

Opinions

Everybody has one...

A celebrated Fourth

Union County and Americans celebrated our nation's 239th birthday on Saturday.

It was a grand occasion in Union County, beginning with a Patriotic Big Country Breakfast at Allegheny Lodge No. 114, followed by a spirited day at Vogel State Park, the 19th Annual Nottely Marina Boat Parade, and culminated by fireworks displays at Meeks Park and in Suches.

It was an all out celebration of American Independence.

At Allegheny Lodge, more than 100 attended the Big Country Breakfast. At Vogel State Park, a day full of Patriotic activities for young and young at heart was celebrated.

At Nottely Marina, it did rain on the boat parade, but that didn't stop the Patriotic enthusiasts from continuing their mission of a Boat Parade trophy. Nine in total were awarded.

At Meeks Park, Georgia 515 was lined with those craving to see a fireworks display, one of the best in Northeast Georgia for that matter. They weren't disappointed.

In Suches, the annual fireworks display and the small town USA, family-like atmosphere has far exceeded its humble origins that began with a few friends firing off bottle rockets at the General Store, many moons ago.

Nowadays you can feel the excitement and the patriotism hours before sunset as the crowd begins to gather before 6 p.m.

Areas on and around the field behind the Woody Gap School begin to fill up quick, along with the school parking lot, and the parking lot across the street at Fire Station 6 and Woody Gap Community Center.

By 7:30 p.m. the embankment in front of the community center and along Georgia 60 quickly becomes lined with lawn chairs, blankets and families from Blairsville to Suches to Sarasota (Fla.).

Yes birthday No. 239 for our nation was celebrated with flags flying, hotdogs sizzling and strawberry cobbler tempting everyone close enough to get a whiff of the delicacy.

We're proud to be Americans and proud to be from Blairsville and Suches. We wait with much anticipation for birthday No. 240 in 2016.

Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



Christian Optimism

The Old Atlanta Stockade was operated as a prison from 1896 to 1924. It housed debtors and children alongside hardened criminals. In the 1950s, skeletal remains of 50 people were found on the site, the final explanation of many who 'disappeared' from the infamous prison. In the 1980s, Renny Scott and Bob Lupton led the effort to rebuild the blighted building as part of a Christian ministry to a low income neighborhood. The grand re-opening was on an Easter Sunday, and the paper ran a photo captioned, "He is risen, indeed."

Providing hope and life where there was once pain and death is indeed the story of the resurrection of Christ. An unredeemed world is why He came, so no surprise when cultures do not embrace Him or us, His ambassadors. As Christians in a fallen world, we've always been operating 'behind enemy lines.' The work of Benedictine monks who preserved Christian truth and knowledge after Rome fell, and of modern Chinese house churches that defy communist threats, and of Christians in America who hold seemingly 'freakish' views about unborn children and natural marriage, is the same: to share in the recreating, redeeming, restoring work of God.

As the world turns, some things stay the same. Russell Moore wrote in the *Washington Post*, "The Supreme Court cannot get Jesus back in that tomb. Jesus of Nazareth is still alive. He is still calling the universe toward his kingdom." He was urging optimism despite a certain, recent, landmark ruling that has religious freedom implications.

Of course some Christians tend to embrace whatever the culture decides is the next righteous thing, claiming a loving God would not object to it. Our Scripture says "Do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?" G. K. Chesterton said to adapt to a changing morality tries "to prove that we fit into the world. The Christian optimism is based on the fact that we do not fit into the world."

Yet we are called to serve a world we are unfit for. Moore's article continues, "While this decision will ultimately hurt many

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All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Questions and Answers

Q. How do I go about getting a green address marker for a new house?

A. You would need to contact our 911 Mapping office at (706) 439-6056. They will work with you on getting your home or property addressed and put in the system. There has to be a driveway in place and then they will come out and assign the property an address. They will then make a marker and have it placed in two or three weeks.

Q. The green address post on my property has been damaged and is no longer useable. How do I get it replaced?

A. If you have a green marker that is missing or damaged, you can call the 911 Mapping office at (706) 439-6056 and they can have it replaced. Please do not move the green marker once it is placed without approval, because it is in the best spot for emergency responders to see. The faster they see your green marker, the faster they can get to you in case of an emergency.

Q. I heard one time that the particular number on the green address post helps emergency personnel find us quicker. Other than the obvious that it is nice to have a unique number, what does the number mean?

A. Our E 911 system is one of the most up to date in the industry and our numbering system is as well. Your address number, in addition to making it easier to find your home, automatically tells emergency personnel how far your address is from a certain intersection.

For example, if your address is 2250 Jones Creek Road, the public safety vehicle will know before leaving the station that once they reach the Jones Creek Road from the Blue Ridge Highway, that your home will be on the left and will be exactly 2.250 miles (2 and 1/4 miles) from the intersection. If your number is 780 they know your address is .780 miles from the intersection or about 3/4 mile.

Q. When is the Butternut Creek Festival this year?

A. The Butternut Creek Festival will be held on July 18th and 19th this year on the banks of Butternut Creek in Meeks Park. It will be open from 9-5 both days. There will be great musical entertainment, live art demonstrations, and food vendors. This event

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Letters to the Editor ...

Sacrifice

Dear Editor,

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Their story: Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships from the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their "lives, fortunes, and sacred honor."

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers and large plantation owners: men of means, well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals and soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson

See Mitchell, page 5A

God help our country

Dear Editor,

In response to the letter from Arlene Gray, *North Georgia News*, July 1, 2015.

Had the Dugger family been in the same league of Honey Boo Boo (Honey Boo Hoo), this incident would have only been a little glitch in the road!

