

Opinions

Everybody has one...

A treasured piece of history

On Sept. 28, Union County will celebrate 180 years of Homecoming at Coosa United Methodist Church with a celebratory service at 10 a.m. at the church on Mulky Gap Road.

An Old Time Singing will be held at 7 p.m. on Sept. 27 to celebrate the occasion of Homecoming.

As a small boy growing up in the Coosa District, I had no idea that my ancestors played a vital role in creating this magnificent church nestled in the foothills of rural Union County.

No, all I knew was that each Sunday, we walked to Coosa United Methodist Church.

As I've grown older, and a bit more educated, I learned that for many years, it wasn't just a church, it also was The Coosa School; my mother and my Great Aunt Minnie Duncan both taught there.

The story of Coosa United Methodist Church begins with my Great-Great-Grandfather Charles Duncan, a devout Methodist, anxious to bring Methodism to the North Georgia Mountains.

Charles and his wife Mary Ford Duncan moved to Union County in 1833 from North Carolina. They brought along their 12 children. Four of their sons, and one daughter, married into the Gillespie family.

It is believed that the first Homecoming happened on the Duncan Family property near the present day Duncan Cemetery off Fairview Church Road.

The present day Coosa Methodist Church off Mulky Gap Road, was built in 1865. My Great-Great Grandfather David Newton Duncan, John Ledford, and Wellborn Ledford deeded the property to Coosa trustees William Rufus Duncan, Joab Crawford, John Gillespie, James Gillespie, and Moses Gillespie.

W.R. Duncan, as he was known, was my Great-Grandfather, and John, James and Moses Gillespie were my great uncles. Joab's daughter Sally married my Great Uncle Frank Duncan. The trustees dedicated the land to be used as a place of divine worship, for the use of the ministry and its membership.

I remember many of the preachers who were assigned to the Blairsville Circuit, Gus Cole, Pierce Norman, Jan Devereaux, Bill Gill, and Robert Passmore. Each impacted my life.

Over the 180 years of this church, it has taken many a dedicated person to keep it up and running. Many of these folks were my relatives.

I'm proud to say that my family has had a hand in helping keep Coosa United Methodist Church a meaningful part of this community.

If you're ever in the area, stop in and visit this historic mountain church, one of the first in Union County history.

Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



Get Over It

Life is filled with "getters." The whiners are always griping about the getters. They say things like: "Oh, they get the prettiest girls or the most handsome boys;" "They get the best jobs;" "They get all the breaks in life", etc. Most of the getters in life got what they have because of their "get up." My grandfather used to identify certain people by saying, "They don't have any "git up" in them." Well, there are all kinds of "getters" in life and not all of them are pleasant to be around. There are those "getters" who are constantly "getting under your skin" or "getting on your nerves." To keep these people from "getting to you" you have to pray a lot and practice patience or else they will succeed at "getting your goat." Because there are so many "getters" in this world, if you don't "get a grip on yourself" you may "get the short end of the stick."

Occasionally, I chance to meet ole "getter up on the wrong side of the bed." Poor fella, his attitude is so bad, if he says good morning to you he makes you mad. Sometimes, I run into ole "getter up with the chickens." He is always bragging about how early he gets out of bed. I guess he wants to rob some chicken of the worm. Then there are the getters in life who seem to "get away with murder." They are never caught or punished for any unlawful acts they commit. However, don't let that "get your dander up." They are not "getting off easy," they will "get what's coming to them." Maybe not in this life but there is a great "get even day coming." There are some getters that you "get off on the wrong foot" with and you just want to tell them to "get lost." Don't let the "bad getters" sour you on the "good getters." Well, if you have been sitting around talking about the getters in life - Get over it. Don't "get rattled." The preacher said "There is a time to get and a time to lose" (Ecc. 3:6). This is the time to get. The preacher also said, "It is the time to get wisdom and understanding" (Proverbs 4:5). We need to get wise and get together as God's people. This nation needs to "get down to business" with God. We need to "get on the stick" and "get the ball rolling" and "get God's show on the road" if we "get the message" to the world while it is time to get.

It's On My Mind

Danny Parris



See Parris, page 5A

Questions and Answers

Q. Are you going to have an electronics recycling event this year?

A. We are pleased to announce that this annual event will be held on Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the parking lot of the old Blue Ridge EMC in Young Harris.

It is for residents only of Union and Towns counties.

Q. Has this event been successful in past years?

A. Yes, very successful according to Leslie George, Executive Director of the North Georgia Resource Management Authority. She said that last year there were 11,238 pounds of documents destroyed and 150 different vehicles brought in recyclables. They produced \$965 in revenue for the Humane Society. There was 11,670 pounds of metal, plastic, glass, computer housing and peripheral equipment that was processed and sent on to an appropriate recycling end market by Atlanta Recycling Solutions to be manufactured into recycled content products. The important thing to realize is that all this material was kept out of landfills.

Q. Who sponsors this event?

A. Keep Our Mountains Beautiful and North Georgia Resource Management Authority offer this service to residents of Union and Towns County.

Q. What does it cost to bring our old electronics and get our documents shredded?

A. The only cost is a \$5 donation per car with all proceeds going to the Mountain Shelter Humane Society. Also, there is a \$20 charge for televisions and a \$5 charge for CRT Computer Monitors.

Q. I am worried about bringing my old computer. What happens to the information on it?

A. There is no need to be alarmed about someone stealing any information left on the computer as all CPU hard drives are destroyed or wiped of all information.

Q. How can we get more information on what will be accepted at electronics recycling?

A. You can go to the NGRMA website (www.ngрма.org) for this information or you can pick up a copy of the flyer in our office. This information is also posted on the county website (www.ungоv.org).

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



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Letters to the Editor ...

The rest of the story

Dear Editor,

I read in the *North Georgia News* the EMC articles, it said "the other six Directors have to fear a re-call, etc..."

Please tell all of us the "how, when, where" of how we can sign such a petition. Who is doing this? We all want to sign, so tell us how to do this, please.

Thanks for your excellent coverage.

Jim Steed

Can live without liberals

Dear Editor,

In the Sept. 10 issue of the *North Georgia News* a letter to the editor made issue of U.S. Rep. Doug Collins's goal to block Obama's reckless policies. He claimed to have talked to a staff member who could not recall any of Obama's failed policies. It is curious why the letter writer brought up the minimum wage, equal pay for women and climate change because none of these issues rate high in concerns among Americans. What does rate high is Obama's healthcare debacle which has left more Americans uninsured, including my family, and promises to run our debt higher than ever. It is a common tactic among Liberals to rewrite history especially concerning Iraq and George Bush's weapons of mass destruction. It has been confirmed the threat was real (I served in Iraq early in the war and know firsthand) and in

See Hunter, page 5A

Give Bill a call

Dear Editor,

I read Mr. Cheves' letter to the editor on this subject and was disappointed that *North Georgia News* ran it as the lead opinion letter. I know the man he called and Mr. Cheves' comments were clearly biased and taken out of context.

What Mr. Cheves failed to mention was that when he called Mr. Collins office he was angry about the letter he had received and had an agenda of his own. He spoke with Bill Kokaly (770 209-6988) threatening to sue over the letter he received, before he started asking Bill questions about belief in God, climate change, equal pay, minimum wage etc. Bill tried to answer his questions honestly and to explain his reasons, but Mr. Cheves chose to distort Bill's answers, in his letter to the editor, so as to make him appear obtuse.

Bill Kokaly is a fine Christian man with an open mind. He is very personable and takes the time to talk with and listen to constituents. I listed his number so readers can call him themselves. How can you criticize a man just because

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Vote for the person

Dear Editor,

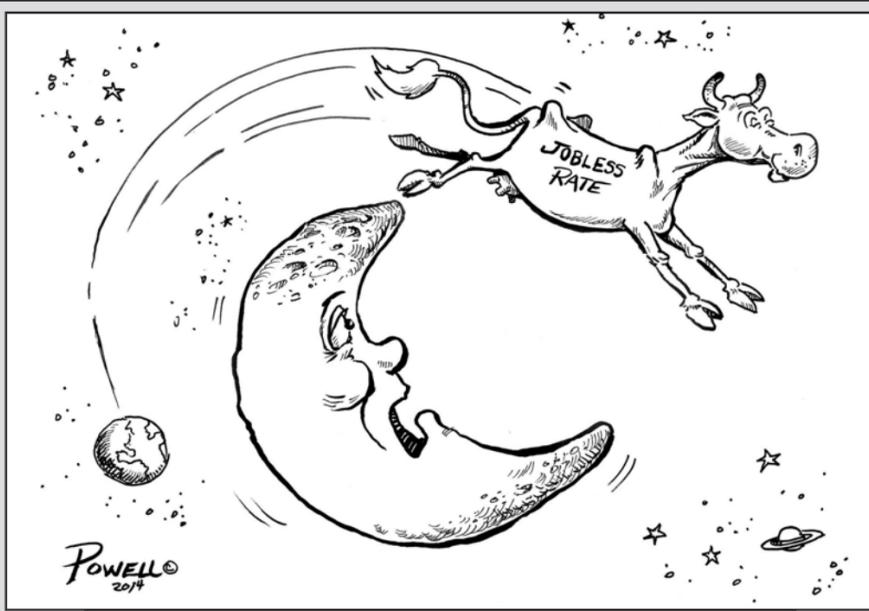
We have a very clear choice in the candidates for our Senate seat this year.

Michelle Nunn has lead a large diverse and successful organization dedicated to problem solving and helping others help themselves. These are the skills needed to break the hyper partisan gridlock that has become the legacy of this congress. After reading her views on the issues we face I believe she will be an independent and capable representative of all Georgians.

David Perdue has also been successful in the business of making money for stockholders and himself. The my way or highway leadership style is not the way to advance ideas and find solutions in what should be a serious deliberative body like the Senate. His angry outburst at the Chamber of Commerce and this indication during his debate with Michelle that the devastating government shutdown wasn't a bad idea only illustrate why he is unsuited to represent Georgia.

I hope everyone will turn down the partisan noise and vote for the best candidate. If you are not registered to vote, please do so before Oct 6. Your vote counts!

Andrea Compton



Let God Back In?

Dear Editor,

I would like to expand on the message to the editor, written by Mr. Frank F. Combs, entitled "Let God Back In" and leave my personal footprint on the commentary. Mr. Combs stated that "We live in this beautiful country called America, the land that God allowed to become the greatest nation on the face of the earth founded on Christianity, a nation that has reached out to help the poor, the orphans and the widows. A country with a rich heritage based on the word of God."

I agree with that statement and we are a prominent nation but let's not forget at what cost and what damage was done to achieve our ranking as the greatest nation on the face of the earth.

The birth of our nation was the result of bloodshed, and many lives were killed and sacrificed, and many brave American men and women did come forward to the call of service to fight for our independence and freedom as Mr. Combs stated. And many lives of our foes were killed as well from England and Spain. The English, Spanish and the Americans were mostly all Christians and be-

See Moore, page 5A

A dictator's paradise

Dear Editor,

In his question and answer column this past week, Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris made a statement that needs clarification.

"Today, every county has a commissioner; many have a board of commissioners. . ."

Stated more accurately, 150 of Georgia's 159 counties have a board of commissioners. Only nine (including Union) have a sole commissioner, down from 35 counties in the mid-1980s. The sole commissioner system was a cost saving device for small rural counties, which Union was when I came here 34 years ago. There was no chain grocery, no four lane or traffic lights, no fast food, Blairsville Restaurant was on the square, Nelson Tractor was on Young Harris Street, and a tiny post office was south of the old courthouse.

The usual justification for a sole commissioner is that it is more efficient than a board

See Cheeves, page 5A

What's on your agenda?

Dear Editor,

Several letters to the editor lately have complained about the Democratic Senate and the President blocking bills coming from the House of Representatives. I understand that this is a heavily Republican/Tea Party area and perhaps as a result many bills that didn't make it out of the House have been overlooked. Some of these include the bill to raise the minimum wage from its current poverty level of \$7.25/hour, the bill to guarantee equal wages and treatment for women in the workplace, the bill to allow students and former students to refinance their high interest student loans and many others. All of these were efforts to help average working class citizens

See Elder, page 5A

The Night the Stars Fell in Alabama

1943 was a year in which everybody was on edge. WWII was in full swing. German U-Boats had been sighted off the coast of Georgia. It had been less than 2 years since the bombing of Pearl Harbor. There was no Weather Channel or CNN. There were

no televisions and few radios. An event occurred that year which we now view as funny. But, then it was the scariest moment of my papa's life. He told me he was more afraid for his family than he was his own life. He said, "I was basically helpless to do anything to help my family".

Late one spring evening Papa went to the outhouse and on his way back he witnessed a meteor shower. This wasn't a typical meteor shower. This was intense. Papa said, "I was familiar with shooting stars, but, this was more like the bombs falling from the sky". Papa ran into the house and got his family out of bed. Granny wrapped her two young sons in a quilt and the family began running across the cotton field to Mr. Wynn's storm cellar. Granny thought the Germans had launched some new kind of weapon on Alabama.

Dad and Uncle Bud were trying to peek out from under the quilt to see the flashes of light falling from the sky. One of them tripped and fell to the ground. So, the whole family lay on the ground for a few seconds. They were in awe of what they saw in the sky. The sky was filled with flames of light falling to earth. Papa was worried the family was going to be struck by one of these objects falling from the sky. So, he got his family up and tried to run back to their house. When they got safely back under their roof Papa and Granny became fearful their house was going to get struck by one of these objects falling from the sky. So, once again the family began running toward Mr. Wynn's storm cellar. Once again the family got halfway across the field and turned back. The family tried two more times to get to the storm cellar at Mr. Wynn's house. They failed every time.

Dad said, "Your Papa and Granny were scared to death of the objects falling from the sky. However, Bud and I just wanted to watch what was going on, we were having fun". The family eventually went into their house and lay under the table until the objects stopped falling from the sky. Later Papa learned they witnessed a very intense meteor shower. But, for a time Papa and Granny just knew they were under attack by Nazi Germany. I had always wondered what the phrase on Alabama's car tags meant and now after hearing that story I know. There are many things we do not understand in life and not understanding or knowing something can

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Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Engage Your Senses This Fall

Autumn is my favorite season of the year. There are so many wonderful, fun, exciting ways to engage your five senses right here in Union County and enjoy experiences of which city folks can only dream!

Here are a few of my suggestions for great autumn activities.

See - Take a ride along any of our scenic byways or mountain roads and delight in the explosion of autumn color - Richard Russell, GA 180, and US 129 South are a few of my favorites. This is a great time of year to make your way to the top of Brasstown Bald and see unmatched natural beauty. Finally, everyone will be able to enjoy the many scarecrows around town as part of our Scarecrow-Ville event.

Touch - Why not take a trip to an alpaca farm and pet these lovable creatures? You'll find a great selection of alpaca fiber clothing and accessories to keep you warm as the temperature drops.

Taste - This will be your last chance to pick up fresh, local produce at the Union County Farmers Market to make your own perfect autumn meal. Contact the Chamber for a list of old time general stores where you'll find the perfect ingredients to complete your recipe. Or if you are like me and prefer someone else do the cooking, try one of our many delicious restaurants including our newest Farm To Table restaurant.

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It's Autumn in New York

I love that song. I recently listened to three completely different interpretations of it on YouTube. First, Frank Sinatra singing it in 1974 in front of a live audience at Madison Square Gardens. He was a few months from his sixtieth birthday and his voice was deeper, more robust than it was when he first recorded the song in 1947. It was a soulful rendition.

Next I listened to a duet with Ella Fitzgerald and Louie Armstrong. These have been two of my favorite artists since I was a child listening to my Mom's albums. They took this song and made it the Blues, a dreamy version tinged with dissonant sounds that remind one of the light rains hitting the leaves during these autumn months.

The last version was an instrumental by the phenomenal saxophonist Charlie "Bird" Parker. Probably the greatest improviser of his era, Parker takes the sullen notes of the melody and turns them like leaves tumbling down a path on a windy day. Masterful.

I'd be hard pressed to choose a favorite between these three interpretations. They all resonate with me as does autumn in Georgia. It snuck in on us this week. It's the most profound season of change, I believe. It's not just about the colors, though they are a miraculous palette each and every day. It's also the loss of color, of definition, where everything around us that was so alive becomes so dormant.

I stopped to talk with Nell Davis today. Nell is still celebrating the autumn of her life, as she refuses to head into winter, having defied the odds with recent illness. She told me she's back to bowling, again, and at 86, it sounded like she was still as competitive as ever. Nell was checking out her dahlia garden at the Union County Farmers Market. Autumn is the time that the plants are marked and then cut back and uprooted, saving the tubers over the Winter to be replanted again in the Spring.

Today, I also spoke to Michael Percone, manager of the 20-plus-acre Rock Hill Farms in Young Harris. We talked about the upcoming fall harvest (tomatoes, squash and peppers will be prevalent for awhile, yet.). Then it's time to

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber

Cindy Williams



Farmers Market Moment

JoAnne Leone



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