

# Opinions

## Everybody has one...

### Auto Extrication Class

Training is a major focus of the fire department. We are either honing our skills or learning something new every day. Last weekend, Union County firefighters completed the Georgia Fire Academy's Crash Victim Extrication class. The class provides training on how to safely utilize basic hand tools, hydraulic equipment, and other associated rescue equipment to extricate victims who have been involved in a motor vehicle accident.

The first part of the class involves classroom lectures on the tools and how to use them. These tools range from simple hand tools to the complex hydraulic power tools commonly known as the "Jaws of Life". The lectures continued with the anatomy of automobiles and the various new vehicle safety features. Firefighters must be familiar with the safety features before they begin to cut any part of the vehicle. If certain safety features, such as airbags, are cut in the wrong places, it can be very dangerous for firefighters and crash victims.

The class also reviews the latest automobiles with alternate fuel sources and how to deal with them if they are involved in an accident. Vehicles can now operate on compressed natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, electricity, and there are various hybrid models, which run on a combination of alternate fuels. Firefighters must be familiar with each vehicle's different features. These features can be very different depending on the year, make and model.

The second day of the class is all hands-on. This is the best part for the firefighters because it involves using the tools on actual vehicles. The firefighters are divided into teams and each team is given a vehicle to practice what they have learned. The training begins with techniques on how to stabilize a vehicle. Firefighters are then shown how to use the various extrication tools. They begin with hand tools then move to the hydraulic power tools. The hydraulic power tools are the most utilized tools because of their power and speed. Essentially, firefighters are taught how to remove the damaged or wrecked vehicle away from the passenger in order to get them out.

Motor vehicle accidents are one of the primary responses of the fire department. Firefighters must be familiar with the tools and techniques to extricate victims from these crashed vehicles. At-

See Dyer, page 5A

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief David Dyer



### Interesting

The debonair Jonathan Goldsmith appeared in Dos Equis beer ads from 2006 to 2016. The actor portrayed quite unusual accomplishments, then ended the video in the presence of beautiful young women. "Stay thirsty, my friends," was his sign-off. He was "The Most Interesting Man in the World."

Clever ad campaign. The way Goldsmith won the part was itself interesting. For the audition, the screeners gave the ending line, "... and that's how I arm wrestled Fidel Castro!" They judged the actors on their ability to ad lib an entertaining story. So Goldsmith must have been interesting to win the role. But in reality, most interesting? No.

Someone else won that superlative, the One we just celebrated as walking around alive only a few days after He was executed until dead. How do we peel off the barnacles of history and religion to see this news the way a serious journalist would? First we have to know He really existed, with His life recorded as spanning time between Herod and Pontius Pilate during the Roman Empire. He lived and traveled among places like Bethlehem, Egypt, Jerusalem, and Capernaum, places that still exist.

Next we have to consider what He did. He unpacked mysteries about God and life often in a story, while touching hearts and healing bodies. He was such a winsome man, it's hard to believe anyone would think otherwise. But He had no use for pious, self-righteous, religious elites who burdened people with irrelevant rules. The result was the same as if you cut donuts on the courthouse lawn in your ragged F-150 last Friday night while holding a Dos Equis. The authorities came after Him.

They bribed a friend to frame Him, conducted a show trial, and executed this "nuisance." But that was His intent all along. It stops you dead in your tracks that in God's justice, it was you who deserved what Jesus received. For you to live eternally, eternal God became man. Dorothy Sayers wrote, "We may call that doctrine exhilarating or we may call it devastating; we may call it revelation or we may call it rubbish; but if we call it dull, then words have no meaning at all. That God should play the tyrant over man is a dismal story of unrelieved oppression; that man should play the tyrant over man is the usual dreary record

See Fowler, page 5A

All Things New Wayne Fowler



### Commissioner's Questions

**Q. Does Union County have a tornado siren warning system?**

A. No. Union County does not have a tornado siren warning system because of the difficulty of accurately being able to see or predict a tornado in the mountains. The only system that we have is a newly installed lightning sensor located in Meeks Park. We must rely on television weather predictions. If there is ever a tornado or funnel cloud spotted in the area, a warning will go out county wide on our Weather Emergency Notification system which utilizes text messages and email. To sign up, please see the last question.

**Q. I've been at Meeks Park lately and heard a warning signal, what is that?**

A. This is a weather station with a lightning sensor, and an Outdoor Alerting System. Whenever there is lightning approaching within a ten-mile radius of the park it will alert. Since we have both children and adults on and around metal objects and large trees in the park, it is imperative that we be able to warn every one of the dangers of lightning. This will help us keep children, students, and our community safe from dangerous weather conditions, as lightning usually accompanies strong storms.

**Q. What should I do in the event of a tornado?**

A. If a tornado has been spotted or indicated by weather radar, you need to seek shelter immediately. The safest place to be when a tornado approaches is in a basement or storm shelter underground; but if you are not able to get to a shelter or basement you need to find shelter that is available. If you are at home and do not have a basement or storm shelter get to the lowest level of your home or a windowless interior room, such as a bathroom, closet or inner hallway. Stay as far away from windows as possible, go to the center of the room, get under a sturdy piece of furniture, and protect your head and neck with a blanket if possible.

**Q. What if I'm at work?**

A. Go to a basement or an inside hallway at the lowest level, avoid places with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, cafes, gyms, gymnasiums, or large hallways. Get under a sturdy piece of furniture such as a desk or heavy table and use your arms to protect

See Paris, page 5A

Q & A from Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris



### Drug Free Mountain Life

#### Don't Judge But Educate

This week the Opioid Summit was held in Atlanta. There were many speakers including the President and First Lady but to me there was one person who took the podium and signified the purpose and the cause everyone was there to support. In my opinion, Special Agent Tom Murphy, a 30-year Veteran of the Virginia State Police, was the person who had lost the most and had the least to gain by sharing his story, but he did so because he had a message to send to the world. His message was simple, "Stop the stigma surrounding addiction. Don't judge but educate."

The DRUG FREE MOUNTAIN LIFE campaign supports an overall safe community by providing information, education and support services to children, families, and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse.

Special Agent Murphy lost his son Matt to an opioid overdose in December, 2017. He stood by the President of the United States with courage and vulnerability as he shared the story of his son's journey through addiction. He reminded the audience and viewers that every victim

See Drug Free, page 5A

### Letters to the Editor

#### Climate Hoax

Dear Editor, As a relatively new resident in the area as well as a subscriber to your paper, I have noticed that you publish a letter to the editor by the same person concerning manmade climate change seemingly every month!

I would like to point out that the "climate change alarmists" are the same folks who in the '70s were warning us about the upcoming ice age. The same folks who in the '80s told us we were on the verge of running out of fossil fuels and that the oceans would be dead in 10 years. The same folks, led by Al Gore, who put up a "doomsday clock" predicting our planet could not last 10 years unless we addressed climate change. The same folks who changed the narrative from global warming to climate change because Al Gore was giving speeches on global warming during a blizzard! These are the same people who can't tell us what the weather will be next week, next month or next year, but can accurately predict the ocean tide increase and global climate conditions 30 to 50 years from now!

Their computer models have constantly been wrong (unless they fudge the numbers to

See Cannon, page 5A

#### Blatant Racism

Dear Editor, We have lived in Union County for 18 years, built a home, and raised our children here. I love almost everything about this beautiful town, except for the blatant racism I have seen on occasion over the years. I used to roll my eyes as the Confederate flag-waving pickups tore around the square, and I laughed when I read that the KKK wanted to sponsor a stretch of Georgia 515 (and was thankfully denied).

Because I am lucky enough to be an educated, white woman, these are things that I noticed, but they have never affected me directly. Sadly, I can't say that anymore.

Last year, we turned the lower level of our home into a vacation rental space. We have had great success with it and have been privileged to host people from all over the world. Recently, I read the review of one of our guests and was horrified to learn that they had a "pretty terrible racist encounter" at a business in Union County. This was a sweet couple and their teenage daughter who stayed with us for an entire week. The woman was Caucasian, and her husband appeared to be of Middle Eastern descent. The review went on to say that, while they loved the rental space, they "dreaded going back out again for supplies after that." I was embarrassed, upset and angry that our guests were subjected to

