

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Smooth as silk

Corn silks were floating in the air and bright green shucks were flying as the Sixth Annual Sweet Corn Festival corn shucking contest got under way Saturday morning at the Union County Farmers Market.

Nothing is sweeter than the taste of victory as Blairsville's own Harold Collins found out Saturday when he defended his title by shucking 14 ears of sweet yellow corn in one minute and claimed the coveted title of "The Fastest Cornshucker" of 2015. That concluded the adult version of the contest.

Another Blairsville local, Trent Kerr, claimed the youth corn shucking title with nine shucked ears. Trent also has a corn shucking title or two under his belt.

The Farmers Market is a proud sponsor of fun events like the Sweet Corn Festival in hopes of adding excitement and pleasure to The Market experience while visitors shop for locally grown fresh produce.

The festival wasn't just about corn shucking, there was grilled and boiled corn on the cob for Farmers Market patrons to choose from and enjoy.

Tubs of butter, 32 ounces each, were a necessity to accompany the locally grown treat as each sampler spread the butter on thick. Everywhere you looked there was hot butter running down chins as folks enjoyed the delicious offerings of the Sweet Corn Festival.

Market Manager Mickey Cummings, would like to thank all those who contributed in the preparation work for the event and he sent out a special thank you to all the local farmers who donated the sweet corn for the event.

It is obvious that through these efforts the Sweet Corn Festival was a huge success for The Market's shoppers and for the county as a whole.

The excitement continues at the Market in 2015 as the Green Bean Festival kicks off this weekend.

Make plans now to attend the Green Bean Festival. Also, mark your calendar for next year's Sweet Corn Festival.

Remember to practice your shucking, because who knows, your efforts may be good enough to get you crowned "Fastest Cornshucker" of 2016.

Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



Contentment

The Navy veteran and retired octogenarian was a delightful conversation partner when I visited his home in Austin, Texas not long ago. As I expressed some discontentment about a few issues affecting small business, his wise words were, "You live in the world that is, not in the world as you want it to be." Checkmate, kind sir. In a few words, the retired structural engineer explained a large part of a well-designed life: contentment.

On the return trip, I happened to read an excerpt from Harper Lee's much-heralded novel *Go Set a Watchman*. It describes the Alabama residents in the home county of protagonist Jean Louise Finch. "The Federal Government had forced a highway or two through the swamps, thus giving the citizens an opportunity for free egress. But few people took advantage of the roads, and why should they? If you did not want much, there was plenty."

You can define contentment as the gap between what you have and what you want; the closer the distance between the two, the greater your contentment. For the mathematical mind, contentment is inversely proportional to the difference between have and want. But to the point, it is usually easier to close the gap by moving your wants rather than your haves. In other words, live in the world that is.

"Godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Tim 6:6), we are told, for three reasons. We can't take it with us when we leave this world. We can be content with the basics of life, i.e. food and shelter. We can fall into a terrible trap of loving money. Note that money is not the root of evil, but to love it is. A bonus reason to be content is that God "will never desert you, nor will (He) ever forsake you" (Heb 13:5).

The godly person prioritizes the pursuit of a more precious treasure: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, gentleness, and faith. Will we ever have enough of these? And these noble pursuits of the heart leave neither the time nor the will to gather more wood, hay, and stubble, the things we can't take with us.

Contentment does not proscribe thrift, hard work, ambi-

See Fowler, page 5A

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Questions and Answers

Q. I noticed the first entrance to Walmart blocked off this week. Are improvements being made to the intersection?

A. Yes! For starters the west bound turn lane (the one you enter coming from Blairsville) is being moved closer to the store for better visibility when exiting the store onto Hwy 515. When trying to pull out of Walmart, cars in this turning lane sometimes obstruct visibility back toward Blairsville. This is only the first step for GDOT in making safety improvements to both of the Walmart intersections. Moving this turning lane was already in the planning process before the most recent accident.

Q. What other safety improvements are going to be done near Walmart?

A. The K Road and the lower access to Hwy 515 from Walmart are very complicated intersections with numerous safety issues. There are other suggestions that are now being considered by GDOT, but nothing is finalized yet. The first suggestion is to lower the speed limit from 65 mph to 55 mph. The second is to add turn arrows at the existing red light located at the intersection of 515 and Kiutuestia Creek Road. The third is to block the center cross-over exits from the current lower entrance, allowing only right in and right out traffic movements into and from Walmart. Another is doing the same thing, but allow limited left and right turns from the turn lane by adjusting the concrete curbing. The final suggestion is to put a red light at the lower entrance.

Q. Who will be making the decisions on which safety improvements will be made?

A. At my request, GDOT sent a team of safety engineers up here to meet with me, the Sheriff and some deputies, the Blairsville Police Department, Mayor Jim Conley, Union County Fire Department, Union County Road Department, and Walmart representatives. We all met at the Community Center to discuss all issues, problems and possible solutions and improvements. The engineers then visited the two Walmart intersections to observe traffic movements themselves. All options are being considered by GDOT. Suggestions by us have been made, and since it is GDOT's highway, decisions regarding final improvements will be theirs.

