Straight

Shooting

Opinions

Everybody has one

Helping Hand

Sometimes in life, we all find ourselves

Joe and Myra Mor-Charles have had a tough year. Duncan gan have had a tough year. It got even tougher on Dec.

Cody Dwayne Morgan, age 16, died from injuries sustained in an auto-

mobile accident in Fannin County.

A young man, full of life, an avid sports-

man and outdoorsman, died, leaving a grieving mother and father, and two siblings behind. It was a tragic accident that claimed an-

other of our hometown youth. While the family mourns the loss of their beloved son, they must also worry about pay-

ing for a funeral. Nothing in life is guaranteed, but I can guarantee that the good folks in Union County will come to the aid of this family in their time

of need and grief. I remember a time when I was a youth, and a young person died in our community.

She was 14 years old. I was the youngest of six children and I

always looked to my wise father for answers. I didn't understand the concept of death, and I wondered why the parents of that young

girl were so distraught. My father's explanation was simple: "A parent never expects to out live their children."

It hit home. My mother and one of her friends went door-to-door, business-to-business, and raised enough money to pay for the young girl's funeral. All in one day.

That was a lesson I learned about my hometown, they take care of their own.

Who was Cody Dwayne Morgan? Well, from what I've gathered, he was a young person full of life. He loved to hunt, fish, and shoot pool. He also had a passion for riding horses. He was a hard worker, always help-

ing his father when the need arose. He was a young man destined to be a life-long local resident and contributor to the community. Cody was the embodiment of any young

boy growing up in Union County. All that youthful exuberance came to a halt on Dec. 26 near Skeenah Gap.

I feel the family's pain. I know what it's like to lose someone in an automobile acci-That wise man I call my father was killed

in a car crash in January 1984. He's buried at Duncan Cemetery, not far from my house. I still feel the loss and miss him dearly.

Cody Dwayne Morgan was laid to rest on Saturday, Dec. 29 at New Union Baptist He will be dearly missed by family,

friends and a community that missed getting to see him grow into a graceful young man. Left behind are a grieving Joe and Myra

Morgan, sister Kristen and brother Buddy. I ask that our loving community pull to-

gether and help this young family in their time

We can help, we can make a difference, we can continue to show the world what makes Union County, GA so special.

Together, we can help this young family at a time when they need it most. Together, we can leave a lasting impression on Kristen and Buddy. It's a story they'll tell for the rest of their lives.

If you feel the need to help the Morgans, call Park Sterling Bank and inquire about a fund set up to help the family of Cody Dwayne Morgan. The number is (706) 781-3166.

You'll be glad you did.

Happy New Year

This marks the beginning of my 13th year in office as your commissioner. I want to thank you for the tremendous opportunity

you have afforded me to work with you for four more years as we continue making Union County the best county in Georgia. I hope you all had a great New Year and that better times will be coming in the



upcoming year for our economy.

Q. Are you going to run again for com-

missioner in four years? A. My standard answer to this question is that if my health is still good, and we are

able to continue the progress we have made, I certainly will plan on running again in 2016. Q. Does the county have any standard retirement for the commissioner and would you reach that retirement if you remained in

office for 20 years. A. Unfortunately, the commissioner is the only elected official that does not have a retirement system separate from the county. The county's only retirement is that it currently matches contributions by employees of up to 6 percent of salary that goes into an account

similar to a 401K. Q. Is the position of sole county commissioner worth the headaches you have to put up with?

A. I often hear this and my answer is yes. It would be a much more pleasant job if everyone was willing to work together, but that seldom happens. What does make it a good job for me is that the vast majority of people in this county do support the progress we have made and are very complimentary to me and our employees. We have an outstanding county and the local people who have lived here all their lives, along with those who have moved here, all pull together 99 percent of the time. We all need each other.

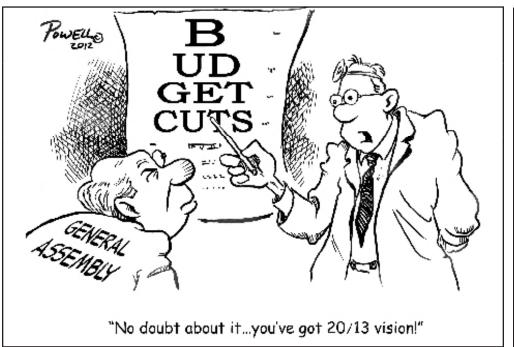
See **Paris**, page 5A

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Who's Following You?

Parris

lt's

On My Mind

I am sure most of you have probably read Danny this, but since we begin a New Year today I thought this might speak to us.

A mom was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him.

