

The Lanier County News

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The Lanier County News (USPS 304-780) is published weekly by Cook Publishing Company, Inc., 20 W. Thigpen Ave., Lakeland, GA 31635-1115. Tel: 229-482-8230 or 229-896-2233. Periodicals postage paid at Lakeland, GA. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Lanier County News, P.O. Box 216, Lakeland, GA 31635-0216.



Subscription Rates

- Inside Lanier County \$20.00
- Elsewhere in Georgia \$27.50
- Out of State \$35.00
- Senior Citizens . . . \$18.00 (Lanier County Residents Only)

OUR GOAL: The Lanier County News is created proudly for the citizens of Lanier and adjoining counties by the Cook Publishing Company in Adel, Georgia. Our goal is to produce quality, profitable community oriented newspapers that you, our readers, are proud of. We will reach that goal through hard work, teamwork, loyalty, and a strong dedication toward printing the truth.

OUR POLICIES: Letters to the Editor are welcome. Please sign and include address and telephone number.

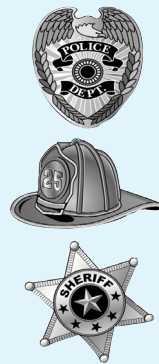
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DEADLINE: The deadline each week for all news and advertising copy is Monday at 5:00 p.m. Submittals can be placed in the drop box located in the door of the Lanier County News office.

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Non-Emergency
482-3545

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Opinion & Viewpoint

Courts should allow Christian businesses

Hobby Lobby is one of America's largest retail companies, with revenues that exceed \$2.28 billion dollars. The company's president Steve Green was honored with the "Courage in Business Leadership Award" by the Faith and Freedom Coalition for Hobby Lobby's battle with the Obama administration over the company's refusal to provide abortion causing drugs in its healthcare plan.

The Affordable Care Act requires companies to make such drugs available in their employees' health care plans. An exception has been made for churches, but not for profit companies regardless of the religious convictions of their owners. The company together with Mardel Christian Stores filed a lawsuit with the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. If they did not win the lawsuit or the ruling was delayed they could be forced to pay as much as a million dollars a day in fines.

The First Amendment states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The govern-

ment argues that such protection does not apply to a for profit company. Mr. Green countered that for profit companies have some First Amendment freedoms, such as freedom of speech and contends that other First Amendment freedoms should apply to them as well.

According to their attorney "they should be able, just like a church or just like a charity to have the right to opt out of a provision that could infringe on their religious beliefs." More than two dozen other businesses challenged the contraception mandate as well.

Let us think about this issue for a moment. If Hobby Lobby lost in the issue in court many bad things could come next. Our government could be able to force other business owners, despite their religious objections, to provide medical marijuana, sex change operations or abortions for any reason. If this ever happens the ability of a for profit company to operate their business on Christian principles will be jeopardized. On the other hand if an owner can provide or deny medical services to their employees



From Where I Sit
By Robert E. Tribble

based on their religious convictions, Jehovah Witness could refuse to provide blood transfusions and Christian Scientist could refuse to provide medical care in general.

Whatever a person's convictions might be on these issues, God will reward those who are loyal to Him. Matthew chapter six verse 33 says, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you."

St. Augustine was right, "Faith is to believe what you do not see and the reward of this faith is to see what you believe."

Good News

By Vic Dove

Worship

"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Romans 12:1

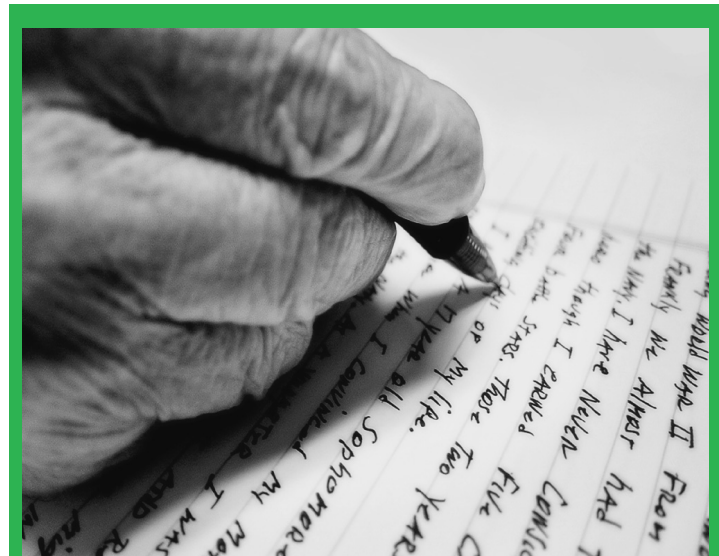
Wow what a powerful verse of scripture concerning worship, and not once does the Apostle Paul mention music. Reckon why not? I'm glad you ask.

Music is simply a vehicle that can carry you from one element of worship to another. With the accompaniment of music, you can confess your sin, you can declare your faith, you can praise God, or you can give Him thanks. The music isn't the worship, but it can make great accompaniment to worship . . . it can help you worship. Don't let the pervasive discussion of style and form distract you from the offering of yourself to God.

We must not worship the music; we must worship the Great Musician. We must not, for the sake of excellence, worship worship. Just like there is an object of faith, there is an object of worship. It makes no sense to have faith in faith (i.e. If you have enough faith, you will get what you want.), just as it makes no sense to worship worship (i.e., wasn't worship wonderful today?). It is God who gives you faith to believe in Him in the first place, and it is God who gives you a heart to worship Him. As it relates to music in worship, remember, it's not how you worship, but Who you worship.

I'll quote a song to summarize:
*I'll bring You more than a song,
for a song in itself is not what
You have required. You search
much deeper within, through
the way things appear You're
looking into my heart*
(Heart of Worship, Matt Redman)

O God of my heart, and God of the songs I sing, may You be worshipped today by my life and words and thoughts. May all that is within me bless Your holy name. I offer myself to You afresh and anew today. I have been made to know You and make You known. I want to please You this day, the object of my faith and my worship. Let me see You today, and may You be seen in me.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please submit letters to:
Editor • Lanier County News
P.O. Box 216 • Lakeland, GA 31635
Letters must be signed and phone number provided.
(Phone numbers will not be published.)



EDITOR'S NOTE - Opinions expressed in letters to the editor, editorial cartoons, and columns do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the newspaper staff. We do, however, support freedom of speech as provided in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. We welcome written responses that are not libelous to any letter or column.

Random observations

For the first time in 15 years school will start without one of my biological children as a student.

Jesse and Susan are out of school. Susan is off to college to become a paramedic, an RN, a missionary, a youth pastor, a Peace Corps volunteer and probably a whole lot of other things. Jesse is looking for a job.

When Susan took her last walk as a student, I did not cry. When Jesse walked last year, I did. When some of the other young'uns, whom I have known since they were born, whom I have fed, hauled all over this state and down to S. Florida and back, had them stay at my house and so on... Yep, felt that one.

My kids are grown up. They are off and starting their own lives. Not just Jesse and Susan. All of them. You see, I have hundreds of other children who will be in school. Some are just starting and some are seniors this year. I see every young'un in the school system as one of mine in some small way.

As the editor of a small community newspaper, I get to see them walk and talk and grow. Their accomplishments are recorded in the pictures and articles the newspaper publishes. In that small way they become a part of my life.

Considering starting a Bigfoot guide service with Larry "Hawgin" Fishbreath. Never mind there's no real evidence that Sasquatch exists. People are still willing to pay good money to go out in the woods to look for the beast. I figure put Hawgin' in a gorilla suit every once in a while, get some blurry photos and we'll be in business.

Whose idea was it to start school back so early? Oh yeah, the school board.

Back when we had to walk to school, uphill, both ways, through the snow, across barbed wire, the Board of Education in where I grew up delayed the start of school for two weeks so

Baker's Dozen

By Ben Baker



farmers could get the tobacco harvest in. I am not kidding.

Sigh. These years roll past ever faster. We're halfway through 2017 and I'm still not done with 1985, except for the hair from that decade. I was done with the hairstyles back then before they ever got started.

Advice to the kids going away to college. Learn to eat anchovy-jalapena pizza. If you order another pizza, you will have friends you never knew existed. Order the Ben Baker special and you get to eat in peace.

"Dood! You got pizza!"
"Yeah." Open box. Hairy fish and hot peppers. Offer new friend a slice.

"What th... No, that's OK. I'm full, really. In fact, I just started a 30-day fast. Just remembered. Can't have any food at all. In fact, I need to be in my room meditating right now.

My cell phone started talking to me last week. I spoke to it. It responded. Somehow I turned that off. I have no idea how to turn it back on and I am not sure I want to.

A gent in prison asked if I could officiate a wedding for him and his lady. When he gets out, they will live with her grandparents and they have to be married to do that. I agreed, provided the warden will allow the ceremony in the prison.

In case you don't wonder, I go to prison frequently to help the men there hold church services.