

Opinions

Everybody has one

Chip in 18 cents each

I'm always amazed at my hometown. We sometimes fuss about who our elected officials should be, but we still show up at the community events and it's like we haven't seen each other in forever.

When a need arises, we band together and we work to remedy that cause; the brilliance of fireworks light up the sky, and there we are at Meeks Park watching them; a memorial to the veterans of the Iraq war is needed at Veterans Memorial Park, and lo and behold, the community bands together to make it happen. And we will. Almost \$3,900 separates the Veterans Park and a fitting memorial to those who served Freedom in Iraq.

One of our own, Chuck Honaker has about 10 pieces of shrapnel still inside him as a red badge of courage from that prolonged battle. His hearing was irreparably damaged after an improvised explosive device detonated while he was a gunner on patrol in Baghdad. It severely injured Chuck and killed his friend and Staff Sgt. Bobby C. Franklin, who worked here in Union County.

Times are hard, cash is in short supply, but folks, a need has come to light.

There are approximately 22,000 people living in Union County. If we all pitched in 50 cents, we'd have \$11,000 to spend. We don't need that much. We could get by with pitching in 19 cents each. Actually, that might be a bit much. More like 18 cents each.

A place to make a donation has been established. Send donations to Union County War Memorial, P.O. Box 91, Blairsville, Ga. 30514. It's a worthy cause.

Funds that exceed the \$3,900 necessary will be used to erect the Afghanistan War Monument.

Veterans Committee members Roy Hamby, Chuck Honaker and Bob Spaulding are working with Commissioner Lamar Paris to make the Iraq monument a reality.

There are so many people who are working behind the scenes, I know that this memorial to Iraq War veterans will happen. Hopefully on Veterans Day in November, we'll be dedicating a new memorial to the brave men and women who fought for Freedom in Iraq.

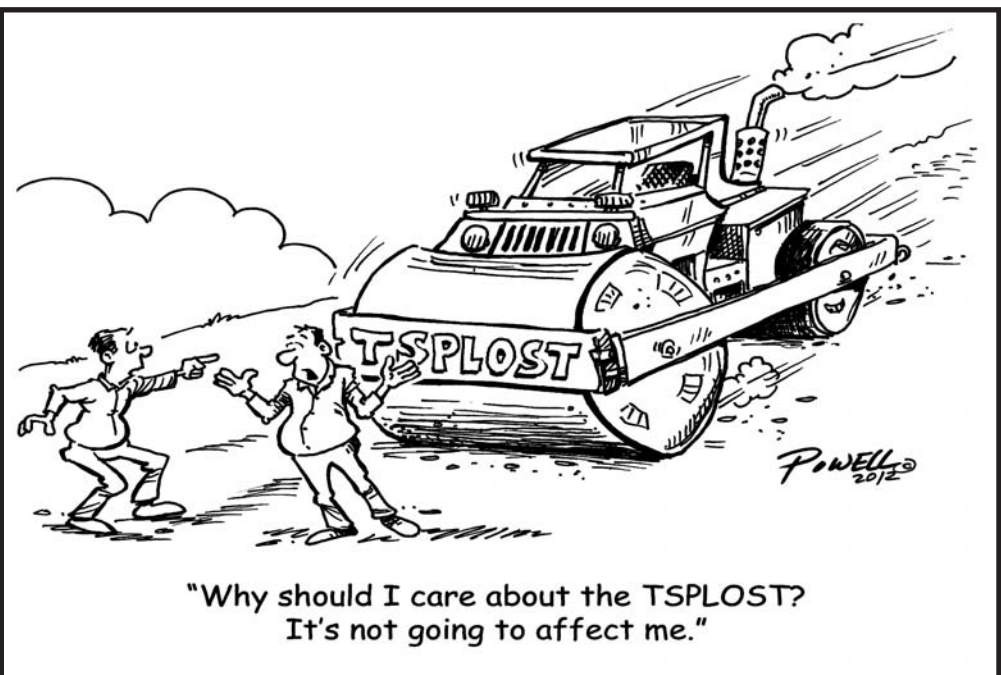
And I know there is a dedicated space in Fannin County for Bobby Franklin, but for those of us who knew him here in Union County, we'll never forget his sacrifice.

