

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## The Stress of Public Safety

Stress. It is something that every public safety person is familiar with. 911 dispatchers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, law enforcement officers, and many others are all exposed to stressful happenings on a daily basis. Most began their career with the understanding that they may be placed in stressful situations and may have to make life or death decisions.

The stress of the job has been an unspoken burden but recently it has been moved to the forefront of public safety. Studies have shown that health issues, alcohol abuse, post-traumatic stress, and suicide rates are much higher in public safety than the general population. Many organizations are recognizing the need to deal with these situations by increasing awareness and prevention.

Stress can be defined as "a state of mental or emotional strain or tension resulting from adverse or very demanding circumstances." There is good stress and bad stress. Good stress is stress that can motivate or drive a person. Most public safety love this type of stress. They use it to focus and to do their best.

Bad stress is stress that can be damaging, mentally and physically, after long term exposure. People are under many types of stress and people handle stress in many different ways. Public safety personnel not only have the stress of the job but, like everyone else, have personal stress as well.

There are many contributing factors to stress in public safety. One factor is the work hours. Shifts range from 12 to 24 hours and often leave the person sleep deprived. Another is the pace of the job. We never know when or what the next call will be, and we can go from a normal status to a highly stressful situation in just a few minutes.

There are many other factors, but the major contributing factor to stress is dealing with extreme emergency situations. Most people may never witness or be involved in an emergency but public safety deals with it every day. We may have the training but when there is a constant exposure to emergencies; it can start to affect the people who are there to help.

I think the bottom line is that eventually, every public safety person wants to know if they are helping; making a difference.

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**Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief**  
David Dyer



## To the River

America's Voices In Israel is an organization that arranges trips to the Holy Land for prominent and influential Americans. Let's hear from two men who had similar experiences on their trips.

As a believer in high school, Deshawn Watson prayed about his football career. He agreed to play at Clemson and was key to their college football national championship in 2016. He went on to become a star for the Houston Texans. During his trip to Israel, he was immersed in a place thought to be where John baptized Jesus. "It is simply overwhelming to be baptized in the waters of the Jordan River," he said.

Mario Lopez began his acting career in 1984 and soon landed a key role in the TV sitcom "Saved by the Bell." He still makes regular appearances in both small and large screen roles. He also received baptism during his trip to the Holy Land. On Twitter he announced, "I'm about to get baptized. It's a beautiful day. There's a really cool Catholic priest that's gonna do me the honors. So I'm going to join these fine folks and then, bam! It's on!"

The Jordan River meant quite the experience for those two men, as it did for John the Baptist. He baptized there to reflect repentance from sin, but he resisted baptizing Jesus, "who knew no sin" (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus insisted, "In this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Mat. 3:15). Jesus' baptism inaugurated his public life, and associated Him with John's prophetic message. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection reveal the righteousness of God, accessible to you by faith (Rom. 1:17).

Christian baptism is often misunderstood as the entry point to a lifetime of earning God's favor. Oxford Professor John Lennox likens that view to a college career. "There's an entrance process and ceremony that gets you started. A few years later you face your final exams. Your professors cannot guarantee you graduating because the system is based on merit. People say, 'Yes, my religion is like that. There's a ceremony performed on a child or adult. There are teachers, but they cannot guarantee that at the final assessment God will accept me. I behave as well as I can,

**All Things New**  
Wayne Fowler



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## Commissioner's Questions

**Q. I have so many patches on my road, is there anyway it could just be completely repaved?**

A. A newly paved road certainly looks very pretty, but it does not necessarily function any better than a road that has been patched. We can patch a paved road and it may last up to five years or longer before having to repave the entire road. Roads wear out mostly where vehicle traffic drives. This often may cause "alligator cracking" in the pavement and while the center of the driving lane may be in worse condition, it often spreads to adjacent areas. Therefore, patches on the road may extend almost all the way across some roads while at the same time extending the life of the road. This should provide you with a good driving surface and a safe road, but may not always look the way you want. Also, this is saving the county taxpayers money.

**Q. What do I do if I see a tree about to fall across a road?**

A. Please call the Road Department at 706-439-6062 to report the problem. They will go out and investigate the issue and see what needs to be done to correct the situation. Of course, if there is a tree across the road they will get out there immediately to take care of it. If it is an emergency after hours, call 911.

**Q. What happens when a tree falls on a private road?**

A. It would be handled the same way. The Road Department would come out and make the road passable. When the tree is cut and removed from the roadway the clean-up would be left to the property owners of the road. Please call the Road Department at 706-439-6062 to report a problem or if it is an emergency after hours, call 911.

**Q. I have called and requested gravel to be put on my road, and all they did was scrape it. Why is this?**

A. Sometimes people request gravel thinking this will fix the issues they are having on their road. Adding gravel when it is not needed can cause more problems. Just scraping a road can often times do away with potholes, ruts and smooth the road up by pulling some of the existing gravel back to the surface. Our Road Department works very hard to make sure all our roads are kept in good condition without spending money unnecessarily.

