

# Editorials and Opinions

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### 'Malice and lies' must be stopped

To the editor:  
I feel enough is enough, people may say that I do not live in this county, so I should mind my own business. I have worked in this county for two and a half years, and seen its beauty and what is happening now. I do not care who you are supporting for the sheriff's position. Everyone has the God given right to vote for their candidates, whether it be Lance Bonds, Russ Aiken, or Reuben Balentine. But the malice and lies need to stop!  
These three men are willing to and have in the past put their lives on the line to protect and to serve people. As for Sheriff Todd Hudspeth, how soon they forget what you have done for this county during the ice storms,

tornadoes, and the days and nights you were out in the county protecting and serving, sacrificing time from your family. So from my family to the Hudspeth family, God bless you in your future endeavors.

So stop spreading lies about these men and their families. They just want to serve the people of this county. NO candidate has asked me to put this in the paper.

YES, I work for the Stone County Sheriff's Department. I will sign my name so people will not have to speculate and make up lies. Say what you will about me for putting this letter in papers, I have big shoulders and do not care, but this needs to stop!!

Karen Lester  
Calico Rock

### Animal complaint not tied to election

To the editor:  
In response to Mr. Charles Haas: It would be hard to plan a dog attack and plant a pack of dogs in time for an election. My animal was taken from my yard and killed, then myself and my children were charged twice by one of the animals responsible. My neighbor can't go in her own yard in the mornings because the animal roams into her yard every day. My friends have incurred vet bills due to the same pack of dogs.  
No, Mr. Haas, none of this was planned for the election. And maybe you weren't present for the problems encountered

with animal control before. We tried but were not prepared enough and had to abandon the animal control problem before with loss of housing for captured animals and threats of a lawsuit. We need to start over slowly and hopefully correctly and humanely.

So, Mr. Haas, you are incorrect and not to worry, if I run for city council, I will not be using the city's health plan, though I was not the one that voted it in in the first place. I guess those that need it will and can until otherwise changed.

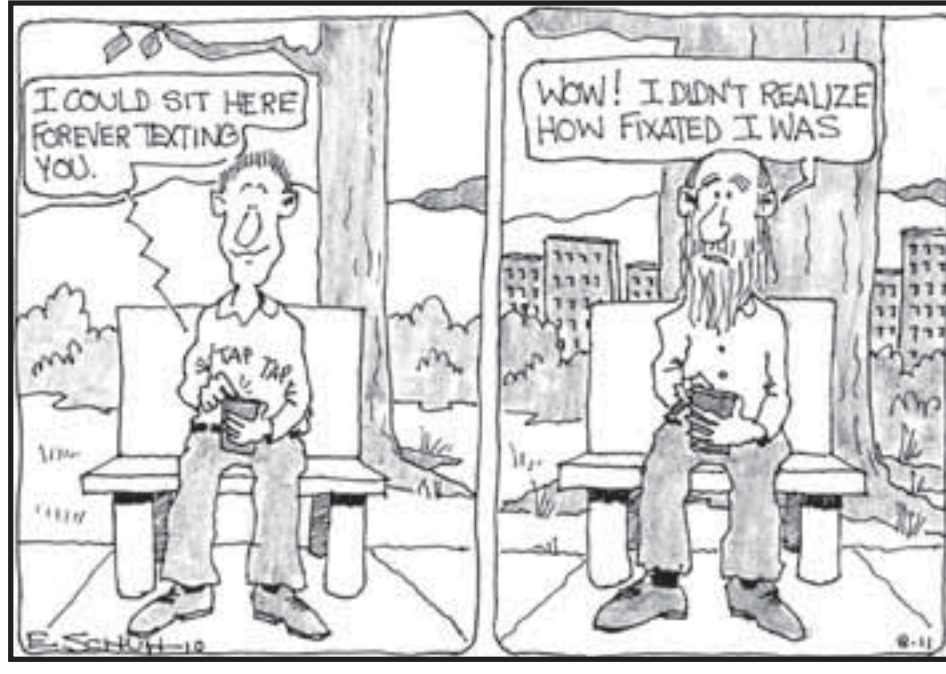
Cindy Moore  
Mountain View

### Only few affected by tax increases

To the editor:  
Are you an American Aristocrat - one of the upper 10 percent that owns 90 percent of America's wealth? I found that figure hard to believe, but when I researched it, I found several references indicating it was true. Every year the gap between the average American and the super wealthy grows by about 2 percent. This kind of imbalance is leading us to the same kind of society that existed in Medieval Europe where 100 percent of a nation's wealth was owned by a very small percentage of the population. The majority of citizens were serfs and servants of the wealthy aristocracy.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is the amount, after deductions, on which you pay taxes. If your AGI is more than \$250,000, the 4 percent tax cut you received in 2001 would terminate if the President's proposal is instituted. In other words, if your AGI (your taxable income) is less than a quarter of a million dollars, your tax rate will not be affected. It is a mystery to me why people who clearly are not in that income bracket would scream for tax breaks for billionaires. Allowing the tax breaks for very wealthy people to expire is NOT a tax increase. The Bush Administration passed it in 2001 because the

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## GUEST COLUMN

### Market supports farmers

By Beverly Dunaway

For me, recalling the image of this past Saturday at Stone County Farmers Market (SCFM) is exhilarating. Even though most of our gardens are waning as a result of this record heat, the market was bustling with activity.

It may have been the break in the hot weather ... or customers realizing the 2010 season may be nearing its end ... or a sudden leap in our collective consciousness about the value of eating local as much as possible, or any number of other reasons. Whatever the case, to me, this past Saturday encapsulated what it is we, at Stone County Farmers Market, are hoping to continue to create and expand for farmers, customers, visitors and citizens of Stone County and surrounding areas.

