

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Home Sweet Home

Sunday took me back in time. Coosa United Methodist Church's 180th Homecoming was an event to remember. From the opening prayer to the delicious Homecoming meal, the day was one that I will never forget. These memories, well, I will treasure them forever.

Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



I must admit, a card everyone was asked to fill out caught me off guard. It asked if the cardholder has any family buried in Coosa Cemetery, and or Duncan Cemetery.

I could only reply: "Too many to list." That's because I'm related to all but about one-third of those buried in Coosa Cemetery, and, of course I'm related to all of those buried in Duncan Cemetery.

The card simply just wasn't big enough. I saw people I had not seen in years, Elaine Gibson, Shirley Brackett, the Payne family, retired Cobb County Sheriff Bill Hutson and his family.

Some of the ladies were dressed in historic attire, and of course there were several men dressed in overalls.

All total, 238 people attended this historic event. The Rev. Roy Watkins was beaming with pride as almost every seat in the sanctuary was filled. The church honored Evelyn Payne and Colleen Judy for their continued efforts in making Coosa UMC what it is today, a church with a heart and compassion.

Most of all, I thought about those that couldn't physically be at this grand occasion. From Charles Duncan, who along with his wife and 12 children helped establish this church out of the wilderness, to my very own parents, who brought me into this world and taught me that Sundays were meant for going to Coosa UMC.

The more I think about it, those loved ones were there, and they had the best seat in the house.

Over the 180 years that Coosa UMC has existed, it has survived, thrived and remains very much alive.

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Work for the Night Is Coming

The Christian stewardship of work is symbolized in an old symbol of the Moravian church. An ox is pictured standing between a plow and an altar. Underneath are the words, "Ready For Either." Christians are to be ready for either work or worship. Our strength and abilities should be so committed to Christ that even our work becomes an offering to God. As believers, whether in ministry or industry, we should always set an example of honest work. Never be afraid of doing too much, but rather of doing too little. As a carpenter Jesus gave dignity to manual labor, but also as an itinerant preacher, he declared, "I work." Work may be physical, mental, spiritual or a combination of all three. Problems arise when people begin to think their work is more important than everyone else's work. Paul said, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Phil. 2:4). Work is not a curse, but it is a privilege. Work in our generation is altogether different than just a few years ago. I ran across a list of rules posted in 1892 for white-collar workers in a carriage manufacturing company in New York. Here are the instructions:

It's On My Mind

Danny Parris



1. Each clerk will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's business.
2. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to your individual taste.
3. Men employees will be given one evening off each week for courting purposes, or two evenings if they go to church regularly.
4. After thirteen hours of labor in the office, the employee should spend the remaining time reading the Bible and other good books.
5. The employee who has performed his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of .05 per day in his pay, providing profits for the business permit.

Times have certainly changed in the work market. Hours have been shortened, pay has increased and we do not even have to whittle our own pens. There are some jobs in this world that are not honorable and there are honorable jobs done in dishonor.

See Parris, page 5A

Questions and Answers

Q. How much do Union County citizens recycle?

A. Recycling is alive and well in Union County. According to Leslie George, executive director with North Georgia Resource Management Authority, in the last seven months Union County residents have recycled approximately 241,580 pounds of materials. That equals about 11 pounds for every man, woman and child in the County.

Q. We brought some shoes to the courthouse for shoe recycling. What happened to those?

A. Leslie reports that 30 boxes of reusable shoes were shipped to Shoebox Recycling to be shared with those in need. Not only does this help others who are in need of shoes, but it also creates jobs and keeps shoes out of landfills. Go to www.shooboxrecycling.com for more information on this very worthy cause.

Q. What opportunities are there for children to learn about recycling?

A. Leslie George and Ashley Rubio, Community Outreach Coordinator, both go into the schools, working with the Education Committee of the Mountain Research & Education Center, to share with students ways to recycle. You can go to their website, www.ngрма.org to learn more about this resource for teachers and homeschoolers. Also listed on the website are very cute ideas for recycling such as a recycled bird feeder/nesting box or a recycled laundry bottle pet scoop.

Q. Last week you talked about the Electronics Recycling Event on Oct. 18th but what other opportunities for recycling are there in Union County?

A. You can recycle at the transfer station located at 348 Deep South Farm Road. There is no charge for the following items:

- Paper mixed, computer paper, magazines and newsprint
- Paper board cereal boxes, food containers, etc.
- Corrugated cardboard packing boxes (please break down)
- Aluminum cans
- Automotive batteries
- White goods appliances (air conditioners and refrigerators are accepted if you have paperwork verifying that the freon has been removed by a licensed professional – no commercial dealers)

See Paris, page 5A

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Letters to the Editor ...

Thank you for your honesty

Dear Editor,

On the evening of Friday, Sept. 19, my husband and I rode our three-wheel motorcycle to one of the local restaurants in the Bi-Lo shopping center. As we prepared to leave, I placed my wallet on the back fender of the bike and I forgot that I hadn't picked it up and it fell to the parking lot without our knowledge as we left.

