

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Search and Rescue

One of the major missions of Union County Emergency Management Agency (UCEMA) is Wilderness Search and Rescue (SAR). Search and Rescue incidents can range from helping a person off the Appalachian Trail to an all-out search for someone missing. We have had several SAR missions over the last couple of months including assisting Dawson County with a massive search in Amicalola State Park in February.

Firefighters and SAR auxiliary members who perform SAR missions must be well trained in order to properly and safely search for and rescue missing or injured persons. UCEMA conducted SAR training recently to learn new techniques and to practice essential skills.

The training was held on the weekend of February 29th and March 1st. The training involved firefighters from career and volunteer stations as well as Search and Rescue Auxiliary. The class and exercises were taught by UCFD instructors. The class was started early with a discussion and practice of a pace count. This is used to measure how many paces that each individual must take to go 100 meters. The pace count is used to determine how far a person walks.

Another major component of the class was the use of maps and compass work which is essential. Searchers may be asked to walk to a specific point or be able to walk a specified distance in a certain direction. The class taught students how to read the map; locate certain terrain features; and be able to navigate using the map. Students were then given a practical exercise to practice their skills.

The class also covered some aspects of rescue. Once the person is located, rescuing and extracting the person to safety is the next step. Students were taught how to properly immobilize, package and secure patients for the transport out of the woods. Simulated patients were placed in the Sked stretchers and secured.

The class was an overnight exercise. Students were required to conduct a night exercise and spend the night. Most of our searches are during the night and this training gave students the experience and confidence during night operations. This training was also part of their individual survival training. Members were taught

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Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



Timeless Meaning

"You cannot step into the same river twice" – Heraclitus (500 BCE).

Why is that? Because the river is different, and so are you. At no point in the future will both you and the river be the same. You might imagine you stay the same, but then you remember what you wrote, said, or wore in the past and you know you would not repeat that. Whatever changed you is marked by time. We humans are so immersed in time that we could no more imagine a world without chronology than a fish imagine life outside of water. To contemplate the vastness of time makes one feel rather small. And pointless.

In "Carpe Diem Redeemed," Os Guinness describes that feeling. "Our own small enterprises and endeavors appear to be whistling into the winds of history. In the end, the sands of time will cover everything without a trace of who we are and what we have done. Or so it seems." So, what then is the meaning of life's endeavors? Why live to make a mark or leave a legacy if time laughs at the irrelevance of it all?

However bleak the questions, you have reason to hope. God placed you on the scene when and where He wanted you to be. "In your book were all written the days that were ordained for me" (Psa. 139:16). Consider Queen Esther. Her step-father Mordecai urged her to risk her life by approaching the king to stop a plot against their people. "Who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" (Est. 4:14). Any day of your life could be the most meaningful for history and the purposes of God. Guinness writes, "Under the twin truths of God's sovereignty and human significance, time and history are going somewhere, and each of us is not only unique and significant in ourselves, but we have a unique and significant part to play in our own lives, in our own generation, and therefore in the overall sweep of history."

That part is best played by seeking to know your Creator. He "gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God" (Acts

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All Things New
Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

The following questions are common questions regarding the upcoming 2020 Census, and while some are repeat questions from late last year, they are pertinent to the upcoming Census. These questions were provided to us by Patrick Malone, who is the Complete County Coordinator for Union and Towns County. If you have further questions, please contact Mr. Malone at 706-835-1308 or via email at ptm4936@gmail.com.

Q. When will the Census begin?

A. The first mailings that will contain Census information will occur between March 12 and March 20 of 2020. So, all citizens of Union County need to be on the lookout for the information and respond as quickly as possible.

Q. How are we supposed to respond and provide our information for the 2020 Census?

A. There is a specific timeline of how you will be contacted and how you can respond to the census questions. This is the first time the Census will primarily be conducted online. Postcards with the census website and a personal identifying number will be mailed out starting on March 12th. The personal identifying number on the postcard is the number you will use to complete the Census online as it is unique to your household and allows them to know you have already responded to the questionnaire. There will also be a phone number on this postcard that you can call if you prefer to not do it online. If you have not responded by the end of March either by the website or phone, you will then receive a paper form in the mail. Then if you haven't responded by end of April, you will get a home visit by a census worker. They will come up to six times to try and reach you so you and your household can be counted.

