

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Volunteers Needed

Union County Fire Department is a combination department meaning that it has both career and volunteer firefighters. We are always in need of more volunteers. We must have a certain number to be able to operate safely and to be able to respond to the many calls we have each day. If you have ever thought about joining the department, then you have to ask, "Is this right for me and what will I get out of it?"

On October 2, 1990, I joined Union County Rescue Squad which was part of the fire department. I had just started EMT school and joined in order to respond to car accidents. I had no idea what I was getting into or where it would take me. Volunteering for the fire department opened up an entirely new world to me.

When you join the fire department, you are not just joining an organization, you are accepting a lifestyle. It is not for everyone but there are people who want and accept this lifestyle. These people have certain traits, firefighter traits, that lure them to the service.

For the most part, firefighters have three universal traits. Firefighters are knowledge seekers, problem solvers and helpers. This is what makes them different. When they see an emergency, they see a problem that must be solved, and they jump into action.

Firefighters love to learn. They search for the latest information and skills to be able to handle just about any emergency. They train constantly to be prepared when minutes count. The fire service is a great environment for learning everything from how to handle an emergency to leadership skills.

Firefighters are problem solvers. We have stated many times how a firefighter must be a jack-of-all-trades because we have no idea what we will be called to next. Each scene can be different, and firefighters love the challenge of using all they have learned to solve the problem.

The best part of being a firefighter is knowing that you did something that day to help someone. Firefighters have the knowledge and skills to help on what may be the worst day of someone's life. There is no better feeling than knowing that you can make a positive difference.

Becoming a firefighter is the most rewarding service. Not only are you helping people and your community, but you are im-

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Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



Faithful Living

The politicians and pundits wait breathlessly for a document from the White House. It finally drops. Opposing camps see what they expected and implement their messaging strategy (Impeach! Witch hunt!). If you live by politics, news cycles, and social media, you swing from outrage to incredulity, from vindication to condescension. It is exhausting and frustrating.

How do we live in these times? The answer has always been the same. By faith. Os Guinness offers a sweeping view of living by faith. "Seizing the day, making the most of life, and understanding the meaning of life are inseparable. All three require that we come to know the Author of time and the meaning of time and come to know the part He calls us to play in his grand story, which makes the deepest overall sense of time and history. We are then invited to live lives that align our individual hopes and destinies with the very purpose and destiny of the universe itself."

A Hebrew prophet wrote simply, "The righteous will live by faith" (Hab. 2:4). His point was, just because the nation has turned from God and will suffer for it, you can still live by faith. Early Christian writers quoted Habakkuk's words in making various related points. In Rom. 1:17, any person can become righteous by faith in Christ, regardless of race or religious background. In Gal. 3:11, neither religious community nor rule-keeping make you righteous. Instead, faith makes you yearn to live rightly, and participate in community. In Heb. 10:38, faith is how the soul endures the distractions and disruptions of life.

God's faithfulness to you inspires yours to Him. In 1923, Thomas Chisolm set this idea in verse. "Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me! Summer and winter and springtime and harvest; sun, moon, and stars in the courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love."

Living by faith means you are faithful to God and trust what He has revealed about you. He created the world and placed you in it. He has given you value and a purpose for existing. By grace through faith he has given you a righteous identity in

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All Things New
Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q: When do we need to get flu shots to be prepared for the upcoming flu season?

A: According to the Georgia Department of Public Health, flu season is from November to March, and they recommend getting vaccinated in October or November. Since we have already started seeing confirmed cases of the flu this early, I would recommend getting vaccinated sooner rather than later.

Q: Where are flu shots offered?

A: Flu shots are offered at the Union County Health Department. You can also get the flu shot at your doctor's office, pharmacies, or clinics in the area.

Q: We heard about the "high dose" flu shot. Is it something we should have instead of the regular flu shot?

A: If you are 65 years old or older, you should get the high dose flu shot which provides better coverage.

Q: What does a "high dose" flu shot mean? Does it mean it is twice as powerful?

A: The name "high dose" sounds scary to some, but it is not at all. All it means is that the shot will provide more antibodies for your body, which will make it less likely that you will contract the flu. Then if you do, it will help it to not be as bad. In addition, over time, this shot will even provide more protection year after year.

Q: Will a "high dose" flu shot hurt more than a regular shot?

A: I can tell you that I had one last year and not only did I not even feel the needle when the shot was given, but my shoulder was not the least bit sore. That is no guarantee, but seldom have I ever had a shot that was this painless.

Q: Where did you get your flu shot?

A: I got mine where I do every year, at the Union County Health Department located at 67 Chase Drive here in Blairsville. This is on Glenn Gooch Bypass next to the Department of Driver's Services.

