

The Lanier County News

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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.

- Liability for an error in advertising will not exceed the cost of space occupied by the error.
- All pictures are filed after publication, but may be picked up by their owner at The Lanier County News office in Lakeland.

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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Opinion & Viewpoint

A senseless terror in Las Vegas

Authorities in Las Vegas said that the gunman who killed dozens of people at a country music festival had planned the massacre by placing cameras in his room and in the nearby hallway so that he could see when police were closing in on him.

"It was pre-planned extensively and I am pretty sure that he had evaluated everything that he did in his actions which is troublesome," Joseph Lombardo the sheriff of the Las Vegas Police Department said.

The sheriff said that one of the cameras was hidden in a food service cart in the hallway outside of the rooms he had rented. He said that the purpose of that camera was to give the gunman a video feed that would warn him when police were close.

Lombardo also said that his office had opened an investigation into the unauthorized release of images that show the crime scene which includes the bullet riddled door to his rooms that were used by the gunman who was identified as Stephen Paddock and that he shot at hotel security before taking his own life.

In photographs that were taken by a news magazine a portion of Paddock's two room suite was visible. Again a scope with a stand could also be seen inside his room.

The sheriff would not say if the images were legitimate but he did say that his associates were attempting to determine how the images were made.

His investigators have sifted through a chilling array of clues in this case of the deadliest mass shooting in American history attempting to determine the chain of events that caused a 64 year old man to gun down so many people from his hotel rooms overlooking the Las Vegas Strip.

Paddock lived in a ranch style home near the Arizona border and the shots were fired from the 32nd floor of the hotel into crowds of people attending the country music festival and hundreds of people were injured in addition to the 59 that were killed.

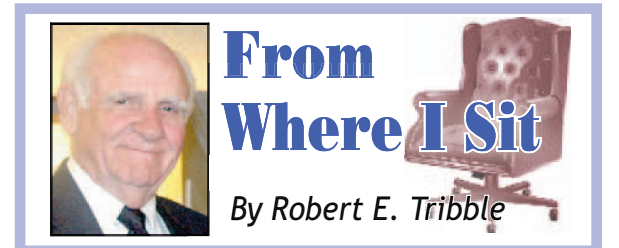
Only hours after the gunman opened fire at the festival that Sunday country singer Jason Aldean turned to Instagram to check in with fans and ask them to pray for those involved.

Aldean had been in the middle of his set as the first shots were fired and he and his band were quickly removed from the stage as the panicked crowd dispersed.

"Tonight has been beyond horrific," he said, "and I still do not know what to say but wanted to let everyone know that me and my crew are safe."

"My thoughts and prayers go out to everyone involved and it hurts my heart that this would happen to anyone who was just coming out to enjoy what should have been a fun night," the country singer said.

Aldean's words echoed those of Ariana Grande



in the aftermath of the Manchester, England bombing in May which targeted fans as they left Grande's concert. Twenty-two people were killed and more than 250 were injured in that attack.

The tragedy seems all the more senseless due to why the shooter would do such a thing because he fit no obvious profile of a person who would commit such a crime. He legally bought a handgun and two rifles over the past year and the purchases cleared federal criminal screenings.

His brother said that he had nothing to do with any political or religious organization and was no white supremacist and he had known him for 57 years.

The survivors and the families and the friends of those who were killed are left in shock, grief and questions that may never be answered. T

he rest of us will always wonder why this happened and we all should do as Jason Aldean suggested and pray for the relatives of those killed or injured.

Good News

By Vic Dove

Being Broken

"Then Peter opened his mouth and said, in truth I perceive that God shows no partiality." Acts 10:34

In the south we have our own way of describing each other. For example, for us guys another guy that may be bigger and stronger physically than we are, we refer to him as a boy dog or we may say that boy is full grown. Well, that is exactly how we would describe a Roman Centurion.

Centurions were tall in stature, muscular and lean all over. They were very brash and proud, and had earned their position by swearing complete loyalty and devotion to Caesar and the Roman Empire. A Centurion commanded 100 Roman soldiers with only one agenda to serve and protect the Roman Empire at all cost. I would like to focus on one centurion by the name of Cornelius. A centurion's Centurion, Cornelius was all the above and much more.

Cornelius lived and served in the coastal city of Caesarea. The Roman Government offices were located in Caesarea. Therefore, Roman soldiers were always present in the streets, and they would constantly persecute and mistreat the Jewish citizens. But not Cornelius, he was known to be a God Fearer among the Jews. This did not mean that Cornelius was a Christian. Cornelius like many Gentiles was attracted to the morals and ethical standards of the Jews and some even attended synagogue meetings where they would sit and listen to the teaching of the Old Testament.

