

# Opinions

## Everybody has one...

### Moving tribute

When the Vietnam Moving Wall arrives here in October, the opportunity arrives for our Vietnam veterans to experience the process of closure.

I remember the days of my youth, when young Union County men signed up to fight for their country. I remember reading the names of those serving in Vietnam in the North Georgia News.

I remember wondering how long that war would last. I was 15 when the war involving American troops was finally over.

Did we win the war? No one won that war, and it's my belief that we all died a little in that war.

Yes, the arrival of the Vietnam Moving Wall will offer a chance to heal, a chance to mourn and a chance to provide closure from a senseless war that was politically motivated.

Our brave military troops that fought day and night in that jungle called Vietnam deserved better than they received as they ventured home from their tour of duty.

Commanding officers told the returning troops not to wear their uniforms upon their return home. The troops were treated as pariahs in the States. The treatment they received leaves them scarred to this very day.

Troops returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan receive hero treatment today. Part of the reasoning behind that is over compensation for the way returning troops from Vietnam were treated in their day.

The American troops involved in Vietnam acted no differently than troops who fought in other wars. They fought for their country, believed in the American way, and expected no less respect than U.S. military troops who fought in other wars.

That's what makes the arrival of the Vietnam Moving Wall in Union County a special opportunity. It's a chance for veterans who fought in that war to gain closure. It's a chance for those who lost loved ones in that war to know that their loved ones weren't forgotten.

It's a chance for those who hated our troops returning from Vietnam to ask for forgiveness for condemning a bunch of young kids who were asked to fight for freedom - the cause behind every war.

Visit the Vietnam Moving Wall in October at Meeks Park.

### Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



### Missional Living

I have a friend who once patted his ample belly and pointed to his waist-line. "This ain't a belt. It's a leather fence around a chicken graveyard!" I share his taste for the most common species of bird in the world, so I welcome the news of Chick-fil-A coming to our town.

But it's not just their recipe (other eateries have good chicken, too!) that's attractive. Their founder, Truett Cathy, adopted a corporate purpose statement that includes this: "To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us."

The business environment he created attracts dedicated people who must not check their faith at the door of their workplace.

A Facebook meme reports that the manager of a Chick-fil-A in Birmingham noticed a homeless man that came in to escape the cold. He found warmth from the manager who gave him his gloves and a free meal, inspiring the patrons who witnessed the kindness.

This simple act, not meant to be noticed or published, captures more about the latest churchy buzzword 'missional' than many books that try to explain it. 'Missional' is a new attempt to explain old ideas about faithful living.

Christians are a sent people. As Christ was sent to us, he sends his followers on mission to a world darkened by the absence of Truth. He said, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Authentic faith roams freely and acts unexpectedly, not displayed behind stained glass, illuminated by chandeliers. It notices and addresses people, their hurts and needs. If the totality of religion is to attend a service or volunteer for an activity, is that a life that exists to glorify God with all that is entrusted to it? Is that a life that serves others in a way that makes them wonder 'why would you do this?'

Western culture is increasingly post-modern and post-Christian (i.e. everyone can have their own truth except Christians). Yet if Jesus gives us the grace to love our enemies and pray

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### All Things New

Wayne Fowler



### Questions and Answers

#### Senior Property Tax Exemptions - part 3

**Q. I have paid property taxes all my life and since I do not have any kids in school, why should I still have to pay property taxes for schools?**

A. Some senior citizen had to pay property taxes for you and me to go to school and we all have to pay for the kids of other parents. Having an educated society is what helps prevent crime, and what makes our quality of life in our communities so much better.

**Q. Why do some citizens have a senior property tax exemption and others do not?**

A. The exemption began with only counties with a large industrial and commercial tax base having any type of exemption. This is because the industry could absorb the higher property taxes to make up for those who no longer paid. However, when smaller counties started trying the same thing, it put a tremendous tax burden on the younger families who had little income and certainly little savings. For example, in Lumpkin County today, their property taxes are 60 percent higher than ours because the taxes paid by the seniors were exempted and everyone else had to pick up the bill.

