

# Opinions

## Everybody has one...

### Remembering September 11th

This September 11th will be the 19th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States of America. More specifically, Islamic terrorists, linked to al Qaeda, hijacked four planes and carried out a suicide attack by flying them into the World Trade Center in New York; the Pentagon in Washington D.C.; and one crashed in a Pennsylvania field. This terrorist attack on America killed 2,977 people, including 343 firefighters.

People can tell you their September 11th story. They can tell you about watching live on TV the smoke come out of the North Tower. They can tell you about the confusion and the horror they felt as they saw a second plane scream across the sky and hit the South Tower. The world knew in that moment that this was no accident but an attack on America.

Everyone was glued to the TV. More news came in. A third plane had attacked the Pentagon. Then, as if the unfolding events were not tragic enough, the unthinkable happened; the South Tower collapsed. Nobody believed that this was even possible, but it happened. The South Tower was followed by the North Tower collapse 30 minutes later. We also learned that a fourth plane had crashed in a Pennsylvania field. The passengers had tried to take the plane back from the terrorist.

As Americans, we were angry, confused, and frankly numb. A catastrophic event with so many lives lost is difficult to process. But when you add a terrorist attack, on our soil, and with some of the largest buildings in the world collapsing, it becomes almost more than people could bare.

As a firefighter, we had the same feelings as most Americans and many more. We knew that we had lost some brothers. We related to each firefighter who responded. They knew that this was the call of their career but in the back of their mind, some must have had that thought, "will this be the one." That one call that you didn't get to go home from. That is the reality of the job.

Even though they had these thoughts, they went, and they did everything that they could to save as many people as possible. That is what firefighters do. After September 11, everyone was reminded of the service, dedication, sacrifices and dangers of the fire service.

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



### The Reveal

Drew Brees (NFL quarterback) appeared on television earlier this year, but people didn't know who he was. Until the reveal.

He filmed an episode of "Undercover Boss" as an owner of Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux. In disguise, he worked as a dishwasher. After experiencing stories of hard work and loyalty among the employees, he and co-owner Brandon Landry surprised them with college scholarships for their kids. The climax of the show is the reveal and generosity of the owners.

The sad truth is that many people are yet unaware of the greatest reveal in history, and it wasn't made for TV. Every two years, Lifeway Research conducts a "State of Theology" poll, asking people to respond to survey statements. This year's poll finds that 52% of Americans and 30% of evangelicals believe "Jesus was a good teacher, but he was not God." Also, 65% of evangelicals believe "Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God." God has revealed Himself quite differently than those two statements.

The Bible portrays a scene in heaven in which the "Ancient of Days" treated the "Son of Man" as God (Dan. 7). Jesus frequently identified Himself as that Son of Man. The Messiah is "Mighty God" who would be born as a child (Isa. 9). Jesus "was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him" (John 1:2-3). Jesus is "before all things, and in Him all things hold together" (Col. 1:17). Jesus told naysayers, "Before Abraham was born, I Am" (John 8:58), staking his claim to the given name of God. Jesus is God the Son, not a created being.

The grand reveal of all time happened when the eternal Creator took on a created body and walked amidst His creation. The early church dealt with the Arian heresy that denied that fact. In his day, C. S. Lewis tried "to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.'"

Please take this kindly. If you don't know that Jesus is God the Son, your Creator, it means you don't know that the need of

**All Things New**  
*Wayne Fowler*



See Fowler, page 5A

### Commissioner's Questions

The following answers are to questions we get all the time regarding recycling and the Neighborhood Recycling locations. During this time of COVID-19 some stations are closed until further notice while others remain open and operating on Wednesday mornings. I thought it would benefit the community as a whole to put this information out again.

#### Q. What is the Neighborhood Recycling Program exactly?

A. On Wednesday mornings there are recycling volunteers at designated voting precincts around the county. You can take your recyclables to these locations when they are open. The county then goes to these stations and picks up the recyclables and takes them to the Recycling Center at the Transfer Station.

#### Q. What Neighborhood Recycling locations are currently open?

A. Currently, due to COVID-19 some of the Neighborhood Recycling locations are closed until further notice. Below is a list of the locations that are temporarily closed, the locations that are open along with the hours they are open.  
Station 2 Jones Creek Precinct-Closed until further notice  
Station 3 Owtown Precinct-Closed until further notice  
Station 4 Ivy Log Precinct-Every Wednesday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Station 5 Suches Precinct-Every Wednesday from 9 a.m.-1p.m.  
Station 6 Pat Colwell Precinct-Closed until further notice  
Station 8 Gumlog Precinct-Every Wednesday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Station 9 Coosa Precinct-1st Wednesday of the month from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### Q. Why are these stations closed because of COVID-19? How has the virus affected some locations and not others?