Q. What type of information are we going to be asked to provide?

A. The Census contains only four general questions. Number one, how many people are living or staying with you as of April 1st. You will be asked to provide names, gender, ages, birthdates, race, and the individuals relationship to the head of household. Number two will ask if there are any additional people, which

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner
Lamar Paris



Drug Free Mountain Life

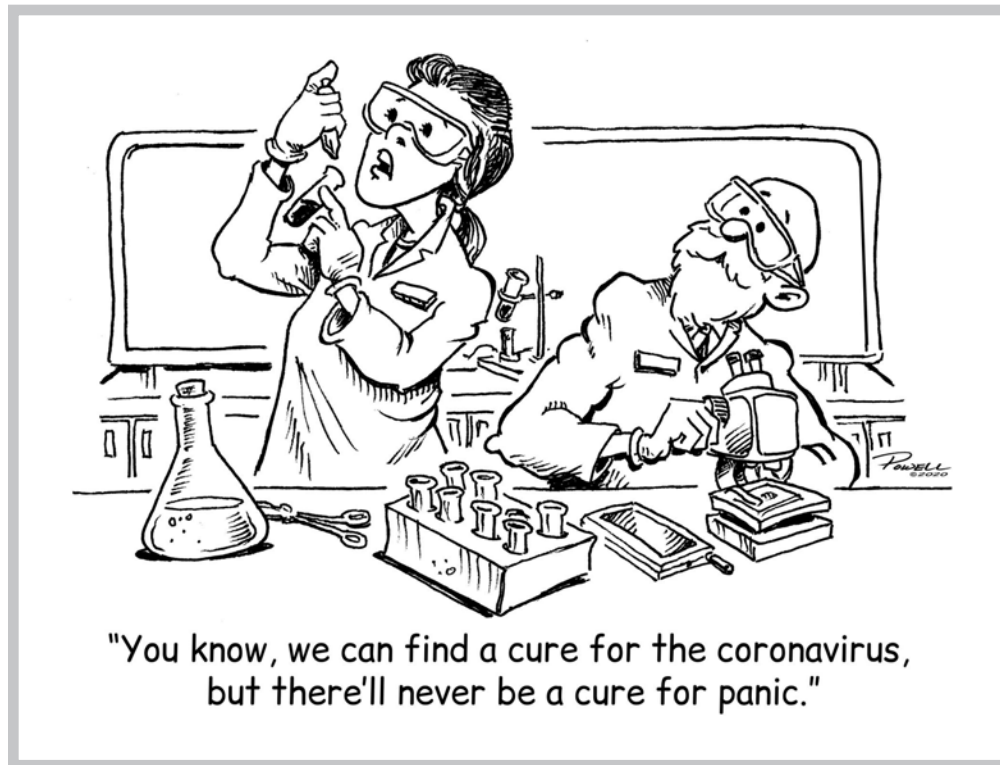
The Importance of Early Prevention

Why is adolescence a critical time for preventing drug addiction? Early use of drugs increases a person's chances of becoming addicted. Remember, drugs change the brain—and this can lead to addiction and other serious problems. So, preventing early use of drugs or alcohol may go a long way in reducing these risks.

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.

Risk of drug use increases greatly during times of transition. For an adult, a divorce or loss of a job may increase the risk of drug use. For a teenager, risky times include moving, family divorce, or changing schools. When children advance from elementary through middle school, they face new and challenging social, family, and academic situations. Often during this period, children are exposed to substances such as cigarettes and alcohol for the first time. When they enter high school, teens may encounter greater

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"You know, we can find a cure for the coronavirus, but there'll never be a cure for panic."

Chamber of Commerce

Spring is almost here, and Daylight Savings has officially begun. We hope everyone remembered to set their clocks forward and has recovered from the hour of sleep we all lost on Sunday. As spring approaches, we are excited for all the upcoming events taking place at the Chamber as warmer weather arrives.

