

Opinions

Everybody has one

Proud to be a Panther

I remember my days at Union County High School very well. Actually, I remember my days in the entire Union County School System very well.



Charles Duncan

Straight Shooting

On Oct. 20th, a new concept in high school class reunions will emerge. It's a Mega Reunion and it's scheduled to be held in the Family Life Center at House of Prayer on Pat Colwell Road from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The concept encourages members of the graduating classes from 1975 through 1981 to unite at the facility on Pat Colwell Road.

I can just about remember everyone that graduated from those years. My class was the Class of 1978.

Those folks in the Class of 1975 were easy to remember. They had class rings long before any of us and there was a fair amount of popping the underclassmen on the top of the head with an upside down class ring.

In those days, you dreaded seeing an upperclassman coming anywhere close to your vicinity if you were say, a freshman or a sophomore.

The idea was to bop the top of freshmen and sophomores. It was not kosher to pop a junior or another senior. It just didn't happen.

I'm not sure if that tradition continues today, forgive me freshmen and sophomores if I have given current seniors and juniors something to shoot for this year.

I remember regretting those days myself. That is, until I got my class ring.

Being a graduate of Union County High School has special meaning to me. I built friendships there that have lasted a lifetime. I see my former classmates and I still recognize them. I still remember their laughs from our days in school.

Some of those friendships were with underclassmen, and those friendships still exist today. One friend that I remember the most is Mike Freeman.

Mike and I have been through a lot together since our days at Union County High School. We went to college together, we worked together at the old Joseph C. Campbell Co., and Georgia Boot Inc. before we found our prospective careers in life.

We were roommates when we both first moved to Gainesville. Yeah, sometimes we got on each other's nerves, but, I can tell you this about Mike Freeman, at the end of the day when you're trying to count friends on one hand, Mike, Class of 1979, is on that list.

Mike has been like a brother to me, and he still is. We've been to Nevada, New Orleans, La, several cities in Mississippi, all over the state of Florida, including Daytona, South Carolina a few times and to a few spots in Ala-

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Are You An Artist?

I read somewhere that if you only work with your hands, you're a laborer. But if you work with your head and your hands, you are a craftsman. If you work with your head, your hands and your heart you become an artist.

All of us ought to be artists. I don't mean that we should all be painters but each one of us should work with our head, our hands and our heart.

If we have the unity of the trinity (head, hands and heart) in our work we will be blessed, God will be honored and mankind will benefit. Work should be done with a high calling in mind. It is tragic that masses of the work force reluctantly travel to work each day, do their work drudgingly and grudgingly, and return home at the end of the day with far less enthusiasm than at the beginning of the day because they have no sense of accomplishment.

For many, the bumper sticker is true: "I owe, I owe, so off to work I go." The only reason some people have for getting up in the morning is because they owe, and they work only for a check to pay what they owe. That, my friend, is a sad and miserable existence. When work is done only for a pay check it is no longer a blessing.

A man told his wife he no longer had a reason for living. She flew into a rage; "What do you mean?" she said. "The house is not paid for, we still owe for the car and the furniture is not paid for. You have plenty of reasons for living." The comedian, Milton Berle was right when he said, "Work is the most unpopular way in all the world to make money." If you are only working to earn money, you could possibly turn to some other method to acquire wealth such as cheating, stealing, embezzling, robbing, selling drugs, etc.

However, if you see work as an offering of worship presented to God, you are no longer working to earn money to pay bills or to accumulate wealth, but to honor God with the fruits of your labor. Therefore, the end of work is not money (paycheck) but to honor God with your life and living. Paul said, "Whatever ye

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Budgeting Tips for Small Business

With your small business, how can you decide whether to shift gears or maintain the current level of sales, employees, profits, inventory or expenses? Why is a budget important for your small business? Often, we do not anticipate the needs of our business until we define and categorize the operation with a budget format. This week I want to share a few ideas regarding a small business budget. I found some on-line resources to help prepare your journey of creating a budget that is user friendly.

Success can be sustained with knowing the predictability of your customers which influences your profit and loss. Indicators only known to you can start a trend which will allow you to know if it will be a good day, a good month and a good year. If you put it on paper, you commit yourself to the budgeting process. You are doing jobs related to your business and getting things done each day in your daily routine. If you know more, you can make better decisions. Once a budget is built, you can change sales and products lines to predict different results and your new bottom line. It will be better than intuition. A budget will allow you to make faster decisions and use what if scenarios for better results.

