

# Opinions

## Everybody has one...

### Customers appreciated

The 2015 Union County Farmers Market continues its storied success as the Dog Days of August arrive. And patrons felt appreciated on Saturday - treated to the prize of a tomato sandwich. On Saturday, it was Customer Appreciation Day. Customers were treated to the tune of more than 400 tomato sandwiches.

A mater sandwich in the month of August is a prize to be treasured. The huge crowd that celebrated the Market on Saturday enjoyed every minute they spent at the most popular gathering place in the Union County.

They celebrated with a mater sandwich. "One day a year, we want to share with our customers and tell them how much we appreciate what they've done for us," said Market Manager Mickey Cummings. "Without our customers at our Farmers Market, we wouldn't be anything. We want to show our customers how much we appreciate them."

We'll have another mater sandwich please - what a way to celebrate mountain living.

When you go to the Market, you can expect to see some very familiar faces. These faces - the vendors - that you've come to know over the few years the Market has been up and running.

Of course, you also can expect to see Cummings, the Market Manager when traversing to Old Smokey Road.

And you'll also see hundreds of new faces. People coming to the Market for the first time. A lot of these folks are just discovering the treasure known as the Union County Farmers Market.

It's one of those places that brings the phrase "be there, or be square" to mind. It's one of the most popular gathering places in Union County. It generates an estimated \$1 million into the local economy.

An estimated 3,000 - to 5,000 people visit the Farmers Market each week and that's just on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. It brings to life the mountain tradition of living off the land. And it keeps local families in Blairsville and affords them the opportunity to sell their produce in Blairsville instead of driving to the Farmers Market in Atlanta.

Each week is a family reunion on many levels. We're watching young men and women growing up at the Farmers Market.

#### Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



### Not Judged

I put the jury summons in a prominent place on my desk. I wrote the date on my calendar. I actually looked forward to doing my part for law and order. One Monday morning casually starting the week, I suddenly realized it was today! I had one of those gasping, dash to the car, hope I don't get a speeding ticket panics.

I slipped into the courtroom embarrassed and tardy by 45 minutes. Soon the judge allowed everyone to leave except the selected jurors, and me. Summoned to the bench I made no excuses and braced myself because I failed a legal obligation. I did not want to face judgment.

Who does? Judgment usually means someone else decides if your behavior is acceptable. Our post-modern mindset that everyone can have their own values is probably why the most oft-quoted Bible phrase is "Judge not lest you be judged," especially by those who heed no other verse.

If it's true that every yearning of the human heart can only be completely fulfilled by God, then the yearning to escape judgment is no different. But effecting such escape cannot come from believing that God cannot be both of love and judgment. Believing something doesn't make it so! So how, then, does God fulfill our yearning to avoid the final gavel?

Jesus has the answer. "He who believes in (the Son) is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already because he has not believed" (John 3:18). Remarkable! Here it is again: "He who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life." (John 5:24). Faith in Christ means you are not judged the way an unbeliever is. Paul explained further, "He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us...having nailed it to the cross" (Col 2:13-14). The indictment against the believer is canceled!

Grace really is good news! But beware that grace truly contemplated risks being misunderstood as license to sin. Paul took that risk, but checked it twice by declaring that grace does not allow believers to live an unrepentant life. He explains to the con-

#### All Things New

Wayne Fowler



### Questions and Answers

#### Q. If there is a stray cat or dog on my property who should I contact?

A. First and foremost, Do Not Feed the animal. Once you feed it, you are assuming the responsibility for the animal and may be impacting its decision to stay or return to its owner or neighborhood. In the case of a feral animal it will stay for the food. If you do not feed it, most likely it will leave in a couple of days. If the animal is injured or otherwise in poor condition, you should contact Animal Control or the Union County Sheriff's Office at (706) 439-6066.

#### Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



#### Q. Does the county have a travel policy for its employees?

A. Yes we do. In January 2015, the County adopted a new Travel Policy that replaced the existing policy entirely and it is derived from the state of Georgia policy. It is fair and easy to understand.