A. This is a very good question. Each Neighborhood Recycling location is operated completely by volunteers. We have amazing volunteers who donate their time on Wednesday mornings to allow these precincts to be open so citizens can drop off their recyclables and avoid going to the Transfer Station.

Due to the possible exposure of COVID-19 during the course of volunteering and interacting with people bringing their recyclables, some of our volunteers have chosen to close down

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



See Paris, page 5A

### Letters to the Editor

#### Voting by Mail

Dear Editor,

Voting by mail should replace voting at the polls in its entirety. The two institutions that can definitely be trusted are the County Board of Elections and the United States Postal Service. The money saved by eliminating the need for poll workers could be used to offer free postage on the envelopes used to vote by mail. The person voting would also have more time to consider what they are voting for and would not be confined to the hours of the polling place. It would also prevent unwanted entry to schools and churches from anyone trying to harm someone. In addition, the voter would not be harassed

See Bialek, page 5A

#### Thou Shalt Not Steal

Dear Editor,

I'd like to address the thieves who insist on stealing the Biden 2020 signs that have been going up around the county.

The last time I looked we were a two-party system and had a right to support the candidate of our choice. I do realize that Union County is a Republican leaning county, but there is a Democratic Party here as well. We both have a right to exist and to support whichever candidate we feel will be the best for this country.

Are you so delicate and thin-skinned that

See Retter, page 5A

#### Leachate Dumping

Dear Editor,

I wanted to share with the citizens of Union County what the dumping of leachate has done to the life of my wife and I. We moved to Union County and built our home in 1985. We have lived here and greatly enjoyed the beautiful mountains, lakes, clean streams, and great people for 35 years.

However, when we learned last fall that the City of Blairsville's Mayor Mr. Jim Conley and the council members had decided to partner with our State Sen. Steve Gooch and start transporting and dumping thousands of gallons of landfill (dump) leachate wastewater from south of the mountains into our streams, lake, and drinking water, we were heartbroken.

At that time, we stopped drinking the water from Notla Water Authority, which gets most of its water supply from Lake Nottely where the PFAS-laced leachate (i.e. poison) was being dumped by our elected officials.

We have since been hauling our drinking water from our family and friends in neighboring Towns County. We have also decided to start looking for a new home in Towns County and re-

See Williamson, page 5A

#### Thanks to Wonderful People

Dear Editor,

It has been an honor and privilege to have worked at the Blairsville Post Office for over 51 years as a rural mail carrier. I want to thank all my patrons who I have served through these years. I know they are the best people in the world. I have been so blessed to have had the opportunity to get to know these kind folks who have been wonderful to me over the years. I have made many friends whom I will never forget.

I want to take this opportunity to thank them for all the prayers, thoughts, kind words and gifts they have bestowed upon me. It has really touched my heart. I will miss you greatly and will never forget you. I have also worked with the finest people at the Post Office. They are hardworking and dedicated to doing a great job. I will miss them more than words can say.

I just want to thank each and every one who helped make my job so rewarding - coworkers and patrons on the route alike. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I love you all!

God Bless,  
**Bobby Lance**  
Blairsville Post Office  
Rural Letter Carrier Route 5



### Letters to the Editor

#### A Word of Warning

Dear Editor,

I completely agree with Aug. 26 letter from Joan Moody. My husband and I live in Charleston, South Carolina, and have been visiting here for many years in our camper and have always loved it here. Last year we were fortunate enough to be able to buy a little cabin in the Blairsville area and will be spending our summers here as long as we can. We love all the Mom and Pop stores, charming restaurants, arts and crafts shows, car shows, concerts in the parks, farmers markets, and easy drives through the beautiful mountains. The locals are nice and friendly. It is a joy to be here.

But I do have a word of warning. Charleston used to be a lovely place to live. But as more and more people moved to the area from "off," Charleston has become a miserable place to be. In the name of growth and progress, our local shops and restaurants have been replaced with chain stores and fast food. The traffic is so bad

See McRae, page 5A

#### Wholehearted Support

Dear Editor,

We wholeheartedly support Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris' decision to increase the county portion of our property taxes. The proposed adjustment is modest, roughly equivalent to the cost of several restaurant meals for most of us which, when multiplied thousands of times, will result in the tax revenues required to continue employing all the county employees upon whose services we all rely. We expect Union County deputy sheriffs, for example, to maintain public safety in our county. Shouldn't county residents, therefore, pay a bit more in property taxes so deputies can look forward to an income of at least \$20 to \$25 per hour after several years of service, without having to work an additional job to provide themselves and their families a

See Vinten-Johansen, page 5A

#### Honest People

Dear Editor,

Around lunchtime on Sept. 2, I went to Walmart to get a few items. Then, about 5 p.m. the same day, I was going to get my glasses from my purse when I realized I had left my purse in the shopping cart. I called Walmart and they had it. Some very honest person had handed it in. Nothing was amiss, although I had about \$350 in my wallet.