Chuck Honaker remembers Bobby Franklin every day, every time he puts on a simple bracelet that reads "SSG Bobby C. Franklin, August 20, 2003."

Blairsville and Union County also remember Aug. 20, 2003. Chuck Honaker will never forget that day; Bobby Franklin is in our hearts forever.



Charles Duncan
Straight Shooting

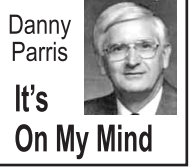


Giddy-Up Horse

Over the years of serving Baptist churches I have encountered individuals and institutions that were addicted to riding dead horses. Frequently, families and churches keep on doing the same things, but expect different results. When we experience failure over and over it is a good indication that something is wrong. When you think that you are riding a horse, but getting nowhere, it might be a good idea to see if the horse is still alive. Dakota tribal wisdom says that when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. Steve Pharr, Vice-President of Sunday School and Evangelism with the Georgia Baptist Convention, lists ten ways that churches in particular deal with the problem of riding dead horses:

- 10 - Provide additional funding to increase the horses' performance.
- 9 - Provide training to teach people how to ride dead horses.
- 8 - Appoint a committee to revive dead horses.
- 7 - Change the person riding the horse.
- 6 - Say things like "This is the way we always have ridden this horse."
- 5 - Appoint a committee to study the horse.
- 4 - Harness several dead horses together for increased speed.
- 3 - Pass a resolution declaring the horse is not dead.
- 2 - Arrange to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses.
- 1 - Buy a stronger whip.

Well, no matter how hard you beat a dead horse or how loud you scream "giddy-up horse", you will never experience any get up and go. The wise thing to do is to switch horses even if it is in the middle of the stream. If you don't have enough horse sense to do so, a stink is sure to arise shortly. I am convinced that a lot of church stinks would be avoided if leaders of churches would decide to dismount from their dead horses. The most frustra-



Danny Parris
It's On My Mind

See Parris, page 5A

Hiring your first employee

As your business starts to take a life of its own, you may consider adding support staff to help make the business a success. Hiring your first employee is a big step and requires proper planning and preparation. As you get ready to take the leap, let's discuss your role as a manager and some important considerations.

The first question to ask yourself is whether or not you truly need an employee. Hiring staff requires that you change your sole proprietor mindset. You will have to oversee the work of your new employee and you must be willing to delegate in order to receive value. Some business owners are comfortable with delegating while others are not. Set aside time to make a good decision and consider talking with other business owners who have employees.

The next step is to make preparations for your first hire. The Small Business Association offers 10 steps that will require your attention. The ten items include: obtaining an Employer Identification Number, setting up records for withholding taxes, preparing to collect an employee eligibility verification form (Form I-9), registering with your state's new Hire reporting form, obtaining worker's compensation insurance, registering for unemployment insurance tax, obtaining disability insurance (if required), posting required notices, filing your taxes and keeping yourself informed. Additionally, you will need to make sure you have all the appropriate paperwork in place. This includes items such as an employee policy manual, employee review process, drug and background screening, and job descriptions. Remember also that employees will need appropriate orientation and on the job training.

Finally, it is time to begin the interview process. Don't expect to hire a replica of yourself. Everyone brings unique qualities which will make up for your weaknesses and inabilities. Many online websites such as <http://career.uga.edu> offer sample interview questions which will help you identify your best candidate. Sometimes, an entrepreneur's best bet for finding employees is through networking. It is a powerful tool when looking for needed employees. Your business likely is part of a network of vital relationships, including your Chamber membership. Others may include customers, vendors, suppliers, certified public accountants, bankers, lawyers, and experts or consultants in the field. A referral from a trusted friend or colleague can be most helpful.



