

# Editorial

## Change gives way to hope

This past year was heralded as a year of change. The coming year is one of hope, hope that the changes will be for the better.

We certainly have had some changes in 2009.

We inaugurated the first African-American president in history and he promised us many changes.

His changes include American taxpayers now owning a good chunk of two major American automakers, plus several banks and financial institutions. And he's promising we'll change how we handle our medical coverage.

We're not sure those are the changes we were looking forward for.

The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are far from over, not much has changed there.

Locally, not much has changed either. Foreclosures and unemployment are at record levels. New home construction is at a standstill. Existing home sales are stagnant and interest rates are rising for those who are even considering buying or selling a home right now.

But there is hope, hope

that things will improve in 2010.

There are faint signs that the joblessness is easing although that's hard to explain to the number of

*We hope the changes in America are for the good of all*

folks who have been unemployed the past year or longer.

There is hope that a job will open up.

There is always hope that someone will want to buy your house before the bank takes it over.

There is hope that we won't get a serious illness and we'll have medical insurance to cover it.

There is hope that the record rainfall of the past year will ease, but not create another drought situation.

There is hope that old car will keep running and the

refrigerator doesn't give out because we can't afford a new one, even though the administration tells us to start spending instead of saving.

There is hope that the situations in the Middle East, Korea or Russia don't deteriorate and our gasoline prices go through the roof again.

There is hope that we'll have some reasonable choices this fall when election times comes around and we can change who is making the decisions for us in Atlanta, Ellijay and Washington.

There is hope the Atlanta Braves can rebound and win a pennant for Bobby Cox as a retirement present.

There is hope the Georgia Bulldogs will find a quarterback and a defense that can stop someone.

The biggest hope is that the economy will turn around and we can look forward to selling our house or getting a job so we can afford to keep the roof over our heads and food on the table.

Changes may be good. But let's all hope the changes are good for us.



## Out on a Limb

### 'A resolution to keep resolutions'

I say each year that I am not going to do it, but I end up doing it anyway.

When I do it, I tell myself I am going to abide by them, but I never do.

However, this year is going to be different – out of necessity more than anything else. I am going to make New Year's resolutions and I am going to keep them.

I know you have read that in this space before, but certain areas of my life have become critical to my well being, and they must be addressed.

I AM going to lose the weight – again. I had done real well for a while last year. Even my doctor was proud of me. I am back to weighing more than I have ever weighed in my life. So, the first resolution is to lose weight. I will keep you informed in this space from time to time.

Tied closely to the first resolution is the second which is to get more exercise. I have a weight machine, treadmill, exercise bike, etc., all of which provide me an outlet on which to get physical activity. The weather is no longer an excuse.

I like by August I am beginning to look like Ron Ely looked when he played Tarzan.

I was able to count many blessings in my life in 2009, so in 2010, I am going to try harder to help those who are less fortunate than I am. I was raised in a family where helping and serving was the norm. My parents led, and continue to lead, by example. I have tried to follow in their footsteps,



Al Summers, News Editor

but I often come up short. The year 2010 will be a year in which I try harder to be a better person to my fellowman.

Finally, I am going to be better to myself. Some of that will come from dropping the weight and exercising. But I will also allow myself to do some things I have talked myself out of doing over the past few years.

I will spend more time with my daughters. I will go trout fishing. I will go arrowhead hunting. I will build a barbecue pit. And while I am not good at it, I will play the piano more.

I hope that each and every one of you had a good 2009 and that your 2010 will be your best year ever.

Happy New Year!

## Letters to the Editor

Send letters to: E-mail: editor@timescourier.com.

Mail: P.O. Box 1076, Ellijay, GA 30540. Fax: 706-635-7006.

Letters must be under 300 words, signed, with a phone number.

All letters will be edited. Due 5 p.m. Monday.

### Thank you, power workers

I would like to take this time to personally thank each and everyone of the men that worked so hard Christmas Eve and Christmas night to restore power to so many people in Gilmer County.

I also want to thank their families for sharing their husbands, dads, sons and grandpas with us this holiday season.

It is a very dangerous job you guys do and I just wanna say from the bottom of my heart — THANK YOU and GOD BLESS each of you!

Tammy Lee Cochran

### Thank You Bette

Last week we lost a precious, beautiful lady. Ms. Bette Meade passed away Dec. 26. She had spent tireless hours working to make life better for many animals in Gilmer County. She served on the board of FOGAS (Friends of Gilmer Animals) and dedicated many hours on fundraisers for the cause of improving the welfare of animals in our community. She also worked on her own anytime she was aware of a need concerning any stray or neglected

animals.

