

Opinions

Everybody has one

A blessed soul

A few weeks ago, my cousin Dan Crawford dropped in to see me. I hadn't seen Dan in about three years, the last occasion being Decoration Day at Duncan Cemetery. He was there with his sister, and my cousin, LaVon Butt. Dan is getting on up in years. He's 80 now, but he's still sharp as a tack. LaVon was still getting around pretty good the last time I saw her. Pretty good for 95 years old.



Charles Duncan
Straight Shooting

The purpose of Dan's recent visit was LaVon. On Aug. 20, she turned 99 years old. She celebrated that day where she now resides, the Union County Nursing Home.

He wanted me to do a story on her life as an educator in the Union County School System. I didn't see that as a problem.

I love talking about LaVon, she was my third grade teacher. However, no one told me she was related to me at the time I was a third grader. She was an intense teacher, not one for putting up with slackers. Well, I had a bit of slacker in me when I started third grade. Miss LaVon took care of that.

It was part of her life's mission, converting slackers into useful youth. She learned how not to be a slacker throughout her youth.

LaVon was born Aug. 20, 1913, in the same neck of the woods where most of our relatives were born, in the Coosa District. She was the second child born to George and Mary Bell Crawford.

She attended Coosa Community Elementary School and Coosa United Methodist Church.

LaVon learned how not to be a slacker at an early age. Beginning at the age of 6, she worked the fields with a hoe with her younger brother Dormus, who also was known as "Curly."

Later, LaVon and her sister, Sharon were able to move into town with family friends and attend high school.

This arrangement ended however, because three of the four students were no longer attending school, Sharon and another friend dropped out to marry.

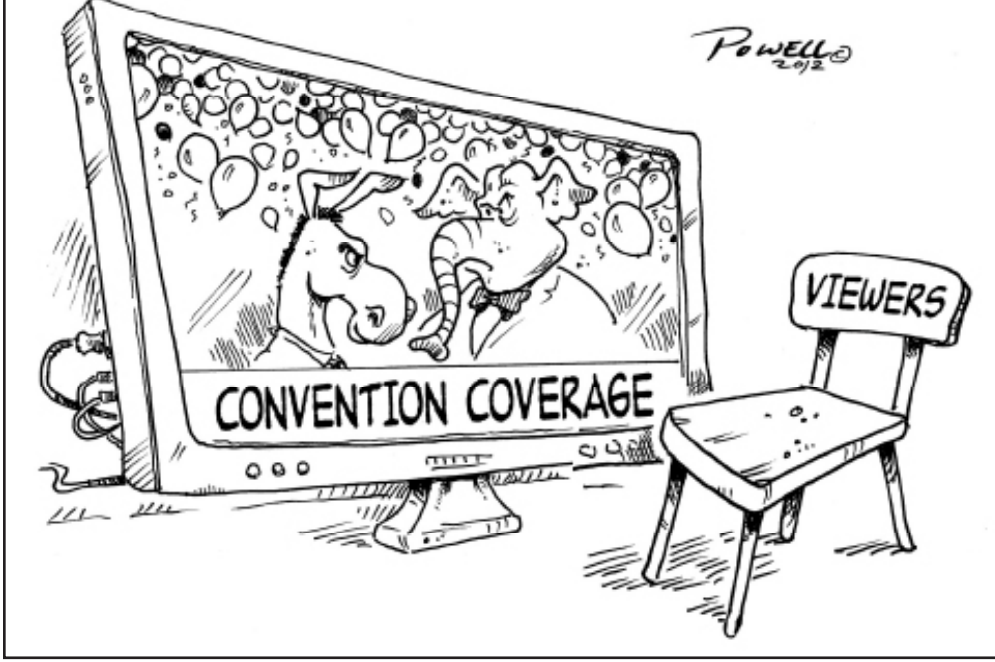
However, LaVon continued her education by boarding at a boarding house near the current Cochran Funeral Home.

