch)

On Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (closed noon to 12:30 p.m. for lunch).

On Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m. for lunch). The phone number is (706) 781-6292

Q. Is the Health Department run by the county or the state?

A. The Health Department is a state agency under the operation of the state of Georgia, District 2, Department of Public Health. The department receives some operating funds from the county.

Q. How much funding do they receive from the county?

A. The county pays a monthly amount of \$9,792.66 plus a partial salary for a person who works both for Environmental Health and Building Inspection.

Q. What services are offered by the Health Department?

A. Child and Adolescent Health, Immunizations, child health, dental care and Child Safety Seat Checks.

Women's Health, family planning, prenatal case management, Cancer Screening, Breast/Cervical Cancer and Prevention, Presumptive Medicaid for Pregnant Women.

Nutritional Services, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Communicable Diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS Testing and Education, Tuberculosis Screening, Epidemiology Investigation. Adult Health: Immunizations and lab-work with a doctor's order.

Q. Who can go to the Health Department and what do you have to pay?

A. Anyone can go to the Health Department regardless of income. Some services are based on

See Parris, page 5A

Lewis & Clark Circus Returns!

Hear ye, Hear ye! The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce is proud to once again present the Lewis and Clark Circus on Monday evening, Sept. 9th at Meeks Park. Show times are 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. under the big tent. This is a traditional one ring circus with flying trapeze artists, clowns, acrobats and animal acts that amaze. Children will have the chance to experience a petting zoo, popcorn, peanuts, and balloons along with the entertaining circus atmosphere and music.

Are you ready for the best part? Children 14 & under are admitted free with a coupon! Coupons are being given out in the schools and are available at the Chamber office. Complimentary tickets may also be printed online at www.LCCircus.com. Children prices at the gate are \$5 per person without a coupon. Discounted adult tickets are available in advance of the show by contacting the Chamber office. Prices for adults are \$10 per person if purchased in advance or \$15 per person at the gate on the day of the show. Tickets are on sale now at the Chamber during normal business hours.

See Williams, page 5A

The Color of One's Blood

This coming Saturday, Sept. 7th, it is College Rivalry Day at the Farmers Market. Wear your team colors and wait for your fight song to be played over the loud speaker so you can give a cheer. We want you there in full regalia. I, on the other hand, will be wearing denim.

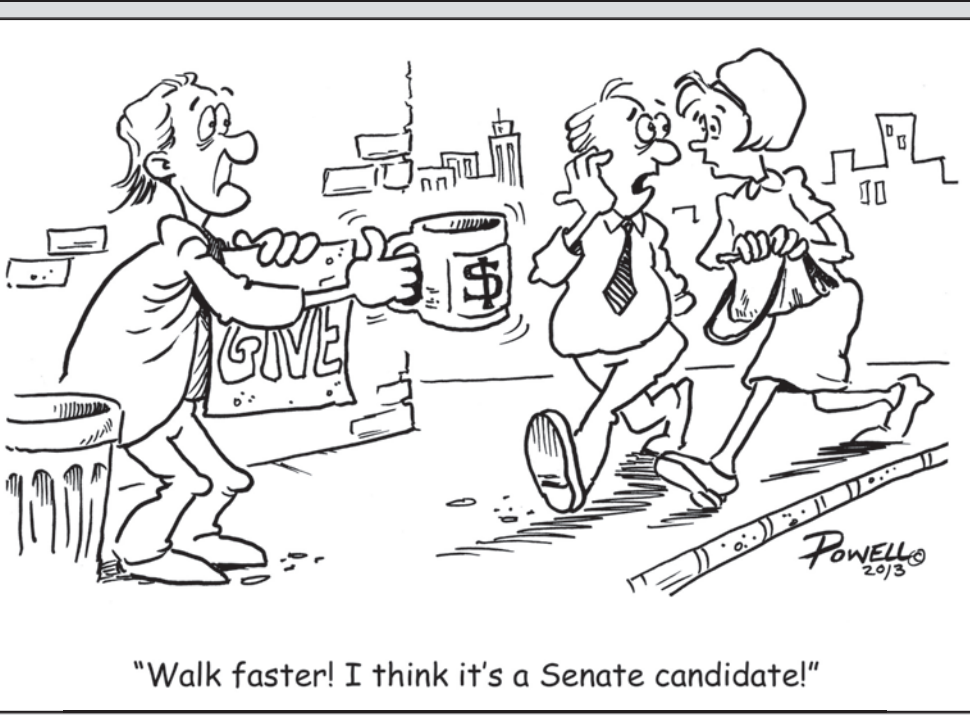
Bulldog fans bleed red and black. Gators ooze orange and blue and the Tennessee Vols leave an orange residue wherever they go. That I suffer from color blindness this time of year has to do with scars I bare from 45 years ago. I was born into a family of musicians. At a very young age to study music. The Catholic high school marching band director knew I could read music, and the spring semester of sixth grade, he came and asked me if I would like to learn clarinet and play in the high school marching band. I'm twelve years old, and you want to offer me an opportunity to play Carnegie Hall on an instrument I've never even held in my hands before? Sure, I'm in!