When we got home, I realized my wallet was nowhere to be found, so I jumped into my car and went back to the parking lot searching for my wallet. I went into every business that was open hoping someone was kind enough to turn it in but to no avail. I went home heartbroken and in panic mode, because I had so many of the normal important items in it.

Shortly after I returned home, there was someone knocking on my back door, and standing there was a young man holding my wallet. I was so overjoyed that I ask him if I could give him a big hug, which I did. I thanked him and handed him a small reward, which he refused several times, it wasn't much, but I finally got him to take it.

I have forgotten his name, but I want to thank him again so very much and do appreciate

See Smith, page 5A

Give examples

Dear Editor,

In response to the letter (Sept. 17) from Chris Crawford, which he wrote in response to a letter from Michelle Maloney: In what universe do YOU live, Mr. Crawford? Have you not heard over and over that the sole purpose of the Republican/Tea Party House of Representatives is to cause President Obama to fail? How would you expect anything to get done with this as their major goal?

Congress and the President have traditionally (until lately) worked together to get things done. This has not happened for the last 6 years. I am sure some legislation has been blocked from getting to the floor in the Senate, but the House has blocked virtually every measure that it has received, including some that they themselves have originated. This is the reason that President Obama has been forced to act on his own in important matters that the Congress refuses to address. President Obama has issued fewer executive orders than almost any other president.

Why do you call the President "an emperor?" Rather than just continuing to generalize about how terrible the President is, could you (and others) be specific about exactly what he has done that you do not like? - Besides being black, of course.

Nancy Shofner

God Save Our King

Dear Editor,

As a long time property owner and part time resident (1973) I would like to comment on our Union County Government system. Having seen six commissioners in my time, I have been happy with all except one.

The sole commissioner system is (in my opinion) efficient and direct, the buck starts and stops with him or her, and if you disagree the next election is not too far off.

In the multi-commissioner system, (some folks think more democratic) you may approach the commission (if you are on a pre-published agenda) for a specified area and subject only. In many cases the commission will argue your matter to death, give it to a study group or table it to the next meeting. The only matter they can all agree on is a motion to adjourn.

Union County is a great place to live, it is progressive and has a lot of high rankings. It did not get that way being run by a bunch of dullards.

To those who think we are run like a monarchy, I say, "God Save Our King." Amen.

James Mitton



Not among the lowest rates

Dear Editor,

During the Annual meeting of the BRMEMC many of us had a lot to say to the board. I apologize for being a little too long winded in my spiel, however, the more research I did the more that I felt needed saying. In order to cut it short, or I should say shorter and sit down, there were some points I skipped over. I believe that the most important had to do with rates. During the meeting we were told that our rates are amongst the lowest in the state. Not so. By looking at the state rates as per the Georgia Public Service Commission at: <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/electric/surveys/residentialrs.asp> you will see that amongst EMCs the average of summer and winter rates using the 1000 kwh chart places us at 27.5th out of 41. And amongst all providers; 69th out of 94. A far cry from amongst the lowest. And this does not include the addition of the Customer Charge.

I have heard and read that there is a petition.

See Botting, page 5A

Do the right thing

Dear Editor,

The good old boy way of doing business, as exemplified by BRMEMC's dealings with Terry Taylor and no doubt others in the past, has been part of Southern life for a very long time. It has been accepted with a shrug of shoulders and a ho-hum. It's not what you know, it's who you know and all that.

This acceptance having been the case, the very immediate and obviously angry response to North Georgia News' revelations about the above matter can only be seen as astonishing. Could this be, on reflection, another example of the growing influence on public opinion coming from the newcomers to the area, whose sense of morality as to what should and should not be done in public life differs from that which was once seen as acceptable? The powers-that-be should be taking a close look at this change in public attitude, and adjust their

See Ramsey, page 5A

David Vogel is our man

Dear Editor,

A letter to the editor last week falsely describes my recent phone conversation with Doug Collins' Gainesville aide, Bill Kokaly.

I did not criticize Kokaly's belief in God or ask questions about it. Perhaps Kokaly's political views are erroneously influenced by his religious beliefs, but we did not discuss his religious beliefs. I did not threaten to sue anybody. I had previously told Collins I might report to the appropriate House committee his recent violation of House rules governing franking privileges, using our tax money to pay postage on partisan campaign material he had mailed to constituents.

See Cheeves, page 5A

Show and Tell

When I was a little boy, my favorite thing to do was to sit at the feet of adult family members and listen to their stories of long ago. Listening to these stories showed me a side of my family that I longed to know about. The stories gave me insight into the lives of my family members. I learned about the lives of people I had only met once or twice and some I had never even met. One thing I really wanted was to be able to tell stories and keep people on the edge of their seats like my grandfather.