Each day, LaVon raced home from school to do the cooking, cleaning and laundry for the boarders and the family before starting her homework.

A dear sweet woman, who observed how hard LaVon worked, invited her to move in for her senior year, and LaVon's grades improved dramatically. She was forever thankful for that act of kindness that was afforded to her.

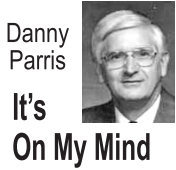
After high school, LaVon attended Rabun Gap. She was unable to come home for Christmas break because of lack of funds, and

See *Duncan, page 5A*



A Tug-O-War

I grew up with five siblings (3 brothers and 2 sisters). Not only was I blessed with three brothers and two sisters but I was blessed with dozens of cousins that lived within a one mile radius of each other. When we got together, occasionally we would get a good strong rope, draw a line, equally divide our group and see which side could pull the other side across the line. In fact, sometimes we would find a good ooey, gooey mud puddle, take opposite sides and dig in our heels. This was a strenuous contest for supremacy.



Danny Parris
It's On My Mind

My personal observation is that in America there is a tug-o-war unlike any other. This tug-o-war places Christians on one end of the rope and anti-Christians on the other. There is a very aggressive army in America that desires to pull out every symbol of Christianity that exists. Sometimes it is subtle, but it is becoming more bold and deliberate. The Bible, the Name of Christ and the cross are all under the greatest assault that I have ever known. In spite of these strong efforts to remove Christian influence from our nation the Bible still is our final authority on life and living. Jesus Christ is still the same yesterday, today and forever.

What He was in the first century He is today and forever. What He commanded in the first century is still the Word and command of God today. The cross still represents our way to God. The atoning work of Jesus on the cross is the only way of deliverance from our sin.

The late, Dr. Frank Pollard, pastor for many years of First Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi, told the story that illustrates what is happening in our society: It was 1:00 in the morning in Chicago. The phone in the home of Dr. Leo Winters rang, and it startled him awake. The word came that a young boy had been badly mangled and was dying, and Dr. Winters, they thought, was the only one that could save him. His hands were the only hands they knew of that could save the boy. And so, would he come? The shortest distance from his house to the hospital was through one of the worst neighborhoods of Chicago. He almost made it through that tough section of town...

See *Parris, page 5A*

How to make someone's day

What can you do to make a positive difference for someone else? One option is to do the unexpected. This week I want to explore ways that you can make a difference in the lives of others. If you are open to interacting with others, you will find that good deeds are easy to do. Relationships are to be savored, cultured, preserved, cherished, embraced, and built upon. From www.inc.com, the following are genuine examples of ways to make someone's day.



Joe Garner
BUCCC
Blairsville - Union County Chamber of Commerce

Be thoughtful, simply because you can. For example, a customer pulls into a service station to get their oil changed. The technician noticed that the vehicle had nice new rims but they were covered in brake dust. Rather than just change the oil. This individual decided to take a moment to do something special since business was slow that day. When the customer went to thank them, the technician busily hustled off to the next job. Was an impression made? That customer four years later remembered the day, the details and the good feeling that made them feel like royalty. The customer did show their thanks in return by bringing a batch of cupcakes for everyone at the shop. Can you make someone's day?

Say something good about something old. Do you remember a certain event, person or situation that may have happened to you years ago that meant a lot? Of course, everyone remembers that special someone that made a difference in their lives. Perhaps you can recall the situation by recognizing the event or perhaps the anniversary date. Take a moment to show appreciation by getting in touch with that person who made you feel special. Does that person still live in the community, attend church or make their living nearby? It may take some time and some doing, but I promise it will be better than anything you can do to make your life more meaningful. You will feel like a star and make your friend feel like a superstar.

