

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Our E911 Center

Calling 911 is something that most people hope they never do. But they understand that if or when they must call, they will quickly get the help they need. Most people think that the 911 process is as simple as calling 911 and people just show up at the emergency. However, the E911 Communication Center is not as simple as one may think. It involves complicated, highly technical equipment and procedures. It also takes some extremely skilled and dedicated personnel.

When a person calls 911, that call is routed to the closest E911 communications center. There is a significant difference between a 911 call from a land line and a cell phone. A land line is registered, and our enhanced E911 Center is provided with all the pertinent information from this caller such as location (which is mapped), caller identification, the district or zone, and a call history.

When 911 is called from a cell phone, the caller location must first be located by the cell tower. This is called Phase I location and is not accurate. The Phase II location is the actual GPS location of the caller and it can be mapped. The cell phone must have good service to get a Phase II location.

Once a 911 call is received and the initial caller information is provided, the dispatcher will begin to gather more information from the caller. They determine what is the emergency and what units to send. The dispatcher may be required to gather information from frantic callers who may not be able to communicate well. Dispatchers must remain calm during these high stress incidents and obtain the vital information.

Once enough information is gathered, the dispatcher will dispatch the appropriate units. This can involve law enforcement, fire department, or ambulance services. The call may also involve many supporting services that the dispatcher must contact and possibly dispatch to the call.

At the same time, the dispatcher is talking on the phone, talking on the radio, and typing the information into the computer aided dispatch (CAD) to record the events. The dispatcher records units responding, arriving, and going back in service. They also record any pertinent information pertaining to the call. All these actions

See Fire, page 5A

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



The Persistent Call

What do I do now? How shall I live the rest of my life? Those are the questions that can arise when something changes your life circumstances.

Culture and politics can suddenly change things, leaving you feeling like an exile in a foreign land. That literally happened to the ancient Hebrews. Their enemy defeated their army, destroyed their cities, and deported their leading citizens by the thousands to Babylon. Resettled in a foreign land, they faced tough questions. Jeremiah sent them an encouraging letter. "Build houses and eat in them; and plant gardens and let their produce. Take wives and father sons and daughters... Seek the prosperity of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord in its behalf; for in its prosperity will be your prosperity" (Jer. 29:5-7). Their calling was to live their lives, trusting the Providence of God. They did, and God restored this exiled community to their homeland. Their descendants witnessed the birth of a child called Immanuel, a fulfillment of their calling as a people.

Your calling in life does not change with your circumstances. For the believer, life's seasons come and go but your ultimate purpose remains. Through you "God is love" comes alive to people you encounter. Through you, God's kingdom comes and His will is done on earth as it is in heaven. Through you, the afflicted are delivered from evil. Through you the broken are restored and the lost are found. Through you, things that are true, honorable, and lovely are seen. You are one of God's fellow workers (1 Cor. 3:9), a high calling indeed.

Someone asked a dear saint I know, an invalid octogenarian, what motivates her to wake up every day. She replied, "Friends, family, and the world still need my prayers." Her circumstances changed, but not her calling. She rises to this occasion: "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer" (Rom. 12:10-12). We share that calling with her.

If you are searching how to fulfill your calling, think about what moves you, what you enjoy, or what your skills and experience are. Then consider what is missing you can contribute, what

See Fowler, page 5A

All Things New
Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Interior Wood

Burning and Smoke Alarm Safety

Q. If we have a fireplace or wood heater, what are some safety issues we should be concerned about?

A. Fireplaces and wood heaters can present a fire risk if not properly maintained. They should be cleaned and inspected regularly.

Q. How often should chimneys and fireplaces be inspected?

A. Annual inspections are recommended. Chimneys should also be inspected any time there has been a problem such as a chimney fire or if the chimney is not working properly.

Q. What time of the year should a chimney or flue be inspected and cleaned?

Inspections and cleaning should take place before the first fire of the season.

Q. What are problems that can develop in a fireplace or flue?

A. Chimney fires are a major concern. They are caused by the burning of creosote buildup in the chimney and the lack of cleaning. Creosote builds up from the burning of soft woods. If the creosote catches fire inside your chimney, it heats up the chimney and can cause damage.

Q. Can a chimney fire cause a home fire?

A. Yes! Usually if you have a good triple wall pipe or flue liners in your chimney, it helps prevent fires in the attic. But, if you only have a single wall pipe or a fireplace without a flue liner, then cracking in the mortar or between pipe seams or joints, or rusted out places can allow the fire to escape into the attic and cause a home fire and this happens several times each winter.

Q. Who can we contact to check out our chimney or flue before winter?

A. There are several businesses in our area that can either inspect your chimney or they may be able to refer you to a business that performs inspections. You may want to look for a Certified Chimney Sweep or a recommendation from the Chimney Safety Institute of America. There are a few semi-local chimney sweep companies such as The Soot Slayer Chimney Sweep in El-

See Paris, page 5A

Q & A from Union County Commissioner
Lamar Paris



Letters to the Editor

On Wearing Masks

Dear Editor,

I felt compelled to respond to a Nov. 4 letter titled "Re: Democratic Party Accomplishments," specifically, the latter part of the letter regarding wearing masks. The author seems to take a political viewpoint about wearing them while also bringing one's religious faith into the mix.

