

Opinions

Everybody has one

Don't put lipstick on a pig

The Ku Klux Klan controversy is back. The American Civil Liberties Union, a non-partisan group that vows to protect free speech in the United States, has sued the governor, the state, the Department of Transportation, Union County and its commissioner for what it believes are vague interpretations of the Adopt-A-Highway rules.

The ACLU accuses all of the above mentioned officials and entities of violating the Klan's civil rights. After all, the Klan just wants to pick up trash. They want to exercise their civil rights to do their civic duty. Well, you and I both know that's not the case. They must be on a recruiting drive and trying to encourage new memberships.

They're seeking publicity above all else. The bottom line, you can put lipstick on a pig, but it's still a pig. Folks, it is what it is and the Klan doesn't get any more pretty than it already is now.

The suit was filed in Fulton County Superior Court and claims that the state has set criteria for qualification for the Adopt-A-Highway program that are unconstitutionally vague, and that the state established no process for an appeal of denial of an application.

If you remember, the state denied the application of the International Keystone Knights of the Realm of the Ku Klux Klan based on the fact that it does not issue Adopt-A-Highway permits on highways with speed limits in excess of 55 mph. Georgia 515 has a set speed limit at 65 mph. The lawsuit does point out that the Keystone Knights are incorporated in Arkansas, and is registered to operate in Georgia.

I don't have a problem with anyone trying to do their civic duties. Picking up trash along the roadways is one of those that many take pride in.

The problem is, this has never been about picking up trash or civic duty. It's always been about getting the Klan's name out there.

If the Klan is really interested in civic duties, it wouldn't be suing government entities and costing taxpayers untold thousands of dollars to defend the suit.

Also, my problem with the Klan is that the folks that are at the center of this suit, April Chambers and Harley Hanson, are not from Union County.

They are admitted Klansmen, but it took tracking down their residence in Fannin County to get them to confess that they don't live in Union County.

They've caused all this ruckus in Union County and are costing Union County residents tax dollars to defend this suit.

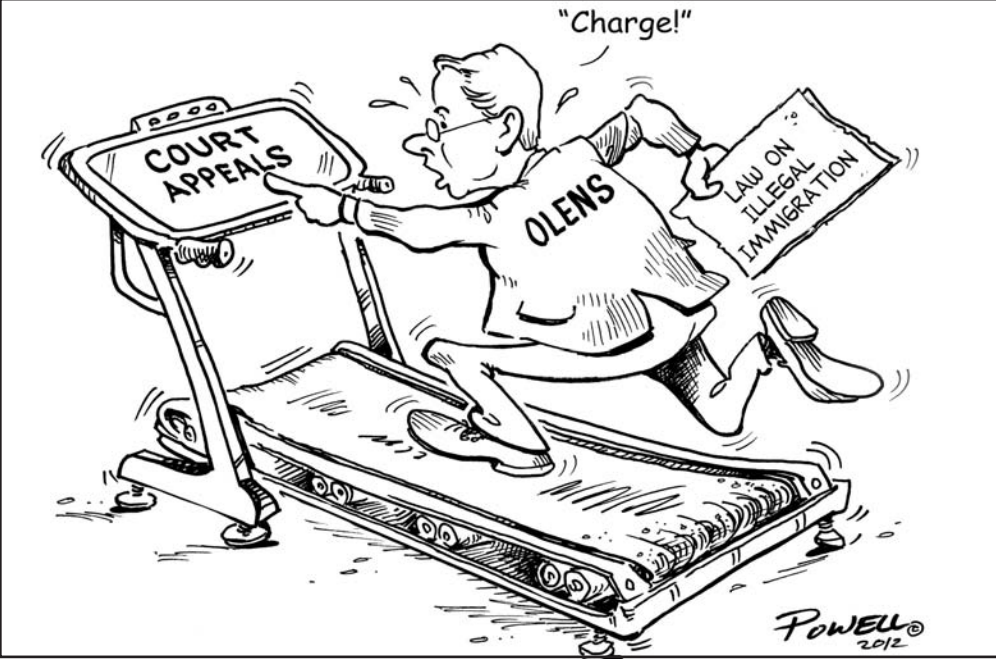
The Keystone Knights claim to have a headquarters in Union County. All they can prove is that they have rented a U.S. Post Office box.

