

Opinions

Everybody has one

A Parisian Experience

"They were the biggest beets I've ever seen."

"There weren't any tomatoes."

"Oh, the nutella and strawberry crepe was so delicious."

"I got tomatoes."

"See the Berry Lady. She has the meaty but tender beans."

"The lady from White County had tomatoes"

"I liked the peaches from south Georgia."

"She was sold out of tomatoes by the time I got there."

"They aren't the freestones. I like the South Carolina ones better."

It's like a ping pong match at Meeks Pool from 10:30 until 11:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. About 15 to 20 ladies gather for our water exercise class and we vocal-volley back and forth about what's going on in the area. This time of year, a good deal of the banter is about the Farmers Market.

Every week you attend the market, you have the opportunity to become familiar with a new craft item, fondle the first of the season's produce, or ingest a delicacy prepared in front of your eyes.

One of our newest vendors is The Crepe Lady. Her crepes have tongues wagging with delight. She has sweet and savory crepes and they are custom made right in front of you, with fresh ingredients and a warm smile.

Tuesday night Market had a craft that I couldn't take my eyes off. They were beautiful, cut glass and antique dishes made into yard art, including feeders and bird baths. Lovely display, too.

That same evening I saw all these wicker-like baskets with lids lined up on one vendor's table. I couldn't imagine what they were, so I sauntered up and was handed a Dixie cup filled with pretzel sticks. I could sample one of two dozen dips. They had amazing mixes I had never tasted before. My favorite was Portobello Mushroom and Artichoke dip.

The Markets and Trash and Treasures have so much to offer you. Come spend some time with us. Chat with the vendors and hear stories about their farm challenges, or how they make their crafts. You don't even have to travel to a Parisian street corner to watch a batter transform into a delicate crepe right before your eyes.

And a special shout out to all musicians and performers. We want to book you for Saturday mornings. Clowns, magicians, Yo-Yo Masters, we need you for special events. Email us at UCFarmersMarket@gmail.com telling us about your act.

Ladies, I'll see you at the pool. Everyone else, I will see you at the Market! For our event schedule, visit www.UCFarmersMarket.com.

Buy Local (part 2)

Q. What are some other reasons we should shop locally?

A. I have to answer that by reminding everyone of the three pennies of sales tax we currently have in Union County. Four pennies of every dollar you spend in Union County goes to the State of Georgia, while the other three pennies goes to SPLOST, ESPLOST, and LOST. The SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) penny goes to county government sales tax for capital expenditures (buildings, equipment, roads and property). The more sales tax money that comes in to our county the more improvements we can make in Union County. The ESPLOST (Education SPLOST) penny goes to the school system for buildings, equipment and property. The LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) penny goes for operation of county government and comes directly off your property taxes!!! So higher sales tax collections means continued property tax relief.

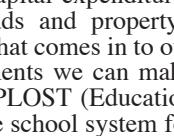
So the new schools, the roads and bridges and other county buildings and projects are paid for with two pennies. However, the third penny saves us approximately 30% to 40% on our property tax bill. So shopping at home helps EVERYONE in this county.