She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence, but yet know that he was safe. So she had an idea how to handle it. She asked a neighbor, Mrs. Goodnest, if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. Mrs. Goodnest said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to

The next school day, Mrs. Goodnest and her little girl, Marcy, set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor boy he knew.

get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

She did this for the whole week. As the boys walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally he said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know

Timmy nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is." The friend said, "Well, who is she?" "That's just Shirley Goodnest" Timmy replied, "and her daughter Marcy."
"Who is she and why is she following us?" "Well," Timmy explained, "every night my mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life,' so I guess I'll just have to get used

None of us are sure where the journey of 2013 will lead us, but we have the assurance that no matter where our path takes us, Goodness and Mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives.

If we travel through the valley of grief, Goodness and Mercy shall be with us. If our bodies are attacked by some major illness, Goodness and Mercy shall be with us. If we suffer financial reverses, Goodness and Mercy shall be with us. If we are blest with good health, enjoy financial success and our families are spiritually healthy, Goodness and Mercy shall be with us. If we walk through the valley of the shadow of death Goodness and Mercy will be with us and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Pray that God will bless you with His Goodness and Mercy in 2013.

A New Year - A fresh look

I'll be the first to admit, it wasn't too long ago that I was unaware of the tremendous impact that an active

Chamber of Commerce has on its local community. In fact, it would even be safe to say that prior to my employment with the Chamber, I did not anticipate the immense amount of responsibility associated



with my position. Although many others may also be unaware, it is certain that the Chamber of Commerce serves as a powerful, behindthe-scenes driving force in our community.

The Chamber is dedicated to local business. Becoming a Chamber member, in my opinion, is the single most beneficial and affordable investment any business will make. Chamber members receive first referrals to thousands of visitors and callers each year. In addition, members are promoted through the chamber website, business directory, sponsorship opportunities, and numerous other recognition programs. Members have access to networking opportunities to secure new customers, informative business seminars to streamline operations, and weekly information updates to stay informed of the latest develop-

Promoting tourism is also a top priority, as tourism is one of Union County's leading economic drivers. The Chamber is responsible for overseeing the advertising and promotions of Union County as a tourist destination. Revenues generated through tourism not only support local businesses, but also help maintain an equitable tax base. Much effort is put into promoting local festivals, events, and attractions to visitors across the state, region, and nation.

The Chamber supports education. Many of today's community leaders are graduates of our Leadership Union, a 13-week program that provides an in depth look at the interworkings

See Williams, page 5A

Carolynn and Rosette

Aunt Carolynn and her cousin, Rosette, were inseparable well into their adult years. They lived only 4 miles apart and were always spending the night

together and yes getting Cummings into mischief together. One of their earliest adventures occurred during the early Around season during the time of The Farm canning of green beans.

Grandmaw's sisterin-law, Toodler, had come to the Adams House

to help break and can green beans. Grandmaw had gathered all her kids with their Baker cousins under the big Southern Magnolia Tree with her and Toodler to break up the four bushels of green beans. But, Rosette and Carolynn could not be found. The girls had climbed up into the top of the Magnolia which was providing shade to Toodler Baker and Delphia Adams while they broke beans.

It should be of no great surprise to learn that staying in the top of a tree for more than a couple of hours is a difficult thing to do. Especially, to a couple of little girls that were in dire need of a bathroom. They knew if they climbed down from the tree their mothers would fuss at them for trying to get out of work. But, on the other hand they had to go to the bathroom. So, Rosette thought it was an act of providence when she heard thunder. Rosette dared Aunt Carolynn to hang over a limb and let it fly. She explained that if their mothers felt the liquid they would believe it to be rain since it was thundering. Suffice it to say Grandmaw Adams did not think it was raining and Aunt Carolynn received a spanking for her mischief.

Years later Aunt Carolynn would get even with Rosette. Rosette became sweet on a boy named Loyd Ergle. She must have been in the 10th grade about this time. Sometime during this year Rosette found out pictures were to be made at school. Rosette really wanted to look good in the school pictures and she wanted to impress Loyd. Carolynn's plans for a career after school

included becoming a beautician. So, she volunteered to roll Rosette's hair. So, Rosette consented. So, Carolynn rolled Rosette's hair with bobbi pins and used some kind of gel which would help hold the curls. However, when the curlers and bobbi pins were taken out, not only was Rosette's hair very curly, but, it was also very frizzy. It seemed that Carolynn had much to learn about hair dressing before she could call herself a professional. Rosette really didn't look the way she wanted for pleasing Loyd. And to this day she is reminded of that fact anytime she looks at her school pictures from

Many of you have asked me if these sto-

See Cummings, page 5A

The Virtues of a Crustless Pizza

I just got home from the grocery store, and for the first time since the Farmers Mar-

ket closed for the season, I only had parcels of fruits and vegetables to unpack. It is the week between hoho-hogging and the New Year's Eve binge before one goes on the proverbial wagon the next day. Though I never indulge



JoAnne

Leone

(really, I don't.....the only thing in my life I'm disciplined about) in the foods that are on my "do not ingest" list, I still feel like I've overindulged in too much junk.

For the most part, I'm not freaky about food. I love to eat and I love to cook. What I don't care for is too much processed food, restaurant food and noshing foods. I'd reached my limit this holiday season and I couldn't take it anymore. I needed fresh veggies.

Many of you are going to commit this week to losing anywhere from a few pounds to half of your body weight (been there and done that). You will visit many of online Websites to see the best method, or you'll borrow a book from your sister-in-law who lost a ton of weight on some sandy beach food plan. You'll join a group that meets once a week, not because of the anonymity involved in admitting you are a chocoholic (let's face it- you live in a small town of sighted people. Someone knows you are overweight and will broadcast you were there to anyone who cares to listen.). You attend these meetings because it helps to make you accountable, in case your resolve isn't strong enough.

I've spent my whole life overweight, at varying degrees of pleasantly chubby to nauseously obese. My family used to joke that I was heavy with fluid because I could be without the need for a water closet for at least three quarters of a day (that was when I was younger). So, for years I convinced myself that my fat was baby fat and I was still retaining Simi-

See *Leone*, page 5A

Letters To the Editor

Many thanks

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all my fellow members of the Union County Historical Society for the great response they gave to my music partner, Kiyo Clendaniels, and me at our annual Christmas Banquet at the Brackett Room on Dec. 11th. And thanks to fellow member Sam Ensley for suggesting that we do it.

John Kay was a great speaker and our friends Betty Jane and Joanne couldn't have picked a better caterer. The best food we have had in 10 years!

And thanks to all of you who support the Union County Historical Society!

Don Byers Member, Board of Directors

Union County Historical Society

People don't care

Dear Editor,

Most people don't care about the earth! The place where they live. They go from day to day not even paying attention to what's going on with global warming. We should be taking care of the place we live. It seems like the only thing that matters is having the best house, driving the best car and shopping.

When there is a football game there are

ey. Why don't these people put this money into solar panels, wind, etc.? Also, pay the players less and put the money into solar panels, wind, We have to start paying attention to what's going on, on our planet (Earth), our

thousands of people there paying lots of mon-

kids, our grandkids, etc. Does it have to be when the sun stops shining? Let's get away from this prison we have with gas. There are so many ways we can take care of this and not hurt the environment. The

Dem's and Rep's in each county across the U.S. should have a meeting once a month to bring up ideas on what to do. Don't let it be too late for all of us.

Pat Lorenz

It's all about responsibility Dear Editor,

For some time now I have railed against the increasing lack of personal responsibility demonstrated by our society.

"The car turned in front of oncoming

"The gun went off."

"She had a gambling problem" mentioned as possible justification in a story of a PTA treasurer embezzling funds.

Cars are incapable of any action without a driver, guns are equally incapable of action without a shooter and there are many people with gambling problems who do not break the law as a result of their addiction. However in the interest of maintaining our own and/or our society's self esteem we find it easier to abdicate our personal responsibility to an inanimate

But the consequences of this behavior continue to bother us so we require our governments at all levels to get involved and fix these situations for us by creating laws. And so we end up with mandated seat belt usage (while permitting other potentially dangerous driving activities to go unchecked), prohibit smoking in most places (while allowing other

See *Malone*, page 5A

Remember the Great Generation Dear Editor,

He was a little, old man and he sat alone, on a bench by the door of the Murphy Wal-He wore a hat with the name, USS NE-

VADA, monogrammed on the crown. I asked him if he'd mind if I sat with him

for a minute. "Why, no!" he said. "I was just waiting for my wife." We sat together in silence for a couple of

"USS NEVADA?" I said.

"You've heard of 'NEVADA'?"

"Yes, sir, I sure have. She was the only battleship to get underway on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941. Her captain had ordered one boiler to be left on line. She tried to escape Pearl Harbor but Japanese aircraft swarmed

her, tried to sink her in the channel. She was beached on Kaneohe Point, later repaired and sent to sea again."

He looked at me, nodded, and said, "I was on board when we shelled Iwo Jima. After that, we supported the Okinawa invasion."

I didn't say anything. I could tell that he was working his way to say something more. "Off Okinawa, we took a Kamikaze

hit on the No. 2 gun platform where I was assigned. I was blown completely out of the platform and landed on the deck about 50 feet away. When I woke up, I was deaf and naked except for my shoes. "Of the 20 young men working that gun,

I was the only one to survive." See *Mitchell*, page 5A

Enjoys JoAnne Dear Editor,

I enjoy your column in the paper every

week. I was raised in Buffalo but my family is from Friendship in Allegany county. I make a visit once a year. I spent a lot of time there with my grandparents and lived there when my parents were ill. The gift of time is the most precious thing we can share.

I'm making cookies today and the cold windy, rainy day is a reminder of home although I think they are having snow today. Merry Christmas and I look forward to

your column and a new season at our wonderful Farmers Market. **Andrea Compton**

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