See Paris, page 5A

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Letters to the Editor ...

Thanks Kenneth

Dear Kenneth West,

Thank you for letting me share the thoughts of Bill Federer and the prayers of Peter Marshall with the readers of Union County. You have been so kind to do so. A lot of people have told me that they liked and appreciated them.

I hope you will understand why I will not be writing for the paper any more. I have books to write and that takes so much of my time.

Thank you again for letting me publish in your wonderful paper for nearly eight years.

Sincerely,
Rebecca G. Collins

Blessed to have UCSO

Dear Editor,

My name is Mary Scott and I own Pappy's Country Store on Hwy. 129. A while back my husband had hired man who had recently moved to Blairsville to do odd jobs around our stores. Little did we know that he was stealing merchandise from us. We called 911 to report this; D.B. McGregor was the deputy that responded, took down all the pertinent information and called in Sheriff's Sgt. Lamar Dyer. Together they were professional, courteous and extremely thorough. Within hours they had a full name, address, search warrant and felony warrant. In what seemed like record time they had searched the residence, apprehended and arrested the young man, delivered him to jail and loaded up what was left of our stolen property. It was a whirlwind of efficient law enforcement.

I felt it important to share this positive experience with you, especially at a time when peace officers are getting such a bad rap.

We can be proud to have Deputy McGregor and Sgt. Dyer representing the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Sincerely,
Mary J. Scott

Theft at Meeks Park

Dear Editor,

After many years of visiting Blairsville from Atlanta, my husband and I retired here over 11 years ago because of the beauty of the area and the friendliness of the people. We have always felt that people in our community are honest as well as friendly. However, that changed on Sunday, July 12 after a pleasant kayaking trip with friends that began at the new Meeks Park launch area. Because of a hand injury, I wasn't able to continue as far as the rest of the group so I pulled my kayak out near the dog park to walk the beautiful Meeks Park trails while waiting for the others to return to the original launch area.

When we went back to pick up my little red kayak about an hour later, we were shocked and disappointed to discover that it was gone. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful park in Blairsville, but I want to warn others to be careful about leaving unsecured items in the park for even a short amount of time. If anyone has information about the theft of my kayak, please contact the Union County Sheriff's Office where a case report is on file.

Martha Miller

Thank you Kenneth and NGN

Dear Mr. West,

Directors and friends of Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games wish to express our sincere thanks for your support of BBSFHG by allowing news releases to be published in the *North Georgia News* and by your exceptional coverage of the recent Scottish Festival on June 13-14. These twelve years of BBSFHG events have been enhanced by local newspaper coverage. We also appreciate the assistance from your staff in producing various printing projects.

2015 BBSFHG hosted the largest atten-

See BBSFHG, page 5A



One nation, under God

Honorable Governor:

For the first time in my 67 years I am ashamed of America. We as Christians have neglected our duties for too long. The removal of the flag is not going to solve any issues. The flag issue has been created to take away any focus on the real issues. I am ashamed of our leaders for allowing same sex marriages. I do not hate these

See Turner, page 5A

Stand up and be counted

Dear Editor,

Last week our pastor was preaching on standing firm when opposition comes our way. The church is the body of Christ. It is a holy and sanctified place of worship for believers in Christ, Jesus. The pastor was warning us that there is coming a time when the churches of God must choose to stand up and be counted as wor-

See Combs, page 5A

Don't defend the Duggars

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the letter defending the Duggar family. I can't believe someone is defending a child molester, no matter how his parents handled it! We only see on TV what the producers want you to see and it may be far from reality, like most reality shows! Whatever the son did, it was wrong and has nothing to do with anything "going on" in our country. Laws are to protect and punish the guilty and the innocent, not to "compare" actions of one person to another! And please don't believe everything you see on entertainment shows!

Geraldine Chapman

Time to forgive

Dear Editor,

We love our community. We have made Blairsville, GA our family home for more than 30 years. Prior to our move, we subscribed to the *North Georgia News*; we wanted to know more about the people, education, area churches, opportunities offered, and general atmosphere of the place we would forever call home. We were impressed by many newspaper articles. What we read plus how we were greeted during our many visits confirmed our decision to leave the big city behind.

We have been privileged to be a part of the growth of Union County. I realize there are natives who have been here all their lives, and I am sure some of the growth has been a shock to them. However, one of the greatest improvements is our hospital. When we came, it was a clinic, established by Dr. George Gowder and Dr. Lytyl, assisted by Avis Shaw. Today, UGH stands as a tribute to those who have dedicated their lives to healthcare and has been recognized

See McVay, page 5A

Boogers in the Night

Growing up in the country, kids like me learned all types of things about scary boogers or events that happened to other people. I have heard old folks talk about fluorescent green, glowing lights that followed people as they walked down lonely stretches of roads in dark woods during the night. Granny use to tell me about panthers that would try to sneak up on people to stalk and catch them unawares. I have even heard that my great-great grandmother Baker haints a hill close to her home place in Northwestern Alabama. I guess it is a thousand wonders I didn't have nightmares every night when I was growing up.