We will be hosting our first Eggs & Issues of 2020, featuring Lamar Paris, Union County Sole Commissioner on Tuesday, March 24 from 8-9 a.m. at the Community Center. You won't want to miss this breakfast and the topics related to Union County including an update on County SPLOST Projects, Industry and Business in Union County and what to expect with the upcoming census. Thank you to our sponsor, Downtown Development Association for making this event possible. Register for the event today by calling the Chamber at 706-745-5789 or visiting us online at visitblairsvillega.com.

We have many ribbon cutting ceremonies

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President
Steve Rowe



Letters to the Editor

Capitalism vs Socialism

Dear Editor,

Capitalism is a product of the Industrial Revolution. It is the wealthy providing through banks the funding for the development of ideas into products that move human labor to machines, which creates a market through the consumer's demand for products that improve the quality of life. Through centralized production (factories) and the rapid development and multiplication of products, it is the working force of the growth of a nation's economy which is vital to the nation's existence. Capitalism is the most successful method of economic expansion known to man. It has created millions of jobs, provided the expansion of available dollars, and brought millions out of poverty. It has raised the standard of living for millions, and through its financial success, America has become the most prosperous as well as the most charitable nation in the world. Its greatest virtue is that it is self-sustaining. It not only pays for itself but increases its value. Another major accomplishment of capitalism is the expansion of household labor-saving products, which led to the emancipation of women, since these products freed women to take part in the development of the economy and provide a degree of financial freedom and a growing motion toward equality.

Now a group has emerged who call themselves socialist liberals that want to CHANGE that system. They want to manipulate us into dependence on a larger government, which reduces our independence. Socialism requires an expanding bureaucracy, meaning larger, very expensive government with more control and a financial appetite that will be supported by excessive taxation. Expanding government control through socialism has too often resulted in communism. Since socialism is not self-sustaining, it will drain billions of dollars from the economy through taxation. Capitalism, however, which is self-sustaining, provides profit that leads to economic expansion supported by lower taxation, which is the foundation for the growing quality of life in the United States.

A strong economy invites a reduction of taxes while at the same time increasing government revenue. Here is how that works: When you spend a tax dollar returned to you, it collects about 6 percent in sales tax. The next time that dollar is spent, it delivers another 6 percent in taxes. If that dollar changes hands 10 times in your community, it has produced 60 cents in taxes, which supports your local community. If that dollar is consumed in taxes, it provides you and your community nothing!

Keeping money in motion promotes prosperity. Possibly, that tells us why liberals avoid teaching our students economics. Do extreme

liberals fear that students knowledgeable in economics will see through their efforts to promote special interests through government control? Because if you look closely, you will quickly see that bigger and controlling government is designed by and for special interest groups. A capitalized free enterprise system is as indispensable to our country as religion is to morality. A country's survival depends on a strong economy and a limited government that is financially responsible. Increasing our national debt by trillions to support socialism is anything but financial responsibility. History is a record of treachery and war, the greatest part of which can be charged to excessive government control.

Socialists claim that socialism brings people out of poverty. Our forefathers were no fools; they understood slums and literacy were far more expensive than education and opportunity. They knew that offering prosperity to the poor promotes a will to succeed. They also knew that those they support should be willing to help themselves. They knew that socialized efforts kept people's heads above water but did nothing to improve their positions. So, they required mandatory education, which most socialist countries in those days did not. Education provided opportunity, promoted self-esteem and an expanded educated workforce that fought poverty. Welfare does not promote determination to succeed or improve people's lives.

However, to have a viable Social Security program in our country is an absolute necessity, for Americans have a conscience and are the first to support those truly in need. Here again, a growing economy is essential to providing for those in need. There is no place in the world where opportunity and prosperity are more evident.

Our current administration has, over the past three years, proven without a doubt what can be accomplished when a nation is driven by economic responsibility supported by wisdom rather than emotion. Many worked hard to take part in the American Dream. Many wish to come here to take part in it. Only a fool would allow socialism to take that from us.

Christian Hummel

Presidential Accomplishments

Dear Editor,

This is one of the few times I've been happy I procrastinated. I'd like to give kudos to Claude Rains Jr. and Elizabeth Claypool for their excellent letters in the March 4th edition responding to the person who wrote: "Do Honest Politicians Exist?" I hope everyone will look online to read what they wrote.