Say who referred you. We get ideas, recommendations and experiences from friends and family as we cross life's hurdles. When you dine at a restaurant, buy candy or roses at a flower shop or possibly shop at a local grocery store, tell the owner who referred you. Tell the manager that, "my friend 'Sam' said the food was awesome, and I just had to try it!" Say "Sam" said the service is the best anywhere in these parts. This type of social interaction is called relationship building. Try it when you have the chance.

See *Garner, page 5A*

Smartest son I ever raised

After the "War Between the States" Wyatt Cummings left his home in North Alabama and moved to West Tennessee. However, within less than 10 years his eldest son, John, moved back to Franklin County to raise his young family. John established a sawmill and grist mill on Cummings Creek near Phil Campbell. To John and Martha the following sons were born: Will, Riley, John, Lon and Howard. The boys grew up playing in the woods and swimming in the creeks. They also spent a lot of time working the farm and operating the mill down on the creek.



Mickey Cummings
Around The Farm

John was also a blacksmith and had business dealings in western Tennessee and in Corinth, Mississippi. So, as his sons grew he became more dependent on their taking care of business in his absence. He began to notice the intelligence of his son, Lon. Lon had a way with the mill. He could discern a problem with the sawmill simply by listening to sounds it made during operation. John could stand on the hill above the mill and tell whether the blade was sharp by listening to the sound of the timber being sawed. He could also discern if the blade was warped simply by the sound of the blade cutting through a Chestnut log.

One day John's business dealings took him to Tishomingo County, Mississippi. He called for Lon at the Mill. John introduced his son as being in charge during his absence. Before John left he told Lon that the Mill had some problems. "Things are just not right and I want you to fix the problem and oversee this crew," John said. John looked at his crew and said, "My boy is in charge while I am gone". With that statement John left for Mississippi.

Many times I have wondered what this day must have been like for my great Grandfather. He was only 18 and yet he was put in charge of a crew of middle-aged men. If Lon was intimidated he didn't show it. He told the men to go on about their usual work and he walked up to the top of the hill and listened to the mill running. After listening to the mill for 20 minutes Lon came back to the mill and told the workers to come back in the morning.

See *Cummings, page 5A*

Add some fertilizer

Saturday morning's attendance at the Farmer's Market has grown like Jack's beanstalk. It's not just tall, it's strong.



JoAnne Leone
Farmers Market Moment

Those of us involved in the organization of The Market work hard to exceed the expectations of those who come every week, as well as the first time visitor.

We must be accomplishing that more often than not, an assumption based on the shear numbers of folks who come, purchase and most importantly, enjoy their experience enough to return the next Saturday.

Now the question that I'm wrestling with, related to this amazing growth, is "what fertilizer did we use?"

See, Tuesday nights at The Market isn't attended nearly as well. Most of the produce vendors are there on Tuesdays. In fact, the produce you get on Tuesdays is even better because it is still warm from the garden - picked just hours before The Market opens.

Dave is there giving free neck treatments. Honey, jams and jellies are all lined up, waiting to be plucked off the carts. There's usually a late afternoon breeze flowing through the bays. Now we need you there.

If you are reading this as the paper comes right off the press on Tuesday, you still have time to get over there tonight (Sept 11) to shop and then stay to hear Commissioner Paris speak on the State of Union County.

Last week, a few folks came for the Scarecrow building class. The week before Mickey Cummings dazzled a couple dozen people with his knowledge of native plants.

We've got a sprout going. I want a beanstalk like we've built on Saturday. So, I need to add a little fertilizer and I need your help. I need you to spread the word about Tuesday's market.

I want you to ask a co-worker to join you after work and come on over and introduce them to The Market. You know the person I mean. Someone you work with or play cards or golf with who laments they haven't gotten over there to see what The Market is all about yet because they can't seem to get up on Saturdays or they've heard it's too crowded and they have to park too far.

Tuesdays is the perfect solution. And then there are the Tuesday seminars and workshops. They haven't been promoted enough.

