Opinions

Everybody has one

Hope

Whenever we encounter an election cycle, all we can do is hope and pray that we've made the right decision.

The countdown continues to Decision 2012 and we're all hoping for the right guidance and information that will lead us to make the right call in the voting booth. Some of us have already voted. The most important



Shooting

thing we can do is vote, and vote our conscience, not the "D, or the 'R." Growing up here in Union County, for years, the only choice on the local level was Democrat.

Of course during those days, there were Republican candidates as well as Democrats. My Daddy voted his conscience.

In the state and national elections, he also voted his conscience. My Daddy never voted straight ticket. He voted for the person.

Straight ticket voting is dangerous, and means that the voter themselves have not done their homework. Voters who vote straight ticket cheat themselves and others.

Be informed about the candidates that you vote for, and don't do your research on TOPIX. Get to know the candidates that you feel are on the same page as your values. Meet them, shake their hand and look them in the eye. Ask them ques-

Our national elections are important, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden are seeking reelection. They face off against Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney and Vice Presidential Candidate Paul Ryan.

Gary Johnson is the Libertarian Presidential candidate, with James Gray, his vice presidential running mate. Vote your conscience.
Our 9th District Congressional Seat is up for

grabs. Republican Doug Collins squares off against Democrat Jody Cooley. Vote your conscience. There are two Georgia Public Service Com-

mission races. Republican Incumbent Chuck Eaton squares off against Stephen Oppenheimer, a Democrat, and Brad Ploeger, a Libertarian. Vote your In the second PSC race, Incumbent Repub-

lican Stan Wise faces opposition form Libertarian David Staples. Vote your conscience. In the District 8 House race, Incumbent Ste-

phen Allison, a Blairsville Republican faces Jana Hill, a Rabun County Democrat. Vote your con-Of course there are several local races that must be decided for Union County. Again, vote

I noticed one race in a neighboring county where the Republican nominee made outlandish claims against a Democratic incumbent. He got his

outlandish claims off TOPIX. Don't vote for a TOPIX candidate, do your

homework, be an educated voter. I hope that ultimately, you vote your con-

Union County Fire Dept.

Q. I read in the paper that we are expanding Fire Station #1. What else can you tell us about the fire department in Union County? A. I am very proud

of our Fire Department and think they are second to none. We are one of the few non-metro counties in North Georgia with a full time fire



24 hours a day, seven days a week. The firefighters are highly trained and qualified as EMTs and all are NPQ Firefighter 2 certified. They roll on all fire calls, motor vehicle accidents and ambulance calls with serious medical problems. These highly trained individuals along with our outstanding hospital make Union County one of the safest areas in which to live. The firefighters are equipped with the latest equipment and technology. They train hard and work side by side with our volun teer firefighters located throughout the county. These volunteers devote hundreds of hours each year to ensure that you remain as safe as possible.

Q. What does it mean to be NPQ Firefighter 2 certified? A. To be NPQ certified means that a firefight-

er has met the job performance and education requirements established by the National Professional Qualifications Board (NPQB). The firefighters that have obtained this national certification have been tested by both written and a "hands-on" practical test that complies with NFPA 1001: Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications. This certification is recognized not only in Georgia, but all of the United States. For a Firefighter there are two levels, Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2.

Q. How many volunteer firefighters do we have and what training does a volunteer need to

A. We currently have 86 volunteer firefighters in the county. Once becoming a member of the department, the volunteer is required to obtain a minimum of 95 hours of firefighting training. Any other medical training the volunteer wishes to obtain is on top of the firefighting training. Volunteers are required to obtain 60 hours of firefighting training annually thereafter.

Q. How many fire stations do we have and where are they located?

A. Union County has 12 fire stations. (* denotes main stations)

Station #1 – 507 Shoe Factory Rd.* Station #2 – 15 Jones Creek Rd.*

Station #3 – 14 Waldroup Rd.*

Station #4 – 93 Moccasin Rd. * Station #5 – 80 Firewater Lane, Suches*

Station #6 – 1520 Pat Colwell Rd.

Station #7 – 30 John Smith Rd. W

Station #8 – 5484 Gum Log Rd.

Station #9 – 144 Willie Hutson Rd.

Station #10 - 166 Jones St.

Kenneth West

Owner / Publisher

Adam Gilreath

Advertising Director

Station #11 – 7503 State Hwy 60, Suches Station #12 – 101 Choestoe Station Cir.