Q. I already spend money locally. Why do we need this program?

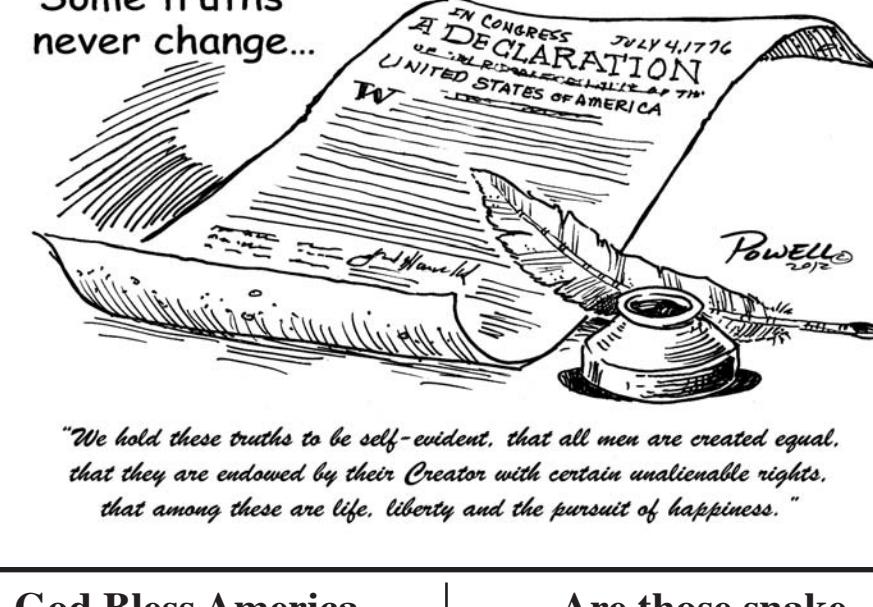
A. While we all spend money in our local economy, the goal of this program is to encourage each citizen to identify items they are not currently buying locally when that product or service is available here. For example, consider where you are buying your groceries and your gas. Each time you stop outside of the County to fill your gas tank or pick up a few groceries, that is lost revenue to our businesses and our tax base. For instance, if you fill up in Jasper or any other out of county station for \$100.00 (the cost to fill up many trucks and SUV's), that is \$3 lost to another county. It is estimated that we could easily be losing \$50,000 a year in gasoline sales taxes alone. That could pay for a new playground at Meeks Park, not to mention saving all of us on property taxes.

I often hear people say they like to shop at Lowe's because they get better service and a different product line. While I am not against Lowe's, we have four hardware stores in Union County for your shopping pleasure. What I am saying is that every penny we can bring to Union County is SOOO important. It is important to our sales tax income, but it is more important to our merchants whose livelihoods are being threatened by the slow economy. This impacts every facet of this County and our

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Lamar
Paris
Q & A



God Bless America

Are we a nation on a suicide binge? Has our nation forsaken the solid rock of the Lord Jesus Christ for the quick sand of atheism, humanism and materialism? Before I wrote this column I was reading the prophet Hosea. Some of the same symptoms which hastened Israel's demise are frighteningly present in our nation today (Hosea 8:7; 12:1).

The danger that poses the greatest threat to our nation does not come from the outside but from the inside. It is not insane terrorists that will take down our nation. Of course, they may take part in doing so, but we will pave the way for them due to our moral and spiritual decay (Hosea 6:4; 13:3).

America was founded upon Judeo-Christian principles in spite of what liberal historians may say. True, humanly speaking, imperfect men founded this great nation and some of them were not even Christians but they based this new nation on Christian principles which has been its guiding light for 236 years. It seems that the predominate attitude of this nation is an idolatrous dependence on government rather than upon God who provides all things.

The late President, John F. Kennedy, is known for his one statement more than anything else when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." We seem to have developed a mind-set in this country that demands the government to give me what I need. As someone has said we need to be reminded that the nation that is strong enough to give you all you want is strong enough to take all you have.

As we celebrate our freedom this July 4th we need to stand faithful to our spiritual heritage. Our history is a rich history as a nation. Someone has said, "A man's country is not a certain area of land, mountains, rivers and woods, but it is a principle; patriotism is loyalty to that principle." We have a glorious heritage that began with individuals who had a dream for freedom and they paid the price for

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Driving Business Local

Did you know that every purchase you make has the potential to significantly impact our local economy? The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce has just launched a county-wide buy local campaign, called The BEST of Union County, whose goal is to increase resident and visitor spending within Union County. You may very well have seen the posters popping up in local business around town to remind you of the importance of this program.

This week I want to address the benefits of shopping locally as well as the exciting components of our brand new BEST program.

It is important to pause for a moment and think about the positive community impact you could be making each time you pull out your wallet. Shopping locally supports the stability and growth of our local businesses that depend on each of us to thrive. Businesses use about 50 cents of every dollar for employee salaries and benefits. Much of the rest is reinvested in inventory, expansion and operating costs. Part of every dollar spent locally helps to improve our schools, roads and emergency and other government services. By making purchases locally, you are supporting the sustainability and creation of jobs for your family, your neighbors, and yourself. Local businesses also invest more in our community. Have you ever asked for a sponsorship from a small business? If not, you are one of few! Local businesses give back a significant portion of their proceeds to support a variety of local sports teams, charities, and events which add greatly to our quality of life. And don't forget the sales tax revenue that allows us to have dynamic resources such as Meeks Park and the Farmers Market.