Q: Why do you get your flu shot at the Health Department instead of at one of the drug stores?

A: I like to have a shot from someone that gives shots all

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner
Lamar Paris



Drug Free Mountain Life

Research Findings on Cannabis Use

The trending message surrounding marijuana use suggest that use is safe, and the benefits of use outweigh the risk of legalizing this substance. Research suggest that using marijuana in the formative teen years can increase depression, psychosis, anxiety, social impairments and learning disabilities.

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.

When comparing those using cannabis during their adolescent years to their peers not using cannabis, adolescent cannabis users had greater odds of depression in their young adult years. They also had greater odds of anxiety. Of even more concern, the cannabis-using group had greater odds of suicidal ideation, and three times increased risk of suicide attempt. This study shows that cannabis consumption in adolescence is associated with increased risk of developing major depression in young adulthood and it in-

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Letters to the Editor

Hot Times in September

Dear Editor,

If you were almost as grumpy as I was about the very hot weather we had throughout September, it turns out that we were quite right about our criticisms of mother nature.

UGA data for the Blairsville area shows that not only was September 2019 much hotter than previous years, but it was also much hotter than the normally hottest summer months of July and August this year. The UGA website for the Blairsville area presently shows precise weather stats for every single day starting with January 2003.

Our average maximum temperature for the entire month of September 2019 was 87.57 degrees. The average max temps for August 2019 was 85.4 and July 2019 was 85.31. This September, we had 10 days with temps 90 degrees or more. In August, we had only four 90+ days, and in July, we had none. The September average max temp of 87.57 this year was significantly higher than the September max temp in any year from 2003 through 2018. The average September max temp for the entire '03-'18 period was 79.275. This September, the max average was 82.95 hotter than the past 16-year average. The other weather problem with September '19 was extreme dryness. This year, the total September rainfall amount was a pathetic 0.33 inches. September '19 rainfall amount was less than any individual year in the past 16 years and was nearly four inches less than the average for all the Septembers in that 16-year period.

No wonder we were grumpy. Let's hope we don't see another September like this one.

Jack Glassmyer

Congratulations and Thanks to Judge Stanley Gunter

To the Editor:

The State Bar of Georgia congratulates Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge N. Stanley Gunter on the occasion of his retirement and thanks him for his distinguished service to the people of Lumpkin, Towns, Union and White counties.

When his retirement took effect at the end of September, Judge Gunter had devoted the majority of his 33 years as a member of the State Bar of Georgia to public service, including the past seven years as a Superior Court judge and 11 previous years as district attorney for the Enotah Circuit. He also served his profession as executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia.

Judge Gunter's colleagues in the Georgia legal community appreciate his many contributions during his exemplary service to the public and the justice system. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Sincerely,
Darrell Sutton, President, State Bar of Georgia

Sunbelt Ag Expo

The Sunbelt Ag Expo is an agricultural-based trade show held at Spence Field in Moultrie, GA on October 15-17, 2019. Known as "North America's Premier Farm Show". Their mission is to produce the premier farm show in the world; one that is conducive to trade and emphasizes information, education and implementation of the latest agricultural technology, research and equipment.

The Expo's unique site has a 100-acre exhibit area adjoining a 600-acre working research farm. In the exhibit area, which includes both outdoor and indoor exhibits visitors will find every imaginable product or service a farm could ever need. In addition to the static exhibit's visitors can attend educational, entertaining seminars and demonstrations offered in a variety of specialized areas. Visitors can take a tram from the exhibit area to the fields where cotton, peanuts, corn, soybeans, and hay are being harvested. These harvesting demonstrations, as well as tillage demonstrations, equipment driving ranges, irrigation technology and precision ag demonstrations all provide opportunities to see and compare a wide range of equipment in an actual working setting. Company representatives and specialists are in the fields to answer visitor questions.

Expo originated from ABAC's AET (Ag Engineering Technology) Club Dealer Days. The very first Dealer Days was held on the ABAC campus in 1964. These mini-trade shows were designed to allow local dealers to show off their new tractors & implements. At the same time, it provided students an opportunity to meet with potential employers. More often than not, many students working with Dealers Days went on to find employment with the local equipment dealers. Visitors attend the Expo for various reasons. One of the main reasons is the annual event attracts more than 1200 exhibitors each year who showcase the latest in farming technology and whether you are a large acreage production farmer or a weekend lifestyle farmer the Expo is an event you don't want to miss. They guarantee that each year visitors will come see and learn something new! No two Expos are ever the same. There are also over 300 different seminars and demonstrations offered over the course of the 3-day event covering topics such as Beef Cattle Management, Equine, Goat & Sheep Health, Fish/Pond Management, Alpaca, Dairy, Poultry, Electrical Safety, backyard gardening and sustainable living topics.