Many of our fire stations also serve as voting precincts. Stations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 have Neighborhood Recycling every Wednesday from 8 am to noon. For more information or to volunteer for this program,

please call Yasleni Burnette at 706-439-6000. Q. How many fire trucks and other vehicles does the Fire Department have? A. The Fire Department has 13 en-

gines, 5 pumper / tankers, 4 forestry brush trucks, 6 rescue vehicles and 5 wild land trucks. Q. What kind of special equipment does

the Fire Department have?

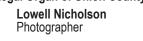
A. They have all kinds of equipment and gear for any situation that comes up. For instance, they See **Paris**, page 5A

North Georgia News

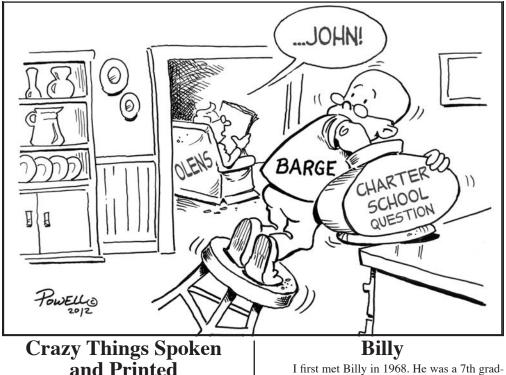
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Staff Writer



Website: www.nganews.com **E-mail**: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com Mailing: POBox 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514



er at Osborne Elementary School and I was a 4th

grader. I and all the other younger kids in our school

looked up to Billy. Although he was considered as

one of the tough kids at our school he never bullied

at every kid in the school. Back in those days our

teacher would line us up and march us single file

to the lunch room. On the way to lunch we had to cross the main lobby where the Mr. Fischer's (the

Principal) Office was located. Every class had to

pass through this area and there was always a traf-

fic jam of students and teachers in this area. Mr. Keebler spent a lot of time at this junction because

it also served as the main entrance into the school.

would be leaving the lunch room as the 4th grad-

ers would be arriving. Billy would sneak straws from the lunch room and shoot spit wads through

the straws to the ceiling above the hallway.

Spit wads are spit moistened bits of paper shot through a drinking straw. Mr. Keebler, Mr. Fis-

cher and every teacher in the school knew Billy

was shooting these spit wads. But, nobody ever

caught Billy in the act. Each day Billy would call out to Mr. Keebler, "Look Mr. Keebler, there is another spit wad". All of us kids would snicker while Billy was talking to Mr. Keebler. He would then turn to us and grin. We all loved Billy, but, the staff at school labeled him as a trouble maker

and I guess Billy wanted to change his reputation

and he got his chance in the springtime of 1969.

Our school was trying to raise money for field

trips. I remember the candy man talking to us

before the big sale. We were told to sell as much

candy as possible and the kids that sold the most

would be awarded prizes. We had 1 month to sell the candy and each week were to report our

totals back to our teachers. At the end of the first

week Billy had sold 62 candy bars. We were as-

See Cummings, page 5A

Where Do You Hail From?

fall, and I had on my gloves, coat and a blanket around my legs. This past Friday morning, I was checking in the vendors for the Sorghum Festival

when an older gent from Akin,

South Carolina arrived, look-

ing to buy a case of sorghum

syrup. He approached me with

a pocket knife in one hand

and a strip of sorghum cane

in the other, chomping away

with great pleasure on the

fibrous, sweet piece he had

just popped into his mouth.

It was the coldest, dampest morning of the

À little bit into our conversation, he cocked his head much like my little Pug does when he's

trying to decipher what my words mean. "Where

do you hail from? he asks me. "You ain't no hill-

billy, I can tell that. Are you a New Yorker?"
Well, he was a little right and a little

wrong. I was born and raised on the western side

of New York State. Before highways and speed

limits were super charged, it took twelve hours to drive to the city where "New Yorkers" lived.

definition, I am a hillbilly. I was raised in the hills of

Chautauqua County, smack in between Erie, PA and

Buffalo, NY, on Lake Erie. The Track Rock/Choe-

stoe Area of Union County is almost an identical

footprint to my memories of commuting across that

rural area. The differences lie mostly in the crops.

