

Howard and David

I've spent a lifetime trying to be original. In a way, I guess I've done that, and continue to do so. I'm the first one-legged news editor that I've ever known. When I was in high school here in Union County, I tried to enjoy my kind of music. Many that I went to high school with listened to a variety of music. Some wore Zeppelin T-shirts, others wore Foghat T-shirts, and of course there were those who wore the Lynyrd Skynyrd T-shirts. Myself, I was an original; I wore my Bellamy Brothers T-shirts. Actually, it was my older sister Barbi that found them, and she was quite the musical connoisseur. She introduced me to Bette Midler, David Gates and Bread, Atlanta Rhythm Section, Elton John, the Rolling Stones, and yes, the Bellamy Brothers. It was 1976, my sophomore year, and I became an instant Bellamy Brothers fan. They burst onto the scene with a song written by Larry Williams, 'Let Your Love Flow,' a song that soared to No. 1 on the Billboard Top 100 charts. It also enjoyed the same success worldwide.

Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



It also hit No. 1 on the Country Music charts. In fact, radio stations couldn't make up their minds if the Bellamy Brothers were Country Music stars, Pop stars or Rock 'n Roll stars. After the success of 'If I Said You Had A Beautiful Body,' one thing was certain, Howard and David Bellamy were certified superstars. American males also had their No. 1 pickup line. The Brothers followed that up with another No. 1 Country Music song, 'Redneck Girl,' and writing that song didn't take 15 minutes for David Bellamy. Actually, that was their sixth No. 1 hit on the Country Music charts. I'm rambling, I bring up Howard and David to mention that I spoke with them on Friday night at the Georgia Mountain Fall Festival. The Brothers Bellamy and Jim Wood and the Georgia Mountain Fair Band kicked off the annual Fall Festival. Howard and David are two of the most down-to-earth people that I've ever met in my life. They've performed all over the world, and yet, Hiawassee, Georgia and the North Georgia Mountains feel

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Questions

I have never heard an animal ask a question, except maybe "Where's the food?" But people have lots of questions. We live in a world of beauty and beastliness. The questions arise we as try to reconcile the two.

The questions you hear after a mass shooting like Las Vegas are about motive and gun control but extend much further: How can humans have such a wide variety of perspectives? How is it that we've made it this far as a species and can still be so opposite? How could one human do this to others? Why does nothing make any sense? Do any lives really matter? Is life a riddle not meant to be solved?

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



If life began with chance occurrences in the midst of chaos, then indeed life doesn't matter. We're but a blip in the cosmic timeline, an honest conclusion from such a worldview. If life has no purpose or value, why reform gun laws to protect what has no value? If everyone can decide his or her own morality, why not allow that the Las Vegas shooter was right in his own way? The rationalist answers that humans can collectively discern what has value, but as Ravi Zacharias points out, "How do you trust your reason and logic if it came about by chance and chaos?" A worldview that excludes God does nothing for those who suffer, and removes all hope that anyone ultimately can.

In the aftermath of WWI, the poet William Yeats penned these lines: "Turning and turning in the widening gyre, the falcon cannot hear the falconer. Things fall apart; the center cannot hold. Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world. The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity." It's fair to ask today, "How do we live with more conviction about what's true, and less intensity about what's not?"

The center wasn't holding 2,800 years ago, when the Falconer sent his prophet to call to repentance a nation destroying people with its brutal use of power. But Jonah would rather die than see God forgive them. God said, "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand?" (Jonah 4:11). A God of compassion is reason

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Commissioner's Questions

Shotgun Range - Part 2 Q. Will the county and the Shotgun Team continue to look for land to construct a shotgun range in the future?

A. We are definitely going to continue looking for a piece of property to make this project happen. It is very difficult to find a parcel that does not negatively impact someone. The toughest issue to get around is sound.

Q. Do you have a time frame for this project?

A. When this project is started again will depend on if and when we can find a suitable location. The hunt for property will take some time as we will have to find a pretty large tract of land that is not close to homes or businesses. It will also have to pass all cultural and environmental studies that are required. The property will also need to be somewhat easily accessible for the parents, kids, and the public. We will try again to see if there is some public property that would work and save the expense of another parcel purchase.

Q. What is the county going to do with this existing property if it can't be utilized for the Shotgun Range?

A. We will put the property up for sale soon. We already have some potential purchasers who have expressed an interest in the property, but our goal will be to sell the property at some point in the future.

Q. Where is the Shotgun Team going to practice until a new location is found?

A. We are in the process of securing a temporary location that the 4-Hers will be able to use until we find a better site. I need to thank the Travis Colwell family and the Bill Wood family for agreeing to work with the county in providing us a temporary place to practice until we are able to secure a new location.