It didn't take me long to learn the fingering and I seemed to have a natural embouchure (a stuffy word that means "stiff upper lip", which is an expression for a stuffy person, but not in this context). That August, I was getting the opportunity to meet my peers, albeit, they were much older than me. The field was being used for football practice, so our first marching instruction was in the High School gymnasium, the Roman Coliseum, as far as I was concerned.

I watched as the other clarinetists attached their music holder to their instruments and I awkwardly followed suit. The score was handed out, no bigger than a 3x5 card, so as to not block your view while you are marching. The director, Tony DiRusso, gave us instructions as to how to follow his count, and what foot to lead with. The drums rolled and the count was echoing off the cement walls. We sounded miserable, but we were moving across the gym, in what seemingly was total unison. The director didn't agree.

He stopped us cold. He instructed us to get in a large circle. He then told us how miserable we were. He calls my name. "Leone, get out here and show them your march." Me? The little orphan thrown into the royal family is being chosen to show them how to march? I've never suffered from stage fright so I moved right into the center of

See Leone, page 5A



"Remembering The Day's Date!"

Dear Editor,
The touching story of how folks often care and share in the grief of losing a child has brought me to this tearful moment. All it takes is such a story as found in Todd Forrest's Article in your *North Georgia News*. It does not matter if the year is 2010, 1984 or 1982, the pain and sorrow still remains.

The result of Miss Morgan Henson expressing her heartfelt recollections of 'the day's date' is such a beautiful response by Sam and Helen Hogsed. The loss of their son, Scott, just two years after we lost our Joey, has prompted me to dwell again on 'the day's date' of our loss! Thank you for caring and sharing such memories.

Eva Nell Mull Wike, PhD
Graduate of Hayesville High School (1956)

Hats off to Lamar

Dear Editor:
I attended the special meeting on Aug. 29th for the purpose of learning more about the extension of the Special Local Option Sales Tax.

I have supported SPLOST in the past and have every reason to believe this is the best possible way to continue the progress we have made in recent years without placing a burden on property owners.

To my dismay, there were several malcontents in attendance who wanted to use this forum for challenging every decision Lamar has made since taking office.

I concluded nothing would please them unless they were permitted to micro-manage the Office of Commissioner.

I would remind them that most folks seem to like the way Lamar runs the county, as evidenced by the results of his last election.

If these people are so unhappy with this
See White, page 5A

We don't want your beer bottles

Dear Editor:
Here is a heads up to those of you who drive on John Smith Road East.

Today I picked up trash on this road from 325 to Havenwood. Most of what I found was empty beer bottles and cans. Almost 3 cases of them in about a 2-mile area. Many of them in the same area like someone is buying a couple and drinking them on the way home then throwing the empties out the window. The last time I checked drinking and driving was not only illegal but dumb. Union County is a beautiful area but it won't take long to change that by littering. Come on folks, drinking and driving is dangerous and it doesn't take a lot of effort to put a small garbage bag in your car or

See Jones, page 5A

Muscadines, Apple Sauce Cake & Buckeyes

September has always been my favorite month of the year. It is the month when the nights begin to cool and the acorns begin to fall. When I was a little chap my grandmother would take me on rambling trips through the woods looking for wild muscadines.

We would begin late in the morning after the chores were done. We would visit the bluffs and creek bottoms and pick a bucket or two by lunch time. For lunch my grandmother would build a fire under the bluff and boil the eggs she had packed. For dessert we would eat fresh muscadines. Afterward we would walk down to the spring and drink our fill of fresh water. Sometimes we would climb up to a ledge overlooking Turkey Creek where she would tell me stories about her Cherokee mother and plants that grew wild in the woods.

Around the 10th of September we would wander the woods looking for Buckeye Trees. We could always count on the buckeyes falling from the trees around September 10th. We liked picking them up but, we had to be quick because the squirrels liked to eat them. Granny would always remind me that Uncle Freeman carried a buckeye in his pocket while he fished. If he needed some good luck he would reach into his pocket and rub the buckeye. I would always come back from the woods with a pocket full of buckeyes because I wanted to be as good a fisherman as Uncle Freeman.

Granny also enjoyed baking an Applesauce Cake for me on my birthday. I was born on September 9, 1958. I can't remember any store bought gifts from my Granny. But, I remember each year I could look forward to an Applesauce Cake. Even after I went off to college on my birthday I would receive a card telling me an Applesauce Cake would be ready to eat when I came home.

These little notes came periodically throughout the year. At least once a month Granny would send me a note telling me about the latest news from the farm. She would always insert a \$20 bill and end the note by telling me not to tell Papa. Believe me that money was always appreciated. So, I think you can understand why I have always enjoyed the month of September. Now days I am still enjoying September and I am still making new traditions to enjoy.

Let me switch gears to the present day. I am acquainted with 2 young friends who remind me of someone. Recently, Patrick Colwell spent the night with his friend Michael Raper. These two young boys' favorite past

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Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



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