**Q. What percent of emergency service calls are for seniors?**

A. It is hard to have exact numbers, but the Union General Ambulance Service estimates that about 80 percent of their ambulance calls are for seniors. Likewise, the Fire Department had 65 percent of its total call volume of 2,041 calls for medical assistance, with about 80 percent of those involving seniors. This is not a complaint by anyone but just a fact of life. As we get older, our health needs increase and someone has to pay for it.

**Q. Doesn't Union County have some of the best medical facilities around this area?**

A. We are very blessed that Union General Hospital and Nursing Home are two exceptional facilities with very qualified doctors and medical staff, available for the entire county. Interestingly, this is one reason that so many retired people feel comfortable moving to Union County. But our other main assets and attractions are our school system, our recreation program, golf course and facilities and the awe inspiring beauty of our mountains, lakes, and streams. Very

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### Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



## Letters to the Editor ...

### Missing out on rabbits

Dear Editor,

I missed the DNR meeting at BRMEMC the other day, but reading the report of the meeting I never saw a word about the lost days to small game hunters. Deer hunters now have three and a half months to get their deer and now they want to take two more weeks of my rabbit hunting.

I am an 81 year old rabbit hunter, and have hunted small game since I was eight. I deer hunted with my sons for a spell. I can't walk like I used to, and after deer season they lock every gate. Also, on WMAs and national forest land they bush hog every briar patch and sow fescue for deer and turkey. Rabbits and quail cannot live on fescue.

I have eight beagles that I feed and nurture all year just to hunt the two unfettered months of January and February. Keeping dogs is not cheap, what with feed, bedding, vet, shots, collars and bells (for coyotes) and shocking collars to train pups. I have been to every WMA within 90 miles and have seen two rabbits. What with coyotes, bobcats, foxes, hawks and owls they are about wiped out.

I told my wife the other day that I was thinking about quitting, as it has become such a hassle, but I dearly love to hear them run.

Sincerely,  
George Thompson

Thank you

Dear Editor,

Thank you for honoring our local military veterans in your newspaper. Quilts of Valor presented 128 quilts to our local World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan combat veterans in 2014.

Linda Gorman  
QOV Area Coordinator

### Grateful for donations

Dear Editor,

We at the Puppy Patch Thrift Store in Hayesville, NC and Nancy Ede Kitten and Cat Rescue of Blairsville wish to thank everyone who so generously donated the puppy chow and kitten chow to our food drive; and also the monetary donations.

We want to especially thank The Clay County Progress, North Georgia News, Towns County Herald newspapers, W.C.N.G. Radio, Tony and Betty of Signs Fast and anyone else we may have overlooked. The pet food drive went really well. We have a wonderful community of animal lovers.

Please spay and neuter your pets, adopt from shelters and rescue groups. Keep your pets warm and I.D. them so if they get lost they don't end up in overcrowded shelters or you may not get them back. Thank you for all the support and donations to the Puppy Patch Thrift Store which helps mama dogs and their puppies, other canine rescue groups and also mama cats and kittens.

Debbie Graham  
Volunteer for the Animals

### What do you seek?

Dear Editor,

For all practical purposes, Christianity has been, or soon will be, extinguished in the Middle East, in most of the continent of Africa, China, Indonesia and the surrounding nations in favor of Islam.

Britain is rapidly being culturally re-defined as Muslim. A Prelate of the Anglican Church recently commented that Sharia should become part of the Anglican liturgy. Debate is always afoot in the Parliament to increasingly honor Muslim sensitivities.