In addition to the financial reasons, there are also customer service reasons to shop locally. For example, when you shop locally, you get to know the business owner and they get to know you. A sense of trust and understanding of your needs develops that only exists in a local community. Local merchants work hard to provide a higher quality of personalized service.

Are you ready to make the change? If we can start to spend our dollars with a goal of only \$100 additional per year for each household spent locally, by this time next year those \$100 purchases would be over half a million dollars we have invested in our local community! Here are a few good places to start: When purchasing gifts or clothing, forget the mall. Union County has outstanding retail stores that offer unique items. When your gas tank is nearing empty, be sure to fill up within the county. When searching for printing, marketing, or other such services – don't you dare go online!

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Adam Gilreath

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Letters

To the Editor

KKK visit bad for businesses

Dear Editor,

I had a sad and sickening feeling when I opened my June 20 issue of the NGN.

There at the top of the page were the beautiful and accurate words (coined I believe by Mr. West many years ago), "Land of Lakes, Mountains, Scenic Beauty, and Friendly People."

Immediately under those words was the headline, "KKK Rally Date Is On."

Enough said?

Joseph J. Ferrandino

Pay it Forward

Dear Editor,

Finally the US Supreme Court agrees with me that I should not have to subsidize the freeloaders that show up for medical care without health insurance. It is their personal responsibility to have the funds to pay for their care like the rest of us. I'm very glad that now they need to make arrangements to pay their own way or pay a penalty that will cut down on any government subsidy.

Jim Fitzgerald

Cheer on the girls

Dear Editor,

I'm writing regarding the the recent article published in your paper regarding the 12U District Softball champs.

Some of the stats published in the article were not complete and the article seemed to give credit to just a few players when in fact other runs were made by other players.

There was even a 3 run home run with 2 RBIs that was not mentioned and this was this girl's first ever home run.

Credit for the final out against Jackson should have been given in part to the second baseman Braden Poteete who suffered an injury (trampled) while tagging the Jackson player out.

All parents concur and wish to ask you to please publish complete stats (for the upcoming State Tournament) for all players that contributed or just not publish stats and give the team as a whole credit for a job well done.

Many on our team played on the 10U State Championship Team last year and all stats from those games were published correctly by NGN.

The Upcoming Dizzy Dean State Tournament is a big deal to our little team and if we win then it will mean back to back State Tournament wins for many of our girls.

We hope to see a representative of NGN there.

Shawn Seabolt

Pay Attention

Dear Editor,

Don't be fooled by paid advertisements and misleading figures.

There are those within the community and around the country who would have you believe otherwise, but don't be misled, President Obama is without a doubt the biggest spender of all American presidents.

The fact is that on Dec. 31, 2008 just prior to Obama taking office the US National Debt stood at \$10,699,804,884,612.

See Honea, page 5A

Highway Trash

Dear Editor,

Why throw your trash-garbage on the roadside? Take it home and put in the trash or find someplace other than the roadside.

If nobody picked up and cleaned the roadsides it sure would become real bad quick. There are people who volunteer to pick-up the roadsides. I know our prison detail people do also, but if the people did not throw it there to begin with, we would not have to clean up the roadsides.

Please be considerate and don't litter up our mountain roadways. It's sad to see the litter the way it is these days. Take your trash and deposit it where it belongs, not on our roadways!

A volunteer who picks up!

Gary Schultz

Relay says thanks to NGN, West

Printing and staff

Dear Kenneth, Charles and Staff,

Thanks to you for working with our Union County Relay For Life volunteers as we ventured out to our new event location at the Farmer's Market this year.

We appreciate your support of this year's event as well as your support for all of

See Relay, page 5A

Don't need the KKK

Dear Editor:

As generations before me, I am native Georgian with my husband and 5 sons, we settled in Blairsville over 30 years ago. Having experienced its growth, we still consider our community close knit, loyal, friendly, resourceful and peace loving.

My Jewish mother grew up in Atlanta. She was not allowed to publicly celebrate Jewish holidays; the KKK made its impact on the city and my grandparents worried for the safety of their children.

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