

**Duncan...continued from Page 4A**

prayer, I want to tell our readers that this is my opinion, and my opinion only. After all, this is the Opinions page.

I'll say this, if your mother was not one of the main focal points of your life, I can only say, "I'm sorry; and bless your heart." I know I'm where I am today because my Momma made an incredible impact in my life.

I went to Duncan Cemetery on Sunday, and I placed a pot of mums (her favorite flowers) on her grave.

It is my sincere hope that on Mother's Day, that you still had your mother to enjoy and spoil; I hope you told her how much you care and love her. Most importantly, I hope you told her how much of an impact she made

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One Saturday Clifford and his grandson (my Dad) were in town for their usual Saturday entertainment. While at the Barber Shop the pair learned there was a new Deputy in town. Clifford was told the Deputy was young and trying to make a name for himself. At the diner the word was the deputy wrote a lot of tickets. Chief Looney met Clifford and his grandson while they were walking down the street to the Pool Room. As usual the Chief gave Clifford a new flask of his latest bust of moonshine.

Clifford and my Dad walked into the Pool Room for a couple of games and while they were playing pool the new Deputy walked in and bought himself a Coca Cola. After a round of pool Clifford pulled his flask from his pocket and took a swig of the moonshine. The new Deputy noticed and walked over to Clifford

and pulled the flask from Clifford's hands. The deputy smelled the flask and told Clifford he was being arrested for illegal possession of alcohol. The 75 year old Clifford told the young deputy that he was a self-appointed know-it-all and struck the deputy across the top of his head with a walking cane.

My 16-year-old father jumped in between the deputy and Clifford just as the deputy was pulling out his Billy Stick. The deputy told my Dad that he was going to teach that old man a lesson. Just in time the supplier of Clifford's alcohol and the boss of the young deputy came walking into the Pool Room. Chief Looney demanded to know what these two were fighting about. Just as the deputy was about to tell his side of the story Clifford landed another lucky, but feeble blow to the head of the deputy.

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wall.

Sometimes that writing on the wall (street) will make the knees of the most courageous knock! My personal opinion is that America has replaced the wall of worship and the wall of prayer with Wall Street where millions bow down in worship and prayer each day.

I am afraid that in trying to build a materialistic wall we have done what the owner

of a castle did. He became worried about his castle and hired workers to build a wall to protect it. The workers did not go out and find stones to build the wall; instead they removed the stones from the castle to construct the wall. The result was that they ended up with a wall but without a castle.

In America we have been taking the stones out of the castle and building walls

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to take the time and devote your attention to what the customer is saying. Customers are not always the best at describing problems so you need to be ready to ask a lot of questions and then listen. You want to get it right the first time because the customer is depending on you and your staff for support of their operation. If that support is not there or is done incorrectly then the customer may decide to do business elsewhere in the future. All it takes is a little patience and listening."

To close, I want to reference [www.sacredlistening.com](http://www.sacredlistening.com); a Website created and copyrighted by Kay Lindahl of Long Beach, CA. She describes listening as an art and

in detail describes why it is a lost art. She says listening is a choice and recognizing the choice to listen is a powerful insight. Finally, listening is a gift we can choose to give to others. A final quote by an Argentine Proverb says "Who speaks, sows; who listens, reaps."

If you need assistance with your small business or wish to find our list of events in Union County this summer, I encourage you to contact the Chamber at 706-745-5789. Please remember to visit the Chamber website at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com) to get the latest member information. I can be reached any time at Chair @ Blairsville Chamber.com.

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**Q. We have noticed that you have moved the Economic Development offices from the town square to the new Community Center. Do you think this was a smart move?**

A. Absolutely!! Our first priority with the new Community Center was to use it to attract business, industry and the general public. Housing our Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce offices there was what made the project possible. When attracting prospects, having one of their first impressions of Union County being the "WOW" effect when you first see and experience the Union County Community Center, was the major focus of the facility.

It is already reaping rewards for our community and we only have more positive events planned to enhance the facility usage and to bring all the important players in economic development to our area.

**Q. Will the Union County Community Center ever pay for itself?**

A. We think it will do so early on when considering the positive impact it will have on our city and county. However, it will take a couple of years for the proper scheduling of events to hopefully bring the actual operation cost to a break even point. Our goal is to always keep user fees at a level to cover operation cost, but our primary goal with the Union County Community Center is to bring economic development opportunities (jobs) to our county and that is often tough to put a price tag on. We are working every day toward placing our citizens in a position to have new jobs available and this facility is one of the best avenues we have to make that connection happen.

Bringing new people to the county through the community/conference center means more people at our hotels, restaurants, and retail shops, which translate to an improved local economy, not to mention the fact that our Economic Development offices and Chamber of Commerce offices are also located at the facility.

**Beef'in Up the Blood Supply**

The Blue Ridge Mountain Cattlemen/Cattlemen have partnered with Cook's Country Kitchen and the Union County Hospital/Blood Assurance to host a Blood Drive in May. The date is May 22, 2012, noon to 4:45 p.m. Everyone who gives blood will receive a certificate for a free 5 oz. hamburger from Cook's Country Kitchen.

Please call Amber at Union County Hospital, 706-439-6433, to set up your appointment to give the Gift of Life.

Many Americans regularly donate blood to insure sufficient blood supplies are available whenever and wherever needed.

Giving blood is simple and can mean the difference between life and death for nearly 5 million people every year. Please consider being a donor. N(May16,Z3)CA

**Correction**

The headline for the Charles Rich article was incorrect in the May 9, 2012 (page 9A) issue of the *North Georgia News*. The Tea Party was not involved.

We sincerely apologize for any misunderstanding. N(May16,Z3)CA

in your life.

If you missed this opportunity on Sunday, I'm sorry. The good news is you don't have to wait until Mother's Day to appreciate the human being who gave you life and carried you into this world.

Pick up the phone and give her a call or stop by and give her a hug; you'll be glad you did.

The Chief walked the young deputy outside and explained that Clifford Hyde was one of the Grand Old Men of Phil Campbell and that his liquor was supplied by the Chief himself. The next week the deputy and Clifford were seen sitting in the Pool Room together laughing and enjoying one another's company.

A few years later Clifford learned he had not killed the man in Georgia. So to show his gratitude, Clifford quit the bottle and began going to church. He even got saved and baptized. Clifford died at the ripe old age of 91 and was still known as the Grand Old Man of Phil Campbell.

Don't forget this week the Trash to Treasures Yard Sale will not be held on Friday. The Relay For Life will be held instead. So, I would encourage each one of you to come to the Farmers Market and celebrate the Relay For Life.

to protect liquor leeches, the pornography peddlers, the political plotters, the drug destroyers, and every perverted agitator and instigator until there is not much left to the castle of America. Every Christian needs to see the handwriting on the wall and do like Hezekiah did, turn our faces to the wall and pray.

If the walls in your house could talk what would they say?

**Help make a difference**



Soles 4 Souls shoe drive is now taking place in Blairsville, GA. Your extra pair could be their first!

Your gift of footwear is important to children and adults in the U.S. and around the world. Footwear can help eliminate the spreading of diseases through the foot as well as help children obtain an education – as many schools have footwear requirements in order to attend.

When you take time to recycle your gently used (or new) footwear, you are in fact changing lives. Shoes can be dropped off at the Blairsville – Union County Chamber of Commerce, Blairsville City Hall, and at the Union County Courthouse.

Soles 4 Souls is a Nashville-based charity that collects shoes from the warehouses of footwear companies and the closets of people like you. The charity distributes these shoes to people in need, regardless of race, religion, class, or any other criteria. Since 2005, Soles4Souls has delivered over 17 million pairs of new and gently worn shoes. The shoes have been distributed to people in over 127 countries, including Kenya, Thailand, Nepal, and the United States. For more info, visit [giveshoes.org](http://giveshoes.org). N(May16,Z10)CA

**Suches community yard sale**

Free tables on Memorial Day Weekend Saturday, May 26 thru Monday, May 28, 9 a.m til ? Suches Community Yard Sale at Wildcat Campground (Hwy 60 at Grizzle Creek Rd.).

We invite you to setup your own display and turn your treasures into cash. Free tables provided!

Bring the entire family for a fun time. Kids will meet Jessie the Goat and feed the trout in our own kid's trout pond.

Free Nathan's hot dog for all on Saturday. Call 706-994-4111. Other "surprises" planned! N(May16,A1)SH

**Union County Republican Party monthly meeting**

The Union County Republican Party meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9 AM at the Owltown Market & Restaurant, 2193 Gainesville Hwy., (US 19/129 South), with an optional breakfast beginning at 8:30 AM; for further information call Billy Turnage 706-745-5125. N(May9,Z1)CA

**UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

<b>Every Monday:</b>		
Garden Tours	GMREC	9 am - 1 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	Noon
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
<b>Every Tuesday:</b>		
Mtn. Woodcarvers	Senior Center	6 pm
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
<b>Every Thursday:</b>		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Rotary Club	St. Francis of Assisi	Noon
<b>Fourth Monday of each month:</b>		
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville	12:30 - 1 pm
<b>Fourth Tuesday of each month:</b>		
Cub Scouts Trp. #101	UC Elementary School	7 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
VFW Post #7394	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Compassionate Friends	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
<b>Fourth Wednesday of each month:</b>		
No activities listed		
<b>Fourth Thursday of each month:</b>		
UT Homebuilders	YH College	7 pm
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 pm
<b>Fourth Friday of each month</b>		
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
<b>Fourth Saturday of each month:</b>		
Youngcane Lodge #597	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm