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The Lanier County News



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(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.

• 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

Why folks like living in their hometowns

While serving in Germany in the military during the late 1950's, I told the Good Lord that if He would get me back to Manchester safely I would live out the days of my life here! My family has done just that and we never plan to move from this beautiful area.

American Profile posed a question to its readers in a previous edition asking them to submit brief reasons why they like their hometowns. Responses poured in from across the nation, and that article prompted my column today. Let me share with you some of the reasons folks sent in to American Profile about things they like about living in their hometowns.

• Bill Cox proudly notes that his hometown of Danville, KY. was chosen as the site of the only vice-presidential debate of the 2000 campaign.

• Don Fournier points out that every July over 35,000 people from all over the world descend on his hometown of Sequim, Wash, for the annual Lavender Festival. Sequim(pop. 4,334) is listed as one of the top ten best undiscovered towns in the West.

• Helen Churchwell writes that the 1996 Olympic Whitewater Events were held on beautiful Ocoee River near her hometown of Benton, Tenn. and she is proud of that.

• Joyce Anne Mum says that her hometown of Siloam Springs, Ark. realizes the importance of education, and the town provided \$500,000 in scholarships to students to further their education.

• Stephen J. Flecher touts his town of Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. as being the home of John D. Rockefeller who would walk down Main Street and give each child he met eleven cents as he said, "Save

the dime and spend the penny."

• Alicia Morris writes that she is proud of her hometown Wheel, KY. because the late Vice-President Alben Barkley was born in a log house there.

• Todd Hanks points out that his hometown of Delaware, Ohio is the home of the 19th president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes.

• Jayne van den Bosch says she is proud of her hometown Enfield, Comm. because of its Dial-A-Ride program that makes trips to the doctors, shopping, hair salons, etc. possible for seniors and the handicapped.

Allow me to share with you some reasons I am thankful to live in Manchester and the immediate area.

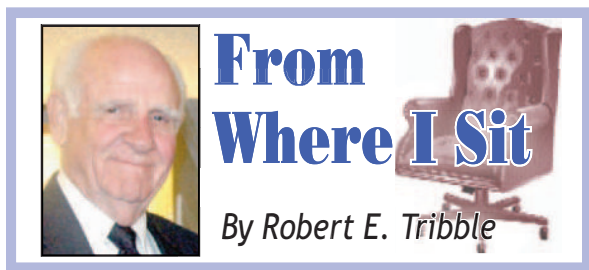
• First off, we are blessed with churches of all faiths with ministers and members who care about their congregations and strive to make our communities a better place to live.

• No, we have never had a president or vice-president who was born in our area; however Franklin D. Roosevelt discovered this beautiful place early in life and established his Little White House in Warm Springs where he passed away in 1945.

• The backdrop of our mountains that roll through this area makes Manchester a beautiful little city. People from North Georgia or Up State South Carolina would call our 1,000 foot mountain ranges hills, but to us they are lovely mountains.

• There is much to do in the area with Warm Springs only five miles away and Callaway Gardens just twenty mile, which makes tourism a big business.

• Folks in our town still open car doors for their wives, the elderly and others, and they do it with



a smile.

• Our Main Street is voluntarily decorated with American flags on Veterans Day and we still honor our veterans with a parade.

• Our neighbors watch each other's homes when they are away for a few days, call each other almost daily to be sure everything is alright, and will even help look for each other's dogs when they get lost.

• Our area has a group of wonderful folks, who each year gathers food, toys, clothing and other items for needy families each Christmas Season. For the past thirty-five years people with a passion for helping the needy have worked together to make Operation Empty Stocking possible.

• When riding or walking down the street of our town one almost needs to just keep your hands waving in the air because most everyone here knows each other and more friendly folks cannot be found anywhere.

In closing, may I suggest that you take a few minutes and write a letter to your hometown newspaper telling them what you like most about living in your town. You can be assured they will gladly print it.

Cagle Grams

By James H. Cagle

Life and Death

Tell me now how you view life,
And how do you view death?
What is it that you'll live for,
Till you draw your last breath?
That which we live for now,
We will answer for one day.
Will we be ashamed or glad,
Before Him on Judgment Day?
How we view life and death,
Will determine how we live now.
If we think life ends at death,
Then the Truth has missed us somehow.
Life has never ended at death.
And you're not coming back as a cow,
Or a frog, a horse, a butterfly,
A dragon, a cat, or a sow.
If we live our lives based on fables,
We'll not be prepared to die.
But reality will make the Truth real,
When from this world we fly.
People are living their life now,
For the life they'll have after death.
Death's another condition of existence.
For our future we draw our next breath.
There's only one life to live now,
That matters for eternity.
And that's a life of death to self,
To live for Christ, Who set us free.
So we must view our life as His,
Who gave His life for us.
For the Christian, life is living for Christ,
And dying to be with Him a plus.
For there is life after death.
Millions are alive in Heaven and Hell.
Things are much better for the saints in Heaven,
But things are much worse for the lost in Hell.



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.)



An unexpected column

Kevin Hart stepped down from hosting the Oscars.

I do not care about TV or movie award shows and I don't know much about Kevin Hart. But he said something, announcing he was stepping down, that you need to read.

"Guys, I'm almost 40 years old. If you don't believe that people change, grow, evolve as they get older, I don't know what to tell you. If you want to hold people in a position where they always have to justify or explain their past, then do you. I'm the wrong guy, man. I'm in a great place, a great mature place, where all I do is spread positivity."

"Stop looking for reasons to be negative... Stop searching for reasons to be angry."

In case you missed it the first time, "Stop searching for reasons to be angry."

Find reasons to be happy. You will invest the same amount of energy looking for something to complain about as you invest looking for something to celebrate.

As Bobby McFerrin sang years ago, "Don't worry. Be Happy."

Now that you have that earworm firmly lodged in your brain, here a few are reasons to be happy:

You are here.

You are reading this so you have some leisure time.

Someone cares about you.

With a little work you can be better tomorrow than you are today.

Since the haters are gonna hate, some advice for them too:

I cannot make you angry. I cannot make you glad. I cannot make you happy. I cannot make you sad. I cannot control your emo-

Baker's Dozen

By Ben Baker



tions.

You do.

You choose how to walk through this world.

I refuse to take responsibility for your reactions.

If you are still with me, just a few final thoughts and a hand up.

I will help you to find joy, peace, happiness and understanding, if you let me. As John Burnett, now a pastor in Columbus, GA, told me, the three most powerful words in the English language are: Let. Me. Help.

Think about it.

As for me? I'm look for reasons to be happy, to find joy, to live with the expectation that tomorrow will be better than today. I'm looking for people to help.

In this holiday season, when suicides peak and depression wracks the very soul of people, find a reason for joy. Find a reason to be upbeat. Find a reason to celebrate.

Then, share it.

Attitudes are contagious. Is your attitude worth catching?

You may be someone's reason. What reason? That depends on your attitude.

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.