

Opinions

Everybody has one...

From the Editor

Tariffs are bad news for newspapers

For over 15 years, hometown Publisher Kenneth West has sold copies of the *North Georgia News* for 50 cents apiece at local retailers.

He has done so to ensure that every resident here in the North Georgia Mountains can afford to stay up to date on the community news that matters most.

Starting next week, the retail cost of each newspaper will go up to 75 cents per copy.

The extra revenues collected from retail newspaper sales will help pay for a portion of the rising costs of newspaper printing.

Why are printing costs going up? Politics, that's why. Unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., have adopted harmful, anti-business trade policies that are making it much more expensive to print newspapers.

Already, the cost of printing the local newspaper has gone up over a thousand dollars a month since the start of 2018.

To make matters worse, these bad policies have caused decades-old U.S. business partners to rethink their longstanding relationships with American newspapers in favor of suddenly better deals in China.

Again, why is this happening? Because Washington doesn't understand that its trade practices are hurting American businesses.

A little context, courtesy the National Newspaper Association: In August 2017, a complaint by a single newsprint mill in the State of Washington concerning unfair trade practices resulted in investigations by the U.S. Department of Commerce, or DOC, and the International Trade Commission regarding Canadian imports of uncoated groundwood paper used for newspapers and other printing.

The complaint alleged that the Canadian government unfairly subsidizes newsprint production, and the U.S. mill asked that import taxes up to 50 percent be imposed on Canadian paper.

This is highly problematic, since U.S. demand for newsprint has shrunk dramatically over the last 20 years, and many U.S. producers have simply left the business, either closing their mills or converting them to other paper products.

Decreased U.S. newsprint production has resulted in Canadian mills being responsible for exporting roughly 75 percent of American newsprint.

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The Way I See It

Shaun Jarrard



Is America Christian?

On July 4, 1776, did the signers of the Declaration of Independence pledge their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to found a Christian nation? Is America Christian?

We know they were motivated by liberty, a Christian theme. But the answer depends on how you assess the question. Is it about the Founders and the Constitution? Is it about our current leaders, law, and policy? Is it about the religion of the citizenry?

The Christian faith motivated many of the Founders. Noah Webster, Revolutionary War veteran, lawyer, and educator wrote in *History Of The United States*, "Our citizens should early understand that the genuine source of correct republican principles is the Bible, particularly the New Testament, or the Christian religion." He wrote in a letter to James Madison, the Father of the Constitution, "I am persuaded that no civil government of a republican form can exist and be durable in which the principles of Christianity have not a controlling influence."

Madison led the adoption of the Bill of Rights, including the First Amendment. In plain language it says that Congress cannot establish a national church, Christian or otherwise, nor can it prohibit you from freely exercising your faith. Yet it took another 74 years to pass the 13th Amendment, ending slavery.

Despite its flaws, God has preserved America through wars, depression, and scandal. Ronald Reagan said, "There was some divine plan that placed this great continent between two oceans to be sought out by those who were possessed of an abiding love of freedom and a special kind of courage." Yet we struggle against recurring racism, legalize the termination of vulnerable human life, and steal from the future with a burgeoning national debt.

A country can't be Christian in the plain sense that Christ Jesus came to change the world one person at a time, by saving sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). The Christian gospel is that by faith you are accepted into the life of Christ and the community of believers. It is true that polls consistently show that a majority of American citizens identify with the Christian faith. But do they actually know and follow the Lord Jesus, or are they cultural Christians?

Martin Luther's "Tower Experience" was quite personal. Reflecting on the words of Romans 1:17, he said, "The right-

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



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Commissioner's Questions

This week's questions and answers focus on the Clerk of Superior Court. The Clerk of Superior Court is an elected official with Judy Odom being the elected official. These questions contain general information and if you have further questions you should call their office at 706-439-6022 or stop by their office located in the Union County Courthouse at 65 Courthouse Street, Blairsville.

Q. What are the duties of the Clerk of Superior Court in Union County?

A. This office is responsible for all the civil and criminal affairs and filings made in the Union County Superior Court and provides the jury pool for Grand Jury along with civil and criminal trials. This office also serves as the official recorder of real-estate documents for the County and maintains records of deeds and plats. This is also the office where you would get your passport.

Q. What is needed to have deeds and plats recorded?

A. Real Estate Filings include the filing, recording, and indexing of all documents and instruments pertaining to real estate, such as Deeds, Deeds of Trust, Affidavits, Releases, Notices and Certificates, and Cancellations of Deeds. The Law requires that deeds be witnessed and notarized in order to be recorded. It is also required that deeds conveying ownership of property must have a PT 61 form attached. This form can be accessed and completed on the following website: www.gscca.org.