See Schramke, page 5A

### Letters to the Editor

#### The Party of Santa Claus

Dear Editor, The Democrat party wants to be your year-round Santa Claus. So far in the early stages of the 2020 presidential campaign, its declared candidates have offered such taxpayer-funded goodies as "free" healthcare and college education, along with Universal Basic Income, where the federal government issues each American a monthly check for \$1,000. The ages old institution of slavery ended here 154 years ago at the cost of nearly 700,000 American lives forever lost in a "Civil War," but that price evidently was not high enough, as reparations are now sought for the descendants of slaves eight generations later. Their vote-buying strategy is deceptive and more like a Halloween trick, not a treat. Like a policy out of Nazi Germany, they now want to legalize infanticide, allowing abortion on demand to not only full-term pregnancies, but now after the delivery. To appease the climate change cultists and ultimately destroy the American economy and way of life, the use of automobiles and airlines must end by 2030 to save mankind as well as eliminate the beef and dairy industry due to cow flatulence. Is it any wonder Democrats

See White, page 5A

#### The Conspiracy

Dear Editor, Who manufactured the idea of climate change? What nefarious cabal of Democrats could have convinced over 95% of scientists who study climate issues to go along with these control-dominated politicians to undermine their data to help them in their insidious scheme?

How will creating a manufactured issue such as climate change lead to their goal of taking over the world? Keep in mind that this scheme must be worldwide, not limited to American Democrats. Do you actually think that because Trump ignores the science, that it is simply a contrived plan to give the Democrats a method to undermine the upcoming election? I don't buy it, and I am astonished that there are people out there who would.

May I ask where you came up with your cockamamy ideas? Could it be from Fox News, the National Enquirer, or a Google-based search for conspiracy theories? Or the Bible? I would suggest that you subscribe to Scientific American or some other reliable source of scientific information instead.

I guess you really believe that the 95% of these scientists would have some motivation to feed Democrats with fake data to give them sufficient support to create their takeover of the world. You do understand that there are intelli-

See Schilling, page 5A

### Real Char'acters

As a young boy I heard my grandfather would use strange words that were spoken by people in England during Chaucer's time. The Appalachian Mountains were isolated from the rest of the world during my grandfather's childhood. These mountains were not opened up to the rest of the world until my lifetime. Many of the words that were used by early settlers to America were still in use until 1970s in rural Appalachia. These words included helped, directly, and a phrase used by my grandfather was "a real char'acter."

When papa said, "My Papa John was 'a real char'acter,'" he meant his grandfather was a person who stood out because of their nature and character. Sometimes Papa would use the phrase to indicate a person was full of the devilment like his grandfather, or he might use the phrase to mean a person's intelligence and character should be emulated.

For example, John Cummings was a blacksmith. He was big, brawny, strong, loved to drink, loved to fight and loved the ladies. One time John went to a wedding and enjoyed a little too much of the Apple Brandy before the wedding even began. As a result John walked to the front of the church, stood in the pulpit, stripped off his clothing and offered to fight any man in the building. When there were no takers John made everyone leave the wedding and refused to let the services continue. Later in life John left his first wife and moved to Missouri. There, he raised another bunch of Cummings kids. My Papa and one of his cousins went to visit their Grandfather in Missouri late one summer. They were helping him in the Blacksmith Shop when John asked the cousin to hand him a hammer. The boy sassed John and told him to get the hammer himself. The boy knew he was in trouble, so he turned to run. John picked up the 5-pound hammer and threw it at the boy barely missing his ear and said, "My boys never sassed me and neither are my Grandsons." John Cummings was a "real char'acter."

John had five sons all of which became farmers. Lon was my great grandfather and he owned a large farm on the road between Phil Campbell and Trapptown. One day the Alabama Department of Highways came to Lon's house wanting a right of way on his property so a road could be built in front of his house. Lon was about 68 years old at this time and he agreed to give a right of way for the road if the construction of the highway would not create a road bank in front of his house. Lon was afraid a cut bank would pose

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm Mickey Cummings



### Chamber of Commerce

Last Thursday, the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce had the honor of hosting a Fiber Optic Dedication Ceremony at Mountain Crossings to celebrate the addition of fiber optic cable on Blood Mountain. Commissioner Paris explained how the addition of fiber optic technology at Neels Gap benefits the entire community on both sides of Blood Mountain. The road information system, maintained by the Georgia Department of Transportation, accurately provides reports on road temperature, visibility, pressure, wind speed and direction, humidity, and air temperature. Without the fiber optic cable technology, local citizens were having to brave the mountain in the coldest months, not knowing whether it was passable or not. Considering that we have a lot of employees who live and commute to work on both sides of the mountain, this technology is a tremendous benefit from planning and safety standpoints.