In Paris, the Right Bank has long been under the aegis of Muslims. The old haunts of the

See Mitchell, page 5A



### Say no to gun control

Dear Editor,

Why Grandpa carries a gun: Why carry a gun? My old grandpa said to me 'Son, there comes a time in every man's life when he stops bustin' knuckles and starts bustin' caps and usually it's when he becomes too old to take a whoopin.' I don't carry a gun to kill people. I carry a gun to keep from being killed. I don't carry a gun to scare people. I carry a gun because sometimes this world can be a scary place. I don't carry a gun because I'm paranoid. I carry a gun because there are real threats in the world. I don't carry a gun because I'm evil. I carry a gun because I have lived long enough to see the evil in the world. I don't carry a gun because I hate the government. I carry a gun because I understand the limitations of government. I don't carry a gun because I'm angry. I carry a gun so that I don't have to spend the rest of my life hating myself for failing to be prepared. I don't carry a gun because I want to shoot someone. I carry a gun because I want to die at a ripe old age in my bed, and not on a sidewalk somewhere tomorrow afternoon. I don't carry a gun because I'm a cowboy. I carry a gun because, when I die and go to heaven, I want to be a cowboy. I don't carry a gun to make me feel like a man. I carry a gun because men know how to take care of themselves and the ones they love. I don't carry a gun because I feel inadequate. I carry a gun because unarmed and facing three armed thugs, I am inadequate. I don't carry a gun because I love it. I carry a gun because I love life and the people who make it meaningful to me. Police protection is an oxymoron. Free citizens must protect themselves. Police do not protect you from crime, they usually just investigate the crime after it happens and then call someone in to clean up the mess. Personally, I carry a gun because I'm too young to die and too old to take an ass whoopin'... author unknown (but obviously brilliant).

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### Faith

Dear Editor,

When we hear or see on television the tragedies occurring on the weather scene with the loss of lives and homes being swept away by rushing waters or mudslides we wonder what will happen next and then we see all the killings going on across the whole world and we once again wonder when will it all end.

The Bible warns us that great devastation and chaos will be the norm in the last days, before Jesus Christ comes back. So how do we cope with all these issues. The Bible tells us that all things are possible with God. If we try in our own strength to deal with these ongoing issues we will only find ourselves worrying more, being more fearful or afraid to step out of our own home.

Only by faith in Christ can we be victorious.  
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### D. T. Hyde

Daniel T. Hyde was my great-great grandfather. Daniel's father was also called Daniel. The elder Daniel came to Dawson County immediately after the Indian Removal in the 1830s. Anyway, the Hyde family settled in the Shoal Creek District of Dawson County, GA. But, times were about to change for the Hyde Family. War clouds were brewing into a storm that would pull the family into the angry days of the War Between the States.

Just as his ancestors had volunteered to protect their country during the Revolutionary War, Daniel T. Hyde volunteered to protect Georgia during the Civil War. He served with the Confederate States of America in the same outfit in which many people from Union County served. Daniel T. Hyde's father, Daniel, also fought with the confederacy while at an age of approximately 70. The elder Daniel participated in something similar to the Home Guard. His outfit was out of Dahlonega.

After the war Daniel Tence Hyde raised his family in Dawson County. One of his sons was named Clifford. Clifford was my great grandfather. My father told me, "In his younger days "Clifford was quite the rounder". I think Clifford enjoyed carousing, drinking and fighting. He wasn't very big, but, they say he would fight a bear at midnight with nothing but a hickory switch. One evening Clifford was enjoying too much of the night life at a saloon down around Atlanta. Something happened and Clifford became involved in an all-out brawl. When it was over Clifford was standing, but, another man was not. Clifford thought the other man was dead. So, to save his skin Clifford left his family and moved to Phil Campbell, AL where he married my great grandmother. Clifford named one of his sons Daniel.

Uncle Dan and Aunt Rosie had one son, D. T. Hyde. He was about 6 years older than my father. During this time everything was going great for people in Alabama and the south. The war against Japan and Germany had just ended. For the first time since the Civil War the economy in the south was booming. D. T. was the first person in his family to attend college. But, then another war began. D. T. did the right thing. Like many of his ancestors he volunteered and was shipped off to a place called Korea.

D. T. was serving with all kinds of people in his outfit. He soon learned that skin color doesn't matter in a foxhole when bombs are exploding all around you. In this situation you look out for each other regardless of the color of one's skin. Anyway, D. T.'s outfit had been given the order of taking a hill. As the men advanced on the hill the fighting became very intense. The order was given to fall back.

While the men were retreating D. T. came  
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### Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



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