

Opinions

Everybody has one...

We lost a Rock

Tuesday was just another Tuesday. It quickly changed to a throbbing heartache as I learned the news of Rev. Michael Anderson's passing.

Michael and I went way back, he was a couple of years younger than myself. However, I knew his family, especially his father, who from time to time, drove our school bus.

Michael was part of our youth football teams, and, from the get go, he was a might different from most of the younger boys.

He was a man among boys, he played fullback in the youth leagues, and he would carry several would-be tacklers into the end zone.

I thought to myself, 'he'll be starting as a freshman in high school.' And, it certainly looked that way.

Michael strayed away from football, although his body continued to grow. He eventually measured out at 6 feet, 4 inches.

Somewhere along the line, Michael got the call to preach. Other pursuits took a backseat, and the Lord above was now his passion.

And preach he did. In 1991, Michael became an ordained minister, and he became pastor at Owltown Church of God, serving from June 1999 until he went to be with his Lord on Sept. 19, 2017.

Michael owned and operated Anderson's Tree Service for many years. He was known locally as "the tree man."

He was also a family man, married for 37 years to his loving wife and best friend, Diane Taylor Anderson of Blairsville. Notably, Diane was the love of his life.

Michael also loved to go hunting, and he loved people.

Likewise, people loved Michael Anderson - "Brother Anderson was a great man, and will be missed by many. I'm honored to have known him and served alongside him with the other ministers in the district. My prayers are with his loving family and church family, who grieve but, also there is consolation in knowing that Brother Mike is in the presence of the Lord," said Rev. Chris Taylor, of Temple, Georgia.

"Pastor Anderson was one of the most humble men of God I have ever met. We will always cherish the memories of worshipping with him and his lovely family at the Owltown Church of God. May God continue to pour out His many blessings upon his beloved family and church ministry," said

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Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



Metanoia

Have you heard about the "red pill" phenomenon? A growing number of people are announcing on social media their rejection of the political correctness, identity politics, and victimhood of their past. They don't buy it anymore. In the movie "The Matrix," the hero could take a blue pill and remain in the artificial world, or the red pill where he comes to reality.

That people can experience a paradigm shift is not new. The ancient Greek language has a word, "metanoia," that means to rethink something, change your mind, and turn away. Os Guinness in his book "Fool's Talk," explains that for the Christian "it signifies the complete about-face of heart, mind, thought and life that triggers conversion and initiates the migration from one reality to another - from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light."

The Hebrew Scripture has the salacious story of King David taking Uriah's wife Bathsheba. He tried to cover it up, then had Uriah killed. The prophet Nathan knew it, and came to David explaining that a rich man stole a poor man's sole lamb. Outraged, David ruled that the culprit must die. Nathan cut him with, "You are the man!" On the spot, David admitted, "I have sinned against the Lord" (2 Sam. 12). Jesus told a story about a wealthy man whose son demanded his inheritance. The son squandered it all with loose living. After he took a lowly job feeding swine, he came to his senses. He re-thought his situation and returned to his father, who welcomed him back with open arms. David and the prodigal son experienced "metanoia."

Repentance is one of those mysterious places where the love of God and the will of man intersect. On the one hand it is a gift: "God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:25); "God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance to life" (Acts 11:18). On the other, it is a command: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). To grasp this, you must know that repentance is not just trying to live right. Billy Graham said, "It is a simple recognition of what we are. We see ourselves as God sees us, and we say 'God be merciful to me a sinner'" (Luke 18:13). Steve McVey explains,

See *Fowler*, page 5A

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q. We were unable to attend the We Are Still Here Native American Statute Dedication. Was the ceremony successful?

A. It was a very successful event. There was a large crowd in attendance and everyone seemed to really enjoy the ceremonies, which included traditional songs by the Native Praise Choir and a Stickball Exhibition. Chiefs from the different tribes or their representatives were present and spoke at the event, along with state government representatives. The unveiling of the statue was very touching and I am proud of the *We Are Still Here* group and their efforts to make this project happen.

Q. You had a real estate transaction that you announced at the county meeting. Can you explain this?

A. Yes, the Jenkins Family owns property between Georgia 515 and the Farmers Market property. The transaction that was negotiated with the Jenkins family involved property exchanges. The Jenkins family transferred to the county .90 acres of their property that protruded into the middle of the Farmers Market property. They also gave the County a .23-acre tract that was across from the end of the Glen Gooch Bypass at the traffic light beside Wendy's, which gives the county direct access to the traffic-light intersection. The County in turn transferred to the Jenkins family a 1.02-acre piece of property that was long, narrow and did not provide benefit to the county. It did provide a very good addition to the Jenkins property. We want to thank the Jenkins family for working with the county so that we were able to trade properties for the mutual benefit of each owner.

