

Fire Safety Education

The month of October is special to the fire service because it includes Fire Prevention Week. We have talked a bit about this year's theme of "Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years".

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief David Dyer



These classes teach various fire safety themes during the month. The students then either come to the fire department or the department pays a visit at their school.

Stop-Drop-and-Roll has been a fire safety theme for years. Students are taught that if their clothes catch on fire that they should not run but to stop-drop-and-roll on the ground to put out the fire.

Students also are shown a firefighter suited in full turnout gear and self-contained breathing apparatus. This is very important for students to know what a firefighter looks like just in case he/she is coming into a building to save them.

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Personal, Not Private

You have heard politicians say they are personally opposed to a policy. "But I don't want to impose my beliefs on others." That's intended to sound noble, even humble.

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Don't worry. This isn't about politics, it's really about all of us. The answer to the question is yes, particularly for a Christian.

It is personal because it is your individual faith in a God who has revealed Himself, experienced in a community that identifies with Jesus Christ.

Jesus explained to Nicodemus that he must be born again in order to enter the kingdom of God. Peter wrote that Jesus "caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead".

In his book "Against the Flow," Dr. John Lennox notes the challenge of living a personal faith in public. "Strong currents of pluralism and secularism in contemporary Western society, reinforced by a paralyzing political correctness, increasingly push expression of faith in God to the margins."

Peter heard Jesus say, "Everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father" (Mat. 10:32).

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Commissioner's Questions

Q. Can you name some of the projects the county has been able to construct without the need for purchasing additional property?

A 1. The Leon Davenport Veterans Center - A previously unused Chamber of Commerce Building, has been expanded to give a home to our Veterans.

A 2. Union County Arena - the only covered arena in the tristate area, has been a huge success for our youth and adults alike.

A 3. The Community Center - This facility is the home to the Blairsville/Union County Chamber of Commerce, The Union County Development Authority, The View Grill and Butter-nut Creek Golf Course and Conference Center.

A 4. The Union County Library - The addition and expansion of our library has made it the most used library in the area and one that hosts many events for adults and kids alike.

Q & A from Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris



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Letters to the Editor...

Glass Recycling

I am confused. I read that our county was going to begin a trial-run of accepting glass for recycling to discern the residents' support for such a program.

I went to the landfill with my garbage and recycling items, and after chucking all the other recyclables, I asked where to discard my bag of glass for recycling, and was told they don't accept glass.

That is why I am confused. I wonder how a study could be evaluated if the only place to drop off glass for recycling is one station at the furthestmost point in the County, where residents from Coosa, Trackrock, Gum Log, and other points north, east and south would have to make that drive to recycle their glass?

Ours is a progressive county, and we have seen innovative ways of addressing the needs and wishes that people have.

See Gray, page 5B

Kitty Litter

My two indoor cats refused to use their litter box, which I had just filled with new light weight litter. Goggled online to find out why.

Bill Fisher

Buyer Beware: Gap Insurance

Gap insurance will be paid by person financing vehicle and interest paid for term of loan. This information is to assist others with possible problems that I have experienced with auto dealer, i.e. called Gap Insurance.

Ronald G. Swinson

My God Reigns

From this time forth I will not worry, or fret or be afraid of the outcome of this upcoming election however it turns out. Why you ask!

See Combs, page 5B



The Addict Next Door

Sarah Wilson, wife and mother of four, became addicted to opioid pain medications after she suffered severe injuries from getting hit by an intoxicated driver about eight years ago.

Wilson said that people are always surprised to learn that she was an addict. She said many have a certain image that people who suffer from addiction are junkies, or in her words "people like that."

And she's not alone. Some 2.1 million people abused prescription opioid pain relievers in 2012 alone, according to a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration report.

Many organizations are working to combat opioid use disorder, a medical condition defined by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Others aren't sure what to do, and some feel as though it's not their battle to fight, claiming that using drugs is a choice made by the user.

Tom Hill, senior adviser on addiction and recovery at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, said addiction affects everyone in some way. Hill said that there needs to be a change in attitudes regarding addiction, and openly discussing the subject will help.

Wilson started recovery when she became a patient in clinical trials that tested several types of delivery methods of buprenorphine, a medication that's used to treat opioid addiction.

In January, Wilson spoke in Washington at the open public hearing to support FDA approval of Probuphine, a form of treatment for people with opioid use disorder.

Wilson has openly shared her story with others when no one else would. She said that because of the stigma behind addiction, people are unwilling to talk about it.

Groups like FORCE, which stands for Female Opioid-addiction Research and Clinical Experts, have banded together with the mission to reduce the negative stigma and treatment barriers surrounding opioid addiction.

See Drugs, page 5B

The Logger and Uncle Bud

During the summer of 1957 Papa wanted to clear some land so he could increase his row crop acreage on his farm. He talked with a logger from Hackleburgh about cutting some timber and the two men agreed the logger would pay Papa based upon the timber taken from his property each week.

One evening around the supper table the family was discussing the problem. Paul and Bud were encouraging Papa to confront the logger about the problem.

Granny had stopped the truck and proceeded to explain to Mr. Finch about their disappointment and not receiving any pay for the timber he'd been cutting for 8 weeks.

Dad ran toward his younger brother to calm him down. Bud, was smiling and that was not good either.

Bud gave the gun to Paul and said, "If anyone else gets out of that truck besides the bigger one shoot 'em."

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Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



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Exercise your right to vote

I believe that voting is not only an awesome right awarded to the citizens of the United States, but is also a responsibility. We vote for people to be our voice and represent us in the office they are pursuing.

I am proud to live in a community that has such a strong sense of the importance of voting.

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber Regina Allison



Acorn Toxicity

Many small wildlife species depend on the numerous acorns that fall in late summer and autumn to sustain them through the winter. However, to most animals, acorns can be highly toxic and cause a dangerous illness known as "Quercus poisoning."

The term "quercus" is derived from part of the scientific names for many species of oak trees. Numerous oak trees are native to our area and many of them produce huge crops of acorns that we can see starting to drop all around the county.

If a cow has ingested too many acorns, symptoms usually take a few days to appear. The animal may have nasal discharge, rapid weight loss, loss of appetite or diarrhea.

The best way to fight this disease is to make sure it does not happen in the first place. Though fencing may be expensive, in the long run, it is better to keep animals separated from mature oak trees that produce many acorns.

In order to make sure that your cattle are not tempted by these tasty yet toxic treats, try to block off sections of pasture with a lot of acorns for the next few months until they've had time to decay.

Always make sure your cattle have adequate hay

From The Ground Up Melissa Mattee



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