#### Q. What travel expenses are covered when an employee travels for county business or training?

A. If the employee drives their personal vehicle, they are paid according to the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rates. The rate for 2015 is 57.5 cents per mile. They are also given a per diem of \$28.00 per day for their meals. (This is higher in certain parts of the state.) With this method, tipping servers is the responsibility of the employee and not the county. These are the two main items that are reimbursed since normally we have already reserved and paid for lodging in advance.

#### Q. How do I know what is on the Agenda for the upcoming County Meeting?

A. The Agenda is posted on the county website www.unioncountyga.gov on the Monday prior to the meeting on Thursday. This is a tentative agenda and can be changed in accordance with Georgia's Open Meetings Law prior to the meeting. Normally, there are changes required as new items often come up after the posting. All the previous Agendas and Minutes are posted here as well.

#### Q. What is being built adjacent to Hwy 325 near Highway 515 W and the Horse Arena?

See Paris, page 5A

## Letters to the Editor ...

### Teach your children well

Dear Editor,

Reading the boxes on page six about Union County Schools this week brought a few quotes to mind.

"He alone who owns the youth, gains the future." And "The best way to take control over a people and control them utterly is to take a little of their freedom at a time, to erode rights by a thousand tiny and almost imperceptible reductions. In this way, the people will not see those rights and freedoms being removed until past the point at which these changes cannot be reversed." - Adolf Hitler

In my family we were taught to know the language of our adversaries. Least we forget. Teach your children well.

Cindy Mae Tidwell

### Citizen Editorial No. 1

Dear Editor,

As American citizens we should all know that our Founders instituted a government that consisted of three separate branches: the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch and the Judicial Branch. The purpose of the Executive Branch was to enforce the laws of the land; the Legislative Branch was to make the laws of the land; and the Judicial Branch was to decide the constitutionality of the laws of the land. The differences between the branches of our government were known as the separation of powers.

Unfortunately for We the People, that separation of powers no longer exists. The Legislative Branch has unconstitutionally delegated its power to the Executive Branch, which now both makes and enforces the laws of the land. The Judicial Branch no longer decides the constitutionality of the laws of the land, but rather manipulates the meaning of words to rationalize decisions that fit the agenda of the 'political class,' otherwise known as 'the State.' And the State has no interest in serving We the People; its interest is solely in perpetuating itself. And our beloved Constitution is all but forgotten.

So, what can We the People do about it? How do we put a stop to this insidious, self-serving political class and regain our birthright? There is a doctrine, a real doctrine that has been practiced through the ages and that was finally set forth in a document called the Magdeburg Confession in the year 1550. It is called The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates. This doctrine... "declares that when the superior or higher civil authority makes an unjust/immoral law or decree, the lesser or lower ranking civil authority has both the right and duty to refuse obedience to that superior authority. If necessary, the lower authority may actively resist the superior authority" (M. J. Trehwella, 2013).

Mark Smith

### Why start school so early?

Dear Editor,

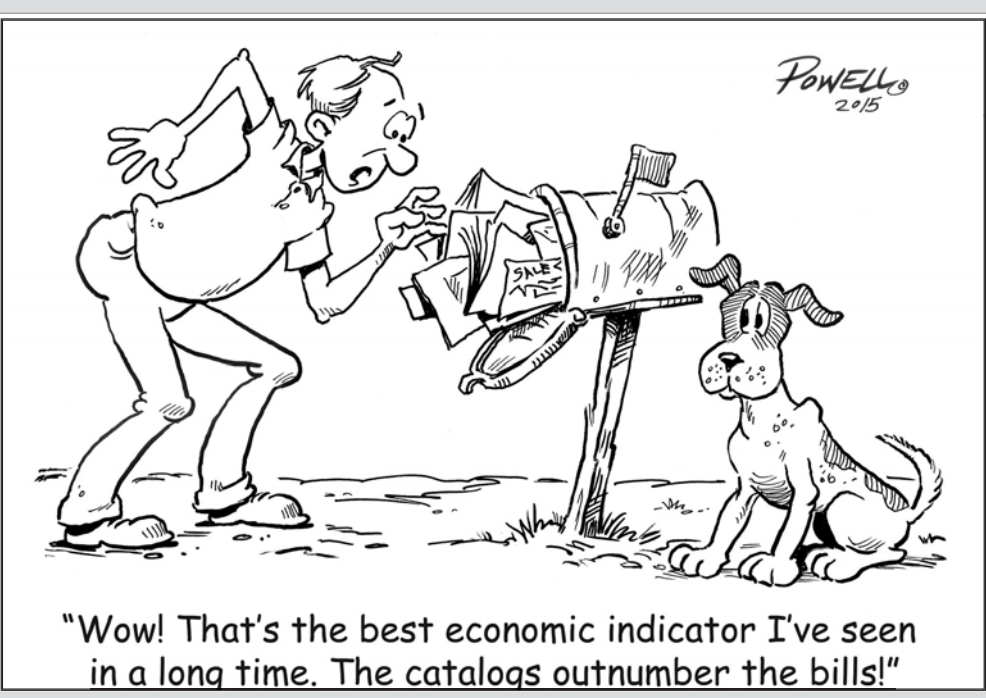
Of course my kids are all grown up now with children of their own, so it doesn't really matter to me when school starts back or when it doesn't. But I do have the Grandchildren.

Any way I discovered on Facebook, where a few schools right here in Georgia, still do the old fashion way of when school starts back, by going back after Labor Day, and still getting out the Friday before Memorial Day. No Fall or Spring Breaks, no teacher days, etc. and they still get the amount of days required to go to school in a calendar year or semester/term.

By omitting all of these so called breaks, and days off and teachers days, each and every school can get the required number of days still. I just see no need for all of these days and weeks off.

We never had them when I was going to school so why should it be any different now

See Barnes, page 5A



### Let your voice be heard

Dear Editor,

I, Paula Jean Henry Redditt, am a 34-year resident of Union County and I love our community and nation. I have the distinct privilege of being related to Patrick Henry. I am a direct descendant of his brother, William Henry. My "Uncle Patrick" inspired many during the birth of our nation, and was re-elected 5 times as Governor of Virginia.

On March 23, 1775, in the Second Virginia Convention at St. John's Church in Richmond, he delivered an inspiring oration that still applies to us today. His most famous excerpt is from his conclusion: "...we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battle for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave... Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

In 1776, Patrick Henry boldly declared, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ..." (See *America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations* by

See Redditt, page 5A

### Praise God

Dear Editor,

The other day I walked out on the front porch to water some plants and to my amazement one of the plants was looking withered from lack of watering. Its branches were starting to lean downward. It was dying slowly without water and I got to thinking of my Christian walk with my Lord, Jesus and how sometimes when I don't stay in the word of God on a daily basis, my faith begins to wither. My witness to others lacks zeal. I begin to lose my focus and the pull of the world comes rushing in. I too, like this plant need daily saturating of my mind and my heart of God's precious words of truth.

So I watered the plant and within an hour its little branches stood tall and strong, like a mighty oak tree. It was full of energy as it stretched its little branches heavenward with great delight. Life was good again. We can all relate to this plant as we face daily trials and temptations at every turn and if we are not spiritually watered down with the living word of God, we too can become prey to the enemy. Ask God and He will provide everything you need to face opposition when it presents itself and through those oppositions will come opportunities to tell others about the love of God. Are you spiritually thirsty for God's word today? He's in the watering business, so come and drink of His living water and raise your hands upward and praise God for His faithfulness. Amen

Frank F. Combs

### The Swimming Hole

My grandfather, Columbus, was raised with a bunch of his cousins and friends just outside of Phil Campbell, Alabama in a little community called Trapptown. The people of this little community were extremely close and they managed to enjoy life even though the country was in turmoil due to the depression. The boys of the family enjoyed playing baseball, fishing in the creek, coon hunting and in the summer time they swam at the mill pond on Cummings Creek.