David Dyer, from Union County Fire

See Chamber, page 5A

Blairsville-Union County Chamber President Steve Rowe



### Letters to the Editor

#### Climate Hoax

Dear Editor, As a relatively new resident in the area as well as a subscriber to your paper, I have noticed that you publish a letter to the editor by the same person concerning manmade climate change seemingly every month!

I would like to point out that the "climate change alarmists" are the same folks who in the '70s were warning us about the upcoming ice age. The same folks who in the '80s told us we were on the verge of running out of fossil fuels and that the oceans would be dead in 10 years. The same folks, led by Al Gore, who put up a "doomsday clock" predicting our planet could not last 10 years unless we addressed climate change. The same folks who changed the narrative from global warming to climate change because Al Gore was giving speeches on global warming during a blizzard! These are the same people who can't tell us what the weather will be next week, next month or next year, but can accurately predict the ocean tide increase and global climate conditions 30 to 50 years from now!

Their computer models have constantly been wrong (unless they fudge the numbers to

See Cannon, page 5A

#### Blatant Racism

Dear Editor, We have lived in Union County for 18 years, built a home, and raised our children here. I love almost everything about this beautiful town, except for the blatant racism I have seen on occasion over the years. I used to roll my eyes as the Confederate flag-waving pickups tore around the square, and I laughed when I read that the KKK wanted to sponsor a stretch of Georgia 515 (and was thankfully denied).

Because I am lucky enough to be an educated, white woman, these are things that I noticed, but they have never affected me directly. Sadly, I can't say that anymore.

Last year, we turned the lower level of our home into a vacation rental space. We have had great success with it and have been privileged to host people from all over the world. Recently, I read the review of one of our guests and was horrified to learn that they had a "pretty terrible racist encounter" at a business in Union County. This was a sweet couple and their teenage daughter who stayed with us for an entire week. The woman was Caucasian, and her husband appeared to be of Middle Eastern descent. The review went on to say that, while they loved the rental space, they "dreaded going back out again for supplies after that." I was embarrassed, upset and angry that our guests were subjected to

See Schramke, page 5A

### Letters to the Editor

#### The Party of Santa Claus

Dear Editor, The Democrat party wants to be your year-round Santa Claus. So far in the early stages of the 2020 presidential campaign, its declared candidates have offered such taxpayer-funded goodies as "free" healthcare and college education, along with Universal Basic Income, where the federal government issues each American a monthly check for \$1,000. The ages old institution of slavery ended here 154 years ago at the cost of nearly 700,000 American lives forever lost in a "Civil War," but that price evidently was not high enough, as reparations are now sought for the descendants of slaves eight generations later. Their vote-buying strategy is deceptive and more like a Halloween trick, not a treat. Like a policy out of Nazi Germany, they now want to legalize infanticide, allowing abortion on demand to not only full-term pregnancies, but now after the delivery. To appease the climate change cultists and ultimately destroy the American economy and way of life, the use of automobiles and airlines must end by 2030 to save mankind as well as eliminate the beef and dairy industry due to cow flatulence. Is it any wonder Democrats

See White, page 5A

#### The Conspiracy

Dear Editor, Who manufactured the idea of climate change? What nefarious cabal of Democrats could have convinced over 95% of scientists who study climate issues to go along with these control-dominated politicians to undermine their data to help them in their insidious scheme?

How will creating a manufactured issue such as climate change lead to their goal of taking over the world? Keep in mind that this scheme must be worldwide, not limited to American Democrats. Do you actually think that because Trump ignores the science, that it is simply a contrived plan to give the Democrats a method to undermine the upcoming election? I don't buy it, and I am astonished that there are people out there who would.

May I ask where you came up with your cockamamy ideas? Could it be from Fox News, the National Enquirer, or a Google-based search for conspiracy theories? Or the Bible? I would suggest that you subscribe to Scientific American or some other reliable source of scientific information instead.

I guess you really believe that the 95% of these scientists would have some motivation to feed Democrats with fake data to give them sufficient support to create their takeover of the world. You do understand that there are intelli-

See Schilling, page 5A

### Real Char'acters

As a young boy I heard my grandfather would use strange words that were spoken by people in England during Chaucer's time. The Appalachian Mountains were isolated from the rest of the world during my grandfather's childhood. These mountains were not opened up to the rest of the world until my lifetime. Many of the words that were used by early settlers to America were still in use until 1970s in rural Appalachia. These words included helped, directly, and a phrase used by my grandfather was "a real char'acter."