Budget tips from www.allbusiness.com include the following ideas. From the start, take time to do it right. Don't create a thrown together budget just for your business plan to impress your banker. Take the time needed to create a true to task detailed budget to use to make better decisions. Practice forecasting trends and your accuracy will improve with time. Don't think your company is the exception and cannot be budgeted. Use a Gantt chart or expanded timeline to track business activities which improve efficiency. Make tradeoffs when necessary since only so much money can be budgeted. If an unbudgeted expense comes into play, make adjustments by taking funds from another category to cover the expense. Ask these three questions when comparing budgeted items: How are we doing compared to the budget? What must we do now to have a better result next month? What are we learning that will help next year's budget?

From (http://succeedasyourownboss.com/04/2012/budgeting-tips-for-small-business-owners) by Melinda Emerson ideas include sticking to your budget; track your budget against what you actually spend to prevent cost overruns before they occur. You should

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Wyatt and John

John Cummings was my great grandfather and Wyatt was his father. Wyatt's father had moved the Cummings clan to North Alabama soon after the Creek Indians were defeated at Horseshoe Bend. The battle was a decisive one for Andrew Jackson and his band of Tennesseans. Wyatt had not been married for very long when South Carolina fired the first shots on Fort Sumter. After this event states across the South held Secessional Conventions to determine whether to stay in the Union or secede from the Union.

Alabama held their convention in Montgomery. Wyatt Cummings and the other people of Winston County elected a man by the name of Chris Sheets to represent them at the convention. The people of Winston County were settlers and homesteaders in Winston County. There were only a handful of plantations in the county and most people did not own any slaves. So, in an overwhelming vote the people of the county decided that Chris should vote against secession at the convention. All the people of Winston County wanted was to remain neutral. They empathized with their brothers in the southern part of Alabama. But, the thought of fighting to maintain the right to own slaves was something the people of Winston County didn't understand.

During the first day of the secession convention Chris Sheets was not allowed to speak. When he tried to speak he was thrown into jail and beaten for his stance on the subject of secession. Chris was held in the jail in Montgomery during the entire convention and was only turned loose when the convention ended. He went home battered and bruised as well as feeling he had failed. As you know Alabama did secede from the Union and the War Between the States began. Many of the planters who had vigorously supported secession and war did not want to fight and began paying others to fight in their place during the war. Soon the state created a Home Guard to help protect the interest of the citizens of Alabama.

One of the objectives of the Home Guard

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Let your belt out a notch

Whether you're a Dawg, a Vol, a Bama, a Yellow Jacket, a Gator, a Nole or a Cane, or you root for another favorite college football team, you'll have to wait till Saturday's Farmers Market to express your allegiance. All fans of great food take precedence at the Farmers Market earlier in the week!

That's right. If you love good food, if you pride yourself in knowing what each restaurant has worth ordering, if you find yourself more interested in 50 ways to graze instead of 50 shades of gray. You need to be at The Market between 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. this Thursday, Aug. 30th. That's when the Union County Farmers Market will be celebrating its inaugural "Foodie Night."

As the Labor Day holiday creeps up on us, and the summer picnic season comes to a finale, The Market will be celebrating great foods including BBQ, salads, grill specialties and luscious desserts. The local restaurants and food purveyors (like BBQ rubs and sauces or Fudge makers) will be gathering along with our regular produce and food vendors to bring you a taste testing of all that is luscious from the garden to the table.

It's easy to participate. The Market is selling five tickets for \$5. You then can choose what you'd like to taste. Each tasting will be \$1 or \$2, and it will be a generous tasting. The idea is that for your five tickets, you'll have had dinner. More importantly, you'll get a chance to try dishes from restaurants or food suppliers you haven't had a chance to sample. Please mark your calendar, bring the kids, gather with your friends from work, or put your grandmother in the car and head over and support this effort of community collaboration.

Now, when the picnics end, the tailgating begins. College football fans get a chance to show their colors this Saturday, Sept. 1 at the Market. Everyone loves a good rivalry on and off the field. Here's an opportunity to boast of your allegiance by dressing in your favorite teams colors! Paint your face, wear your team boxers, top your head with a mascot cap, or wave your team flag. However you want to express yourself and your love of all that bleeds your favorite colors, we want you to bring it on! The PA system will surprise you throughout the morning with your fight song and you'll get to sing along. So this Saturday, come and compete, not just to see if you can get to the

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Letters To the Editor

Will the real Ryan stand up?

