

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Learn a Life-Saving Skill

As we continue with National Preparedness Month, we would like to remind everyone of the theme this year, which is "Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How." We are encouraging everyone to discuss emergencies and disasters, as well as begin to prepare for them. The FEMA website www.Ready.gov is a great resource for preparedness information and the themes for each week of September.

One of the weekly themes is "Learn Life-Saving Skills." A life-saving skill is anything that a person can do in an emergency or disaster that may save lives. This includes learning CPR and first aid. CPR has been proven to save lives when performed early on a person who is in sudden cardiac arrest. A first-aid class is helpful and teaches a person what to do in a medical or trauma emergency. Learning how to perform CPR and first aid can give a person the skills and confidence to respond to an emergency.

Having working smoke alarms in your home is also a life-saving action. The materials in homes today burn much faster and produce more toxic smoke, which can overcome occupants in seconds. Early warning gives occupants more time to escape a burning building, thus saving lives. Installing and checking your smoke alarms can ensure that you and your family are warned in the event of a fire.

Other live-saving skills include learning how to use a fire extinguisher. A fire extinguisher can put out a small fire before it gets out of control and becomes a major fire. Homeowners should know where their fire extinguishers are located, the type of extinguisher, and how to use it. It is best to learn how to properly use a fire extinguisher prior to having a fire. Homeowners should also know how to maintain fire extinguishers and inspect them at least once a year.

Homeowners should know how to turn off the utilities to the home. This may include how to turn off gas, water and electricity. Storms or other events can damage a home and the utility services. Gas leaks are dangerous and can cause a fire or even explosions. Gas shut-off valves should be located, and the homeowner should know how to operate them. Water shut-offs should be located as well to prevent water damage due to broken pipes. Electrical panels should be marked, and homeowners should know how to safely

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Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief David Dyer



God Alone

"Washington monument hailed as obelisk to Moloch. Gathering planned this Sunday." If that were a real headline, the idolatry would be easy to spot. Yet modern idolatry is a thing, and can be rather subtle.

Take politics. In certain quarters, the ideal is free health care, free college education, and universal basic income. In this system, utilities and transportation systems become public resources, and the economy is planned by elites while corporations are panned as evil. Others can debate the pros and cons of such. My point is that this system looks to government as a kind of god.

Nietzsche declared that modern man had killed God, so only manmade systems remain. In response, Francis Schaeffer explained, "A person can erect some sort of structure in which he lives, shutting himself up in that frame and not looking beyond it. It can sound high and noble, such as talking in an idealistic way about the greatest good for the greatest number." Idealism and noble words are no substitute for self-evident truths.

Our Founders said that we are endowed by our Creator with unalienable rights, and government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed. In other words, the government answers to the people, and the people answer to God. Yet the 20th century brought a stunning shift toward secularism, which removes God and reverses the others so that people answer to the government. This makes the state an idol with godlike powers to decide issues of morality, freedom, and human value.

Nations can be deceived by subtle idolatry, and so can individuals. The early church father Origen said, "What each one honors before all else, what before all things he admires and loves, this for him is God." Billy Graham preached, "We worship ourselves, the things we've created and made with our hands. Materialism! All of these have become gods. Sex is a goddess. These are the modern gods." John Stonestreet alliterates the idols of our day as "sex, self, state, science, and stuff."

The Bible gives reasons to worship God. He is good. He accomplishes his purposes in the affairs of men and nations. He is eternal. He judges with compassion. It also warns of idols:

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All Things New Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Before I start this series of questions, I want the public to know that while I do not have a pet because I have no time to have one, I have had many dogs in the past. I love many dogs and appreciate the value they offer to those who own them. While some of the comments of this Q&A may seem counter to this statement, I am trying to deal with an issue that potentially has lots of sides based on information gathered from different sources, including the public.

Q. What is a "service dog"?

A. A "service dog" is an American with Disability Act (ADA) federal regulation designation. In order to have a true "service dog," an owner must have a disability requiring the use of a trained service dog. To prevent problems with access, it is strongly suggested that you have a "service dog certification card" in addition to the vest. Many service dog vests actually have an area to display your certification on the vest.

Q. What are the most common disabilities a "service dog" assists an owner with?

A. PTSD, Vision Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Hypoglycemia/Diabetes, and Depression.

Q. Is an "emotional support" dog the same as a "service dog"?

A. NO! Actually, there is no difference in an "emotional support" dog and a pet. Neither requires certification and most pets provide some type of emotional support to their owners. While not often an issue, some people place vests on their dogs to allow access for the owner and their pets to areas they should not be allowed access, knowing that they are violating the spirit of the law.

Q. Does every dog that has a "service dog" vest mean that it is a real service dog?

A. No, it does not, but fortunately most people abide by the ADA regulations. You can usually tell when a person has a real "service dog" from the behavior of the dog. They usually are exceptionally well behaved, stick with their owner, and will usually be lying at the feet of their owner when in a restaurant or food service establishment.