I have a few things to add. The letter writer in question basically said President Trump had

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Asiphidity

I became interested in plants due to a story about my Grandmother which you have read in this column. Granny became deathly sick. The Doctor told my Papa she would not live through the night. My Great-Grandparents administered some type of herbal tea each day for six months, and Granny lived into her 80s, all because Big Papa was taught about plant medicine by an old Cherokee. This story gave to me an appreciation for plants

at an early age, and at 58 years old, I am still fascinated by plants and their uses.

When my parents were young, there were no vaccines in common use. So, you may ask what did they do to help prevent influenza and other diseases? My Dad's cousin relayed the following story to us regarding something called "asiphidity." Asiphidity was used as a poultice to ward off everything from disease to haints. Different concoctions were used at different times of the year for the prevention of different maladies. The idea must have come from the old country, because there are records of Middle Eastern people using the Giant Fennel Plant to make the stuff. Sap from this plant was used to make a salve, which was placed in a cigarette tobacco bag that would be pinned to one's underclothes. The stuff smelled terrible, and the idea was that germs of polio or the flu could not live around the asiphidity bag.

During the 1940s, a fellow named Bill Hawkins was getting up in years, and his beloved wife of many years passed away. Bill had become disabled in a farming accident and was no longer able to complete his household chores. So, Annie Wells would go to his house a couple of times a week to clean his house and wash his clothes. But, Bill had only a scrub board to wash his clothes. So, Annie decided to take his clothing to her house to use her brand new washing machine to wash Bill's clothing.

After cleaning Bill's house, she gathered up his clothing and took them to her home. After getting home, she separated his clothing and threw in some things of her own which needed washing as well. She ran everything through the washer with detergent and then rinsed it. To dry the clothing, she had to run each item through the ringer, then take the items to the clothesline to hang for drying. She noticed that Bill's Liberty Overalls wouldn't go through the ringer for some reason. So, she felt of the chest pocket, and sure enough, something was left in it. She opened the pocket and pulled out the asiphidity bag. Bill had forgot the bag and left it in his chest pocket.

You must remember that these asiphidity

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Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Spring Peepers

As we move from winter into spring, the nighttime seems to come more alive. More and more animals will be roaming around, and insects start to show back up outside (if your house is like mine, all the ladybugs have just moved inside for the winter). One of the earliest heralds of spring are the spring peepers. These little guys start coming out in February to let us know that warmer temperatures are not too far away. Let's talk about who these spring peepers are and why they are peeping.

The scientific name for the spring peeper is Pseudacris crucifer. They are a small frog that measures from one to one and a half inches long. They weigh in at about two tenths of an ounce. These tiny guys are still able to make some pretty serious noise. Their peep is high-pitched, which means that it can be heard from a mile away. I've heard the sound described like the chirp from a chick. The trill is brief and repeated at about one second intervals. A large number of peepers peeping at the same time is called a chorus. Large choruses can sound like sleigh bells. The males are the ones making all the noise, as they are trying to attract a mate. Their peep can become more aggressive sounding as they compete with other males for better spots to attract the females.

These little frogs are abundant in Georgia. Their skin color ranges from tan to brown to gray. Their most distinctive feature is the dark X on their back. This is also where they get their species name, crucifer. At this time of year, they start coming down from the woodlands to find a mate near a water source. Once a mate has been found, the female will lay eggs in the water that hatch into tadpoles in one to two weeks. They prefer shallow, semi-permanent pools of water. These pools are less likely to have predatory fish in them. After about two to three months, the tadpoles will undergo metamorphosis and change into a frog. These little frogs live for about 3 years. Most of their lives are spent in the woods where they eat insects. They'll consume beetles, ants, flies, and spiders. They only come down to the water's edge during their mating season.

Before coming out for mating spring peepers are in hibernation. They like to hibernate under logs and loose bark. In the winter their body fluid will freeze.

Spring peepers are hard to spot because they are so small and like to spend their time down in the brush. They have large pads on their toes for climbing, but they rarely climb very high. Most of time they do their insect hunting

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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.

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