

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Remembering our heroes

Much of America's take on Memorial Day is the fact that it is a three-day weekend. Well folks, it's not just a holiday weekend when you can get a great deal on a mattress or a new car.

It's a time to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. The Disabled American Veterans' Chapter 11 is named after my Daddy's first cousin, Woodrow Wilson. Yes, there was a president with the same name, but in Blairsville, we know who Woodrow Wilson is.

He was the son of Cicero and Roxie Wilson, the third child born in the family, and like a brother to my Daddy. They were so close, you would have thought that they were brothers.

They hunted and fished together, they were inseparable. They served in World War II together. They both came back home, Daddy to Union County, and Woodrow to Duncan Cemetery, in Union County.

Woodrow died on Dec. 16, 1944. It was the Germans' last major offensive of the war, known as the Battle of the Bulge, an attempt to push the Allied front line west from northern France to northwestern Belgium. Woodrow was killed in action that day.

Dec. 16, 1944 also was my father's birthday. Before heading into battle that day, Woodrow took the time to write down a birthday wish to Daddy. It was sent to Daddy's regiment prior to Woodrow's death.

Daddy got the message from Woodrow. On the same day, he learned that Woodrow was killed in action.

Woodrow's memory lives on through my stories that I honor him with, and DAV Woodrow Wilson Chapter 11.

I never had the opportunity to meet my Daddy's best friend and first cousin. He died 16 years before I was born. But, I remember mowing the grass at Duncan Cemetery as a boy.

Daddy was always beside me when I was mowing near Woodrow's grave. He paid special attention to make sure Woodrow's final resting place was well manicured.

It was those times that Daddy would share stories about he and Woodrow fishing in Coosa Creek and leading Uncle Harlan along and making sure he caught a fish.

Woodrow, today, the *North Georgia News* remembers you.

Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



Real Manhood

I spoke recently with a man who spent some time as a jailer. He concluded that most men are in jail because they never learned how to control themselves. They might be tough guys, but that doesn't make them real men.

In his book, *Seven Men*, Eric Metaxas refers to the C.S. Lewis essay, "Men Without Chests" to explain that real men have heart. By that he means "the courage to be God's idea of a real man and to give of yourself for others when it costs you to do so, and when everything tells you to look out for yourself first." He presents biographies of such real men, each of which sacrificed something important for the benefit of others.

After the Revolutionary War, the Continental Army wanted to install George Washington as American King George I. They lost confidence in the Continental Congress over back pay. Believing this exposed the weakness of the republic form of government, they circulated the Nicola and Armstrong letters which advocated military rule. Washington summoned his officers and in a speech that moved many to tears, appealed to their honor and patriotism to never overthrow the newly-won American liberties. In refusing their overtures, he gave up power and fortune for the good of his fellow citizens. King George of England declared that if the man that defeated the most powerful army on earth stepped down, he would be "the greatest man in the world."

Perhaps you saw the 2007 movie, "Amazing Grace" about William Wilberforce. He was elected to the British Parliament at 20 years old. He became politically powerful and quite popular in London society. Early in his career, he vacationed with Isaac Milner on the French Riviera. The young politician was moved as Milner talked about faith. Given that high society took offense with anyone serious about God, it was no small matter when this political prodigy converted to Christ. His old friend John Newton, the former slave trader and author of the hymn "Amazing Grace," encouraged him. So he took up the cause against slave trading and slave holding, which meant reforming culture itself. What did he give up? He could have been Prime Minister,

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All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Questions and Answers

Q. Did I understand correctly that fireworks could now be sold in the state of Georgia?

A. Yes, House Bill 110 was signed by Gov. Nathan Deal on May 5 legalizing the sale of consumer fireworks in the state of Georgia by July 1, 2015. The term "fireworks" includes firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, bombs, sparklers, and other combustible and explosives of like construction.

Q. Who can actually sell fireworks?

A. A person will be able to sell fireworks in a retail store or a temporary retail sales stand. The initial license will have to be purchased from the Safety Fire Commissioner in Georgia and they will make the determination if the distributor has met requirement for the issuance of a license.

Q. Will the county be able to have any say in who receives a license and is allowed to sell fireworks in Union County?

A. Apparently we will not have any say and it is a concern as to who will be licensed and where their business will be located and what, if any impact it will have on other businesses. We only hope if there are problems that crop up, that the state will find a solution for them quickly. We have traditionally only had fireworks issues at the first of the year and on July 4th, so it will be interesting to watch to see if this has any negative impact on sound issues or child safety issues if fireworks will be sold year round.

Q. The Grist Mill at Meeks Park looks great, but where is the water to turn the wheel going to come from?

A. The water will be pumped from the creek to flow to the mill. While it would be nice if the mill and water wheel were built in the stream, it cannot survive storms and floods. That is why there are hardly any remaining mills with waterwheels remaining. They were built in the old days in or at the edge of a stream, and floods over the years demolished them. That is what happened to the Tate Mill that we are replicating in Meeks Park. Fortunately, we were able to salvage some of the equipment and the hub of the water wheel, which is now part of the new water wheel and soon the new mill interior operation.

Q. Why are there no trashcans in the new part of Meeks Park?

See Paris, page 5A

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Letters to the Editor ...

Likes Combs

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to say how much I enjoy reading Frank Combs comments in the comment section of the paper. I feel and believe the same way.

Thank you,
Johnnie M. Robinson

Thank You

Dear Editor,

I was one of the girls at the HOPE Benefit on Saturday night at First United Methodist Church who helped Candace with the event. I just read the article and wanted to thank you for every single word. The article was so well-written and pointed out exactly what we wanted people to know. You really captured the essence of the event and portrayed it so well. We were so pleased and excited to see it on the front page!

Thank you so much!
Katie Mashburn

Remembrance

Dear Editor,

On the 25th of May we again remembered those who have given their all in the service of our nation. It's Memorial Day. A time to reflect on the lives of all who have fallen in wartime. Those brave and courageous men and women who sacrificed their own lives so that we Americans can live in freedom, but freedom comes at a heavy price and with a heavy heart for those families who have lost loved ones. Our prayers go out to these families that will never forget that personal call or visit from a military officer about their son or daughter, who had been killed in the line of duty. My uncle, Bob flew missions over in the Netherlands as a pilot back in late 30s and early 40s. His plane went down. He was never found. If we live long enough this reality may

See Combs, page 5A

WGHS is in Union County

Dear Editor,

When I arrived at WGHS 28 years ago as its counselor, I was shocked that Union County residents didn't know that Wood Gap School was part of the Union County School System. Staying at WG for 25 years was indeed challenging many times, but one of the goals of several teachers and myself was to put WG on the Union County map. And that we did. A scholarship program became a "calling card" - from the beginning of \$1,500 to \$20,000 per year due to the benevolence of individuals and community organizations. We sent students to leadership conferences throughout the South, joint-enrolled students into local colleges and technical schools, sponsored and participated in community and state events, received local, state, and national recognition on behalf of our students. In those 25 years, a hand-full of teachers, principals, and myself raised over \$800,000 for WG students.

So, reading the paper regarding the 2015 graduating students, UCHS was given multiple columns while WGHS got 2 sentences. Comments from the UCHS principal was part of the article while no comments were included in the article from the WGHS principals. In addition, a nice photo of the UCHS Ensemble graduates added to the columns. Surely some type of photo of the WGHS students doing a school project could have been included. In the editorial, the mention of "Panthers bleed Purple and Gold forever" without mentioning the WG Falcons and its maroon and gold bleeding forever.

Request for the 2016 Senior article: please remember the WGHS is not only the smallest public school in our state but is still located in Union County.

Dr. Ray Ashurst



Headed for a headache

Dear Editor,

I don't know if a traffic study was done on the proposed four-way stop at Young Harris Street and the new ramp coming from 515 but!

I foresee traffic backups at the square when we all know four-ways stops are hard for most people. Not to mention 18 wheelers or dump trucks.

Once a back up starts at the four-way stop all traffic will stop around the square. Won't that be fun at 8 a.m. or 5 p.m.?

And as far as getting in and out of Foodland or the bank forget it!

But please... I beg you do not even consider a roundabout after this four-way fails...

Larry Snyder

I am concerned

Dear Editor,

The United States no longer does its own tech support. NASA is an agency of the past. We can't even retrieve our own astronauts from the ISS. Nurses are in short supply and this year's, local, graduating class in EMS will not likely exceed five students. Is emergency care something that can be outsourced or abandoned? Would you like to go back to the time when critical trauma patients were transported in the back of a hearse? Probably not.

Why do these technical professions decline?

It starts with the teachers union controlled Department of Education. Education that created students who put men on the moon took place at the community level. Anything at the fedgov level is prone to fail. Think USPS, Amtrak, stimulus, etc. Superimpose ObamaCore on DoE and you have the recipe for disaster.

And disaster it is, because the United States has declined in PISA/OECD international student assessment every rating period since its inception, currently placing 36th of 65 nations in mathematics. Other studies show that the quality of education has declined (American students are getting dumber, i.e. not educated appropriately to cope) every year since the creation of the DoE! We don't know how Georgia students rate, exactly, as those who do the rating tend to end up in jail for fraud, and worse.

What is the remedy? Abandon the DoE, of course. Our State Superintendent advocates this approach. Stop ObamaCore. It is only for collecting date for control purposes and will not enhance education. Get out of the Charter School system. It is just more inept federal control. "But we'll lose federal money." Of course we will; that's how the fedgov controls. But other statistics show that throwing more money at education only expands an already bloated school administration hierarchy. Trim up the bloat and pass on building another sports field/building/artificial turf, ad nauseam (with the omnipresent and bottomless maintenance costs). Use this new found money to reward competent educators and retake control of

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Lon Steele and Hoover Bagget

Daddy (Paul) and his brother (Bud) owned a pair of outstanding coon hounds during the 1950s. Daddy was about 14 years old when they traded for the pair of Black and Tan Hounds. Papa and his sons trained the hounds on Squirrels and Raccoons.