Firstly, no one has the right to make the wearing of masks either a political or a religious "agenda," as it is neither. Remember when President Trump called the virus "an invisible enemy" back in early February? That is a perfect description of it, an enemy invading the United States of America we cannot see. Maybe you also remember during World War II, when Americans were asked to make sacrifices for the war efforts? The citizens purchased War Bonds; women went to work as electricians, welders and riveters in defense factories; food, gas and clothing were heavily rationed. All those at home made many sacrifices while our boys and men were fighting for us overseas -- the ultimate sacrifice for many. During the four years of World War II, we lost 291,557 American soldiers in battle; in the 10 months of COVID, we have lost 239,000 American civilians. Make no mistake, we are at war!

So, you say wearing a mask inhibits your freedom? What about the person in the grocery store who has an "at-risk" family member at home? Should they not be able to buy food for their family because the risk is too great for them

See Lyle, page 5A

Knowledge Will Increase

Dear Editor,

In the book of Daniel Chapter 12 verse 4 of the Holy Bible the scripture proclaims in the last days: "Knowledge shall be increased." So, what knowledge was Daniel referring to? What is the greatest miracle of all time?

The study of history tells us that man has been gaining in knowledge over time since the Stone Age. Early man lived in caves and discovered fire to warm the body and cook the food. Killed animals, for food and skins, with crude weapons! Over time invented the wheel. Do any of these qualify as the greatest? No, not even close. As time progressed the creative use of the human mind created new products, tools,

See Huber, page 5A

Re: "Trumpy-Dumpty"

Dear Editor,

An attempted poem? sonnet? comment? by a letter writer in the Nov. 11 edition of the newspaper was interesting in that it completely verified my opinions of a certain segment of America. This segment of America has grown progressively out of control over the last 20 years.

The author identifies himself as a proud veteran, which gives me pause to question that claim given the tenor of his piece. I am happy he is able to be proud of the vote he gave to ole' Joe, as we know Joe is the first senile candidate to stand for office. But mostly I continue to be profoundly sad at the wide division in our country, and I increasingly realize I do not want to share a country or community with that segment of America.

The lack of civility, manners, common sense and decorum continue to worsen. Maybe we can come to an agreement on how to split the country so we can live in peace and prosper away from this segment of America. It is horribly sad that a growing number of people are realizing that we may need to separate given the behavior we have seen from that segment in the last three years.

As an older child, I watched on TV as Nikita Khrushchev banged his shoe on the table telling us he would win America from within. How sad it is that he was right, and the author of "Trumpy-Dumpty" stands as an indication that it is happening before our eyes.

Eva Jean



Letters to the Editor

Short Shrift

Dear Editor,

Concerning the Nov. 11 release announcing "Union County Nursing Home Receives Top Honors" in Newsweek's recent "America's Best Nursing Homes 2021" -- this is such good news, especially during 2020. Nursing homes are everyone's secret fear. Those with loved ones in this care facility would be thrilled to learn Union County Nursing Home got such well deserved recognition. The rest of us hope we never have to be in a long-term facility, but, if needed, we have right here in Blairsville one of the best.

As someone who has, with my Certified
See O'Brien, page 5A

Right On!

Dear Editor,

In response to the veteran who penned "Trumpy-Dumpty" for the Nov. 11 newspaper -- loved your prose. More than that, the words were right on! Thank you.

Congratulations to Joe Biden and Kamala Harris on their election to President and Vice-President. I am looking forward to having a decent, honorable, honest and intelligent resident in the White House.

Bill Cunningham
Another Proud American Retired Veteran

Global Warming

Dear Editor,

The Global Warming theory is plagued with controversy. In a poll of public opinion, the percentage of believers and deniers were evenly split. Recent letters to the editor of the North Georgia news were from deniers. Their lists of evidence were previously reported, with expanded details, in a 2017 article by Edmund Contoski, a former director of an environmental consulting firm. You can obtain a copy of this 10-page article at <https://www.heartland.org/news-opinion/news/the-agenda-behind-global-warming-alarmism>.

When reading this article, keep an open mind that it was written to prove that Global Warming is a hoax and politically motivated. I also recommend that everyone read an excellent and unbiased review in Wikipedia, a free online encyclopedia. This article can be obtained at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming_controversy. The article is 50 pages long with considerable details and references; however, those with average reading comprehension can get the basis of the article without fully understanding all of the details.

The scientific consensus is that the "Earth
See Tornabene, page 5A

Rock House

When I was just a little lad, I became enamored by "Rock Houses." You may ask, what is a rock house? It is nothing more than a rock overhang large enough for a person or persons to live under. The rock house can provide protection from the wind, rain and the cold weather. My Papa once showed me a rock house in the Sipsey Wilderness under which a man named Garrison lived for a short time after he settled in the area.

My Mom's great grandmother Mandy lived under another rock house after the Indian Removal. It is said she still haunts the area to this day, sitting atop Rock Bridge in a rocking chair in the wee hours of the morning before the sun comes up.

I guess you could say I am still fascinated by such places, and I have been fortunate enough to know people which have shown me some rock houses in the Union County area. Jerry Dyer took me to the first ones I ever visited here. One Sunday afternoon we took our sons to a place called the "War Cave." This rock house is located not too far from Bald Mountain. It is said that the name of the place is due to people living under it while trying to avoid serving during the Civil War and World War I. We climbed the switchbacks leading up the ridge and then crawled through laurel thickets to get to the War Cave.

This is not a cave, but, really, it is a huge rock overhang with enough room underneath to sleep six to eight adults, and it had a big fire ring. The roof of the War Cave is covered in black smudge from all the fires, and there is other evidence of much use by campers over the years. David and Eddie Dyer told me their Dad used to take the family there on overnight camping trips. It is a great place to camp because it's quiet and peaceful. The smell of pine trees, hemlock and mountain laurel makes the steep climb worth the effort.

Jerry also took me to a place called the Spruce Pine Rock House. This is another beautiful spot in our wonderful mountains. It is more remote than the War Cave. I have heard it was used by people in both wars and during the depression. Both are beautiful places, but, getting to the Spruce Pine Rock House is a long and strenuous walk.

I have heard of another "Rock House" somewhere around Bald Mountain that was used by hobos during Depression times. There is supposed to be a soapstone table, soapstone chairs and a nice fireplace around this one. So, while sitting around talking about the location of this place, a bunch of us decided to attempt to find

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm
Mickey Cummings



Chamber of Commerce

As we approach Christmas and the end of the year, many people look forward to the release of all the new Hallmark movies. Michelle and I love to sit down in the evening and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and a good movie.

As we all know, there's a common theme to those movies. The main character visits a small town, and eventually comes to realize how great it is to live in that kind of community. They are blown away by the quality of life, but most of all, they fall in love with the people. When they visit the local shops, they discover how friendly and helpful the people are. They enjoy a steaming coffee from the corner coffee shop as they fall in love with everything around them.

I believe there's no question that living in Blairsville-Union County could qualify for one of those movie scripts. If you haven't visited our local businesses, you are missing out! Why order online when you can shop with our local mer-

See Chamber, page 5A

Blairsville-Union County Chamber President
Steve Rowe



Tree Dormancy

The leaves changing color and falling is a sign that colder weather is getting closer and closer. Trees are entering into dormancy. Dormancy is an important process to allow the tree to survive through the winter. Let's talk a bit about how dormancy works in trees and why they need to do it.

Dormant trees will stop growing above the ground. Dormancy is partly brought on by temperature change, but even more so by the change in day length. The college word for this phenomenon is 'photosensitive', meaning the trees change in response to day length. Leaves will begin to change color and fall off. Leaves begin to change color because chlorophyll begins to break down. Chlorophyll is a green pigment that plants use to turn light energy to chemical energy. There are other pigments in the leaves too. As the chlorophyll breaks down the other pigments are left, resulting in the wide array of leaf color that we see. Evergreen trees like pine trees or hollies will have a needle drop in the fall and again in the spring.

As we move into winter trees will enter what's called endo-dormancy. In endo-dormancy an unsatisfied chill hours requirement will keep plants from waking back up. Different plants have a different number of chill hours, or hours spent below 45 degrees Fahrenheit. Chill hours are supposed to keep plants from waking back up too soon. In 2019, we had a couple of days in February that were over 70 degrees. While my pale legs might like to see some sun, February is not time for plants to begin waking up, as we have more freezes that are coming. Hopefully, those plants haven't met their chill hour requirement, so even though I'm wearing shorts, the trees are still dormant.

Endo-dormancy also makes trees cold hardy. Trees will behave in a couple of different ways to make themselves cold hardy. One strategy that trees use is to keep all their water inside their cells. Frozen water expands. If all that water froze and expanded the cells would burst. To combat this trees move minerals and hormones in to mix with the water. Mixing water drops the freezing point, so that plants' cells don't freeze and burst. Another strategy is to move the water out of the cells so that it can freeze safely in the intracellular space.

When spring rolls around temperatures start to rise and trees will start to bud out because they have satisfied their chill hours requirement. However, if plants start to bud out and then we have another freeze, that can kill off the buds and cause damage to the trees. We saw that hap-

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** General Manager/Editor **Derek Richards** Advertising Director **Todd Forrest** Sports Editor **Lowell Nicholson** Photographer

Website: www.nganews.com • Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com • Mail: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514

The North Georgia News is an independent and nonpartisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

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 \$5. 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. 17, 1988, 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