We have a lot of honest people in our beautiful county, and I thank you all.  
Sincerely,  
**Anne Ferguson**

### The Proposal

After graduation, Paul worked around his Dad's farm for a couple of months and then left to attend college at the University of Arkansas. He had been offered a scholarship to play baseball for the Razorbacks. Back in those days, student athletes were allowed to practice more than present-day athletes. So, the Arkansas baseball team held late summer baseball practices. Paul was exposed to some really good pitching that he was able to handle. The young man was left-handed and was able to hit the best pitchers on the team.

However, there was a young man present who had recently left Arkansas because he had received an invitation to try out with the St. Louis Cardinals. This lefty pitcher had a wicked curveball and slider. The fellow's fastball approached 100 mph, and trying as much as possible, Paul could not connect with this fellow's pitches. Just when he thought he'd catch up to a fastball, Paul would receive a curveball. Then, even though he knew it was coming, the fellow's slider would always strike him out. He would say, "I knew the slider was coming and it was always in the dirt, but, I couldn't help it. I would always swing at the last pitch."

So, by the end of fall practice, he was really discouraged. He couldn't get a hit off this guy. On top of his batting problems, the young man was worried about his girlfriend back at home. His fear was that an old nemesis was going to steal his gal. On top of everything else was the fact that he was bored. The young man was in a new town and didn't know anyone except his teammates. He had no idea about what he should study, so Paul was just taking core classes. In essence, the young man was discouraged, lonely and confused about his future. So, he left Arkansas and went home to North Alabama.

His father, Columbus, cried like a baby when his son came home from college. But, soon things got back to normal for the young man. He found a job at a textile mill where he worked during the week and played baseball on the mill's team on weekends. Paul also loved basketball and quickly got a job as a basketball referee for local high school games. This job soon landed him in hot water. Paul's old high school team, Phil Campbell, was playing its arch rival, Hackleburgh, and his brother Bud played for Phil Campbell as well as many of his younger friends.

Paul said the game was generally nip and tuck, with first Hackleburgh being in front and toward the end Phil Campbell was leading. Phil Campbell was closing in on a victory with 4

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#### Around The Farm

*Mickey Cummings*



### Chiggers

Now is the time of year when chiggers are going to be most active. If you haven't, then consider yourself fortunate, because you live a blessed life. Let's talk about chiggers, what they are, and what you can do to protect yourself from them.

Some people call chiggers red bugs because they are tiny red mites that are less than 1/50th of an inch long. Chigger are mites that are still in their larval stage. The larval stage is the only one that bites. The other stages of the chigger life cycle either lay eggs or prey on small insects. Chiggers like to live in areas that are full of brush and debris. They can be found in leaf litter. If you have areas with tall grass, they'll like that too. Chiggers mainly bite rodents and rabbits. So, if you have areas that make a good habitat for rodents and rabbits then there is a good chance that you'll have mites as well. Female mites will lay their eggs in the late winter, which will hatch in the spring. Chiggers will reach peak population in mid-summer and remain active until fall. They'll be killed off by a hard freeze.

Chiggers only bite, they don't bury under the skin. When they bite they inject their saliva which has a skin dissolving enzyme in it. As your skin cells dissolve, they drink it up. The saliva that they inject causes irritation, which makes you itch. Chiggers can stay latched on for three or more days, so if you have a chigger bite it's best to wash that spot with lather repeatedly, and then dab the spot with an antiseptic. That will kill most of the chiggers on you.

Chiggers typically like to bite in tight places. That means you'll often get their bites underneath your socks, in your waist band, or armpits.

Chiggers are susceptible to dehydration. Therefore, they like to populate areas with shade and high humidity. Removing brush piles and leaves, keeping grass cut, and removing bushes will eliminate areas that they like to live. Blackberry bushes seem to be a particularly favorite habitat. Chiggers don't like temperatures over 90 (I don't blame them), so when our temperatures drop as summer ends, chiggers will become more active.

There are some chemicals that can be used as repellents or to kill chiggers. Products containing DEET will be effective at repelling chiggers, mosquitoes, biting flies, gnats, and ticks. You can also spray it on your clothing to keep them off your clothes. Oil of lemon eucalyptus can be used as a repellent, except for children under 3 years old. Products containing permethrin can be

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#### Watching and Working

*Jacob Williams*



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