I'm not sure why they're having a rally here on Oct. 6 in Union County. No one wants them here. If the Klan is truly serious about being civic-minded, it could start by dropping its law suit over the right to pick up trash, and cancel its Oct. 6 rally in Union County.

Instead, I believe it will show its true colors and or, its proverbial backside – probably both.



Charles Duncan
Straight Shooting



Life's Turning Process

Have you noticed that there is a quietness, crispness and stillness in the air that signals summer is about to turn into fall?

As the great philosopher, Yogi Berra would say, "It's beginning to get late early now." A few leaves have already begun turning colors. However, nature is not the only thing that changes. A few democrats have turned republican and a few republicans have turned democrat. Some Methodist have turned Baptist. Some Baptist have turned Methodist. On and on it goes, life's turning process. The hair turns white or turns loose. The mind just turns off. The eyes turn dim, the teeth turn loose and man turns his heart toward home.

Life's turning process grabs hold of my mental process. I want to know what is the catalyst that makes things turn or change, especially in man. Being a minister for almost three-fourths of my life I have worked with my share of turners. I have used every method of motivation including prayer, sermons, pleading, begging and yes, sometimes scolding and near singing to get people to turn from their wicked ways. Many turn a deaf ear to a better way of life. They refuse to hear and pay no attention. Others turn a blind eye. They pretend not to see. I have met some who turned over a new leaf, but failed to turn to a new life. Their new leaf turned wilted rather quickly. Sad it is to say, but I have encountered a few turncoats along the way. They are like the seed that fell by the wayside; their allegiance didn't last long.

On occasions when trouble, danger or conflict arose, I was grieved to see individuals turn tail and run. I have dealt with some who wanted to turn up their nose at others and even saw a few along the way that seemed to be doing things to get some relative to turn over in their grave. A few times, I have seen some turn their heads from the needs of others, like the priest and Levite and turn their back on an opportunity to do good. That's enough to turn one's stomach. But wait! Don't turn me off. God has blessed me to see far greater numbers

See Parris, page 5A



Danny Parris
It's On My Mind

Nuisance Wildlife Problems

I have always been fond of wildlife. One time when I was 9 I caught a snake and wanted to keep it as a pet. I put it in a jar and punched holes in the jar lid. I put the jar downstairs in the basement because my mom was afraid of snakes. I didn't realize the holes in the jar lid were larger than the snake's body and a couple of days later I found the snake gone. You must realize my mother is the sweetest gentlest woman that ever lived. So, it was very disturbing when I was awakened on the next Saturday morning by the sound of an ax chopping something and a female voice screaming bad words. My mom had found the snake on the wooden stairs in our basement. I didn't know she could talk that way.

Wildlife problems have strange effects upon people. Normally mild and meek persons can become deranged gun slingers at the sight of an animal in their home. I began working as a County Agent 30 years ago and 2 weeks later I received my first nuisance wildlife call. An 85 year old lady in a hysterical state of mind called me on the phone late one Friday afternoon. She screamed into the phone "Mister, I have a skunk in my house". I told her to calm down and explained the reasons for the skunk being in the house. I also cautioned her about the possibility of the skunk having rabies. That little bit of information didn't help the situation.

Next, she said, "I have a 38 pistol". I told the lady, "I will be right over, but, whatever you do please do not shoot that skunk in your house". I pulled into her driveway and got of my truck. Immediately I heard 2 gunshots. That little old lady was a good shot. I found her standing over the skunk with a Dirty Harry look spread across her face and then we both ran outside because we could no longer stand the smell.

