

An ounce of prevention

Last week I wrote my column and asked folks not to spread rumors about the death of Jeff Fox.

Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



In doing so, I hurt Jeff's family. I'm told that what was published was worse than any rumor because it was put out in the public eye.

In fact there is a Georgia Court of Appeals case that says one purpose of allowing the publication of public facts is that it reduces the chances for false rumors to take hold.

The information used in the story is public information and free to anyone that knows how to use a computer and has Internet access.

The information was not intended to defame or belittle Jeff Fox. It was used to protect the integrity of the jury selection process when it is determined that perpetrator or perpetrators are responsible and brought to justice and stand trial.

That information was not intended to hurt anyone individual. It was not intended to hurt an already grieving family. It was meant to make the legal process in this case run unimpeded.

This newspaper is Jeff Fox's advocate. We long for a resolution in this case. We pray that investigators will determine the evidence that leads to a final resolution and provide closure.

As a community, we mourn, we pray for the family and we ask for the blessing of comfort in their time of anguish, sorrow, and pain centered on the loss of their loved one.

I'm so sorry if I offended any member of Jeff Fox's family. That was not my intent.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Jeff's family. May God be a comfort to them in these most trying of times.

May the investigation of Jeff Fox's death provide results.

The Faith Life and The Flesh Life

Last week we discussed the fleshly life. The body, the flesh is mighty important because it is our house in which we dwell.

Our present generation is bombarded twenty-four hours a day on radio, TV, with magazines and books advertising medicines, cosmetics, diets, exercise programs, machines, pills, herbs and endless ways to keep the body fit, trim, looking good and healthy.

Certainly, we are under divine mandate to properly care for these temples. There is no sin in such an endeavor. The problem is some folks totally neglect the body. Their whole life is just one bad habit. They feel bad, look bad and even smell bad.

A lot of us would identify with Robert Maynard Hutchins who wrote: "I never run when I can walk. I never walk when I can stand still. I never stand when I can sit down. I never sit down when I can lie down.

While most people are diligent about their flesh life they are oblivious to their faith life. What is your inner life? The life that only you and God have knowledge.

See Parris, page 5A

It's On My Mind

Danny Parris



Questions and Answers

Q. What is the Ad Valorem tax?

A. This is more commonly known as property tax, which is a large source of revenue for governments in Georgia.

Q. What entities are involved in the ad valorem tax process?

- The County Tax Commissioner
The County Board of Tax Assessors
The County Board of Equalization
The County Commissioner
The County Board of Education
The State Revenue Commissioner

Q. What is the Tax Commissioner's role in this process?

A. This office is established by the Constitution and is an elected position in all counties except two. This is the official serving as agent of the State Revenue Commissioner and responsible for the registration of motor vehicles; and performing all functions related to billing, collecting, disbursing, and accounting for ad valorem taxes collected in the county.

Q. What is the Board of Tax Assessors. Who appoints them?

A. This Board consists of three members who are appointed by the County Commissioner(s) in all counties except one. They are responsible for determining taxability, value and equalization of all assessments within the county.

Q. What does the Board of Equalization do?

A. The Board of Equalization is appointed by the Grand

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



See Paris, page 5A

Travel trip to Italy

Last year, the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce made the decision to offer a group travel experience to Ireland.

Blairsville - Union County Chamber

Cindy Williams



The Discover & Explore Tuscany leisure trip will depart on Oct. 20. The nine-day, one hotel adventure will treat travelers to rolling landscapes, savory wines, delicious food, and stunning architecture.

Trip pricing starts at \$2,899. This price includes first class hotel accommodations, 11 meals, roundtrip airfare, baggage handling, a

See Williams, page 5A

Be Happy

Those bright yellow little daffodils, peaking out of the ground, sure have a way of lightening up my winter blues.

Farmers Market Moment

JoAnne Leone



I'm looking forward to corned beef and cabbage at Pat and Tom Gray's home again this year. I haven't been invited yet.

As most of us are aware, March 20th is the first day of Spring. What you may not be aware of is a new international holiday is being celebrated for only the second year.

In 2012, the UN Assembly proclaimed that the pursuit of happiness is a human goal. I say "here, here" to that one.

Harvard School of Public Health examined 200 separate research studies on psychological wellbeing and cardiovascular health.

Here's what I want to convey on the eve of this new holiday. Happiness is a decision. It's not a cliché. Well, if it is, it's an accurate one.

See Leone, page 5A

Letters to the Editor ...

Australian Gun Law Update

Dear Editor
From: Ed Chenel, A police officer in Australia.
Hi Yanks, I thought you all would like to see the real figures from Down Under.

There has also been a dramatic increase in break-ins and assaults of the elderly, while the resident is at home. Australian politicians are at a loss to explain how public safety has decreased.

In response to Who Lives Here

Dear Editor,
Usually I read the letters that you receive and don't get emotionally involved.

