

Church News

Unexpected and untimely costs

Gale and I have made it our practice in our more than forty-two years of marriage to live within our means, and it has worked out well for us. There are a lot of luxuries that others have enjoyed that we have done without because they did not fit within our financial abilities, but that has never been a great worry to us. It would have been much more worrisome to us if we had obligated ourselves to some luxury item that we could not afford just to have the momentary thrill of possessing it and to regret it later. As Proverbs 22:7 reminds us, "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender" (New International Version).

If we are honest with ourselves, we would agree that some things are simply not worth it.

No matter how well we think we are planning and managing, there are times, however, when the unexpected comes our way. We have had a couple of those experiences in the past month. Unexpected and untimely expenses are not stopped by circumstances, even if it's in the middle of a virus pandemic; they just show up without warning.

The first event had to do with our dishwasher. It was only three years old and should have lasted quite a while longer, but it didn't. I tried



Pastor James Scarborough
Donalsonville
Assembly of God

to fix it and it worked a few months, but when it quit again I figured it was time to replace it. Certainly a dishwasher is something that we can live without - my mother raised a bunch of us kids and has never had one to this day - but with all the feet that find their way under our table, it is a tremendous convenience to my wife. So planned or not, I bought a new one. Installing it was a whole story in itself. But we will just pretend that it went smoothly and without a hitch!

Less than a week after the new appliance was put into service, a letter appeared in the mail informing me that my termite contract on the house would expire in a few weeks if I did not allow them to retreat the house. That held a hefty price tag too, and it would have been nice if I had received a longer warning that it was time to pay up again, but what do you do when you live in a part of the world that is known for an abundance of destructive wood eaters? Several hundred dollars is no fun to hand out for something that you cannot see, use, or enjoy, but it is cheap in

comparison to the potential outcome that could happen if you refuse to pay the price.

Thankfully we were able to absorb both of those unexpected and untimely costs without having to put the grandkids on a dry bread and water diet.

In the New Testament, we are warned about the end time and the sudden and unexpected nature associated with it. 1 Thessalonians 5:3 has this to say: "While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape." Without proper preparation, that time will be disastrous, but when proper spiritual preparations are made, it will be a most welcome and rejoicing time. In that same chapter we are encouraged with these words: "For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" (verse 9).

Our very best financial planning will not spare us from all unexpected and untimely costs that always seem to come at the most inconvenient of times. But we can make spiritual plans that will endure and see us safely into the presence of God when our life on earth is finished. The plan has already been paid for through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Our part is to believe upon Him and accept His offer of eternal life. As 1 Thessalonians 5:9 reminds us, we can "receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." Make sure you take care of that above all other things in life.



Return Postage

Superintendent reminds all to be counted

Dear Editor,

Parents and teachers, and anyone else reading these words, if you haven't already, please respond to the 2020 Census by the end of the school year. In less than 10 minutes, you can help ensure that we receive our share of funding for our students that will last a decade.

We are eight weeks into data collection for the 2020 U.S. Census, and the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) leadership has been actively monitoring Georgia's self-response rates.

Georgia's response rate is currently 55.3 percent, putting us in 34th place out of all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico. We can do better than that!

It is absolutely critical that our state has an accurate census count. The data collection from this will be the basis for all levels of legislative representation for the next decade and determines the amount of federal funding that will be distributed to programs in our community. The funding from the 2020 Census impacts programs that we use every day; such as Title I Grants, the National School Lunch Program, the Special Education Grant Program (IDEA), and many more.

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought a series of challenges to our community. However, this means that it is more important than ever that we remain unified and do our best to help and serve our children and remain dedicated to their education.

Thankfully, it is easier than ever to respond to the 2020 Census. Georgians can do it from the safety of their homes in one of three ways: online at my-2020census.gov, over the phone at 1-844-330-2020, or by mail using the paper questionnaire they received.

Remember ... In Georgia, Every One Counts.

Sincerely,
Mark Earnest, Superintendent, Seminole County Schools



Out on a Limb . . . By BO McLeod

Former Governor Vandiver has officially withdrawn from the race he had never officially entered, and another former Governor, fellow named Talmadge who has been out of the state for several years, lets it be quickly known he'd be willing to stop being a former and start being a present.

It's too bad about Ernie and all of us can sympathize with him as he has to withdraw from the race he wanted so badly to run, because of heart trouble.

It's like the good old days, having a Talmadge back in a gubernatorial race. This is not to say he'll win, just because he tosses his Senatorship aside and his hat into the ring, but even in pre-computer days it was pretty safe fact that the word Talmadge is pretty hard to scratch from a ballot.

Trouble is, Herman will be running under a tough handicap. He won't be able to say too much about that "mess in Washington", because he has been up there while it's been piling up.

If you can't cuss the federals, there's not much left to run against, you know.

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Sheriff Dan White says shame on all these so-called expert cotton pickers. He says the closer picking time gets, the less they have to say about how much they can gather.

"I'm ready to prove what I can do," solemnly stated the high Sheriff, though there was a snicker or two around the table as he said it.

Wayne Easom said he'll furnish the picking place if anyone wants to prove they can still pick as much as

they have claimed they can/could.

Sheriff White has claimed he can pick hundreds of pounds a day, without rocks and with dry cotton, so perhaps the chance (?) will come when he can illustrate his skill. If nothing else, it'll teach him to stop making campaign promises and statements in the off (political) season.

Since the picking bidding died away a few weeks back, we've heard from several others who must be considered prospects for one of two titles: Seminole's best cotton picker; or, Seminole's biggest liar.

Fate, and the weight can decide which.

Comer Doster says he got mad at Lois one day, because she wouldn't help him pick, so he got out there and pulled enough to take to the

gin for a bale "in one day". I use the quotation marks, so you'll know he said it, I didn't.

The cotton had a few hundred pounds of bolls, leaves, sticks, stalks, etc. in it, so Comer received a low enough price, he never tried again to pick a bale a day. Fact, he became a retired farmer that same day.

And Dr. Jenkins has made a bid for the title. Said he had to pick 500 lbs. a day, so he could get off and go pay ball. Otherwise, he's a fine doctor.

I'm still holding back from such a spectacle. I'm not a bit reluctant to admit that anybody in the place can lick me. And that includes children.

One thing already proved: ambition to pick cotton still fades as cotton picking time draws nearer.

As a weekly celebration of the 2020 Seminole County Centennial Year, enjoy this selection of long time editor Bo McLeod's *Out on a Limb*, reprinted from the May 19, 1966 edition of the *Donalsonville News*

Seminole County Board of Education
203 E. 6th Street
Donalsonville, GA 39845

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
CALLED BOARD MEETING**
Thursday, May 28, 2020
4:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation
- III. Establishment of a Quorum
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
- V. Superintendent's Report
- VI. Budget Planning 2020-2021
- VII. Executive Session
- VIII. Adjourn

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