Beavers have become a nuisance in Union County. If you are having problems with beavers on your property you have some different ways of dealing with the problem. First, you can prevent them from damaging your trees by covering the trees with welded wire to prevent the beavers from chewing the tree.

Another method of prevention of beaver damage is harassment. You can manipulate

See Cummings, page 5A



Mickey Cummings
Around The Farm

Coming Home

I just got back from a 10-day, 3,800-mile road trip, through 11 states and eight different hotels. I was surprised by how deeply I felt my patriotic pulse when I finally got to Mount Rushmore. I was enamored by the enormous Buffalo that walk along side of the tiny, scampering prairie dogs in Custer State Park. I was kissed by a donkey. Actually, it was two donkeys. I stumbled on an amazing 10 x15 cabin/coffee house with the most incredible coffee latte in a two-bit town in South Dakota (and where the people that worked there sounded just like Rose on the Golden Girls). I was humbled by the site of thousands of acres of corn that never had a chance to mature because of this summer's draught across the heartland.

Early one morning, I was in a McDonald's in Hayes, Kan. There were two other tables occupied at the time. A group of farmers, all over the age of 65, were discussing how to solve the world's problems. Another table had a gaggle of ladies over age 65 that looked like they were lifted from a Norman Rockwell portrait of a Middle America Quilting Bee. It was what I would have expected from this town, population 20,000, set in the middle of a cow pasture. What struck me as odd was that the music that was playing at this McDonald's was the latest hits by Katy Perry, Justin Beiber and Chris Brown. Is management not aware of their customer demographics?

After burning 180-plus gallons of fuel, digitally taking more than 200 pictures and filling the back of the SUV with things we couldn't live without, I came to the same conclusion I've come to after every trip I've made since I moved here in 1998. Why did I leave Blairsville? Just being at the Farmers Market every week I learn something new. I meet the most interesting folks. I'm struck by how deep the roots are for those that have been born and raised here. And I'm just as captivated by the heart of those transplanted here, like me, who call Blairsville home.

I have a tradition of beeping the horn every time I cross a state line when I'm on a trip. It's my way of saying "hey" when they have welcomed drivers with their signage. Whenever I cross the Union County line on my approach home, there are no horns, but a feeling that runs through my entire nervous system that I'm back where I belong. I have a private moment with God, thanking him for a safe journey, and then I wink up at him and tell him I appreciate more his gift of the North Georgia Mountains.

This Saturday at The Market, our annual Salute to our Crafters and Artisans.

Take a look at some of their work that has been posted to the website UCFarmersMarket.com

See Leone, page 5A



JoAnne Leone
Farmers Market Moment

Resume Mistakes

Although jobs are in short supply, a secret to your job hunting success might be to update your resume. Your resume will be reviewed by a recruiter, human resources specialist, business owner or potential employer. You will only have one chance to make a good impression, so take time with your resume and strive for perfection. The following tips can help you land your next perfect job.

Great resumes share common features. They are focused, applicable, and succinctly convey your potential contribution to the employer. Formatting consistency and choosing an easy to read font are vital. A bullet point style resume is preferred over a paragraph style. Share your accomplishments and relevant work experience including concrete performance measurements. For example, if applying for a sales job, it should convey numbers, statistics and the sales quotas achieved. Make sure you give complete contact information regarding your email, phone, and address. Finally, always include a cover letter as part of your application whether posting to a job board, web recruiter, in person or in the mail. In the cover letter, strive to introduce yourself to the interviewer. Stress your goals and why this position is a good match for your skill set.

There are also several common errors to avoid when composing your resume. At the top of the list of fatal resume mistakes is making grammatical errors or having misspelled words. You can reduce the probability of these errors by having at least two other people review your work. Do not rely solely on spell check which does not catch all mistakes. Avoid cookie cutter templates from software companies to create your resume. These are easily recognized by savvy employers. Do not include personal information which is irrelevant to the job duties. Finally, when printing your resume, do not use heavy or colored paper, and do not put "objective statements" and "references available upon request" as this is considered a waste of space by today's leading job recruiters.