We all emigrated to America from different countries for different reasons. The only real American names come from the Native Americans who lived here first.

See Retter, page 5A

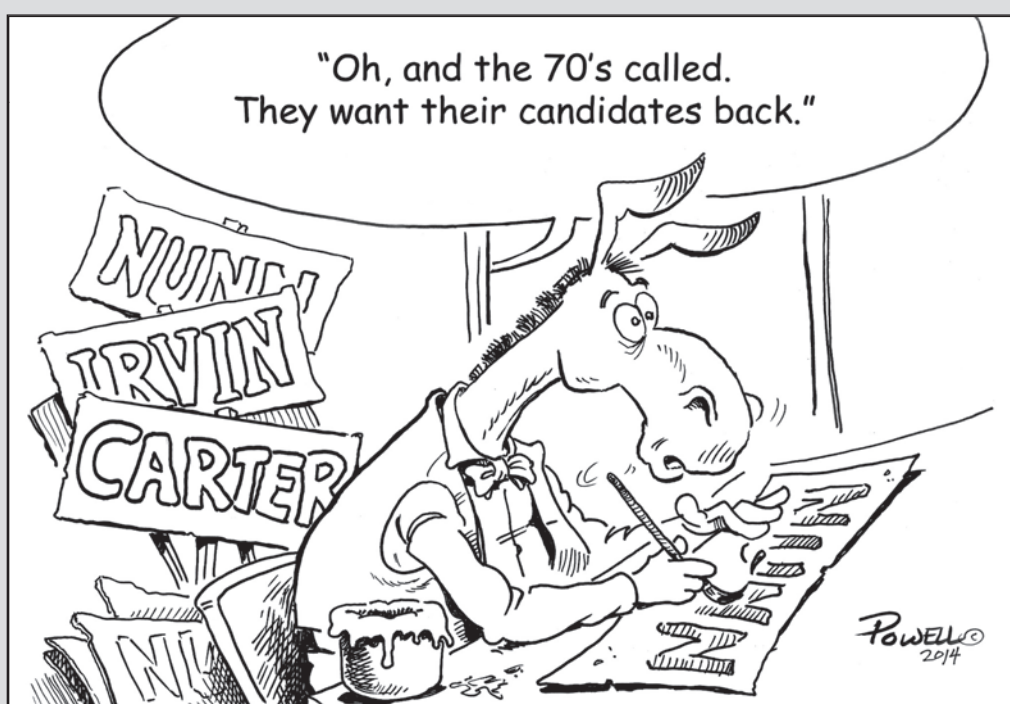
Another response to Mr. Smith

Dear Editor,
Last night, I read Mr. Bill Smith's letter to the editor. I admit I am a "liberal, big government, nanny state, gun control, abortion rights, gay marriage" proponent if that's what he wants to call me; I just don't advertise it in the paper as a rule.

I respect Mr. Smith's right to express how he feels about us "outsiders" but his last sentence was hurtful and unnecessary.

I am a good citizen of Union County, Mr. Smith—even if you can't pronounce my name—and I am here to stay.

Karen Gramenz



A Sudden Death

Dear Editor,
The passing away of a loved one is very traumatic on our emotions. We have to face and to acknowledge the pain that accompanies the loss.

Death is a family affair. The family consists of the relatives, friends, co-workers, community folks, and the church family.

Our quiet, loving community went into shock and sadness when learning of the sudden death of a high-profile leader in our midst - Ed Rohrbach - former principal of UCHS.

I was fortunate to be one who worked under Ed's profound guidance. I remember he lit up like a Christmas tree whenever I brought him a bag of those burning hot Fireballs.

Ed will never know of the hundreds of individuals who stood in line for hours to pay respects and to offer loving support to his family. What will live forever in all of us is his legacy - of kindness, fairness, and humor.

Dr. Ray Ashurst, Ph.D.

Consider a trade school

Dear Editor,
On the evening of March 1, I attended Notla Water's annual meeting in the Union County High School lunchroom.

A large majority of Union County High School graduates attend the first year of college but even after six years, 60 percent have yet to graduate.

Unless I miss my guess, that's because they discover that college isn't for them.

To be sure that I always had a Plan B, after I left the school for the day, I studied Electrical Wiring at a local trades school.

He had designed, engineered and installed

See Mitchell, page 5A

Bill Adams

Paw Paw (Bill) Adams married my Grand Maw (Delphia) when he was 16 years old. They were married during World War II and times were difficult.

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Somehow Dad Baker knew a man up in Arkansas that needed pickers to harvest his cotton.

Paw Paw went home to north Alabama and soon landed a job in the logging woods. He saved enough money to buy a small farm from one of my great-great uncles, Will Cummings.

Soon he found a job driving a school bus for the Franklin County School System.

Paw Paw grew weary of the criticism so

See Cummings, page 5A

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