

# OPINIONS, Too

## Letter to the Editor

### Shoebox effort appreciated

Dear Editor,

I am writing to thank Tabor City residents for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with children in need this past holiday season.

Because of the generosity of donors in Tabor City and across the United States, Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, collected more than 8.8 million shoeboxes in 2018.

Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2018, the ministry is now sending more than 10.6 million shoebox gifts to children suffering from poverty, natural

disasters, war, disease and famine.

These simple gifts bring smiles to the faces of children around the world. Packed with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items, these gifts bring joy and are a tangible expression of God's love. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 157 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories.

It's not too late for people to make a difference. Though drop-off locations serving Tabor City shoebox packers are closed until Novem-

ber 2019, anyone can still pack a personalized shoebox gift online at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline. Information about year-round volunteer opportunities can also be found at samaritanspurse.org/volunteer-withOCC.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in this global project—many who do so year after year. These simple gifts send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

**Dana Williams**  
Operation Christmas Child

### Super bore shouldn't have been

Sunday night I watched Super Bowl 53.

Sorry, I am not in favor of Roman Numerals for American Events. Too pretentious. Too annoying. In addition, the game took place in Atlanta, not in Rome.

The game was a disaster. It had the lowest TV rating of any recent Super Bowls.

As it should have. The Super Bowl was the worst game of all the NFL pro football games throughout the regular season and the playoffs of 2018 - 2019. A miserable display of football prowess and talent not seen since the 1920's or 1930's.

On top of that, the game was a crime. Yes a crime. You see, the Los Angeles Rams had no business being in the game. Everyone who saw the New Orleans Saints lose to the Rams is aware the game was stolen from the Saints. Referees ignored an egregious foul, with two horrific components. All the referees. The two components were the clear pass interference foul and the helmet-to-helmet hit foul.

There are only three explanations for the egregious non-call. All the referees simultaneously suffered sudden blindness as the fouls took place. Second, since virtually all the referees were from California they consciously favored the California team to win. Third, the referees were on the take and paid off ahead of time.

I personally favor the second scenario. The Cali-

fornians decided amongst themselves to tilt the game to the California team. I cannot rule out that the referees were the modern

incarnation of the Black Sox Scandal of a hundred years ago. The Black Sox Scandal of 1919.

I think the possibility of throwing games is alive and well. Especially in

pro football. There are so many questionable calls in a professional football game that to make a call of offensive holding for instance could probably be called on every play of the game.

One reason this non-call was so offensive and malignant is that the call caused the New Orleans Saints to lose the game. Instead of first and goal on the three-yard line, they were forced to kick a field goal with enough time left for the Los Angeles Rams to come down and kick the tying field goal as time ran out and then go on to win the game in overtime.

The fact that the referees did not immediately get together to review the play as is frequently done with very controversial calls indicated a desire for the refereeing crew to give the game to the Los Angeles Rams. It is as clear as the nose on your face.

So just what transpired from the catastrophic non-call? The wrong team went to the Super Bowl.

Would the New Orleans Saints with their hall of fame quarterback Drew Brees have been as important as the Los Angeles Rams? Very unlikely. In

fact, I doubt if the Patriots had only scored 13 points against the Saints that the Patriots would have won.

The fall-out from the referee cheating in the NFC Championship game was a Super Bowl game that most of America had no desire to watch. Hence the abysmal TV ratings for the game.

What is the NFL to do?

They must correct a multitude of sins. There must be an instant video replay on any play that affects a game as critically as this one did. The NFL head of referees must summarily be let go. The individual referees in this game themselves should be banned from pro football for life just as Shoeless Joe Jackson was penalized a hundred years ago.

I do not think NFL football can be cleaned up regarding referees until they are put under questioning with replays of their controversial calls at the end of all games just as the players and coaches are required to answer press questioning at the end of every game.

As you can tell, I am disgusted with the NFL. The commissioner himself, if he does not start a house cleaning regarding refereeing, should be shown the door.

The NFL now stands for the National Felony League. Sad indeed. Welcome to the new Black Sox Scandal a hundred years later.

Los Angeles had a coach and quarterback not ready for a Super Bowl stage. It would not have happened if the Saints were the Patriots opponent. Not for a moment. Too bad. So sad.



On My Mind  
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ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

## MANAGE TIME WORD SEARCH

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D P O R P B P S U C O S T N T D G U E T  
G W N F P P X E W A N T A E N M S W H E  
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### WORDS

ABSENCE  
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GOALS  
MANAGEMENT  
MEETING  
MODEL  
MODERATION  
OPPORTUNITY  
ORGANIZED  
PLANNING  
PRIORITIZE  
PROCRASTINATE  
PROJECT  
SCHEDULE  
SOFTWARE  
SOURCING  
TIME  
TRACKER

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



## Words from the Mayor

Royce Harper, Mayor,  
Town of Tabor City

This past weekend, the Town Council traveled to the Lumber River Council of Governments headquarters to conduct our annual goal setting session.

This is always an important meeting each year as we try to prioritize the steps the town should be taking over the next calendar year. Our plans start the process for putting together our budget later this Summer.

Council feels like we always have to start with our core operations: Police, Public Works, and Fire. In many small towns, these services are beginning to deteriorate as local government revenues are declining. Here in Tabor City, our core services remain strong. We have employees who know their jobs and do their jobs. We have confidence that these basic functions of government will be there for our citizens in 2019 and our population can depend on these departments.

Of course, we never know what obstacles will come our way in 2019. There is usually a state or federal law or regulation that ends up costing the taxpayers of our small towns and rural counties. It seems like there is always a natural disaster such as a hurricane or ice storm that forces us to expend funds that we had not hoped to spend.

This brings up the other council priority of maintaining a strong town

treasury. Some Tabor City residents can recall decades ago when our town government was perhaps to poorest one in North Carolina. That is not the case today and it has not been the case for some time.

For a small town, Tabor City's finances are very adequate. We will always be taking steps to keep it that way so that we can be in a position to address the unusual obstacles that inevitably come our way each year.

There are some major capital projects that Tabor City has to accomplish and we have been working on these projects for a couple of years now. There are million dollar repair projects at the sewer plant and at the Lake Tabor dam that the state agencies are requiring us to fix up. Town government has secured large grants to pay for these, and we are applying for even more grant dollars to pay for more of these costs. Town government was ready to implement the repair projects at both the dam and the sewer plant, but Hurricane Florence hit us and really forced us to rethink how to address the lake and the wastewater treatment process during natural disasters.

Council expects to see both of these very large construction projects underway in the fall of 2019.

After the council addresses the town's core operations, protects its finances, and addresses required capital projects, we know our citizens expect

us to take a look at other community pride projects such as beautification, promoting, and economic development.

Most rural towns have found out over the past 20 years that there simply is not enough money left to do these uplifting efforts after the required work is paid for. Tabor City recognized this decades ago. If we want to do greater things, then we need greater revenues and we have always pushed our town staff to apply for grant dollars for economic development, beautification, and promotional efforts.

Obviously we have to compete for those grant dollars against the 600 other municipalities and counties in our state. It is a challenge that our council expects our staff to excel at.

Council heard reports at our annual goal setting session on running a water line to a local industry. Council also received an engineering presentation on a \$6 million beautification project for the town. We were updated on the economic development project of tourism rail and what it can mean for our downtown.

These efforts will take tremendous amounts of money, and that is money that our current treasury cannot pay for and we do not expect our local taxpayers to pay for it either.

Council will be at the drawing board on these type projects for some time. We encourage our citizens to give us your ideas as we move forward.

## Tabor Talk

Cynthia Nelson,  
Greater Tabor City Chamber of Commerce

We need your input.

Please don't forget to share with us at least one way you would like to "give back" to our community...your community. Write down at least one thing you would like to help accomplish by volunteering.

You may mail your idea to us at 103-D East Fifth Street, put it in the mailbox next to the office door, or give us a call at 910-377-3012. We'll need your contact information. We look forward to talking with you.

Save the Date of Tuesday, Feb. 19 to attend the 73rd Annual Banquet of the Greater Tabor City Chamber of Commerce. The banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Ritz Center.

Al Leonard will be the guest speaker. A few community awards will be presented. Prepare

yourself for a mouth-watering meal. We would love to have the new members from 2018 join us. You will be recognized.

Our 2019 Banquet Theme is "Working Together Makes Everything Better." We look forward to installing new directors and officers during the banquet evening.

Please call 910-377-3012 to reserve your seat. Cost is \$25 per person.

GTC Chamber of Commerce would love to have you as a member of your local Chamber. Give us a call today to discuss the various opportunities available.

The Ritz Center is a beautiful venue. For rental details, call the Ritz Center Manager, Dianne Nobles Ward, at 910-653-4141. She is always ready to talk all

things Ritz.

The NC Yam Festival needs your help. Tabor City Alumni Reunion chair Richard Wright is looking for members of the TCHS Class of 1969. He is working on plans for the reunion which will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26. Richard is looking forward to hearing from you soon. Please contact him at 910-653-2082 or richardwright@wwpemlaw.com. We appreciate your time and aid.

If you have any questions regarding the NC Yam Festival, please call the festival President/Manager Rachel Todd at 843-504-5306 or e.rachel-todd@icloud.com. She would love to hear from you.

Our hours of operations are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Tuesday through Thursday.

## McLeod Health Hints

### Knowing the risks of heart disease

According to the American Heart Association, about 2,200 Americans die of cardiovascular disease each day.

An average of one death every 40 seconds. People of all ages should take heart disease seriously.

One set of numbers important to everyone are how much things we do (or don't do) increases our risk of heart disease - 200 percent (2x) to 600 percent (6x).

"It's good to know how your lifestyle is affecting the possibility that you will suffer heart disease or die of a heart attack," says McLeod Cardiologist Amit Pande, MD. "The following list shows which actions (or lack of) increase your

heart risk."

- Obesity: Six times more risk of heart attack or disease compared to a person with a Body Mass Index of 25 or below. People who are overweight are also more likely to develop high cholesterol, high blood pressure and diabetes - all of which are additional risk factors. Sadly, two-thirds of South Carolina residents are overweight or obese.
- Diabetes: Three times more risk of heart attack or disease compared to a person with healthy insulin numbers. A person with this sugar/insulin-related disease has three times greater risk of dying of heart disease.

- Two-thirds of people with diabetes in South Carolina

die of heart disease or stroke.

- High Blood Pressure: Three times more risk of heart attack or disease compared to a person with a normal blood pressure of 120/80. Nearly two in five people in South Carolina suffer from this problem. One of the most significant risks of heart disease, blood pressure often can be controlled with medication, diet and exercise.
- Smoking: Three times more risk of heart attack or disease compared to a nonsmoker. Information about the increased risk from smoking is not new. In 1989, the American Medical Association officially announced the

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