Dear Editor,
Paul Ryan, Mitt Romney's vice presidential running mate, rages against our crushing national debt. We are trillions of dollars in debt due to "misguided policies." Let's look at reality: in the 1990s we had a surplus! Then \$1.7 trillion in the Bush tax cuts, two wars, Medicare part D, none of it funded, plus the TARP bank bailout. Paul Ryan voted for each and every one of these, plus other unfunded programs. Where was the outrage then? No outrage under Bush, just under Obama! Does that make sense?
William Miles

Mega Reunion

Dear Editor,
The reunion for Union County High School classes 1975 through 1981 will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2012, at the House of Prayer Family Life Center from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Food and live music will be provided. Cost is \$35 per couple or \$20 per single registration. Contact Cindy Hunter Thomas or e-mail us at uchsreunion@yahoo.com. Let's make this reunion one to remember!
Cindy Hunter Thomas

Ryan no friend to Gray Panthers

Dear Editor,
There has been a lot of good information written about Republican Vice Presidential pick Paul Ryan. I have a few more points of interest to add about the "the boy next door" as Paul Ryan is called. Paul Ryan is bright, bold and brash, clever, cunning and conservative. Paul Ryan is the last best chance that fundamentalists, religious extremists and the Tea Party have of getting one of
See Lowe, page 5A

Money Talks

Dear Editor,
My contribution to the letters column on the subject of the egregious treatment of the Palestinians by the State of Israel have never been printed. No doubt any criticism of the Israelis - no matter how justified - was automatically seen as being anti-Semitic.
Yet, in this never-ending round of paid political advertisements filling the pages of the North Georgia News, you evidently saw
See Ramsey, page 5A

Heritage Festival

Dear Editor,
Just a reminder for folks that Saturday, Sept. 1 and Sept. 2, is the dates of our Annual Heritage Festival. Please plan to attend and have a great weekend of fun, food, crafts, music, and exhibits.
Bud Akins
Union County Historical Society

Two billion reasons

Dear Editor,
President Obama is caterwauling that Republicans want to hurt teachers and students by cutting back on the federal education budget.
FIRST, there is no provision or allowance in the Constitution for federal involvement in local schools. After Integration was accomplished, the federal government never went back to Washington.
SECOND, abolish the Department of Education and return their Fiscal Year 2012 \$100 BILLION budget, divided equally, to the 50 States.
That would return \$2 billion to each State's local schools.
That's \$2 BILLION DOLLARS.
George Mitchell

Surprise!

Dear Editor,
We shouldn't be surprised.
In the run-up to the vote on July 31st much was said in support of T-SPLOST, but to my knowledge no one mentioned that the bill contained a surprise. It came in the form of a 'penalty clause' that would require counties in any region voting down the issue to kick in 30 percent on future DOT projects instead of the 10 to 15 percent counties in areas approving the issue would contribute. Without realizing it, we were voting to increase our taxes no matter which way we voted. Even though under T-SPLOST the tax burden for all Georgians will increase, the very lawmakers who voted the bill into law are claiming they did not vote to raise taxes. In light of the vindictive nature of the 'penalty clause' contained within the bill, is there any wonder our elected officials are held in such low regard?
Robert K. Honea

Do the phone books right

Dear Editor,
I am totally in agreement with the recent letter regarding our PHONE BOOKS. I have been arguing this for ages myself to change the phone books back the way they once were years ago. Towns and Union counties were separate and you could easily find what you were looking for. The writing was much bigger and broader too. No wonder my eyesight has gotten worse over the past couple of years with all of the squinting I have to do trying to see a number much less WHO I am actually calling up.
Thank You for taking the time to print this.
Mrs. D. Barnes

Emergency Management Ordinance

Q. I heard that Fannin County is trying to pass an ordinance regarding Emergency Management and that there is strong opposition to the ordinance. Does Union County have an ordinance like this?



Lamar Paris Q & A

A. The Union County ordinance was adopted in 1999 and was a model ordinance provided at the time by Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and all counties were asked to adopt it. For some reason, some counties did not adopt it and apparently Fannin was one of those counties. While most parts of the two ordinances are similar, there are a few significant differences.

Q. What is the purpose of the Emergency Management ordinance in the first place?

A. It is put in place to provide for public safety in the event of a tragic event, disaster or major emergency in a county such as tornadoes, terrorist attacks, severe flooding or any other major event. Each year counties receive a grant from GEMA to assist us in developing and maintaining our emergency management in our county. GEMA has been a very long-time and valuable partner to the counties. At one time this grant was dependent on counties adopting the ordinance.

Q. What are the differences in our ordinance and the Fannin County proposed ordinance?

A. The Fannin proposed ordinance increases authority given to counties in disaster situations and has some other references that could impact private property rights. However, our ordinance does not contain that language.

Q. Is it true that the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) was involved with the new GEMA ordinance drafting?

A. I placed a call to ACCG and they gave me the following information. The model ordinance is not anything new. Since 1997, ACCG has worked with GEMA to develop model emergency management ordinances for counties. Beginning in 2010, they also worked with the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) to develop a comprehensive emergency management ordinance for counties and cities.

Q. Does it impact a county financially if they do not adopt some type of ordinance?

A. Normally it does and that is why ACCG participates in helping GEMA formalize an ordinance. In recent years, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) has

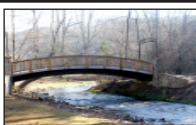
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