See *Leone*, page 8A

Letters to the Editor

No respect

on the KKK Rally. To have mentioned our President

in conjunction with the KKK is insulting. There is

little enough respect given to the office of the President, regardless of who holds the office.

to protest-peacefully-their appearance in our won-

derful town. There is no place in civilized society

for hate mongering. We could all use a little more love and less hate. I was also glad to see the large

majority of the KKK in attendance were not even

Georgians (as witnessed by the out of state license

Disappointed

I am writing about your report in last week's issue regarding the KKK event in Blairs-

ville. The information given about their failure to

rally support was, in my opinion, excellent jour-

nalism. In addition, I commend your account of

our community's rejection of an organization that

represents nothing other than hate and violence. That said, I was greatly disappointed in the

disrespect shown to our President by equating his

debate performance to the hateful and racist rhetoric

coming from the Imperial Wizard of the KKK. I be-

lieve it was unfair and completely unnecessary. My

question is, what has one got to do with the other? To

compare the leader of our country in the same sen-

tence with the leader of a group who has a proud his-

tory of lynching and even murder of fellow human

beings, should offend all Americans, no matter which

political party they choose to align themselves with.

I trust that this was an oversight, not an in-

I was very disappointed to read your article

I was proud to see so many persons turn out

Dear Editor,

Geraldine Chapman

Dear Editor,

In some respects, and depending on your

Farmers Market

Moment

We sold candy for the first time that year.

Each day at this traffic jam Billy's class

Around 🖆

l The Farm

or picked on us. He may have been the most popular kid in school. All the pretty girls liked him and he was funny.

Mickey Cummings

However, Mr. Keebler

didn't like Billy. Mr. Keebler

was our janitor. All of us kids

were afraid of him. He was a

dried up old man that growled

and Printed

In this world of sadness, seriousness and really troubling situations, it does us good to laugh just a little. As was said in one of the political debates, "Sometimes things

Danny

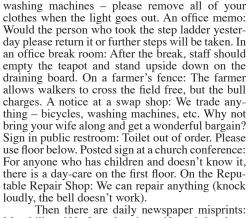
Parris

lt's

On My Mind

don't come out of our mouths just right!" Likewise, things printed often shock and sur-For instance: Sign in

London department store: Bargain Basement upstairs. In a Laundromat: Automatic



Man kills self before shooting wife and daughter. Expert says, "Something went wrong in jet crash." What about, Police begin campaign to run down

These are unbelievable: Miners refuse to work after death. Juvenile court to try shooting defendant. If strike isn't settled quickly, it may last a while. Red tape holds up new bridges. And man struck by lightning faces battery charge.

These last three should bring a smile to the face of non-laughers - Local high school dropouts cut in half. Hospitals are sued by 7 foot doctors, and can you believe it, typhoon rips through cemetery; hundreds dead.

Just in case you haven't laughed or smiled yet, just think about some of the following: Why is the man who invests your life savings called a broker? Why do we put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? Why don't they just put their pictures on stamps so the mail persons can look for them as they deliver the mail? Why isn't 11 pronounced onety-one? Did the Roman paramedics refer to IV's as "4's"? If a man wears a cowboy hat while mowing his lawn on a riding mower shouldn't he

See **Parris**, page 5A

Habits of Charismatic Individuals

risma? Can charisma make a difference in your Charisma is believed by most people to be a gift from God. However, like some

talents the charismatic patterns that impact others can be learned. Charismatic people make others feel instantly important. Often charismatic people light up a room by entering. Charisma helps to build relationships and often influence others in a positive



I want to share 10 habits of charismatic people with you today.

1. They listen more than they talk, often maintaining eye contact and asking questions. When speaking on the phone they ask about your holiday, how your sports team did over the weekend or what you have planned this weekend. They

2. They don't practice selective hearing. They make you feel that we all have "something" in common.

3. They put their stuff away. They do not check their cell phone, iPod, computer screen or television. They dedicate all their attention to the

4. They give before they receive—and often never receive. Giving is the only way to establish a real connection with others. They try to cater to your every need. If they know you require something different from what is normally provided, they make an effort for you. They show you that they care.

5. They don't act self- important. No airs, stuffiness or self-important ideals.

6. They realize other people are more important, sharing thoughts, ideas, information and eventually a business transaction. They become excited when they see you or speak to you on the

7. They shine the spotlight on others. No one receives enough praise. They tell others what you did well. They will give you some publicity. If they know you are a great customer and there is an opportunity to shout about your relationship then they will want to tell others.

8. They choose words which positively impact the attitude of others.

9. They don't discuss the failings of others. Gossip is not just the grapevine or coffee shop talk which takes place at social gatherings. It might be interesting, but we tend to not respect the people

10. They readily admit their failings. They are humble and share their shortcomings with others. They admit their mistakes and laugh at themselves. References today came from www.inc.

http://deliverbliss.com/win-your-customand http://www.robertpickstone. com/2010/04/30/how-to-make-your-customersfeel-special/.

tentional comparison. I hope also that you will take this matter into consideration when writing future In conclusion, your Chamber of Commerce See **Garner**, page 5A Patricia McCarthy

Letters To the Editor Will this letter see the light of day?

