

# Opinions

## Everybody has one...

### The Culpepper Years

The 1971 school year was rapidly approaching. Union County Schools were without a band director. Elmer Thompson had contacted Larry Culpepper about coming to Union County and filling the vacancy. Culpepper soon learned that there were only 15 students in the existing band program. He politely responded with a "no thank you."

#### Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



With continued coaxing by Elmer Thompson, Culpepper and his wife Marcie made the drive to Blairsville. That's all it took, the Culpeppers were sold. The administration wanted a strong band program and they were willing to do whatever it took to make that happen.

After much prayer and planning, Larry Culpepper accepted the position. Marcie Culpepper resigned her position as a sixth grade teacher to accompany him. Both became important pieces of the band puzzle.

The rest is as they say - history. The Union County Band under the direction of Larry Culpepper grew from 15 band members in 1971 to 144 when Larry and Marcie left in 1979. They also had 85 students in the elementary and middle school band programs.

When Larry Culpepper arrived, there was no feeder system - meaning there was no elementary or middle school band members. All that changed and the Union County Marching Band became the award-winning Union County Marching Band.

All this to say that on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., a gathering and celebration reunion of the band that performed during the Culpepper years will take place at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

Larry Culpepper said it best: "through those nine years, you students developed unbelievable student leadership. Encouraging and mentoring those in your section. You showed how thrilling a job well done can be and how exciting it is to have a true feeling of accomplishment. Other students began looking at your success; they wanted to be a part of this organization. The band grew and finally became a whopping 144 strong by 1979. The organization had many medals and trophies by that time."

So here's the deal. If you were a member of the Union County Marching Band from 1971 to 1979 - the Culpepper years, then you'll want to make sure you're at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall on Saturday, Sept. 12 between the hours of 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

You don't want to let this opportunity pass you by. You can't turn back time, but you can always remember the glory days.

## Letters to the Editor ...

### Congrats UCHS

Dear Editor,

How exciting it is to read something positive in our newspapers! Congratulations to our High School for receiving a bronze award from *U.S. News and World Report*. We thank our teachers and administrators for their dedication and students for their motivation. We knew that Union County was a good place to live. Let's keep up the good work.

Jean A. Nethery

### Be thou strong and very courageous - Joshua 1:7

Dear Editor,

We the people of this country are facing perilous times as our freedoms are being taken away.

Several experiences in the life of Joshua are instructive to us today regarding the importance placed by the Lord on keeping commitments and on being committed to following the commandments and direction he has given.

Joshua is remembered as the one who, on the death of Moses, took command and completed the task of giving leadership to the tribes of Israel.

"Be strong and of a good courage; for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them." (Josh. 1:5-6.)

"Only be thou strong and very courageous that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whither soever thou goest." (Josh. 1:7.)

"Observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Josh. 1:8.)

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whither soever thou goest." (Josh. 1:9.)

As Joshua and his people approached Jericho, the instructions of the Lord were followed precisely, and according to the scriptural account, "the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city." (Josh. 6:20.)

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Josh. 24:15.)

We should decide now, in the light of the morning, how we will act when the darkness of night and when the storms of temptation arrive.

I pray that we will have the strength to decide now to do what we ought to do. I pray that we will decide now to serve the Lord.

Rosemary Kerr

### Proud of our DOT

Dear Editor,

We, who are fortunate enough to live in Union County, are also blessed with an outstanding Union County DOT. Don't just think about the exceptional winter/ice road control we receive but the hundreds of smaller, usually under appreciated debris removals, drainage clearings, and overall road maintenance.

I stopped by our DOT one lunch hour to explain about a problem on the mountain where I live. Joe took time away from his lunch to listen to my concerns. He and his men did what they said they would when they said they would to remedy the problem I reported.

I deeply appreciate these gentlemen and say Thank You x 100 to the best DOT in Georgia.

Marlene Hadden

### Friends

A discussion on mythology between two professors may not seem like a recipe for changing the literary world. Add a few more academics and you have The Inklings, which might have kept the world from experiencing J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* but for his friendship with C.S. Lewis.

