

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Jack of All Trades

We live in a complicated world. It seems that each day we must know more and do more. As firefighters, we are expected to know how to respond to almost every type of emergency in order to do our jobs. The days of only fighting fire are over. Firefighters are called upon for a variety of emergency situations such as emergency medical calls, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous materials, and every type of rescue under the sun. There are also the various non-emergency duties that firefighters must learn and complete each day to do the job. We must be a "jack of all trades" and have a combination of training and education to handle these duties and emergencies.

Having a variety of duties and calls each day helps keep the job interesting. As a firefighter, I know that I will have to check-off all the equipment and apparatus for the day. I know that I may have to test hose, inspect hydrants or even visit a business for a pre-incident call. However, I also know that we may respond to 10 medical calls, two car accidents, a brush fire and a structure fire. These are all possible and they make our day more interesting. Volunteer firefighters experience the same uncertainty and excitement because they can be working one minute and be dispatched to a fire or accident the next.

Being able to respond to these various types of emergencies requires a significant amount of education and training. Firefighter training is a constant and continuous process. The initial training prepares a firefighter to do the job but that is just the beginning. Firefighters must practice learned skills to develop muscle memory and to know what to do in a split second emergency. They must also keep up-to-date with the latest information. This information is constantly changing requiring firefighters to take classes to learn the newest emergency response information and procedures.

Another reason that firefighters must be a jack of all trades is that we must know how to think outside of the box and improvise. Emergencies are not routine. They are all different and chaotic. Firefighters respond to emergencies in an attempt to bring order to that chaos. At times, we must use all our knowledge and training to "figure out" the best way to handle each unique situation.

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Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



Pride

Stunned when confronted with his own arrogance, Charles Dickens' character Ebenezer Scrooge received his comeuppance. He had suggested that the poor should die as "surplus population." The sarcastic ghost implied ailing Tiny Tim was surplus to Scrooge, then hit him with, "It may be, that in the sight of Heaven, you are more worthless and less fit to live than millions like this poor man's child." Pride is ugly.

"If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself" (Gal. 6:4). The extent to which self-deceit corrupts whatever it touches cannot be gainsaid. This sin is part and parcel of every other sin. Thank God that Christ offers forgiveness for even this, something we can boast about.

C. S. Lewis in "Mere Christianity" explains, "Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind." Pride wants more than, and looks down on others because it is competitive. It claims that my (ideas, connections, job, church, kids, etc.) are better than yours. I have more (money, intelligence, attractiveness, spirituality, etc.) than you do. Pride says that I am more important, yet the Christian ethic is, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves" (Phil. 2:3).

The results of pride are harsh. It cannot truly love, since love is selfless (1 Cor 13:4). It is likely the cause of most of the misery in the world. Ultimately, it separates from God by thinking oneself wise, while being a fool. For ages, people have "exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator," a predictable outcome of pride (Rom. 1).

Chuck Colson tells of his visit with Tom Phillips who had become a Christian, and was changed. Phillips read Lewis' words to Colson. "As long as you are proud, you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you." As Colson left his friend's house, he wept, and cried out to God. He knew he needed Jesus. Pride no

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All Things New
Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q. When does the Farmers Market open this year? We can't wait!

A. The Farmers Market is scheduled to open Saturday, June 3rd this year. The hours will be the same as last year which are 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. There are some unique events at the Farmers Market this year, such as Heritage Day, Sweet Corn Day and the Tractor Parade. We are looking forward to another busy season this year with many return vendors and some new additions. For more information, you can visit their website at www.ucfarmersmarket.com or you can call them at 706-439-6043.

Q. Is there a full list available of the events that will be at the Farmers Market this year?

A. Yes, there is. You can go to the Farmers Market website at www.ucfarmersmarket.com and click on the Events tab in the top left corner. There will be another place to click that says Event Calendar. This calendar has the full list of events being held at the Farmers Market this year. Be sure and take a look at the calendar because some of the events are on Tuesday evenings.

Q. Can I bring my dog to the Farmers Market?

A. If you would like to bring your pet the Humane Society's Mountain Shelter has volunteers there offering pet sitting for a donation to the shelter, however there are no pets allowed under the covered area of the Farmers Market, except for service dogs. Service dogs must have the proper documentation or they will be asked to leave. This is because of safety regulations pertaining to the sale of food. It is the same reason you cannot take your dog into the grocery store.