Q. Did the county have to pay any additional money for the Jenkins real estate trade?

A. Yes, we did. The county paid the Jenkins family \$35,000 in additional compensation for the tracts of land that were swapped based on the highway frontage-traffic light intersection access we gained.

Q. What is the County's plan for this land gained at the traffic light?

A. We plan to build a new access road from the intersection

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Anti-Drug Coalition

Devastating Alcohol/Drug combos

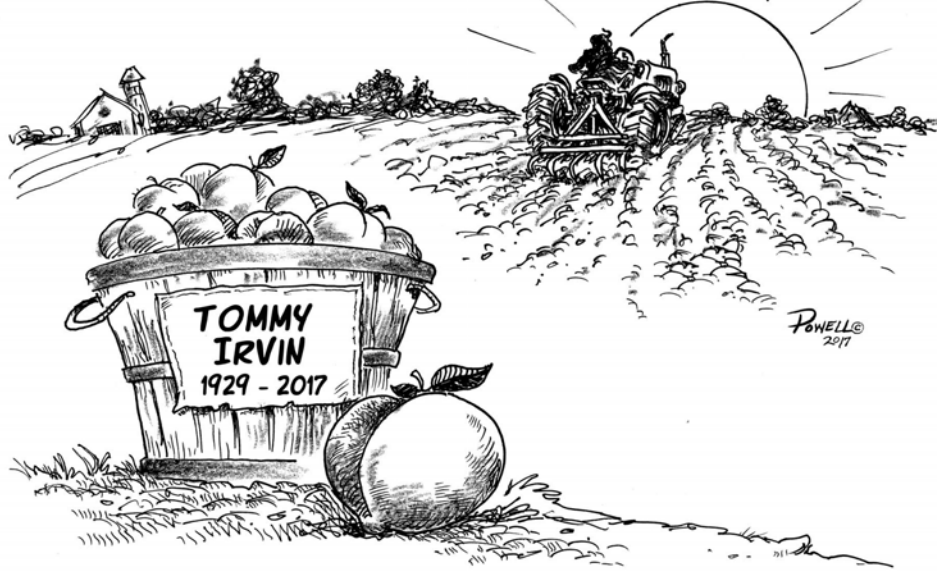
According to statistics compiled by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), roughly 25 percent of substance-related emergency room admissions involve a combination of both drugs and alcohol.

Although heavily abusing "just alcohol" or "only drugs" is hazardous, the combination of the two can be a recipe for disaster. In short, combining drugs and alcohol either masks effects, which increases the risk of consuming too much, or the combination causes a "double-whammy" effect on the same cognitive and physical function.

Although there are many dangerous substance combinations, these three alcohol and

See *Coalition*, page 5A

The mission of the Union County Anti-Drug Coalition is to support an overall safe community by providing information, education and support services to children, families and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse. Visit and Like our Facebook page for additional articles and videos.



A GREAT HARVEST

Upcoming opportunities

In this week's article, I wanted to highlight some exciting opportunities for people in our community. Each year the Chamber partners with Collette, a family owned travel company, to provide fantastic getaway destinations! In the past, travelers have enjoyed seeing Scotland, Ireland and the Canadian Rockies by Train, to name a few of the destinations.

April 25-May 2, 2018 marks the next travel trip; a tour of London & Paris! If you have always wanted to see Europe, this is a great way to start! Some of the highlights in London include, dinner at a local pub, a tour of St. Paul's Cathedral, a panoramic tour highlighting Trafalgar Square, the Tower of London, Big Ben & Buckingham Palace. Travelers will also be able to choose a tour of Westminster Abbey or the Churchill War Rooms.

Guests will have an opportunity to travel to Paris via the Eurostar High Speed Train, sample

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber

Regina Allison



Letters to the Editor

Priorities of life

Dear Editor,

We all have priorities in life and how we choose them depends on our relationship with the Almighty God above.

Putting God above all things is one of the wisest decisions you will ever make. No, it doesn't mean that you can do whatever you feel like and still have God first in your life.

God created us so we could have an intimate relationship with Him and to put Him first in all things we do and say, like prayer time which connects us to God, Himself; where we can bring all of our burdens and cares to the Lord, knowing that He is more than able to handle them in His

See *Combs*, page 5A

We're destroying our Earth

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank Mr. DiChiara for his thoughtful editorial about hurricanes, average global temperatures, and climate change. However, I deal in science and facts, and we must look carefully at those facts and what they are telling us.

The last three years have been progressively the hottest three years on record, and yes the temperatures are gradually increasing, according to all scientific reports. Carbon dioxide levels have increased by about 43 percent since the industrial revolution, and it is the percentage

See *Dixon*, page 5A

Drain the Swamp

Dear Editor,

Yesterday, Luther Strange danced around Amnesty questions: If this bill comes up for vote 'I will keep your views in mind.'

This is the same garbage, this is the same patterned response, that we get from our Georgia Senators -- and why this old man, for one, is thoroughly disgusted with the Washington SEWER.

Too much power, too much wealth, too much comfort, too much indolence, too little caring, concentrated in too few people.

Every time that I email Johnny Isakson or David Perdue, I get the same verbiage: "I will keep your views in mind."

If I telephone their offices, I get the same response: "I will share your views with the Senator."

The Washington SEWER is toxic beyond repair.

It must be flushed.

To allow it to fester is to guarantee the further decay of what little remains of this Republic.

George A. Mitchell

New Rescue

The Union County Fire Department has many different roles.

One of the major roles of the department is to respond to rescues. These rescues can involve auto accidents, people trapped in elevators, high angle rescue, water rescues, etc. We respond to many different types of rescue incidents.

To have all the equipment necessary to respond to these rescues, the department has Georgia Emergency Management certified rescue trucks.

Only a few short weeks ago, Union County Fire Station 1, the career station, received a new rescue truck.

The new rescue is classified as a light rescue and is replacing a 2006 International heavy rescue. The new rescue is stationed at Fire Station 1 and is the main rescue for Union County.

The rescue is on a 2017 Ford F550 chassis and the smaller rescue box was constructed by Custom Truck & Body Works in Woodbury, Georgia.

This new rescue truck is one of five certified rescue trucks in Union County.

When researching and developing the specifications of the rescue truck, the department decided to reduce the size of the rescue box to something that was more practical and maneuverable.

The 2006 International rescue was a large truck that was difficult to operate in some of the smaller, narrower roads throughout the county.

The new rescue has four-wheel drive and is capable of responding off road, and in difficult weather.

We wanted to make this rescue a multi-purpose vehicle. This new rescue has the normal capabilities of auto extrication, rope rescue, water rescue and medical response, but it also has the capability to fight wildland fires and car fires.

The old rescue had the ability to pump water but was difficult to operate. The hose lines and pump on this vehicle are much easier to operate and deploy.

The new rescue is a welcomed addition to the fire department fleet. We are very proud of this vehicle.

We would like everyone to know that there is a dependable and capable rescue truck that will respond to their rescue emergency.

Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief

David Dyer



A New Ax and Saw

Coon was born to Lon and Laura Cummings in July of 1915. He married the love of his life, Glenna Mae, in 1936. The young couple lived in the "weaning off house" just a short distance from his parents. Just like his father, Papa, made his living off the land.

Not long after their marriage, his father Lon came to see him one evening. It seems that a man named Nix from Phil Campbell was trying to sell some land across the branch and through the woods about half a mile from Lon's place. The man offered to sell the land to Papa and a couple of brothers and brother-in-law. Papa and those men went into debt to buy 80 acres of land each from Mr. Nix.

He was so worried because he owed a whopping \$80. He told me he had difficulty sleeping at night due to the worry about paying off that land.

Lon was proud of his sons for making their first land purchase. Little did he realize that Coon would be the only one to not only hold onto his land, but he would enlarge his purchase as well. Papa and Granny went right to work on that land. But, before he could work on the land he had to purchase some tools. Papa ordered a couple of items from the Sears & Roebuck Company. He bought a double bit axe, which cost him an arm and a leg. Recently, I acquired a replica 1927 catalogue from the Sears Company. That axe cost my grandfather \$2.25. At the same time he also ordered a crosscut saw. The saw cost him \$2.95 while the handles and hardware cost another .50. He also purchased a 14-foot logging chain for \$3.90. He was now ready to go to work.

Papa and Granny spent the next 5-7 years clearing their land. They cut down and hauled away most of the smaller trees. But, the larger trees they girdled and left them standing.

Girdling is a process where the lower 3 1/2 feet of bark is stripped from the bottom of the tree.

The young couple plowed around the standing timber. After a few years the standing timber fell to the ground and it was used for firewood. Papa made enough money on his crop to pay for his first 80 acres in a 5-year period. However, the story of the saw continued.

Papa also used the saw to cut timber for his house. Granny and Papa cut the logs and then hauled them to a mill to be converted into lumber. All this was hard work, which was done between trying to get a crop of cotton ready to gin and raising two sons. But, they soon had a roof up with only a few of the walls covered. They used poplar, oak and pine lumber to build their new home. Since it was summer time the young family moved

See *Cummings*, page 5A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



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