Plat Documents presented to be filed with the Clerk of Court must be presented to the Clerk's Office electronically and in conformance with laws, rules and regulations. This can be done at <http://efile.gscca.org>. Local surveyors provide assistance with uploading newly completed plats and surveys.

Q. Does the Clerk of Superior Court handle passports?

A. Yes, they do. You can get a passport application in their office or from the website www.travel.state.gov. Do not sign the application. It must be signed in the Clerk of Court's Office. You will also need to bring the following items with you.

- a. One 2x2 Official Passport Photograph (made within the last six months)
- b. Certified copy of your birth certificate with a raised or

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Drug Free Mountain Life

The Real Cost Of Substance Abuse On Your Business

When a person becomes addicted to drugs, it could cost them everything. They might lose the stability of their job, the support of their family, the comfort of their home, their health and ultimately their life.

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.

The costs of drug addiction are exponential, as they ripple out from users to affect their families, workplaces and society at large. As employers work to protect the health of their business and provide a positive and productive environment for their employees, they must confront the potential dollars-and-cents costs of drug addiction among their workforce.

Many companies are embracing a preventive mindset by encouraging treatment among workers, as well as reporting if an employee sees something suspicious. Pre-employment and regular drug testing are other tools employers use to

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Letters to the Editor

Death vs Eternity

Dear Editor,
We all know the term "till death do us part." It is part of the marriage vows folks make when they are ready to become as one in their relationship with each other in love, not to be taken lightly, but solemnly. When life is conceived from birth a journey begins that has its ups and downs, with many obstacles and challenges along the way and how we deal with each of life's issues depends on our attitude and our desire to have a positive outlook. We never know from day to day what lies ahead of us, but we know who holds the future in His hands, our Lord God. A lot of people don't believe in God.

See *Combs, page 5A*

Response

Dear Editor,
I have never submitted a letter to the editor of the *North Georgia News*, but part of a letter that ran last week is so offensive I had no alternative. I do have sympathy for you, writer. I will be 77 this September, my wife is 75, and we will be celebrating our marriage anniversary of 56 years this October. My wife is not in as good health as I am. If she would become ill and I would have to watch her health slowly decrease as you had to, it would be devastating. I don't know what I would do without her. But to equate her suffering to be worse than Jesus suffering on the Cross is so misguided and hurtful.

Do you really know how Jesus died? John 19: 1 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. 2 The soldiers made a crown out of

See *Lewis, page 5A*

Climate Change.

It is time to believe the Science.

Dear Editor,
We have been a nation that has depended on science for many of the blessings that we have, and yet it is strange that now we do not trust the science of climate change. Over 99% of peer reviewed articles, which is the gold standard in science, agree that climate change is indeed real and human caused, and 97% of climate change experts agree with this. According to NOAA and NASA, the 10 hottest worldwide temperatures have all come since 1998, and the 20 warmest years have come since 1995, with the last 4 years being the hottest in recorded history. This is taking a great toll in human life and in economic losses. The science of greenhouse gases acting like a blanket around the earth to increase its temperatures is an indisputable fact, and likewise it is an indisputable fact that we

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Fire Department Responses

Union County Fire Department posts incidents and responses each week in the newspaper. The purpose is to inform the public on the number and types of incidents that the fire department receives. The information that we provide includes the date of the call, the type of call and the station or area that the call was located. Each incident or call is assigned an incident number and a report is completed.

Some of the incidents that are posted in the newspaper are self-explanatory. We label them as structure fires, car fires, brush fires, motor vehicle accidents, fire alarms, etc. Others require a bit more of an explanation. Medical calls make up a majority of our responses. When you read that we responded to a medical call, that incident is usually a major medical emergency such as heart attack, stroke, or unresponsive patient. We respond and assist Union General Ambulance Service on these major medical incidents.

A rescue incident can be a variety of calls that involve some sort of rescue. They can range from people trapped in an elevator to people out of a car with a child inside to getting people out of a flooded river. We respond to all rescue incidents in Union County.

We also record our many public service activities. These include educating the public, smoke alarms and many other services. Public Safety Education calls are classes for the public on fire extinguishers, fire safety, or other fire related subjects. Our most successful public service is the Smoke Detector Program. We install free smoke detectors to any resident in Union County. These are usually recorded as Smoke Detector Install.