The Inklings were Oxford dons, including the aforementioned pair and Hugo Dyson among others, meeting regularly to discuss their work and other topics. Dyson railed profanely about Tolkien's elves and refused to hear readings about them. But Lewis encouraged him to continue, and Tolkien cited Lewis for giving him perseverance for the monumental work. Perhaps this was turnabout, for years earlier, Tolkien's quiet logic had encouraged Lewis to abandon his atheism for the joy of Christian faith, without which we would never have met Aslan, the king who was not safe, but good (The Chronicles of Narnia). Actually Dyson also helped persuade Lewis about Christ, so this was a tale of sincere friends, shared lives.

It's too bad that you may not realize the value of friends until you need them. Sometimes the need is just to be heard, and assured that you aren't the unlikeable failure you quite imagine. You come to trust such friends, which is why disloyalty hurts (Ps. 41:9). But show me friends who have weathered storms of adversity between them, and I'll show you a stronger, more honest relationship. We're so quick to throw things away, including people. Don't.

The story of Job, perhaps the oldest book in the Bible, was about God dealing with a man who had friends who were well-intentioned but sometimes unhelpful. Here's to the friend who is wise enough to know when to shut up and listen! And consider carefully what comes out of his mouth next.

In today's culture coffee houses compete with pubs as a place "where everybody knows your name" (que 'Cheers' theme song!). They call out your delectable selection by name, a friendly touch. We just want to be known. We yearn for friends because an anonymous life is starved of the sustenance of relationship, of knowing and being known. Ultimately that yearning is fulfilled

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#### All Things New

Wayne Fowler



### Questions and Answers

**Q. We want to hold a special event in or around the Historic Courthouse in the center of Blairsville? Will you give us permission and do we need a permit?**

A. While the county owns the Historic Courthouse, we have a long term lease with the Historical Society and therefore they control the use of this property. If you want to utilize the street or parking around the Courthouse, that is in the City of Blairsville which they control. Only if you want to use facilities or space at the County Courthouse would you contact us.

This is a similar question that we often receive and I thought it would be a good idea to explain how the different governments in Union County function, so I have designed this Q & A around that response.

**Q. Who runs the City of Blairsville?**

A. It is operated by the Mayor, Jim Conley, who reports to and receives direction from the City Council, which is made up of five members.

**Q. Do the City of Blairsville residents pay property taxes like county residents?**

A. Yes they do, but it is a relatively small amount. The City also receives a portion of the SPLOST sales tax, hotel/motel tax revenue from the hotels located within the city limits, revenue from water and sewer, and business license revenue.

**Q. Do City of Blairsville residents pay county property taxes as well as city property taxes?**

A. Yes they do. City residents are also considered county residents since the City is within the County. We provide all services that the county citizens have access to, such as Fire protection, Recreation, Library, to citizens that reside in the City as well.

**Q. Does the county have any authority within the city limits?**

A. No. The law clearly separates the two governments as to operation, so the county has no role in the operation or decisions made by the city. This is not to say that we do not work together, because we certainly do and jointly make some decisions, but the authority clearly is vested with the City of Blairsville for their own operation.

There are two exceptions. The golf course is owned by the

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### Youth Leadership Union

The kick off of our 2015 Youth Leadership Union program is just around the corner. The Blairsville-Union County Chamber is proud to present this incredible series in partnership with our sponsor, Community & Southern Bank.

#### Blairsville - Union County Chamber

Cindy Williams



Youth Leadership Union was established to develop the knowledge and skills of the participants to become our leaders of tomorrow. During the 9-week program, participants will better understand the foundations of leadership, develop a sense of community by touring many local government offices and business operations, and gain valuable lifelong skills such as interviewing and professionalism, personality styles, basics of entrepreneurship, and public speaking. Most sessions will take place on Tuesday evenings at the Union County Community Center beginning September 22, and a meal will be provided.