During the 1930s parents were very conservative with their children. You never saw a girl wearing a pair of shorts. Young men and women didn't go on dates by themselves. Boys and girls didn't go swimming together. The young people around the little community of Trapptown had different swimming times for the "Swimming Hole on Cummings Creek". Actually, the boys didn't even wear bathing suits. So, the boys swam from 1:30 until 3:30. After the boys left the girls would swim until 5:30. This arrangement allowed the boys and girls to swim for the same amount of time and it worked well for most of Coon's teenage years.

But, then Coon began to notice girls. There were three girls in the community who were sisters. Even though the girls had been a part of Papa's life since he could remember he'd never noticed them. But, one day all of a sudden Coon noticed the Lauderdale Girls and they were beautiful. That is when the trouble began.

One particularly hot day during the Dog Days of August the boys were having a great time at the swimming hole. When it came time for the boys to get out of the water so the girls could swim the boys refused. The girls hollered at them from the top of the bluff, "Your time is up. It's time for us girls to swim". Papa said, "We just laughed and kept swimming". Not only were the Lauderdale Girls pretty, but, they were also smart.

While the boys were still swimming the Lauderdale Girls slipped down to where the boys had left their clothes. The eldest girl knew Papa was the ring leader of the boys. So, Sarah placed her underwear in the bib pocket of Papa's overalls. After a while Coon and his brothers got out of the water, put on their clothes and made their way home. By the time they got home it was suppertime. When Papa and his brothers walked into the house their mother, Laura told them to take off their dirty clothes and place them on the back porch. Coon was bad about leaving items in his pocket. So, Laura went through his pockets after Coon had left them on the porch. She found the underwear in his pocket. She grabbed the first thing handy which was a broom and marched into her son's bedroom.

There stood Papa trying to put on a clean pair of britches. Papa said, "All I heard was

See Cummings, page 5A

#### Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



### Bees and Blossoms

I'm obsessed with cut flowers. I've written many times of my mother's cut flower gardens when I was growing up. I drive or walk past wild daisies and Queen Ann's Lace and I want to pick it all. Sunflowers growing are just something else to covet. Dahlias in a dozen colors take all my willpower not to go pick them out of someone else's garden. That's why this next week event is one of my favorites.

Here's the scoop on this week's Community Flower Show. It's a Union County Farmers Market event, but it is never held at the Farmers Market. The dates this year are August 6-8th and like every year, it is held at the Haralson Memorial Civic Center on Wellborn Dr., Blairsville (next to Steve's Steakhouse and Cookie Jar). By "community flower show", it means that anyone in the community (as well as the contiguous counties in GA and NC) and at any age (kids are encouraged to enter, too) are welcome to exhibit. Entries are accepted Thursday, Aug. 6 from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. and Friday August 7th from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. There is no entry fee.

There are a variety of horticultural classes that one can enter, including cut flowers, container/house plants, hanging baskets/containers, bonsai and native plants and shrubs in containers no larger than 16" in diameter. You may enter more than one exhibit. But in only one class or subclass. Containers will be provided for the cut specimens. Please, no cut flower that exceeds 30 inches in length.

Exhibitors must have grown their horticulture and correctly identified the plant material with the common and botanical names on the entry form, but the master gardeners will be there to assist you at registration with all those details, if need be. Plants must have been in exhibitor's possession for at least 90 days (in other words, don't go find your favorite plant at your local nursery and try to enter). They must also be pest free and disease free.

Now, for those of you who love floral design, this category is a little different. This is the only category that must be pre-registered. Please contact Stephanie Gray at (706) 745-3714 to re-

See Leone, page 5A

#### Farmers Market Moment

JorAnne Leone



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