Over the last couple of weeks, you may have read about trees down. The multiple storms that have hit our area have caused many trees to be blown down. We respond to these calls if they involve a house with major damage, a vehicle with people inside, or if on a powerline. These incidents may involve extricating people from their home or car.

So, when you are done reading this column, flip over to the fire department incidents section and read about our various incidents. Keep in mind, these responses are only part of the job that we do each day. I hope that this better clarifies the types of calls.

Union County Fire Department
~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief

David Dyer



Around The Farm

Hard Working Immigrant

My family lived in Chicago for a short period of time when I was small. My memory of this time is comprised of living in an apartment, big fins on big cars, the Cubs, the cold water of Lake Michigan, snow, Chicago-style hotdogs and Myron Levinski. The man was of Ukrainian lineage and was an immigrant from Soviet Russia.

He came to the United States seeking political asylum. His brother and father became political prisoners in a Soviet labor camp as a result of opposition to communism. The pair were tortured and starved in an attempt by the Soviets to rehabilitate them into communist doctrine.

My Ukrainian friend escaped with a sister and his mother and found a ship bound for the USA. He was told America was the land of freedom and promise with money growing on trees like apples. Upon landing in New York the immigrants of the ship were divided into three groups. One group stayed in New York. Another was sent to Philadelphia and the other was sent to Chicago.

Myron landed a job with the city of Chicago as a laborer. He and the other immigrants all resided in a big warehouse. Very few of these people spoke any English, but they were willing to work. At first he dug ditches and like other jobs a man doesn't get paid everyday. My friend had no money to purchase food and what little he had was given to his mother and sister.

Digging ditches in July is pretty tough and after 4 days with no food he'd lost weight and eventually passed out. At first his supervisor thought our friend was in the wrong job. But, somehow it was found that Myron had not eaten in 4 days. So, his boss lent him some money and helped him secure an apartment.

The grateful immigrant paid back the money owed to his boss. He saved every dime he could and soon purchased his first real estate, a small 3 story apartment building in Cicero. He continued saving his money and bought other pieces of property around town as well as a second home on Lake Michigan. During this process of obtaining property another poor family migrated from the hills of northern Alabama to the windy city. My father secured a job and an apartment in that first apartment building purchased by Myron.

Not long after moving into the apartment Khrushchev gave his famous speech to the U.N. about how the Russians would someday conquer America. For those of you old enough to remember it was the speech where the communist was

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Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Have you seen small white cottony balls on hemlock trees? If you have them that means those trees are infested with Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). Let's look at why it's important to preserve hemlocks, what is the pest that is killing them, and what you can do to save them.

Hemlocks are a native species that ranges from Maine to Northern Alabama. According to Save Georgia's Hemlocks, they are a keystone species that provides habitats for about 120 species of vertebrates and over 90 species of birds. Hemlocks are unique in their ability to thrive in the shade. This attribute makes them common in ravines and along rivers and streams. Their proximity to streams and rivers means that they are crucial in reducing erosion and watershed protection. Hemlocks can be identified by their needles. They have short flat needles with two distinctive pale white stripes on the underside. The needles are wider at the base and taper to a rounded tip, unlike firs which have parallel sides the whole way down.

HWA is a very small insect. The white cottony sacks on the hemlock trees are egg sacks of HWA. They are an invasive species from Asia that doesn't have a natural predator here. Several universities in Georgia are doing research with beetles to achieve a predator/prey balance so that HWA can be contained. HWA feeds on the sap inside of hemlock trees. The HWA can be spread by wind, birds, deer, or humans. Once a tree has become infected it will die within four to 10 years. Therefore, it is important to treat trees as soon as possible after finding that they have been infected.

In the meantime, it is still important to treat your own trees with cultural and chemical controls. Cultural controls include keeping hemlocks well mulched and watered. Hemlock trees don't have very deep roots and droughts can make them more susceptible to infection. Don't place any bird feeders or deer feeders near your trees. Birds and deer can carry the eggs for long distances. If you are hiking in an area that has HWA, wash your clothes afterward because YOU may be carrying eggs. Be careful not to over fertilize your trees as that could make them more enticing to HWA. Chemical controls involve treating your tree with either Imidacloprid or Dinotefuran, and is the most common and effective method of control. The best time of year to apply treatment is between April and October. An Imidacloprid treatment will last four or five years. However, it may take one year before it is effective. Dinotefuran will last for two years in the tree and will take about four to six weeks to take effect. The most efficient way to apply either of

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UGA Extension Watching and Working

Jacob Williams



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