Selection into the program will be based on a written application and interview process and will be limited to 20 students. Applicants must be in the 10th or 11th grade and attend school in Union County or live in Union County. They must demonstrate outstanding character and a desire to make an impact in their community through involvement in business organizations, civic club, churches, and/or other extracurricular activities. We seek participants who are honest, have integrity, dependability and a concern for others. If selected, participation is expected by

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### Quoting Frank Zappa

It was the end of my freshman year of college when his "Don't Eat the Yellow Snow" hit the charts. I walked out of the fraternity party that was blasting it on the stereo. As good looking as those Theta Chi's might have been, I was leaving the fun. I could not bear to listen to one more verse. I was eighteen years old, but I felt ancient, as the thoughts that went through my head were from my father's mouth. "They call that music?"

He named his children Dweezil, Moon, Ahmet and Diva. I'm thinking that there might have been mushrooms involved in those decisions, but who am I to say. He certainly didn't replace the Sgt. Pepper's poster on my wall when I moved into the dorm my sophomore year. His only redeeming quality, as far as I could tell, was he was half Sicilian.

That was until I realized that I often quoted him. As I look around my bedroom, at the piles on the hope chest, on the unit of three wood tiers lining one wall, on the shelves in the closet and on the bedside table on both the top and bottom, the words that come to mind are a Frank Zappa quote. "So many books, so little time".

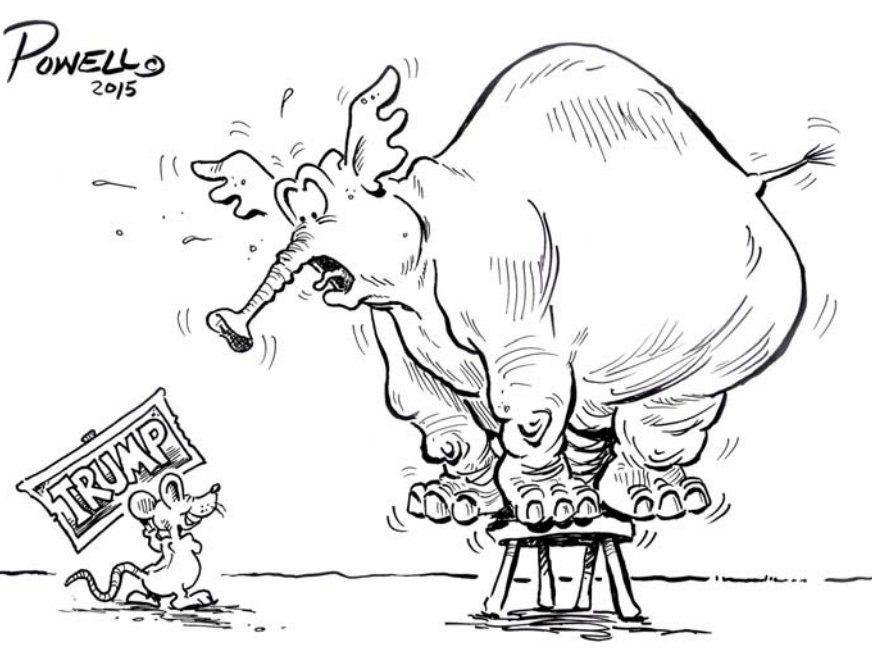
I had the pleasure of talking to Susie Brendle this week. Susie holds a religious office, in my sensibility. She ministers at the sacred temple of the County Library. Imagine entering a tabernacle filled with tomes, each and everyday, orchestrating the rituals of book borrowing. An enviable position, I say.

While on a recent and brief 32 hour visit to my hometown I found myself driving slowly past The Dunkirk Free Library, the first book sanctuary I ever entered. I was five years old, the main qualification to apply for my own library card. I also had to be able to print my name. I still remember lumbering my little legs up the ten giant steps leading to the double doors that unlocked my imagination.

I would always borrow as many books as was allowed. I most likely only read a few, and never, ever returned them on time. You see, it isn't necessarily the need to read, but just the aura of the book, for me. If I feel I have lived a life

#### Farmers Market Moment

JorAnne Leone



### Does Our County Need a Board of Commissioners

Dear Editor,

As many readers know, ours is one of only a few of Georgia's 159 counties that still has the single commissioner system rather than a board. In recent elections some candidates have toyed with the idea of changing to a board.

For those who believe a board of commissioners would be better for our county than the highly efficient single commissioner system, I urge you to buy a subscription to the *Cherokee Scout* and read about the controversial performance of the board in nearby Murphy, NC. Several years ago the Cherokee County board consisted of three elected members and citizens were unhappy with their performance. After a contentious campaign, voters ousted all incumbents and elected a new board. Apparently the new board members had more zeal than political expertise or business knowledge. In one of his first actions the new chairman fired the county manager who promptly sued for breach of contract and won a settlement of \$140,000 (Ouch! tax increase). That board was split between political parties and soon decided that citizens were giving them too much heat for just three people to stand. So a resolution was put to voters who approved an increase to five members. The next election resulted in another split board with individual members often bickering with each other and trying to please their own party's supporters. Reportedly, they bought property through the "good old boy network" far above market value and built a manned trash depository just outside a new subdivision. Residents appealed

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### A closer look

Dear Editor,

Response to article 8-12-2015, Walter B. Kerr; a very good article but it did not go far enough. Contrary to the way that the KJV and other Bibles have been changed the original word is still available.

Day six is very misunderstood since it indicates that there were two or maybe more creations. One must refer to Gen. 5:1 Quote Bible Hub: (1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. (2 He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created).

As one can clearly see from this verse "man" included the male and the female.

Current KJV; In Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. Here one must watch the words, male and female they created them, replenish the earth: indicating that man had been here before and was destroyed in

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### What's in a Name?

Have you ever wondered about the reputation of a family name? What were the personalities of your ancestors? What were their likes and dislikes? How did they interact with other people? My grandmother, Delphia Adams' maiden name was Baker.

Her father was Charlie Newton Baker. He farmed and logged for a living. He loved to fox hunt with a large pack of dogs. Charlie's grandfather was Hiram Baker. Hiram migrated to Alabama from North Carolina. Hiram actually spent some time living here in Union County. He is listed as living in Union County, GA in the 1850 census.

Hiram's ancestors came out of Pennsylvania. Hiram's fourth great grandfather was Robert Baker Sr. Robert came from a line of at least three generations of gunsmiths. Sometime early in the 1700s Robert was called to England by Queen Anne to manufacture arms for the Queen's Army. Robert came back to America and sometime around 1719 he acquired 200 acres of land at the confluence of Pequea Creek and the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania where he built a gunsmith shop and began making rifles for the people of that area of Pennsylvania. Robert and his son Caleb were some of the first gunsmiths in America. The rifles which were being made at this mill were called Baker Rifles. These rifles were in the style of what we now call a Kentucky Long Rifle. We don't know the name of the inventor of the Kentucky/Pennsylvania Rifles. However, we know that Robert Baker was one of the first to make these types of rifles in the Lancaster area of Pennsylvania.

Robert died in 1728 and his sons took over the family business. When the Revolutionary War began the English came to the area and forced Caleb and his brothers to make bullets for the British Army. The British didn't know that Caleb's sons were fighting in the Continental Army with George Washington. Also, unknown to the British was Caleb and his brothers were making Kentucky Long Rifles for the Continental Army.

Robert Baker's grandfather was one of the first men to build a fort in Pennsylvania. John Baker traded with the Indians and built a fort and blockhouse in Franklin County Pennsylvania sometime around 1650. Later he served as a colonel in the French and Indian Wars.

Go back another 100 years and we find another Baker. Sir George Baker was a Doctor. He served as "Surgeon-in-Ordinary" to Queen Elizabeth. He wrote several books about health and making of medicines. George's grandfather "John" had another reputation.

John was a prominent man. He served in several capacities to the English Throne. He served as the Undersecretary of London in 1520, the Recorder of London, the Attorney General of England, Cabinet Minister, and Speaker of

#### Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



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