The family enjoyed squirrel dumplings while a boy could sell the hides from the coons for a little money. Old Sam and Lou hit their stride around 1956-57 when they treed more than 100 coons during the fall and winter.

The pair of dogs became widely known and everyone wanted to hunt with that fine pair of coon hounds owned by the Cummings boys. Daddy was particular about who he would let go hunting with his dogs. So, he never let anyone borrow them. However, anyone could go hunting with him and his dogs. One day Daddy was stopped in town by Lon Steele who asked if he could borrow Daddy's dogs. Daddy explained that Lon could come and hunt with Daddy and his dogs anytime. But, the dogs could not be borrowed by anybody. So, Lon told Daddy that he and Hoover Baggett would meet him at the Mon Dye bottoms on Saturday evening.

Dad met them at the old bridge over Turkey Creek. Dad said as he was releasing his dogs he knew there would be trouble because Lon took a swig from a flask located in his pocket. The dogs struck a trail and treed a coon in 30 minutes. Hoover and Lon celebrated by passing around the bottle. By the time the men reached the dogs at the next tree Hoover Baggett and Lon Steele were in high spirits. This time the dogs had treed a big old boar coon. The coon must have weighed 25 pounds. The men celebrated once again with their flasks. It wasn't long until the dogs struck another track. Dad noticed Lon stumble a couple of times as he began walking toward the dogs.

The dogs trailed their quarry across the creek and treed next to a rock (the size of a house) next to a tall bluff. The area was rough and it took the two men a long time to walk the couple of miles up the creek bottom. Dad said he wasn't sure if Hoover and Lon were just out of shape or if the alcohol was affecting their ability to walk. But, the men had fell down a number of times before they got to the tree and big rock. This boulder was the size of a house and it was about 50 feet high. Dad said the tree was a Hemlock and it was difficult to locate the coon. So, they all climbed up on the rock to try to see the raccoon. Finally, the three fellows found the coon and Lon decided to shoot it. He pulled out his pistol and shot a couple of times with no success. Lon was to be inebriated to shoot out the critter. He claimed the raccoon was moving too much.

The tree was close enough to the tree

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Outdoor Itinerary

The weather has warmed and the sun is shining over Blairsville-Union County. Are you ready to spend time in the great outdoors? Here are a few ideas for putting together a wonderful outdoor itinerary.

Venture out on one of our three lakes, Nottely, Winfield Scott, or Trahllyta, and choose your activity. Boating, fishing, skiing, kayaking or pedal boats make great lake activities. If waterfalls are more your style, we have plenty of those too. A waterfalls guide can be obtained in the Chamber's Welcome Center or requested online at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com.

Are you ready to see Union County from a new perspective? Try taking in the views atop Brasstown Bald or exploring the lovely countryside while horseback riding. Many of the hiking trails that wind throughout the county offer incredible views that just might take your breath away.

If history is your cup of tea, Union County has a lot to offer. Have you ever toured the Historic Union County Courthouse or the Mountain Life Museum? Have you seen the Trackrock Petroglyphs up close? How about the Byron Herbert Reece Farm & Heritage Center or the CCC Museum at Vogel State Park? Here is one you might not have thought of - the historic cannery and interpretive displays at the Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center. While you are there, you can browse the ethnobotani-

See Williams, page 5A

Bibb - ity

Today is officially the day after Memorial Day, and I've waved the green flag, giving me the permission to don white shoes, white purses, white jeans and white shorts. The post Labor Day moratorium on blanc is one of the few hard and fast fashion rules I observe, even though the adherence in even the most snobby fashionista circles is considered archaic.

Ladies summer fashion is unflattering to most figures older than four decades. We wear sleeveless tops that tend to expose the wings of an Andean Condor, low waisted Capri's that accentuate every woman's battle with the bulge and shorts that identify where the daily bagel consumed during the winter months has landed. Killer whales view us in bathing suits with the same guilty pleasure that most of us find in the WalMart fashion faux pas pictures that seem infinitely posted to social media.

We add insult to injury highlighting these physical abominations by wearing white, which is the equivalent of a scarlet letter, chastising us for our sinful food indiscretions. Black hides our weekly imprudence at the pizza buffet. Navy disguises the cellulite dimples when it covers ones hips and thighs. Even brown makes you look more inviting, because who can resist chocolate? Instead, when the sol heats up and we emerge from our hibernation, we choose to drape ourselves in barn white.

Today is the day we regret owning a mirror that is larger than one attached to our powder compact. Today is the day of reckoning. Today we swear we'll only eat salads for lunch and dinner for the balance of our days on this earth. Today I will share with you my favorite spring salad recipes to help all of us through this difficult period.

Let's start with the delicate Bibb lettuce. This is one of my favorite of the mild greens. It has a smooth taste yet still a little texture you can chew on. It is my favorite to wilt and it holds up well to a smoky taste, too. This particular salad you should plate per serving instead of put in one bowl and toss, which is usually my

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