I am not conditioning what "young" Dugger did, and I certainly give praise to his parents on how they handled his actions. This "news" is only giving those looking for an excuse for their own immoral actions a chance to say "Ah Ha!" But it is no comparison to what is going on, openly, in our nation today! I doubt there are many that would want their mistakes aired to the world! Would you? Let those without sin cast the first stone. God help our country!

Jean M. Holsapple

It is what it is

Dear Editor,

Come on Exposito! Can anybody be proud of what the Confederate flag stands for? If anything, they should be ashamed! Read the "Cornerstone Speech." Jews probably cringe when they see a Swastika. Blacks, I'm sure, cringe at the sight of the Confederate flag. Not because of what they "think" it symbolizes, but because of the bias and hatred associated with it! I cringe at the sight of the Confederate flag and I am not even Black! I am ashamed because of the beliefs and philosophies that symbolize the Confederacy as mentioned in the Cornerstone Speech.

You mentioned the discussion between Alice and Humpty Dumpty, well, if you live in a fantasy land, you can choose to believe what you want. Please! Let's call a spade a spade. It is what it is, not what you choose it to be.

There is only one flag for the "United States" of America. Until the Confederate flag is laid to rest along with the philosophies and beliefs linked to it, we will continue to have the hatred and racism that it has come to represent.

Thomas D. Wallace

It's a sure thing that the General Assembly will never approve gambling in this state!

Want to bet?



Open or Closed Government in Georgia?

Dear Editor,

Did you know that the Georgia Senate has enacted a quiet little rule that provides for some of their controversial votes to be "unrecorded"? That means that there is no way to know how your representative is representing you. That rule goes against all common sense in assuring Open Government, and needs to be changed!

The only way that will be accomplished is if they receive sufficient calls, evidencing our indignation at this travesty. All phone calls made before the next legislature convenes will be registered and tallied. Only if there is sufficient outcry from the citizenry, will this come to an end.

All that is necessary, if you are equally concerned about this, is two brief phone calls, giving your name and demanding that all Senate votes be recorded; the excuse that it takes too long is sheer nonsense. Use the following names and phone numbers and devote less than ten minutes to restore our State to open government: Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, (404) 656-5030; State Sen. Steve Gooch, (404) 656-9221.

And while you have the office staff on the phone, you might also want to say that you are against the State of Georgia issuing driver's licenses to illegals. That issue is slated for their next session.

Sometimes, it takes only a small effort from a great number of people to make the change that is needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene M. Gray

In Response to South Carolina Flag Flap

Dear Editor,

The Confederate flag is a "symbol" of one thing, and one thing only. It is a symbol of the formation of the Confederacy. The vice president of those states (Alexander Stephens) in his infamous cornerstone speech declared: "The cornerstone of this new government rests upon the great truth that the Negro is not equal to the white man. That slavery - subordination to the superior race - is his natural and normal condition. [That] This new government is the first, in the history of the world, based upon this great physical, philosophical, and "moral truth."

If you choose to look at the flag as a "proud" symbol of history and culture, then this is what you are looking at. I must ask, however, where is the pride? Where is the pride in states whose philosophies were rooted in the belief that whites are the "superior" race, that as a race, Africans are inferior by nature, and cannot be made so by human laws or human institutions? Where is the pride in states whose regional economy was largely dependent upon a plantation system that relied upon enslaving people? Where is the pride and nobility of those who fought to maintain such states and to uphold (even after the war) such philosophies and "moral truths"?

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Real Char'acters

As a young boy I heard my grandfather would use strange words that were spoken by people in England during Chaucer's time. The Appalachian Mountains were isolated from the rest of the world during my grandfather's childhood. These mountains were not opened up to the rest of the world until my lifetime. Many of the words that were used by early settlers to America were still in use until 1970s in rural Appalachia. These words included holped, directly and a phrase used by my grandfather was "a real char'acter".

When Papa said, "My Papa John was a real char'acter." He meant his grandfather was a person who stood out because of their nature and character. Sometimes Papa would use the phrase to indicate a person was full of the devilment like his grandfather or he might use the phrase to mean a person's intelligence and character should be emulated.

For example, John Cummings was a blacksmith. He was big, brawny, strong, loved to drink, loved to fight and loved the ladies. One time John went to a wedding and enjoyed a little too much of the Apple Brandy before the wedding even began. As a result John walked to the front of the church, stood in the pulpit, stripped off his clothing and offered to fight any man in the building. When there were no takers John made everyone leave the wedding and refused to let the services continue. Later in life John left his first wife and moved to Missouri. There, he raised another bunch of Cummings kids. My papa and one of his cousins went to visit their grandfather in Missouri late one summer. They were helping him in the Blacksmith Shop when John asked the cousin to hand him a hammer. The boy sassed John and told him to get the hammer himself. The boy knew he was in trouble so he turned to run. John picked up the 5 pound hammer and threw it at the boy barely missing his ear and said, "My boys never sassed me and neither are my grandsons." John Cummings was a "real char'acter".

John had five sons all of which became farmers. Lon was my great grandfather and he owned a large farm on the road between Phil Campbell and Trapptown. One day the Alabama Department of Highways came to Lon's house wanting a right of way on his property so a road could be built in front of his house. Lon was about 68 years old at this time and he agreed to give a right of way for the road if the construction of the highway would not create a road bank in front of his house. Lon was afraid a cut bank would pose a danger for him and his wife as they grew older. The man from the Alabama Highway Department agreed. However, when the road was built a steep bank was created which caused Lon to climb down and back up to retrieve his mail. The people constructing the road laughed

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Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



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