**Q & A from Union County Commissioner**  
Lamar Paris



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## Drug Free Mountain Life

### Is Your Kid Vaping Marijuana?

Hardly a week goes by without another news article about vaping. In 2014, vaping was selected as Oxford Dictionary's word of the year, beating out other candidates like "Bae" and "Budtender." If they were picking a word today, it would more likely be JUUL or Juuling, the wildly popular "stealth vape" of adolescents.

**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.**

Juuling kids are vaporizing flavored e-juices with nicotine, but what about vaping marijuana? According to Monitoring the Future, an annual survey of nearly 50,000 adolescents, 3%, 8% and 10% of eighth, 10th, and 12th-graders respectively had vaped marijuana in 2017.

According to a study published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, e-cigarette use may lead to marijuana initiation. The authors hypothesize that e-cigarette use may be a marker of risk-taking behaviors, and that e-cigarette users

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"Why worry about term limits? Congress seems pretty limited in what it gets done now!"

## Chamber of Commerce

What a wonderful fireworks display at Meeks Park on the Fourth of July! The Chamber would like to extend a special thank you to Fire Chief, David Dyer and the Union County Fire Department for overseeing the safety of everyone enjoying the festivities. The entire event would not have been possible without the help of our generous sponsors which in addition to the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, include: Woodmen Life, United Community Bank, North Georgia Technical College, Union General Hospital, Walmart, Sears Hometown Store, Wet N Wild Car Wash, and Nelson Tractor.

**Blairsville - Union County Chamber President**  
Steve Rowe



Also, a quick reminder about the July Monthly Mingle this Wednesday, July 10, from 12-1 p.m. at the Union County Community Center. Chick-fil-A Culture Director, Doug Smith, will be sharing some mid-year motivation to help you take your business to the next level. The cost to attend is \$12 and covers a taco bar.

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## Letters to the Editor

### College Tuitions

Dear Editor,  
Several presidential candidates plan to offer free college education to anyone seeking it. College and University tuitions have already escalated by a far greater percentage than all other budget line items. Why not? They can raise their fees, pay themselves generous salaries, hoard their endowment monies, and know that the students will get loans to finance their education, whatever the cost. Too bad for students that they will spend years paying the loans off!

Under the proposed plans, the institutions can raise their fees even more and send the bill to the taxpayers. What a deal! Aside from the fact that this plan is financially unfeasible, it totally violates the need for individual responsibility. One should pay for one's own education. You should not have to pay for mine, nor I for yours. To facilitate this, however, universities need to bring their costs in line and stop fleecing students and taxpayers.

Carol McKechnie

### Ring That Bell

Dear Editor,  
Why don't we ring that bell? Because there are some folks don't want to be awakened for whatever reason. Our church, and maybe yours, is in need of some noise in there! One day, God is not only going to ring the bell, he is going to shake this world with all these quiet people in it! Your signs won't matter. Do Not Disturb: Sleeping... How true!

We were talking about the jobs availability in our church. "Ring the church bell" was my suggestion. I said, "Everything is on time, that God is in charge of."

The sun comes up on time. The moon is on time. The stars are out lighting the heavens on time. The time of day is on time. The coming of our lord will be on time. A time to be born, a time to die, on His time! Your time and my time!

A time to sleep, a time to awake (is now). Time to ring that bell!  
Prayer time: prayer for the sick and lost people. They, too, would like to know and hear the sound of the bell, for those who couldn't get to come. Just to hear the sound of the bell where Christians are praying for people like me and you!

We may be ringing the church bell now, but one day, God will certainly ring our bell, and yours. God is never late in His work or purpose. Come ye out from among the world, be a separate people. God said. Ring that bell, make a joyful noise. Clap your hands unto the Lord. With

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## Call Me Old-Fashioned...

Yes, I am. Here is an article on rules that I read the other morning, and it struck home with me and I felt that I had to share it with those of you who were raised like me and understand what they mean. I'm convinced that if we still lived by these rules, things would be different in the world today.

My boys, who are now 42 and 45, still know their manners and consideration because I raised them that way. Today, we probably are called names by the "name callers" for insisting on treating people like this. But call me what you will, I can't help but use these rules as my life guide. Always have, always will. Even at my age, I still call men Sir or ladies Ma'am, and I speak to everybody I meet. Throws them off guard these days, but I do it anyway. My Grandmother on my mother's side was Clemmie Brown, a real Southern Lady who was a stickler for these rules, and as a teenager, I ran afoul of her many times, like not standing when she came into the room.

Clemmie lived here in Mountain Scene in the summer after my Grandfather retired and in Athens during the winter when it was cold. I remember Granddaddy Brown sitting me down out in the yard one summer and lecturing me on these rules. Of course, I know that Clemmie put him up to it, and as a 14-year-old, it went in one ear and out the other. But it really stuck somewhere in there, because I still remember that lecture from 55 years ago. The following are rules to teach your son(s). Of course, I have two, so I found the list interesting.