Your success for gaining employment can only be enhanced if you have a solid resume. If you need help with your small business or business planning, I encourage you to contact the Chamber at 706-745-5789. Please remember to visit our Chamber website at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com for member information or to review events planned this fall. I can be reached any time at Chair@BlairsvilleChamber.com. Information for this week's column is from usnews.com, salary.com and forbes.com.



Joe Garner
BUCCC
Blairsville - Union County Chamber of Commerce

Letters

To the Editor

It's an advertisement
Dear Editor,

I read Commissioner Paris' column this week stating if I enjoyed his column to let you folks know. I think whomever is commissioner can put a column in the paper to let the public know what is going on, but this should stop when a commissioner is running for reelection for office no matter who it is. This is free campaigning no matter what you call it.
Mollie P. Aldridge
Janice P. Spence

It's a must read
Dear Editor,

Commissioner Paris' column said to let you know if we enjoy reading his column. I enjoy reading Commissioner Paris' column in the North Georgia News every week. I believe its very informative about how the county works. Commissioner Paris does a fine job. Thank you
Shirley Brackett

Turn out the lights
Dear Editor,

I read with interest the article about people that pollute our highways with their trash, and I agree wholeheartedly. However, I wonder how the writer would feel if it were his neighbor doing this and he was dumping trash in his front yard, and after talking to him about it several times and writing his complaint to the newspaper (the neighbor acknowledging he had read the article) continued his actions. How would he feel then? That's how I feel about the people that pollute the beauty of the night skies with their spot lights. They claim they are security lights, but my suspicion is that they are really "vanity" lights, to show off what they have.
See Kane, page 5A

Get registered to vote
Dear Editor,

Mark Twain told us, "there are lies, damn lies, and statistics." We see all of these in this election year.

We are able to choose which news to watch and read, and tend to choose that which reinforces what we already believe. A little skepticism is always in order. Is it too good or too bad to be true? Does only one station carry the story? Does that station always tell you only they know the truth?

The 24 hour news cycle repeats the same partial story or quote many times, repetition is not veracity.

Vast amounts of unregulated money is buying advertisements, influence and maybe a candidate. A few dedicated deep pockets can disrupt the electoral process.

The Romney campaign has stated it will not be defined by fact checkers. It is easy for us to use fact check, politifact, or snopes on line. We also have access to newspapers with more in depth reporting. Use common sense and factual information to make your vote count.

Be sure to register by October 9!
Andrea Compton

Respect for our Flag & National Anthem
Dear Editor,

I have recently attended several area functions where I see disrespect for our Flag & National Anthem. What is going on? It isn't always our young people who are uninformed as to proper behavior; it is all age groups including seniors.

Recently at a local event while the National Anthem was played many, adult males failed to remove their caps & continued conversations as if nothing was happening.
See Brassel, page 5A

Take notice
Dear Editor,

For 20 years I served in the United States Army, which means that at certain intervals I had to take an oath of enlistment, or reenlistment, committing to a period of service. That oath was powerful in its content, and all encompassing in the commitment I made to my country. I would raise my right hand and repeat the following words: "I, Charles W. Honaker, Sr, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, so help me God."
See Honaker, page 5A

Kudos Lamar
Dear Editor,

We greatly enjoy reading Commissioner Paris' column in the North Georgia News every week. We consider it highly informative about the workings of this beautiful county, and he does a fine job! Thank you
Pat & Al Rice

Keep Viewpoint in the can
Dear Editor,

I've noticed a renewed interest in returning to the Viewpoint column in our paper. I would urge caution before doing so. What probably started out as an innocent effort to draw interest in local issues soon became a "gotcha" column with no accountability.

Might I suggest that without accountability there is no responsibility. The very

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