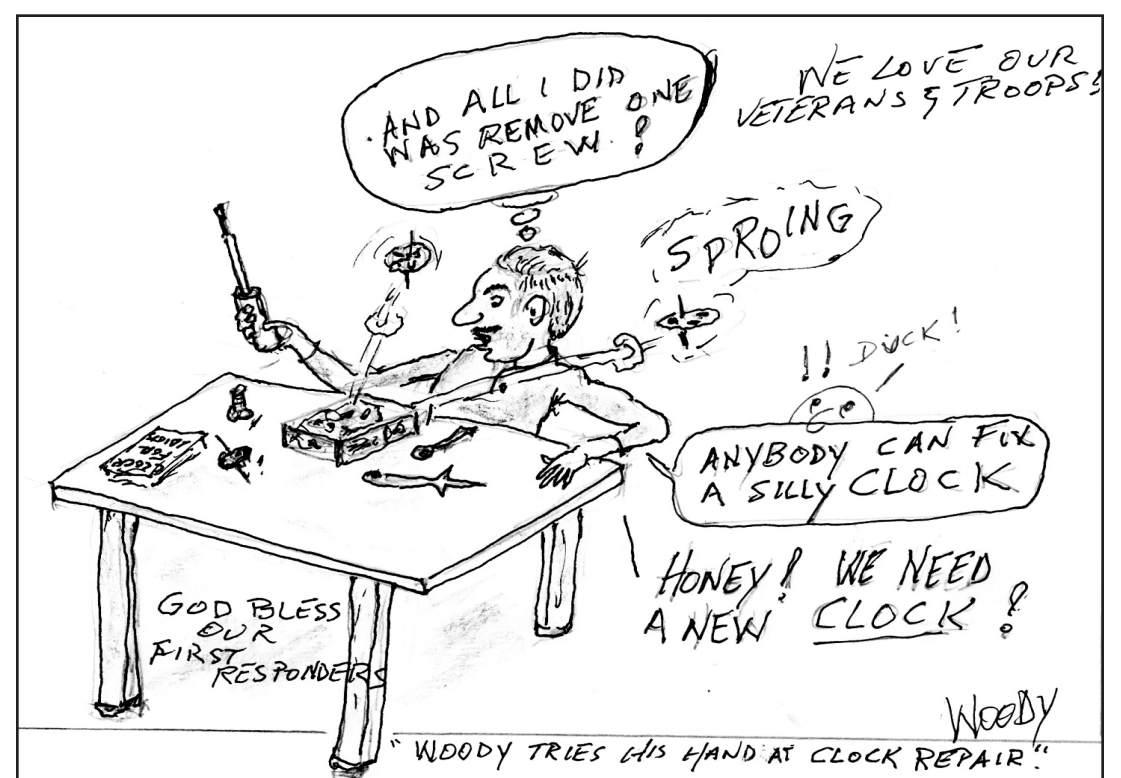
Acts 10:2 refers to the fact that Cornelius attended regularly the prayer meetings held at the synagogue. But, Cornelius was about to have an encounter with God through a vision that would change his life forever.

God spoke to Cornelius in a vision in which he was told that his prayers of salvation had been answered and that he should send for Peter to come to his house so he could be baptized in the company of his family and friends. What happens when Peter entered Cornelius's home is amazing.

This proud Centurion, who answered to no one except the Roman Governor, who stood head and shoulders over any man in the room, fell at Peter's feet and worshipped him. Broken and poured out, his brashness turned into meekness simply because he had an encounter with the one true Living God.

Is your life filled with pride? Is it all about you and what you've accomplished? Always thinking about what you own or control, but always being reminded of some ghost in your past, and never having a feeling of peace within yourself. The sole purpose of this article is to let you know God can and will change your life if you ask Him too. No matter who you are, or what you've done.

I close with a quote by Tim Tebow popular athlete and sports broadcaster, "It's not what I am in the world that matters, it's who I am in Jesus."



A flatlander visits the mountains

Flatlanders do not belong in the mountains. I speak from a lifetime of experience of being a flatlander who has been to four different mountain ranges, the most recent being the Appalachians in North Georgia.

For one thing, mountains. For another thing, vertical real estate. For yet another thing, roads about as wide as a big truck. Roads that have crumbling asphalt at the edge and no shoulder. And a 1,000 foot drop six inches from where the asphalt has already broken apart.

And signs that say "Watch for falling rocks."

What? That is the biggest bunch of political promises I have seen in a long time. The sign makes it seem like the falling rocks are a display put on by the mountain for your entertainment. Like the leaves changing colors in the fall.

It could be part of the advertising program for North Georgia. "Y'all come see the leaves change color and the rocks fall." By the time you see the falling rocks, it is too late to do anything except pray that the rocks are not large enough to turn your vehicle into a block of recyclable steel.

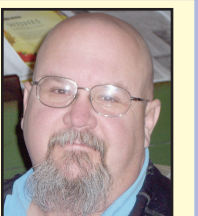
You can't see the rocks falling! The sign implies you are ABLE to see around 387 curves in the road in 100 feet. The only way to see the falling rocks is to be in the rock fall or have X-ray vision to see through the mountain to the road ahead.

I supposed if you have eyes on long flexible stalks that you could stretch for a mile, you could see around the curves. Then you run the risk of falling rocks behind your eyeballs crushing your eyeball stalks.

Riding through the Rocky Mountains years ago, I saw places where the highway was sunken in and fractured into thousands of pieces. I was out there a while before I found out this was not the Nevada Department of Transportation trying to inject some art into road work.

Baker's Dozen

By Ben Baker



It was a side of the mountain falling and crushing the road. While I was out there, the road down into the Colorado River Basin was routinely closed for rock falls.

This may sound like it is hard to see in the mountains. That is not true. Visibility in the mountains is excellent, especially when you are riding on crumbling asphalt looking down into a gorge with a trout stream several miles away at the bottom. If you look along the road, you can see 30 feet to the next curve in both directions.

Before you get the wrong idea, I am not saying stay away from the mountains. Quite the opposite. Visit the mountains. It will make you appreciate the land of broad roads, flat roads and not having a mountain suddenly collapse to crush your vehicle. I also highly recommend you stay with my good friend Bob Borgwat when you get there, except he is going to sell his house after he recovers from my stay with him.

While I was up there, Bob did most of the driving, in his new truck. I'm sending him a check for the bodywork to get my fingerprints out of the dash and replace the upholstery on the front seat. I ain't saying I was nervous as he demonstrated his NASCAR skills on the mountain roads, but the passenger seat was pulled into a mini volcano when I got out.

In case you don't wonder, my trip north was to plan a writer's convention in the spring. This means I have to go back for the convention. I will ask the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce (Blue Ridge) to go ahead and knock all the rocks down. I promise I won't be upset if I do not see any falling rocks.

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.)

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