Clearly, local food is "pushing through the cracks" in the long-distance food system. On a sensual level, locally grown food served fresh and in season has a definite taste advantage. This is one reason the local food movement has attracted the attention of chefs, food critics and discriminating people around the world. Otherwise, with rising fuel and transportation costs, the near extinction of family farms, loss of farmland to spreading suburbs, concerns about the quality and safety of food and, for some, their craving for a closer connection to it, more people want to take back control over what they are putting in their mouths. And, in this era of unexpected environmental shocks such as we're seeing in the Gulf of Mexico ... or of water contamination and/or shortages ... or of changing climate, we're realizing that supporting nearby farmers might be our best hedge against knocking under to these events.

The creation of SCFM has been an earnest attempt to help address these needs. Our goal has been to develop a format where area farmers and customers can

come together to create and deepen an interdependent relationship that is becoming increasingly critical in these challenging times. Needless to say, loyal customers play a key role in this process.

We are aware there are some who feel we have too rigid an approach for Stone County. While we understand and are sensitive to this, we also believe basic rules and guidelines are integral to laying the foundation for the kind of market our county needs. While all of us appreciate and benefit from the diverse ways in which people offer products for sale along the streets of our city and surrounding area ... and want that to continue ... we believe it's critically important for us to create a format that exists solely for the purpose of supporting local farmers and their farms.

At markets that have not yet become true farmers markets, one common occurrence is prices of hard-working farmers who harvest their crops in the wee hours of a morning on market day are frequently undercut by some who may have purchased rejected produce from grocery stores or who have bought produce cheaply from suppliers outside the area with an intent to re-sell it. While this practice, in and of itself, may be acceptable, it does not support small local farms nor does it strengthen our economy like buying produce directly from the local farmer who grew it.

Presently, there are numerous large farmers in our area who travel to farmers markets in bigger cities outside of Stone County to receive what they feel is a better return on their investment ... and understandably so. However, as fuel costs continue to rise combined with the long hours associated with traveling to these markets, we believe presenting a viable option for these farmers will be a win for farmers and residents alike.

With less than two

seasons under its belt, SCFM is still in its infancy which we feel is one more reason to maintain our focus on supporting local farmers. However, we look forward to the day when we feel comfortable expanding to include other non-food, but still complimentary, additions to the market.

We are enormously grateful to those who've shopped with us market day after market day. You know who you are. Thank you. It's because of you that Stone County Farmers Market continues to grow ... and because of you that our city and county are becoming more healthy and self-sufficient in the process.

For the rest of this season, we'll be offering fresh produce, baked goods and other prepared food items on Saturdays only, through the end of October, with the possible exception of Aug. 21, which is Mountain Music & Motorcycles weekend here in Mountain View. We'll let you know our plans for that weekend as soon as possible.

Also within the next two weeks, our vendors will be offering produce and other items online. If you wish, you'll be able to place orders during the week and pick them up at market on Saturdays. We'll let you know when online ordering becomes available.

Once again, citizens of Mountain View and Stone County, thank you for your support. We welcome your comments and encourage anyone who wants to participate to contact us: (870) 213-5785 or stonecountyfarmersmarket.com.

Dunaway is executive director / market manager.

## NEWS FROM THE PAST

From our files

### August 1980 30 Years Ago

The Stone County Swim Club defeated Rogers, 257-239, last Saturday to claim a victory in the first swim meet to be held at the Stone County pool. Rick Matzen, team coach, credited the entire team with a good effort in taking the win from the northwest Arkansas team. (photo caption)

The Stone County Jaycees baseball program was completed with the presentation of awards last Monday night. The Lackey Motor Co. team coached by Larry Keaton and Orby Partee was presented the Peeewe League Champion trophy. Trophies were also presented to twelve all star players. The top three hitters in the league were Randy Storey .782, Sonja Lackey .680 and Robert Jessen .632. Steve Her-ring was the leading hurler of the season as he pitched two no-hitters.

### August 1990 20 Years Ago

V.R. "Jack" Thomas, a Stone County home builder, is working on an interesting restoration project.

The old Sycamore Grove School and Church building, located on South Sylamore Creek off Gaylor Road, has been purchased by Thomas, and he is in the process of restoring the old structure.

Rural Special pupils will be able to begin class August 27 in relative comfort, regardless of whether hot weather ushers in a new school year. The School Board voted in a called meeting last month to install air conditioning in both the high school and elementary at an approximate cost of \$1,000.

Local winners in the 1990 Junior Olympics swim meet held August 1-4 in Tampa, Florida, are: Kevin McCarn, Sarai Phillips, Stuart Isbell, Stotts Isbell, Emmett Hart, Pam Phroper, Kalah Burroughs, Travis Haney and Kaleb McClain, Coach Ron Goehring. (Photo caption)

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### Newspaper Policy Statement

This page of the *Stone County Leader* is devoted to opinions. It is not a news page. Unsigned editorials represent the views of the newspaper's management. Signed columns, letters and other features reflect individual opinions.

Letters to the editor should be fewer than 400 words in length and must contain the author's name, as well as an address and telephone number for verification. Comments regarding published articles, or opinions on topics of current interest are welcome.

Priority will be given to letters that are the most clear, concise and are submitted exclusively to the *Leader*. All letters are subject to editing.

**Happy Tails**  
ADOPT-A-PET

**Contact Mona at 269- 8485 to arrange a visit!**

**Adoption Fee: cat \$45, dog \$60 to cover Spay/Neuter Costs**

**BOGGS**  
"Now, aren't I the cutest thing you have ever seen? Can you tell I am a ball of fur and fun? Come take me home so I can show you all the funny things I can do."