When papa said, "My Papa John was 'a real char'acter,'" he meant his grandfather was a person who stood out because of their nature and character. Sometimes Papa would use the phrase to indicate a person was full of the devilment like his grandfather, or he might use the phrase to mean a person's intelligence and character should be emulated.

For example, John Cummings was a blacksmith. He was big, brawny, strong, loved to drink, loved to fight and loved the ladies. One time John went to a wedding and enjoyed a little too much of the Apple Brandy before the wedding even began. As a result John walked to the front of the church, stood in the pulpit, stripped off his clothing and offered to fight any man in the building. When there were no takers John made everyone leave the wedding and refused to let the services continue. Later in life John left his first wife and moved to Missouri. There, he raised another bunch of Cummings kids. My Papa and one of his cousins went to visit their Grandfather in Missouri late one summer. They were helping him in the Blacksmith Shop when John asked the cousin to hand him a hammer. The boy sassed John and told him to get the hammer himself. The boy knew he was in trouble, so he turned to run. John picked up the 5-pound hammer and threw it at the boy barely missing his ear and said, "My boys never sassed me and neither are my Grandsons." John Cummings was a "real char'acter."

John had five sons all of which became farmers. Lon was my great grandfather and he owned a large farm on the road between Phil Campbell and Trapptown. One day the Alabama Department of Highways came to Lon's house wanting a right of way on his property so a road could be built in front of his house. Lon was about 68 years old at this time and he agreed to give a right of way for the road if the construction of the highway would not create a road bank in front of his house. Lon was afraid a cut bank would pose

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm Mickey Cummings



### Ticks

Ticks are very common in the wooded mountains. Let's talk about some of the different species that are out there and the dangers that they can pose.

Ticks have life cycles that last two to three years. There are many things that factor into tick population including temperature, rainfall, humidity, and available hosts (deer, mice, and other animals.) Ticks start in an egg mass of approximately 6,000 eggs. After hatching they are called seed ticks, they have six legs and will climb up a blade of grass and wait for an unsuspecting host to come along. After feeding the seed tick will drop off and shed its skin, resulting in a nymph that has eight legs. The nymph will feed, drop off, and shed its skin reaching its final form as an adult tick.

There are two main species of ticks that are found in Georgia: Lone Star tick and American Dog tick. The Lone Star tick can be identified by a small white star on its back and does not cause any known diseases. The most common tick disease in Georgia is Rocky Mountain Spotted-Fever, which is primarily carried by the American dog tick. A spotted rash appears two to four days after the onset of fever. The Lone Star Tick is the most commonly found tick in Georgia. They are more active in warmer months. Black-legged tick can still be active in the winter, but they are not as common in Georgia. They are more often found in the Northeast of the U.S., and can carry Lyme disease.

Red meat allergy can be caused by the Lone Star Tick. There is not a lot of information on why this allergy occurs because it has come about in the last 10 years. Not everyone has an allergic reaction after receiving a bite. Research is ongoing to find out more about how red meat allergy is caused.

The best way to avoid ticks is to avoid areas where vegetation is over ankle height. If that's not possible then make sure that you wear long pants and tuck your pants into your socks and shirt into your pants. You won't look glamorous, but hopefully you'll be tick free! Repellents that contains DEET are the most effective. Spraying DEET on your skin and clothes will help keep them away. Permethrin can be used on clothes to kill ticks and insects that crawl over your clothes. If you go out hiking or are working outside check yourself when you come back inside. The longer an infected tick feeds, the higher the likelihood of them transmitting to you. If a tick does bite remove the tick with forceps, grasping it as near to the point of attachment as possible.

See Williams, page 5A

Watching and Working Jacob Williams



### North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

Kenneth West Publisher/Owner

Shawn Jarrard Editor

Derek Richards Advertising Director

Todd Forrest Sports Editor

Mark Smith Staff Writer

Lowell Nicholson Photographer

Publication No: 001505

Advertising, News deadlines Friday at 4 p.m. • Mail Service for all subscriptions except 30512, 30514 & 30572 - One Year \$40. In county, carrier delivered subscription is \$3. All subscriptions must be paid in advance. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is published weekly by NGN/TCH, Inc., 266 Cleveland Street, Blairsville, Georgia, 30512. Entered as Second Class Matter as of Dec. 10, 1981, at the Post Office in Blairsville. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. Phone: 706-745-6343 Fax: 706-745-1830 \* P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514

Website: www.nganews.com

Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com

Mailing: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514