I began first grade at Mark Twain Elementary School in Kankakee, Illinois in 1964. The first week of school our teacher told us that every Friday we would have a segment of class called "Show and Tell." During "Show and Tell" we students could bring something from home that was of some interest and tell about it. Each student was assigned three specific Fridays. My first Friday was in late November. So, I began to think about what I could take to "Show and Tell."

I remember a kid named Larry bringing some arrowheads which he and his Dad had found. Another kid named David brought some electromagnets and a girl brought a doll collection. All these kids brought some really interesting things for the class to see and hear about. As much as I tried I couldn't think of anything to take to class. I remember asking my Dad about the problem. He said, "Talk about something which you know about and of which you are familiar." About a week before my assignment I had a late night idea. I would tell a family story.

The next morning I sat down at the breakfast table and asked Dad, "How did you and Mom meet?" My father told me the following story. "Your Mamma lived way back deep in the woods over around Gray Rock. Back in those days there weren't as many people and lot of woods in North Alabama. Anyway the woods were so thick around your Mamma's house that you couldn't walk through them. So, I was swinging through the trees by hanging on vines kind of like Tarzan." I have to interject that Mom was rolling her eyes by this time. Anyway Dad continued, "I got to a point that I could see smoke coming out of the top of a beech tree. I didn't realize it at the time, but, later I found out that your Momma and her family were living in the bottom of that beech tree and the hollow trunk was the chimney." Again mother rolled her eyes.

Dad continued, "I wanted to get a closer look at the smoke coming from this beech tree, so, I swung closer to the tree by grabbing another vine. As I was swinging toward that tree I grabbed an old vine and it broke. I fell through the limbs of this beech tree and landed on the

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



North Georgia Farm Trail

Agritourism is a thriving industry in Blairsville-Union County. Our Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to be part of the promotion of so many tremendous assets in Union County. For those who are unfamiliar, agritourism is a beautiful blend of Georgia's top two revenue generating industries - agriculture and tourism. Some examples of agritourism businesses include farmers markets, u-pick farms and orchards, vineyards & wineries, pumpkin patches, corn mazes, and farm-to-table restaurants.

Blairsville - Union County Chamber

Cindy Williams



In the summer of 2013, the Chambers of Commerce in Gilmer, Fannin, Union, and Towns counties unveiled the first edition of the North Georgia Farm Trail guide. This pocket guide quickly became a popular reference for all agritourism destinations in the four county area along Georgia Highway 515. Union County listings included places like the Union County Farmers Market, Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center, Southern Tree Plantation, Logan Turnpike Mill, Sunrise Grocery, The Sawmill Place, wineries, horseback riding stables, alpaca farms, and roadside markets. On the heels of our initial success, we have recently unveiled the second edition which has grown to include even more great destinations!

The North Georgia Farm Trail 2014-2015 edition has been expanded in two primary ways.

See Williams, page 5A

It's About Soup Time!

This Saturday, Oct. 4, is "Beans and Greens Day" at the Union County Farmers Market. I've shared these two recipes in the past with my readers, and I've always received such great kudos for those that have tried them.

On Saturday morning, Mickey and his volunteers at the Canning Plant (an amazing season they are having!) will be making soup beans and collard greens and I, along with my volunteers at the Market Café will be serving them as well as one of these two soups, for just a \$1 a bowl, including cornbread. So stop by the Market Café between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. and try your hand at one of these. The Market Café will also be open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring our new autumn breakfast and lunch menus. It's Fall at the Farmers Market, and it doesn't get any better than that!

Farmers Market Moment

JoAnne Leone



Cannelloni Bean and Green Soup. This recipe is so easy. When most "non-Italians" think of Italian bean soup, they think of pasta e fagioli, with red kidney beans. My family, being of Sicilian heritage, ate a great deal of greens as the main vegetable in our soup, along with the white cannelloni bean. This bean is a little more tender and lighter than a kidney bean and larger and meatier than the navy bean. Both Progresso and Goya sell them in cans. Take one can and mix it up with your choice of chopped greens that you've sautéed in a little olive oil and garlic. Add 2 cups of chicken or vegetable stock, a large pinch of dried oregano and salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a boil and serve with a little drizzled olive oil and pass the grated parmesan cheese.... um-um.

Radish Greens and Chi Chi Bean Soup. Sauté one med chopped sweet onion and a clove or two of chopped garlic in a few tablespoons of olive oil. Throw in rinsed and chopped radish greens (this is also great with mustard greens or any of the more peppery greens) and toss the greens in the oil while the heat has it hot. Then add a cup of water, bring to a boil. Add a can of Chi Chi beans (better known as chick peas or garbanzo beans) liquid and all, and a can of Rotel tomatoes with diced green chilies. Let that simmer for about 20 mins. Bring back to a boil

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Kenneth West
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Charles Duncan
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Lowell Nicholson
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E-mail: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com
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Phone: (706) 745-6343 Fax: (706) 745-1830 * P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514