Q. How busy do you expect the Farmers Market to be this year?

A. Since the Farmers Market started in the parking lot of the Courthouse it has done nothing but grow continuously. Each year our vendors and visitors to the Farmers Market increase. The vendors provide a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, and handmade crafts, which makes the market appealing to people from all the surrounding counties and states, so I expect the Farmers Market

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner
Lamar Paris



Anti-Drug Coalition

Kids - you don't have to go along to get along

As a young person, you'll hear everything there is to hear about alcohol and other drugs from friends, your brother or sister or other young people.

Unfortunately, much of what you hear from them is based on myth and misconception and, as a result, it may not always be true or accurate. So, like anything else in life, you need to do your own homework. Use your own head and good judgement.

For some of you, you have already seen firsthand the dangers of alcohol and drugs and the damage they can do to the individual, to relationships, to friendships and to families. Maybe you are concerned about mom or dad, an uncle, a friend, a neighbor or even yourself.

So, what's the real story about alcohol and

See Drugs, page 5A

The mission of the Union County Anti-Drug Coalition is to support an overall safe community by providing information, education and support services to children, families and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse. Visit and Like our Facebook page for additional articles and videos.



"I don't have the heart to tell my son his diploma is really a job application."

Letters to the Editor...

A Perfect World

Dear Editor,

In this world there is no thing as a perfect deal, a perfect spouse or child, not one perfect church or pastor to boot, because the world is full of sin that mars the very core of our being and we wonder is there really a perfect world to come as the Bible tells us, when it refers to a place called heaven and the answer is a resounding yes. Heaven is as real as faith is to a believer in Christ and one day soon when the Lord Jesus sees fit to come back and gather His children up into the air as I. Thessalonians 4:17 tells us very clearly. We who have been redeemed and saved by the shed blood of Christ on the cross will be joint-heirs in Christ which means whatever God owns, we too will own for all of eternity. Why would God do this for you and me? Simple, because He loves us, so we are to comfort one

See Combs, page 5A

A Grateful Mother

Dear Editor,

Thank you for putting a piece in the paper about "Ms. Martha" Cone. I met Ms. Martha two years ago, over the phone. I had contacted her about putting my two children into the CEC Pre-K program. I was a newcomer to Blairsville, and when I asked her what curriculum they used, she kind of got offended. I guess I sounded kind of snooty when asking. Ha ha. She assured me, that even though they had no big-name curriculum, my children would receive a great education at the CEC. They would be taught their abc's, but also about the love of God.

I hung up, hesitant to put my children there

See Holden, page 5A

Thank you Commissioner

Dear Editor,

Thank you to Commissioner Lamar Paris & Colwell Detention Center - Last week, Fannin County was battered by storm damage that affected a large percentage of our residents. Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris immediately called our office offering manpower and equipment that was badly needed as we struggled to recover from this unexpected emergency. The Colwell Detention Center also provided manpower assistance up into Thursday night, May 4th and all day Friday, May 5th.

It's an old and a great tradition here in North Georgia where neighbors help each other when times are rough.

Fannin County is proud to have good neighbors like you folks!

Stan Helton - Chairman Fannin County Board of Commissioners

Term Limits

Dear Editor,

Article 2, Section 8, of the Constitution "enumerates" the thirteen "duties" of the Congress. Once those duties have been fulfilled, and fulfilling them requires a few days, not years, the Founders intended Congress to adjourn.

Congress was never meant to be a source for perpetual employment with all the attendant salaries and benefits. Therein lies the source, the expansion and the festering of the Washington "swamp." In 1993, the Supreme Court ruled that term limits are unconstitutional because term limits are part and parcel to the Constitution.

It's called voting. Typically, though Congress has the lowest approval rating in the history of polling, 90% of incumbents are re-elected.

"You can't fix 'Stupid.'" — Bill White

George A. Mitchell

Caring People

Dear Editor,

I want to express my gratitude to all the people who came to my aid when I fell while attending the Rabies Clinic at the Owltown Fire Station on Sat., May 6th.

For the past three years I've tried (unsuccessfully) to teach my rescued White Shepherd socialization skills with other dogs. When I went to the Rabies Clinic I didn't take enough time to read my dog's reaction to the other dogs that were there. We were doing okay as we approached the building, but as we got closer to the building my 75 pound dog took-off, dragging me behind her. Loose gravel on the asphalt parking lot caused me to lose my footing and I went flying into an

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Memorial Day, May 30th

Dear Editor,

On page 1B of the May 3, 2017 North Georgia News there is an advocacy piece, presumably by the Blairsville - Union County Memorial Day Parade Committee, inviting readers to attend and participate in the parade on Saturday, May 27, 2017, and to "display the flag proudly." My guess is that most readers, eager to "display the flag proudly," will actually display it improperly by flying it at full-staff from dawn to dusk.

The traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years and many Americans nowadays have forgotten the true meaning of the holiday. At many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored or neglected. Most people no longer remember to fly the flag at half-staff from dawn to noon, and at full-staff from noon to dusk (the proper flag etic

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What's in a Name?

Have you ever wondered about the reputation of a family name? What were the personalities of your ancestors? What were their likes and dislikes? How did they interact with other people? My grandmother, Delphia Adams' maiden name was Baker. Her father was Charlie Newton Baker. He farmed and logged for a living. He loved to Fox Hunt with a large pack of dogs. Charlie's grandfather was Hiram Baker. Hiram migrated to Alabama from North Carolina. Hiram actually spent some time living here in Union County. He is listed as living in Union County, Georgia in the 1850 census.

Hiram's ancestors came out of Pennsylvania. Hiram's 4th great grandfather was Robert Baker Sr. Robert came from a line of at least 3 generations of gunsmiths. Sometime early in the 1700s Robert was called to England by Queen Anne to manufacture arms for the Queen's Army. Robert came back to America and sometime around 1719 he acquired 200 acres of land at the confluence of Pequea Creek and the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania where he built a gunsmith shop and began making rifles for the people of that area of Pennsylvania. Robert and his son Caleb were some of the first gunsmiths in America. The rifles which were being made at this mill were called Baker Rifles. These rifles were in the style of what we now call a Kentucky Long Rifle. We don't know the name of the inventor of the Kentucky/Pennsylvania Rifles. However, we know that Robert Baker was one of the first to make these types of rifles in the Lancaster area of Pennsylvania.

Robert died in 1728 and his sons took over the family business. When the Revolutionary War began the English came to the area and forced Caleb and his brothers to make bullets for the British Army. The British didn't know that Caleb's sons were fighting in the Continental Army with George Washington. Also, unknown to the British was Caleb and his brothers were making Kentucky Long Rifles for the Continental Army.

Robert Baker's grandfather was one of the first men to build a fort in Pennsylvania. John Baker traded with the Indians and built a fort and blockhouse in Franklin County, Pennsylvania sometime around 1650. Later he served as a colonel in the French and Indian Wars.

Go back another 100 years and we find another Baker. Sir George Baker was a Doctor. He served as "Surgeon-in-Ordinary" to Queen Elizabeth. He wrote several books about health and making of medicines. George's grandfather

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Woody Ornamental Pruning

Azaleas and other flowering ornamentals are an integral part of the Georgia landscape from the flats of the coastal plain all the way to our mountains. Currently, we can see bright patches of orange and purple dotting the mountainsides as our native azaleas and rhododendrons bloom. Depending on the varieties of cultivated ornamentals in your own yard, your own plants may be starting to bloom as well. By tending to your flowering plants at the appropriate time, you can ensure a successful and colorful bloom year after year.

Because azaleas are spring blooming plants for the most part, they set their buds for the following year in mid-late summer. This means that in order to maintain the parts of the plant that will flower next year, we have to prune ornamentals that bloom in spring right after they lose their flowers. If they are pruned in the fall or winter, the bloom-forming buds may be accidentally removed and the normally colorful and vibrant azaleas will have fewer blooms.

This rule of thumb is good for most other spring blooming plants as well. Early bloomers such as bigleaf hydrangeas, redbuds, forsythia, clematis, beautybush and numerous others should be pruned after they have finished flowering to prevent them from becoming too sprawling. Pruning these plants before late summer ensures proper maintenance without harming newly formed buds. However, because many ornamentals have late blooming varieties, one pruning time is not necessarily appropriate for all plants of the same type. Generally, if a plant blooms before May, it is safe to prune just after flowering. If it flowers after May, then it should be pruned just before the start of its spring growth. Two exceptions to this rule are late blooming azaleas and oakleaf hydrangeas because even though they bloom in the summer, they still form buds in the previous year so pruning in the spring before bloom will remove viable buds.

When pruning flowering or shade trees, always try to minimize the bleeding of sap from the tree. Maple, birch, willow, plum and cherry trees all have the potential to produce large amounts of sap, and while it is not harmful, it can be unsightly. To reduce the amount of bleeding from your tree, prune large branches in warmer weather when the leaves are mature. The leaves will have taken up the majority of the sap as they grow, leaving less available to bleed out upon pruning.

Pruning is also important for disease management. Many ornamental plants are prone to fungal diseases. If you notice a fungal growth on

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber
Regina Allison



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From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee