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris



Drug Free Mountain Life

Substance Abusing Behavior in the Workplace

Employees who are abusing alcohol, prescription drugs, and/or street drugs may suffer from side effects, resulting in severe mood swings and emotional outbursts.

This kind of behavior is upsetting to coworkers and can cause disruptions in the workplace. Handling these types of situations is one of the most difficult problems supervisors can face. Unfortunately, in today's world, dealing with problem employees, including substance abusers, is a fact of business life.

When employees' substance abuse makes it hard for them to get their own work done, and especially when their behavior interferes with other workers' safety or productivity, supervisors must intervene.

When the only supervisor in a company is the business owner, it can be particularly dif-

See Drug Free, page 5A

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.



Letters to the Editor

POW/MIA Day

To the Editor,
More than 80,000 men and women from World War II to the present day are still unaccounted for. Their families have not been able to lie to rest a loved one, nor have they been rid of the worry that still remains.

The third Friday in September, Sept. 21, 2018, is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Please join me and the other members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit, Ira Weaver Post 121 in taking a moment to remember those who are lost but never forgotten.

The Missing Man Ceremony, performed at our Veterans' Luncheon in November, is how we honor our POW/MIAs. Whether or not you are a service member, veteran or loved one of either, witnessing the service in its entirety is a touching, solemn occasion — a yellow ribbon represents that they are properly accounted for; an empty chair and table awaits their return; the tablecloth is white to show the purity of their intentions; a red rose symbolizes the blood shed; salt sprinkled on a plate reminds us of tears shed; a slice of lemon represents a bitter fate; an inverted glass shows they cannot toast with us; and a single lit candle is the hope that illuminates the path of their return.

We will never forget those who have not returned home.

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Interpret

Dear Editor,
The hearing for confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh got me curious. The Republicans require a justice who will only look at a case in terms of the law, the way it was written. The problem as I see it is that they also want that justice to interpret the law. My curiosity led me to my trusty dictionary, since I suspect an intrinsic contradiction therein exists. Merriam-Webster defines interpret to mean "to conceive in the light of individual belief, judgment or circumstance," along with a couple other definitions not germane to these issues.

In other words, the Republicans want it both ways: just go by what the words in the law say, but then add your judgment on what you think the law says, or means, or might mean. That might help explain why there are frequently such deep divides within Supreme Court decisions. That darn interpretation part gets in the way. It's those pesky little words that get so confounding.

You can find other examples in life where people impose similar inherent contradictions. The Judeo-Christian Bible is presented as the

See Schilling, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

Encouraging Words

Dear Editor,
Many folks wonder why I write letters to the editor and what is the reason behind it. Well, first of all, I thank my God above for allowing me to write encouraging words of hope for all of us to glean from and to hopefully fall madly in love with Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord over all.

Secondly, I so enjoy sharing God's word with those who are skeptical or perhaps not sure of who Jesus Christ really is, and by the power of the Holy Spirit that lives within me. Wait a minute, Frank, what do you mean by the Holy Spirit that lives in you? How is this possible! It's only possible if one believes in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When one accepts this belief and turns from their sinful ways and follows Christ, you become born again and a new life begins, and God puts the Holy Spirit within your heart to help you and guide you through the struggles and challenges of daily living. It doesn't mean that we won't still have disappointments, heartaches, sorrow, pain or suffering, but it does mean that now you have the Spirit of the living God inside of you to help you through the hard knocks of life.

God never promised us an easy life here, but He did promise us that if we will stay faithful to Him the best we can, then when death comes to us, we can rejoice in it, because as a child of God, we know for sure that we are heavenbound because of our belief in a Holy and Righteous God who never withdraws His promises to His people.

Lastly, I write these letters not to bring any attention to me, for I am only a vessel in whom God uses to spread His good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for all praise, honor and glory goes to my heavenly Father for what He has done for me and you as well. If only you just believe upon the Name of Jesus Christ, then you will be saved and headed to heaven one glorious day when God calls you home.

There's an old saying that goes like this: Don't knock it if you haven't tried it. A life worth living for Christ is a life worth giving. Amen.

Frank F. Combs

Blairsville, Georgia

Dear Editor,
What a wonderful place to enjoy life. We get to enjoy all four seasons, distinctly. There is always something to do or some event to attend. People are friendly. We can always find gas, food and lodging, if and when needed, due to a good variety of stores, restaurants, etc.

Hope you are enjoying your life!

Iris Fox

The Relationship

The relationship with my parents must have begun sometime around 1955 and has now lasted for more than 63 years. Don't get me wrong, there have been tough times, both economically and health-related. However, these two people have taken life's blows and are still together even though life has not always been kind. And it all began with one little bet.

A group of athletes were gathered together in the gymnasium at Phil Campbell High School in the late fall of 1955. Rod was one of the most popular boys in school. All the girls wanted to date him, and he was the point guard on the basketball team as well as shortstop on the baseball team. At least he was until Paul moved back home from up north. The boys were all in the gymnasium to sign up for the upcoming basketball tryouts. When the boys signed their name on the dotted line, they also had to list their position. When Paul signed his name, he listed his position as point guard.

A boy behind him noticed he had listed point guard beside his name and he whispered that Rod played point and always had. He told my father, "There was no way you can take the job from him." As Paul stood with the other boys, Rod began to brag about a girl he wanted to date. He told the crowd there was no way she would go out with anyone but him. Dad said he thought he could get the girl to go out with him. So, the popular young man bet the newcomer \$10 that Shirley Adams would not go out on a date with anyone else before she went out with him. In 1955, \$10 was a lot of money, so the bet was on!

Later that evening, Paul went to the farm of Bill Adams. Bill and Delphia had two chicken houses containing a total of 10,000 broilers. The young man walked through the door of the chicken house and found Shirley's Dad feeding his flock of birds. So, he set in to helping the man. He placed fresh water for the chickens and picked up the dead ones. He also grabbed a pail and placed feed in the troughs for them to eat. After all the work was finished, Pawpaw Adams looked at the young man and exclaimed with a smile, "I have never found a man to do this much work without wanting something. What do you want young man?" The young man replied, "Mr. Adams, I would like to take your daughter to a movie at the Roxie theater in Russellville."

First, Pawpaw asked about the identity of his parents. Paul told him that his father was Coon Cummings and his mother was Glenna Mae. He also told him that his grandfathers were

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Around The Farm Mickey Cummings



Changing Leaves

Every year during the fall, you'll see leaves start to change colors. In the mountains, the array of colors can make a glorious sight. But why don't evergreens lose their leaves, and why are there all the different colors? Let's talk about it so that, as the leaves change this year, you can show off your scientific knowledge to your friends!

Firstly, leaves can change color for a variety of reason. Disease, drought, nutrient deficiency, among other things, are all reasons why leaves can change colors. In plants cells, there is a chemical called chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is crucial to the plant. Chlorophyll converts the light energy into chemical energy in a process called photosynthesis. That chemical energy is used by the plant for growth and reproduction. If you eat a plant, then you're ingesting that energy, too. If you eat an animal that has been eating plants, you're still ingesting that energy. Photosynthesis is an amazing process that is one of the biggest building blocks of life.

Chlorophyll can absorb many wavelengths of light, however, the green wavelengths are not absorbed but reflected. This gives leaves the green color that we see. Next to the chlorophyll in the plant leaves there are other chemicals that serve as a buffer to protect the chlorophyll. These other chemicals are pigments, and they absorb the wavelengths of light that would be destructive to the chlorophyll. These pigments vary in the color that they reflect from yellow to orange.

As the temperature starts to drop and the days get shorter, chlorophyll will start to break down in the leaves and stop converting light energy to chemical energy. During the growing season, there is so much chlorophyll in the leaves that the green color overpowers the pigments yellow to orange. However, with the chlorophyll beginning to break down, the pigments' coloring begins to show through. Different species of plants will have different levels of chlorophyll. The mixing of chlorophyll and pigment will result in the different colors of leaves that we see in the fall. The weather can affect the intensity of the leaf color. Colors will be more intense with rainy and overcast days.

While the leaves are changing color, the tree will also begin to create a special layer of cells at the point of attachment for the leaf to the tree. This layer of cells will seal the tree off from the leaf so that an open wound is not left when the leaf falls by its own weight.

Not all trees lose their leaves in the fall. Evergreens such as pines, hemlocks, and firs, to name a few, have a thicker coating of wax

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Chamber of Commerce

As this goes to press, we will know the impact of Hurricane Florence on the coasts of Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. We pray that all remain safe during the storm and throughout the cleanup process.

Some upcoming events in our county include:

Monthly Mingle: "Fall into Monthly Mingle - Simplify Your Message, Make More Money" - Attention Chamber Members: You won't want to miss the September Monthly Mingle! Our speaker, Lee Bradshaw, has been helping clients achieve their media and marketing goals for 10 years. His main focus is helping clients simplify their business message so that their audience understands them better and they make more sales. His passion is helping businesses grow.

The September Monthly Mingle is sponsored by Sentinel Plastic Surgery - Dr. Bill Frazier. This Monthly Mingle is located at the Union County Community Center Ballroom.

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber President Steve Rowe



UGA extension Watching and Working Jacob Williams



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Phone: 706-745-6343 Fax: 706-745-1830 * P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514

Website: www.nganews.com
Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com
Mailing: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514