Joe Garner
BUCC

See Garner, page 5A

Mamma's trip to town

My mother was looking forward to her first trip to town. She was nearly 8 years old and had never been to town at least she couldn't remember when she had been to town. Anyway, her grandparents, Dad (Charlie) and Mommie (Alvie Baker) were going to Russellville on Saturday. They had invited their granddaughter and my mother to make the 25 mile trip to Russellville. This was no small task in 1948. The only transportation the family had was a log truck.

That hot July day began early in the morning. Mother said it took nearly an hour to make the trip. Mom said she sat in the middle and watched her grandfather change the gears as they drove down the road. Mom watched Dad as he expertly shifted the gears and applied the brakes to keep them all safe as he encountered the steep hills and curves of Ray Mountain. She said, "I was scared going down that mountain on that old dirt road. But, Mommy Baker's kind and gentle hands reassured me everything would be okay."

Mother remembers the day as being grand and wonderful. She said, "I can still remember the smell of new clothes in the James Department Store and the smell of new shoes and fresh leather in Watsons. I can still see all those new toys in White's 10 Cent Store. The old Roxy Theater was located just down the street and I can remember going in there and watching Gary Cooper in an old western movie." Mom remembered going to the diner and eating lunch.

She also told me there were people from all over the county in town that day. Dad Baker went to get a haircut at the Russellville Barber Shop. While he was there he caught up on all the latest political news of the county. While Dad was in the Barber Shop Mommy went to the Beauty Shop where she was able to catch up on the local news as well. Mom said she had the grandest time of her life. She had never seen so many people in one place. She told me there must have been 1,000 people in town that day.

Just before lunch Mom and her grandparents saw the Dubois ladies in the Five and Dime Store. Minnie, the mother, Petunia and Bessie are the same group that shot at my great Uncle Pick because he brought them some food



Mickey Cummings
Around The Farm

See Cummings, page 5A

That's just plain corny

Wikipedia lists 135 varieties of sweet corn. Golden Batam was the first of the standard corns introduced in 1902. It had 8 rows of yellow kernels, and not known for its tenderness. As corn became America's favorite vegetable, more varieties were introduced, making them sweeter, more tender, more kernels, more draught resistant, more pest resistant, shorter germination period...it's safe to conclude that the corn gene pool has been modified as often as the pop charts have modified the music we listen to from generation to generation.

This Saturday at the Farmers Market, we are celebrating our 3rd Annual Sweetest Corn Festival. Not only can you travel up and down the booths picking out your favorite variety to purchase to take home, but you'll have the opportunity to sample it right there at the market. We'll be boiling and grilling up corn that our great local farmers bring us and selling them (10:30 a.m. till they are all gone!) with your choice of butter, salt and pepper for 50 cents an ear, with proceeds going to the local Food Pantry.

We'll also be having our corn shucking contests earlier in the morning. This is always a highly competitive sport and a crowd favorite. There's a kids competition and one for the adults, too. Then we invite folks of all ages to come up and tell your favorite corny joke. It's good old fashioned fun for the whole family, so please don't miss it.

Then Tuesday, the 17th of July, we'll be starting our Tuesday afternoon seminars at the market. We'll be featuring the subject of canning and processing food on this first of the series. Seminars will begin at 4 p.m. and will run about every 20 minutes till 6 p.m. Tuesday afternoons at the market is growing. More vendors join us with their produce and their crafts. Market is open every Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. As the season progresses you'll find that our seminars will cover a myriad of subjects including gardening tips, pet care, bee keeping, financial security and how to get the most out of your iPad and how to become smarter than your smart phone!

Visit our website for an events calendar for the season and to become more familiar with opportunities for you, your family and your guests to meet and mingle at one of the most enviable resources in Union County, www.UCFarmersMarket.com. See you soon!