The article starts as written by Kate: "Although I don't think these things pertain to just boys, it did give me a chance to pause and take inventory of those items that are important to me in the rearing of my kids. In thinking about the items on the list, I decided that I am old-fashioned. I can't help it. I like the courtesies that used to be offered up to women automatically. I like the door to be held for me and for men to stand when a woman walks into a room. I am sure that some of you will tsk tsk me for feeling this way, but I do. And as the mother of three boys, I feel it is my duty to teach them these things as well. I want them to learn the courtesies of years ago, not just to be given to women, but humans of any age, race, or orientation."

"In a world that seems to have dropped many formalities and etiquette standards, I find it to be a breath of fresh air when I see these gestures. Most of these items on the list are about courtesy and about being a thoughtful person. A reminder that, although some of these may seem

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**RC&D Executive Director**  
Frank Riley



## The Grand Old Man

Clifford Hyde was originally from the Shoal Creek area of Dawsonville, Georgia. However, he migrated to Alabama sometime around 1890 and raised his family in the town of Phil Campbell. Clifford was my Dad's grandfather. He lived to the age of 96. I can remember him as a white-headed old man that wore a gray Stetson hat with round wire-rimmed glasses. He was less than 6 feet tall and only weighed about 150 pounds.

As Clifford aged, he became known as the "Grand Old Man" of Phil Campbell. Each Saturday, Clifford visited three places in town: the Barber Shop, the Pool Hall and the Old Men's bench in front of City Hall. One of his best friends was the local Chief of Police, Mr. Looney. Mr. Looney enjoyed sitting with and listening to all the old men on the Old Men's bench. He was especially fond of Clifford, and anytime a still was busted, the Chief of Police would bring a pint to Clifford.

As Mr. Looney aged, he became a little slower, and the City Council decided he needed some help. So, a young deputy was hired. The young man didn't know about the arrangement between Mr. Looney and Clifford. One Saturday, my father drove 85-year-old Clifford to town. They were in the Pool Hall and Clifford was entertaining the younger folks with his stories. He reached into his coat pocket and pulled his flask from the pocket. He took a swig about the time the young deputy walked by the front door.

Clifford had just placed the flask back into his pocket when the deputy walked in to the Pool Hall and directly toward my great-grandfather. The deputy looked at Clifford and asked him to pull the flask from his coat pocket. The old man told the deputy, "The contents of my coat pocket are none of your business." The deputy reached toward Clifford's coat, and the old man struck his arm with a walking cane. The deputy drew his Billy stick, and my Dad jumped in between his grandfather and the deputy. Try to picture a teenage boy standing between a deputy and an old man swinging a cane over the shoulder of my Dad. At 88 years of age, the Grand Old Man was ready to fight to defend his rights. He even told my Dad, "If you would have done your part, we could have given that deputy a whippin."

This past week, our 4-H Wildlife Judging Team traveled to Trafalgar, Indiana, to attend the National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program, having earned the right by winning the Georgia contest in November. The team consisted of Holly Harkins of Woody Gap, Brooks Patterson and Daniel Kumler, both of Blairsville. The contest

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**Around The Farm**  
Mickey Cummings



## Japanese Beetles

The Japanese beetles are out in full force. If you haven't had an encounter with them yet consider yourself lucky. They are a huge pest as they munch their way through your yard. Controlling them can be challenging because they are such voracious eaters. Let's talk about some strategies for lessening their impact.

Japanese beetles arrived in the U.S. in 1916. They have spread to much of the East coast and across the Mississippi River. They will feed on a wide range of ornamentals, fruit trees, vegetables, and shade trees. Having such a wide range to feed on means that your yard may look like an all you can eat buffet to them. They have a metallic green color on their abdomen. They look similar to June beetles. June beetles are typically about 1.5 to twice as large as Japanese beetles. Japanese beetles also have a row of five white dots along the side of the abdomen that can be used to differentiate them from other beetles. The damage that you see from them looks like skeletonizing of the leaves. They'll eat everything between the leaf vein, but leave the veins.

Thankfully, Japanese beetles only have a single generation each year. Usually the adults, which are the beetles that we see flying around eating leaves, will begin to appear in late May. They live four to six weeks. The females will lay eggs for most of their adult life. The eggs are laid in the soil. They hatch in about two weeks. After hatching, the beetles live in the soil until they come back out as adults in May.

There are three times a year that are most ideal for controlling Japanese beetles. The most obvious is when they are adults and are out feeding on leaves. You can use carbaryl, which is the active ingredient in Sevin to control adults. Sevin comes as a liquid or in dust form. If you don't have a heavy infestation you can also use a cup with soapy water in it. Knock Japanese beetles off plants into the cup and they will drown. The second time to control Japanese beetles is in September. By that time of year all the Japanese beetles are grubs living in the soil. Every as grubs they can do damage to turf by feeding on the roots. Milky spore is an organic product that can be used to kill grubs in the ground. It's a bacteria that feeds on Japanese beetle grubs after they ingest it. September is the optimal time to make a milky spore application. The third time to control Japanese beetles would be in February with another milky spore application.

Using milky spore to kill the grubs doesn't mean that you won't have any Japanese beetles the following year, but you can significantly reduce them.

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**Watching and Working**  
Jacob Williams



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