Many of these stories were told to me before the TV became the far reaching influence it is today. Back in those days children and adults used their imagination more than we use our imaginations today. Back in the early 1940s Papa bought his first piece of property (80 acres) for \$100/acre. Papa and Granny cleared, farmed and live on that original 80 acres to this day. They built a small, framed house and carried water from a quarter of a mile away. A few years after the house was built Papa dug a well right next to the house. The well was brand new and didn't even have a well house over it yet when a mishap happened. The only covering over the well was an old 2x12 with a tarp over it. Late one night the family milk cow fell a straddle of that 2x12.

The cow's full weight was resting on the board and she was having trouble getting free of the well and board. She would bellow a deep, mournful, guttural sound resembling a growl from a large animal. The cow could not take in enough air to moo like a regular sounding cow which resulted in a growling sound. Also, the well was located right next to the house and each time the cow would swing her head her horns would rake across the siding of the house. So, my grandparents thought something was growling and clawing the side of the house. Papa got up to go check on this awful sound and each time he would reach the door the cow would bellow out this sound and rake her horns on the house. Granny would let out a scream of terror and Papa would run back to check on her and his sons. Eventually, Papa gathered enough nerve to go outside and confront the demon. He laughs about it today. But, back in those days he was plenty scared of that awful sound.

A month or so later a mad dog came to Papa's house. Granny said their house was not even finished yet. It was still summer. The walls of the house weren't finished. Papa said, "We didn't even have some of the outside doors up yet". For those of you that don't know today we would say a mad dog was rabid. Granny described the dog as slobbering at the mouth and it attacked their dog. Next the dog came for the family. Granny and her boys got up into the loft while

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Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Business of the Quarter Blairsville Cinema

Third Quarter 2015 means the opportunity to celebrate another wonderful business in Blairsville-Union County as our Business of the Quarter. Every three months the Chamber recognizes a member business in the community who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to make Blairsville-Union County a great place to live, work, and play. This quarter we are pleased to recognize Blairsville Cinema.

Nominated and selected by their community, Blairsville Cinema is most deserving of this recognition. Having been a member of the Chamber for five years, they have played an active role in the viability of our town. The owners, Donald and Linda Lingerfelt, were passionate about bringing high quality evening entertainment to residents and visitors, especially to our youth. Many young adults have also acquired great jobs and are learning valuable employability skills under their great leadership. Donald and Linda totally renovated the theater when they took over the building. It is now a sparkling clean environment with a 3-D movie offering, and all at an affordable price! No community is complete without a movie theater, and Union County is fortunate to have one of the best.

In addition to what Donald and Linda have done within the building, they are also contributing to the community at large. For in-

See Williams, page 5A

The Summer Green Bean Romance

With the Green Bean Festival coming up this weekend, I thought it would be fun to share with you some of the culinary romantic pairings between the Green Bean and other seasonal fruits and veggies.

Let's start with the rendezvous of the bean and the blueberry that got caught in a baked position. This recipe is a cross between zucchini bread and blueberry streusel bread. It takes a few minutes extra to make the streusel topping, but it is worth the effort.

Green Bean and Blueberry Bread: Ingredients for Bread 3 cups all-purpose flour/ 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon/ 1 teaspoon salt/ 1 teaspoon baking soda/ 1/4 teaspoon baking powder/ 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves/ 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg/ 2 cups sugar/ 1 cup butter, softened/ 3 large eggs/ 1 tablespoon vanilla/ 2 medium (2 cups) cooked and well drained green beans, finely chopped/ 1 cup chopped walnuts/ 1 cup of fresh blueberries.

For the streusel topping: 1/2 cup all-purpose flour/ 1/2 cup light brown sugar/ 4 tablespoons butter, slightly softened and cut into pieces. Prepare: Heat oven to 350°F. Grease bottom only of 2 (8x4-inch) loaf pans; set aside. Combine flour, cinnamon, salt, baking soda, baking powder, cloves and nutmeg in bowl; set aside. Combine sugar, butter, eggs and vanilla in another bowl. Beat at medium speed, scraping bowl often, until smooth. Add flour mixture; beat at low speed until well mixed. (Mixture will be very thick.) Stir in beans, blueberries and walnuts.

Prepare the streusel topping by combining all ingredients in a bowl and using a fork to cut the butter evenly into the dry ingredients. Spread batter into prepared pans. Sprinkle the streusel over each of the unbaked loaves. Bake 55-65 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes; remove from pans. Cool completely; store refrigerated.

A cool summer salad is always a great accompaniment to any protein you've taken off the grill. Here's a combo that will have your company asking for the recipe. Green Bean and Peach

See Leone, page 5A

Farmers Market Moment

JorAnne Leone



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