JoAnne Leone
Farmers Market Moment

See Leone, page 5A

Letters

To the Editor

Partisan Politics

Dear Editor,

There is a reason that Congress has a 9 percent rating. Dems and Reps do not agree on anything. I think a major reason is Fox News. Republicans watch only Fox. All other news stations they consider "lame stream media". Fox reports nothing but twisted facts and right wing propaganda. It is very easy to check their facts by going on the computer and Google their false statements.

Facts you will never see on Fox: 1. 97 percent of the world's scientist believe in the theory of evolution and global warming yet Fox reports only on creationism and denies global warming exists. 2. The great Ronald Reagan cut taxes his first year and the country went directly into a recession and unemployment jumped 9.7 percent. His next seven years he raised taxes seven times and raised the national debt ceiling 19 times. Then Bush Sr. took over saying "Read my lips, no new taxes." The first thing he did was raise taxes and then proceeded to raise the debt ceiling four more times. 3. Clinton/Gore took over and balanced the budget and after eight years in office they turned over a balanced budget and a budget surplus to George W. Bush. When G. W. Bush took over he created \$2 trillion in unfunded tax cuts and \$2 trillion in unfunded wars. When he left office we were losing 700,000 jobs per month and in the worst recession in American history and he raised the debt ceiling 17 times.

Michael Emerson

Makes sense now

Dear Editor,

All of our whining about Drill Baby, Drill (meaning the Gulf Waters) has turned out to be so much political fodder.

But what has paid off is the fact that we have been driving less in more fuel efficient vehicles along with new technology that has made it possible to extract oil and gas from previously inaccessible places, like North Dakota.

Now, a report in the Wall Street Journal estimates that we will halve our reliance on Middle East oil by the end of this decade and be completely oil independent by 2035.

Engineers developed the new drilling technology and worked several decades to develop more fuel efficient cars.

We can thank both parties for the tax breaks for the oil industry that encouraged the new drilling technology.

We can thank the Democrats for insisting on more fuel efficient cars. Both developments mean a better future for our children.

Jim Fitzgerald

Scottish Fest thanks NGN, West Printing and staff

Dear Mr. West and Staff,

Thanks so much for your sponsorship of our recent Scottish Festival & Highland Games of June 8-10, 2012. Also, we appreciate your sponsorship of the Kilted Golf Classic "hole".

This weekend event continues to bring many visitors to our area each year and is quite an economic boost to local business.

Thanks so much for working with us for articles appearing in the *North Georgia News* and for the great job on the Program and brochures. Your staff has been great to work with, and we really appreciate them all.

See *Scottish Fest*, page 5A

One Nation

Dear Editor,

Thinking of Independence Day that we Americans just celebrated reminded me of our forefathers and the sacrifices that they made to make this country "One Nation Under God" and I am so glad they are not around to see what America has become, a nation divided in it's beliefs and faith in other gods, instead of God our Creator.

How do we get back to those ancient days of old where God was put first above all else? Many folks think that America is all washed up that it can't redeem itself, that it's like a runaway train headed for a big crash.

See *Combs*, page 5A

Trojan Horse?

Dear Editor,

Obama calls Paul Ryan's Budget Plan a Trojan Horse and it really is a very deceptive plan which the Republicans call a "pathway to prosperity" but should be called a "pathway to poverty." It provides massive cuts to many social programs, killing Medicare as we know it.

See *Miles*, page 5A

Read the Plan

Dear Editor,

Now that "Obamacare" has been declared constitutional by the Supreme Court, let's look at some of the positives.

Young adults up to age 26 can now stay on their parents insurance policies. Children can't be excluded from insurance because of pre-existing conditions and soon that will be true for adults as well. There will be no caps on the amount of care a person can receive in their lifetime.

The cost for those on Medicare will be lowered and seniors will save money on medications. Americans will receive rebates

See *Maloney*, page 5A

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