She will be sorely missed by all of us who loved her but especially by all the animals that would have potentially been helped by her. We know she is in a better place but we selfishly have very heavy hearts knowing we won't have her with us.

Thank you Bette on behalf of all the dogs and cats you helped and the Stiltner Family.

R. Stiltner

### The Convoluted Mess of Global Whatever

The concept of manmade climate change is faulted from numerous scientific standpoints over and above those recently revealed in hacked e-mails. But the motive for this deliberate deception is the devil.

Lord Monckton and other scientific (non-kooky) divas point to something quite sinister and frightening. They reveal how the global warming/climate change deception has already benefited and will yield additional enormous financial benefits in the near future to a select inside few. (Al) Gore has become a multimillionaire selling climate change since leaving office. But there's more!

These learned talking heads also point out that the money that fills the coffers of the ordained will come from the taxes and fees paid by our middle class and minimum income folks. Everyone will pay fees of approximately \$3,000, according to The Heritage Foundation, as their share of energy cost increases when and if legislation, treaties and EPA regulations are laid down. Taxes will increase exponentially to benefit third world countries being "victimized" by our "pollution", taxes to subsidize alternative energy source development, cash for caulkers, cash we don't have for this, and cash we don't have for that. The end game, then, appears to be the final destruction of the middle class, resulting in an impoverished class and a giant omnipotent federal bureaucracy.

But wait, haven't we already made a multibillion dollar plunge into alternative energy development when we attempted to divert animal feed into automobile fuel?

No one knows, or could possibly find out, the amount of government subsidy involved in reducing the efficiency of our gasoline by 10 percent while increasing the cost of

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## 10 Questions: with Stacy Nicholson



SHERIFF - of Gilmer County since January 2005

WIFE - Cynthia, three children, Melanie, Sam and Emily

### 1 How long have you lived in Ellijay?

I have lived in Gilmer County all my life. We now live in the Cartecay area.

### 2 Who do you admire most?

My parents.

### 3 Favorite food?

Definitely sausage biscuits. Mexican would run a close second.

### 4 Favorite music?

I like some of pretty much all kinds of music. I was raised in a very musical home and have sung and played gospel music since I was a teenager. I like a lot of country, some rock and a little hip hop, but no classical.

### 5 Hobbies?

Anything that involves working with children on the ball field or court. I like golf even though I seldom play. My favorite would be deer hunting or anything outdoors.

### 6 What people don't know about me.

I am a major cut up. I have a very serious job and I take it accordingly, but I love to laugh. I love to be around people who feel the same way.

### 7 If I won the lottery?

I'd pay off all my debts as well as my family's. I'd also put enough away for my children's college education.

### 8 What's great about Ellijay?

The people that live here and the beautiful scenery. The mountains are gorgeous and I'm partial to downtown Ellijay at night.

### 9 What does Ellijay need most?

Ellijay needs more industry that will create good jobs the most.

### 10 I would like to be remembered for ...

Being a "true public servant" who put the welfare of the citizens ahead of his own. Also, as a good "daddy".



Welcome to SOUND OFF!, a weekly column in which Gilmer citizens can speak out on almost any topic.

Readers are invited to voice their opinions with a limit of 35 words per entry. Entries may be e-mailed to april@timescourier.com and will be subject to editing.

Entries degrading specific names of individuals or businesses, with vulgar language or including other libelous or slanderous material will not be considered for publication.

Closing the trash compactors on Sundays and Tuesdays and reducing the hours will save the county money, only if we have enough prisoners to clean up the added trash on our roads.

The Philadelphia football team gave Michael Vick "The Award for Courage." I didn't realize it took courage to breed dogs to fight and have them killed.

It amazes me what some politicians (liberal lefts) (even normal Democrats) will stoop to when it comes to voting on the so-called medical reform bill when they override their gover-

nor and the people they represent as to what they want, as well as most of the country. I hope they get voted out and get replaced with conservative people in 2010 if we still have a country left that can afford to have polls to vote at. Stand up for America while we still can. Uncle Sam is being "changed" for the worse. God save and bless America! In God we trust.

The Nike CEO said Tiger Woods indiscretions will be a minor blip in Tiger's career. Maybe he has a stand-behind-him wife, but no woman considers 11 indiscretions a minor blip.