Most low-income young women dream of having a husband, children, a minivan and a house in the suburbs with a white picket fence but, instead of getting married before becoming pregnant, they tend to have a child first. Marriage is regarded as an important ceremo-

ny that will celebrate one's eventual arrival in the middle class rather than as a vital pathway that leads upward to the attainment of middle-class status. A single mother can receive far more from

welfare than she can if she gets married. So, for

See *Mitchell*, page 5A

Tired of the arguments Dear Editor,

Hopefully, November will end all of this political arguing, an issue that is important to all of us who need our Social Security. It's so important in this poor economy. No one is telling us if we are getting our Cost of Living Adjustment

There certainly is no way either side can the cost of living has not risen as every single thing we buy has gone up 20 percent to 100 percent. And there is no end because of all the fires in so many states, floods in others and just about every calamity you can think of.

We are so used to war - 12 years of it to be exact - that we almost take it for granted. Sometimes, I wish I could try the horse and

buggy days again.

Louise Hughes Tired of the Klan

Dear Editor, On Saturday Oct. 6, about eighteen members of the Ku Klux Klan staged a rally of sorts

at the Union County Court House in Blairsville. The members of the David W. Payne Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Blairsville, heartily applaud the results, a dismal failure. The local members of the Sons of Confed-

erate Veterans, as well as the whole national and international SCV organization, wish to express their extreme displeasure at the KKK's misuse of the Confederate Battle Flag. Also, in the strongest of terms, we wish to inform everyone that there is absolutely NO connection or relationship be-tween the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the In September 2010, the SCV held its an-

nual reunion in Anderson, S.C. A resolution was

See S.C.V., page 5A

Thank you Union General Dear Editor, A Letter to Ms. Dyer

I am writing to you to let you know what a great experience my wife Melanie and I had because of several people on your staff during a recent visit to your hospital.

We are from Rockledge, Florida and were staying at my father's cabin north of town. Two weeks ago on September 21, 2012 I took my wife to your emergency department because she had severe abdominal pain. She was seen immediately by Dr. Kathryn Blocker who performed an initial exam and ordered tests to determine if my wife had appendicitis. She was very prompt, professional and caring and I can not say enough positive things about her. You are fortunate to have such a fine physician in your employ.

Dr. Blocker was assisted by a nurse by the name of Michael who made my wife feel right at home and did a great job of providing outstand ing care. There was also a young man in Radiology by the name of Daniel who was caring and professional, who helped with the testing. Another young man named Bailey performed an EKG and also transported my wife to her room on the 3rd floor, he was very helpful and friendly. After my wife was in her room, there were two nurses, Andi and Brandi, who took her information as quickly and professionally as possible. The surgeon, Doctor Moody was very professional, friendly and as-

My wife actually went to Vogel State Park the next day and walked around the lake! He did a wonderful job and he sure seems to care about his patients. The following nurses all did a stellar job of providing the best care possible and checked on my wife constantly: Nancy, Shanny, Christina, Jessica, Robbie and Don. I unfortunately do not remember their names, but we also had two pastors visit and offer healing prayers. If I missed anyone else or mis-spelled any names, I am sorry.

See *Bradford*, page 5A

Constitution and Freedom of Speech Dear Editor,

For those who hold this document and this issue dear, listen up!

Removing Obama signs, because you do not

support him, is wrong or anyone's signs.

Do not pretend that you are standard bearers for us all, if you are not willing to accept that others are entitled to a different opinion or point of view. Anything less and you do not live up to your stated belief, or faith.

Leave the signs alone!! Vote Your Belief. Do the right thing, it isn't "cute," "adult," or "Christian" to remove signs.

Claudia Deprez

Emphasis on Sports

Dear Editor,

Some people believe that sports are an important part of school life. Others think that there is too much emphasis placed on sports. My position is that there is too much. Sports are a great extra curricular activity for kids. They should not be your basic priority in life though. There are many more things to focus on in life.

The most important thing is God. He let his son die for you. Why wouldn't you want to spend your time on him? After all, He IS the one who created you. In Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, it basically says that there is a time and place for all things,

See *Hemphill*, page 5A

Health Care Act

Governor Romney, like President Bush has pointed out that if you get sick and have no insurance you can go to the ER, therefore no one lacks healthcare. It is true thanks to Federal regulation that if you are having a heart attack you will receive excellent care in the ER, and if needed, transfer to a heart center.

However, you will also receive a large bill. You may qualify for assistance or you may find yourself on the way to bankruptcy and foreclosure

See *Kruger*, page 5A

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