The Expo works with 22 Land Grant Colleges and Universities from the Southeastern

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RC&D Executive Director



Frank Riley

New Math & Higher Education

Aunt Mabel, Papa's older sister, started to high school in Phil Campbell in 1927. She enjoyed getting away from the tiny community of Trapptown and visiting the bigger town. After all, Phil Campbell had a rail road depot. Anyway, Aunt Mabel especially enjoyed math class, and she was one of the top students. Her math teacher, Mr. Isom, was enjoying his first year out of college. He was really a great teacher and had a firm grasp of the world of mathematics. His one weakness was arrogance. Mr. Isom had graduated at the top of his class from the University of Alabama and was proud of himself.

Roughly halfway through the second semester of school, the class began to study algebraic simultaneous equations. Mr. Isom's custom was to demonstrate the method of problem solving to his class and then assign a list of problems to be worked out during class. After solving the problems the students could then check their answers in the back of the book. The last problem of the exercise was particularly difficult. Aunt Mabel and the other students worked through the problem and all deduced the same answer. However, when checking the answer, the book did not agree with their conclusions. Mr. Isom was asked to intervene.

Mr. Isom worked through the problem and found the same answer to the class. He worked through the problem three other times and came to the same conclusion each time. Mr. Isom and the class were consumed with this math word problem for three days. Finally, Aunt Mabel asked Mr. Isom if she could take the book home to show the problem to her father, Lon Cummings. Mr. Isom asked where Lon had attended school. Aunt Mabel proudly proclaimed that her father had attended school at the Hallman School House and had finished school after the third grade in 1899. Mr. Isom smiled at the naivety of Mabel but agreed to her request.

Although Lon had only a third grade education, he owned and operated a sawmill and blacksmith shop as well as a 300-acre farm. He had traveled as far away as Missouri to solve bookkeeping problems at his father's sawmill. What he lacked in education he made up in experience. A few years prior, he'd worked with some Cooperative Extension Agents from Auburn to conduct some in-field demonstrations on his farm. The men planted a cover crop of vetch and installed a rotation system using field corn and cotton. The result was an increase from 20 bushels to 85 bushels of corn in one year. That year, my great grandfather went from subsis-

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Around The Farm



Mickey Cummings

Deer Health and CWD

I'm sure that everyone knows that we have a lot of deer in Towns and Union counties. With the amount of deer that we have there are going to be some unhealthy deer out there. Let's talk about how to keep deer diseases from passing to you, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), and bovine tuberculosis.

There are some common sense guidelines when it comes to deer health. If you're a hunter it's always best to wear gloves when field-dressing wild fowl or game. Don't eat game that looks ill or is acting abnormally before you take it. Deer carry ticks and hunters in the woods are vulnerable to ticks because of the time spent in the woods. Using tick repellent is always a good idea. Always wash your hands with an alcohol-based sanitizer after handling deer tissues or meat. If you see old wounds on the carcass, the area around that spot should be discarded. Be careful about intestinal contents contacting meat, because they will contaminate it.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is causing a lot of concern in the U.S. right now. It affects deer, elk, reindeer, sika deer, and moose. The main concern in the Southeast with CWD is whitetail deer. To this point there has NOT been any CWD reported in Georgia. It has been reported in three counties in west Tennessee, and six counties in Northwest Mississippi. Unfortunately, wildlife experts believe it is just a matter of time before it arrives in Georgia, which is why DNR is being vigilant in monitoring for it.

It is believed that CWD is spread between animals through contact with contaminated body fluids, tissue, or indirectly by exposure to CWD in drinking water or food. It's thought that baiting deer could increase the spread of CWD. Deer coming to bait stations will most likely exchange saliva or contaminate the food. CWD has an incubation period of over a year before the neurological symptoms begin to develop. The symptoms of CWD are drastic weight loss, stumbling, lack of coordination, listlessness, drooling, excessive thirst or urination, drooping ears, lack of fear of people. An easier way to remember the symptoms is the deer look as if they are drunk. These symptoms also happen because of other diseases and malnutrition.

CWD is always fatal for deer. There has not been any strong evidence of it transmitting to domesticated animals or humans. If it were to spread to people, it would most likely happen because of eating infected meat. Therefore, if you take a deer that is expressing symptoms it's best to not eat the deer and report it to DNR.

Deer can also carry bovine tuberculosis

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Watching and Working



Jacob Williams

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