That's my mea culpa. With that said, I'm turning that around right now. I want you to

See *Leone, page 5A*

Letters To the Editor

H. L. Mencken Correct Again

Dear Editor,
If you watched both the Republican National Convention in Tampa and the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, you may conclude, as H. L. Mencken did, some years ago, that, "Under democracy one party always devotes its chief energies to trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule—and both commonly succeed, and are right." Several friends of mine, from both sides of the aisle, have come to the same conclusion, and are ready for something different. And they are not the only ones. While Mitt Romney was accumulating enough delegates to win the Republican nomination, Ron Paul was also collecting delegates, and ended up with 101 - not a bad showing for a guy most voters think of as kooky, if they think of him at all. Dr. Paul, a Libertarian in Republican clothing, came in right behind Newt (who garnered 147 delegates), so I think we can safely say that Libertarian political philosophy is moving away from the fringes and towards center stage. Which is precisely why Dr. Paul was running. He had no expectation of winning; his objective was merely to move the ball forward, which he did, so I consider his effort successful. Today, more people are interested in the Libertarian platform of smaller government, lower taxes, and more freedom.

See *Esposito, page 5A*

Save this great Country

Dear Editor,
I applaud the House and Senate members who voted in the Healthcare bill which was signed by President Obama. Courageous action to provide healthcare benefits to most Americans.

Oh yes, there is the decrease of \$700 billion the Republicans will talk about the next two months.

That reduction is not a change in benefits or coverage. It is taking money back over the next 10 years in the form of lower payments to the private insurance companies for Medicare administration. Not only are there no cuts in benefits, but several preventive care costs are now covered which may reduce illness and lower future medical care costs.

The decrease in payments to Medicare program
See *Cunningham, page 5A*

Ninth District has two candidates

Dear Editor,
Please allow me to provide a little balance. In your coverage of Republican Doug Collins win in the runoff election for the 9th District Congressional Race, you made the assumption that he would be our next Congressman to go to Washington.

In the runoff, Collins got 643 votes in Union County. In our county, there are 12,294 registered voters. There is another candidate and the election isn't until November.

Jody Cooley is also running for that position and he is an outstanding candidate. Jody has been a partner in a Gainesville Law firm for 26 years. His wife is a pre-school Special Education teacher in the Hall County School System and they have two college age daughters. Jody is committed to working in the spirit of compromise to resolve our problems and make government work for its citizens.

We all have observed the gridlock that has frozen the U.S. Congress in the past several years. As a body, they seem much more interested in making political points than in solving the nation's problems.

Jody's focus is on uniting us rather than dividing us. Let's look at both candidates with open eyes and determine which one will move our country forward.

Michelle Maloney

Viewpoint

Dear Editor,
It would be interesting to find out how many readers would like to see the "Viewpoints" column back in the paper.

It was one of the first things we read when we opened the newspaper. It provided a forum for people to express their thoughts (sometimes funny, sometimes serious, sometimes inspirational).

Many times readers would like to express a thought which is not a complete article. However, they are now left without a way to do that.

People are many times reluctant to express their views for fear of the ramifications or public scrutiny that might ensue.

Of course, you would have the option to not print anything you deem scandalous or libelous.

We certainly don't appreciate reading things that are mean spirited or offensive.

Please consider bringing back the Viewpoint. Maybe you could do an e-mail poll to see what the people really want.
Ray & LaDale Trimble

Footing the bill

Dear Editor,
It is amazing that people who think we cannot afford to pay for doctors, hospitals, and medication somehow seem to think we can afford to pay for doctors, hospitals, medication and a federal bureaucracy to administer it.
Thomas Sowell

Who knew?

Dear Editor,
The Federal Government seems to think it onerous to require a photo identification to cast a ballot.
This same Federal Government (in the Real ID Act) requires us to present four items of identification to renew our driver's license. Does this make sense to anyone?
Carol McKechnie

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