Q. We understand that the Sheriff's Office does not have a regular location for a shooting range for qualifying without going to another county or using temporary locations. We also have heard they are looking for additional property for not only a shooting range for them but an area for the public to be able to use.

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Letters to the Editor

Fan the flames

Dear Editor, I'd like to add flame to George A. Mitchell's letter from a few weeks ago entitled: Drain the Swamp. I quote from his letter: "The Washington SEWER is toxic beyond repair." The IRS will probably audit me (along with Mr. Mitchell) for my agreement and subsequent story. I have written three e-mails to Sen. David Perdue. My reply had nothing to do with what I was requesting. Let's say I sent a letter inquiring about Medicare and received a reply thanking me for my interest on climate change. Not once, but each time, this was the case. I called Sen. Johnny Isakson's office and was told he was in a meeting. I asked the person who answered the phone if (Sen. Isakson) would please call me as soon as he got out of the meeting. That was at least a month ago, and you guessed it - no call. The "old guard" is killing America. When career Republicans don't help, but rather criticize President Trump, his vision for America can't be achieved. President Trump ran and won

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Give a Foster child a gift

Dear Editor, As former CASA volunteers who created the non-profit "Foster Children's Christmas Program," we are so excited to begin our 18th year of providing Christmas presents for the foster children of Towns and Union Counties. With your help in sponsoring a child and purchasing gifts from their wish list, or if you prefer, making a monetary donation, we can make their Christmas wishes come true. As a "sponsor" you will be mailed a wish list which includes information about the child - boy or girl, their age, clothing size and their

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Peace of God

Dear Editor, In a world where peace is hard to find, and where folks long for the woes of the world to just go away, there is a peace from God that can be attained. That is, if we dive into His Word and unravel the mysteries of God's glorious peace on earth. Did you know that only God can bring you peace amid a storm, amid a disaster, amid a financial crisis? Even peace can be found in pain and suffering and yes, even in death there is a calming peace that only comes from the Lord.

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Response from a retired teacher

Dear Editor, I am writing this in response to Deb Curlette, Ph.D. I enjoyed your letter about how taxpayers' money is spent. I am thankful for your concern with our teachers, many of whom I have worked with and some that I taught while they were in school. I noticed that while you have a Ph.D., you did not list your area of expertise. I am assuming it was neither law or history, since you

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Thank you!

Dear Editor, The Georgia Mountain Positive Choices (GMPC) staff and volunteers wish to sincerely thank each of the many individual donors, along with the contributors mentioned below who helped to make the Silver Ring Thing event possible. We also had a marvelous turn out of volunteers who helped with every detail of this event - THANK YOU! Bikes & Hikes, House of Prayer Interdenominational Church, Budget Blinds, Mountain Top Furniture, Fireside Murphy, Joshua's War-

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Help Us Respond Safely

Most of you drive somewhere every day. You may drive to work or just drive to get away. You cruise down the road and never expect to encounter an emergency vehicle directly behind you with the lights flashing and siren wailing. What do you do?

Many of you have an answer but is it the best answer? When you see and/or hear an emergency vehicle behind you, the best thing to do is to take your foot off the accelerator, slowly apply the brake, pull to the right side of the road; and come to a complete stop in a safe area. This will allow the emergency vehicle to pass you on the left. Let's talk about this a bit more in detail.

Good driving habits may prevent you from being surprised by an emergency vehicle. Drivers should get into the habit of checking mirrors every 5-10 seconds to be aware of other cars and the possibility of emergency vehicles. Hearing an emergency vehicle has become more difficult with the new vehicles today. They are designed to reduce road noise and unfortunately, they also reduce the ability to hear sirens. The emergency vehicle may be almost directly behind you before you even hear it.

Experts say the first thing to do when encountered with an emergency vehicle behind you is to remain calm. I have always found that amusing because seeing an emergency vehicle pass by can be exciting much less if it's behind you. However, it is best not to do anything rash or abrupt. Slow and steady is best when dealing with this situation.

Once you are aware that an emergency vehicle is behind you, take your foot off the accelerator and slowly apply the brake. Most people's instinct is to stop very abruptly but it's best to slowly stop your vehicle. Your vehicle should be pulled to a safe place on the right side of the road. That is what the driver of the emergency vehicle is expecting so if you pull to the left or move into another direction, the emergency driver has to make some very quick adjustments.

Coming to a complete stop is very important because the driver of emergency vehicle can gauge where you are and when they can return to the appropriate lane of traffic. Also, be conscious of where you stop. If you stop on a hill or in a curve, the emergency vehicle cannot see oncoming traffic.

Once the emergency vehicle has passed by, please check your mirrors, signal and slowly return to driving in your lane. Be cautious of other drivers and the possibility of other emergency vehicles that may be responding as well.

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Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief

David Dyer



Jesse James

My Pawpaw Adams' sister Lula married a man by the name of Early James. The last time I can remember Early must have been prior to 1970. He was tall and lanky and wore a pair of overalls. His fingers were stained due to his always holding a filter-less Lucky Strike cigarette. Even as a young boy I thought he was ancient. I cannot remember a kid who did not like Uncle Early. When we went to his house we sat on the steps of his large front porch and listened as he regaled us with stories from his youth.

Some of his stories were about baseball. Uncle Early was a fine pitcher in his younger days. Other stories were about his family. Uncle Early was born prior to 1900 and his father was born sometime around the end of the Civil War. We were told that the elder James was a first cousin to the outlaws, Frank and Jesse James. As Uncle Early told it the James Gang came to North Alabama in their hey day and robbed a train near Spruce Pine, Alabama.

There was a very high trestle about half-way between Phil Campbell and Spruce Pine that crossed a very deep hollow. At one time this was the highest trestle in Alabama. I am not sure if the trestle is still there however, my mother walked across the trestle as a little girl.

Anyway the James Gang robbed the train and supposedly buried the loot at the bottom of the deep hollow close to the train trestle. People have looked for this buried treasure for years with no results. This was one of the stories told to me by Uncle Early.

When I was about 12 Papa Cummings purchased a 60 acre tract of land from a fellow with the last name of James. I have always loved that particular piece of land. As a boy we squirrel hunted and coon hunted the property. There is a deep hollow with 100 foot high bluffs on the land and during my teenaged years TVA built a fine lake on the property. Our family has referred to this piece of property as the James Place ever since my grandfather purchased it. I was fortunate enough to purchase a portion of this land from my grandfather a few years ago.

Right after Papa purchased the land I met the wife of this James fellow. She looked ancient as every other person I knew with the last name of James. I didn't know her exact age, but, she looked older than even Uncle Early. She must have been born prior to 1900.

Anyway, back about 1935 Mr. James had purchased some timber and he needed a little cash from his bank account. So, Mrs. James made a trip to the "Farmers and Merchants Bank" in Phil

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Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



BOQ Winner!

I would like to start off this week's column by saying a huge thank you to Shawn & Amy Kight and the staff at The Sawmill Place Restaurant for hosting and sponsoring the last Business After Hours/Business of the Quarter Event for 2017. We appreciate all your hard work to make this a great evening. Be sure to stop in and see them at 1150 Pat Haralson Memorial Drive in Blairsville for breakfast or lunch and visit their new store, The Market, adjacent to the restaurant. They have a great selection of local area produce, jams, jellies, soaps and more!

We were thrilled to present the Business of the Quarter award to Origami Owl-Sharon E. Penner Independent Designer #3027. Anyone who knows Sharon, knows how involved she is not only in the Chamber but also in the community and actively promotes both everywhere she goes.

She has been a Chamber Member for 8

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber

Regina Allison



Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs

The cooler weather is going to send insects scrambling for warm, safe places to spend the winter. Unfortunately for us, our houses are exactly what these bugs are looking for. One of the peskiest invaders is the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB). This bug was introduced from Asia most likely in shipping crates.

The first recorded sighting was in Allentown, Pennsylvania in 1998, but it probably arrived even before that. It has subsequently spread throughout much of the East Coast, feeding on crops and becoming a nuisance in winter.

The adult BMSB is about 17-mm long and has a mottled brown pattern. It has light colored bands on its antenna and alternating light and dark brown bands on the edge of its body. Like many other stink bugs, it is shaped like a shield and as its name suggests, it has glands that produce an unpleasant odor when it is agitated. There are usually only one or two generations in Georgia, depending on how warm the weather is and the location. Adults emerge in May, mate and deposit eggs throughout the summer. The nymphs emerge from the eggs and go through five growth stages before finally developing wings and becoming adults. By this time, temperatures start to cool off, and the bugs search for places to overwinter until October.

In its native range in Asia, the BMSB feeds on a wide variety of fruit including apples, pears, peaches, figs, citrus, and many others. It can also be a pest of ornamental plants and important crops such as soybeans. In the Northeastern United States, this bug has caused massive damage to apple and berry orchards. In the Southeast, it can be a major pest of cotton and blueberries, two very important crops to Georgia.

Though you may find several of these insects in your house over the winter, they do not infest houses like cockroaches. You will typically find them squeezing through door jams and window frames as they follow the light they see coming from your house, and then sense the warm temperatures. The best way to make sure these smelly pests don't completely take over in the winter is to take action before they look for warm spaces. This means making sure all outdoor vents are covered with a fine mesh, adding weather stripping to door and window frames, and sealing up any other points of entry. Though you may still see some bugs in late fall and winter, having your house sealed up well will decrease the number of BMSB that make it in.

You may be tempted to spray insecticide if you see BSMB in your home, but once

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UGA Extension From the Ground Up

Melissa Mattee



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