

# Opinions

## Everybody has one...

### Thinking About Emergencies

Emergencies, incidents, disasters... these are all subjects that the fire department and Emergency Management Agency (EMA) discuss and deal with every day. It is our job. Our main responsibility is to prepare, plan, mitigate, respond, and recover from emergencies, incidents, and disasters. That is what we spend most of our time doing.

The average person, however, does not think about emergencies. When they do consider them, they usually think, "It will not happen to me." That may be a comforting thought, but it does not prevent emergencies from happening. Most people will experience an emergency or an incident in their lifetime. Whether it be a car accident, fire, or medical emergency.

A majority of people who have experienced an emergency, incident, or disaster have the same after thoughts, "I wish that I had been better prepared." Being better prepared is something that we all can and should do. We live in the information age and there is a multitude of information about how to deal with and be better prepared for emergencies, incidents, and disasters.

Everyone should start with simple, easy to learn safety and preparedness subjects that cover the most common emergencies. Do some research on the most common emergencies and disasters that happen in our area. Take classes such as basic first aid or CPR. Build a Ready kit that has essential supplies that can support you and your family for at least three days at home with no power. Join the Citizens Emergency Response Team to learn how to take care of yourself and your neighborhood during a disaster. These are all a great start.

Another thought that some people may have is that "public safety emergency services will handle the emergency." This is true. When you have an emergency and call 911, the dispatchers will send the appropriate public safety responders to help you as soon as possible. That happens every day without a delay. However, during a large-scale emergency or disaster, public safety may be overwhelmed or unable to get to you right away.

These large-scale emergencies or disasters can include hurricanes, tornados, flood, snow and ice storms. They can block roads

See Dyer, page 5A

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

David Dyer



### Fruitful Abiding

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." - Jesus

Ahead of me in line at the post office was a young mother with a toddler. An older woman couldn't help but chatting with the mom about the cute and active boy. As the conversation meandered, they touched in a lighthearted way on human foibles. Without hesitation the mom said, "Well, I'm so glad I have a forgiving Savior!" My heart leapt and I wished those further away in line could have heard that. Just then the older woman said, "I'm sorry, I didn't hear you?" Then the mom spoke it again, firmly and clearly for customers, clerks, God, and the angels to hear! Now you have heard it, too.

What does Jesus mean by bearing fruit? Is it not living with transparency about what ultimately matters and sharing that with fellow travelers? What is abiding, if not trusting Him to place you in a line at a post office at a particular moment and prompting you to speak? Moments like those add up to a lifetime of fruitfulness.

Martha Williamson became a Christian in 1981 a few years after beginning her career in Hollywood. She was an associate producer and aspiring writer but her earnest desire was for Jesus to bear fruit in her career. About her abiding lifestyle Chuck Colson writes, "She would do what God put before her and let Him take her where she was meant to go. She believed that He knew the deepest desires of her heart and that He knew what He wanted for her. She would entrust everything to God's care."

Her big break came when CBS asked her to be the executive producer of a show with a religious theme. But she turned them down. It did not reflect what sincere people of faith believed. It was a silly caricature of spirituality. The day before her deadline to accept a job at another network, she woke up and realized God wanted her to stay at CBS. She gave up the sure job and took her pitch to CBS to rethink their religious show. They accepted her proposal.

The result was "Touched by an Angel," featuring Roma

See Fowler, page 5A

**All Things New**

Wayne Fowler



### Commissioner's Questions

During the spring season as residents begin to recreate outside, we receive more questions about roads, roadsides, and vegetation. This week's questions address the basics of public roads, county-maintain roads, and private roads.

**Q. I am confused by the different types of roads in the county. Can you explain the difference?**

A. There are basically three different types of roads within the county. There are county-maintained roads which the county has and will continue to maintain. There are public roads which the county does not maintain, but they have been open to the public for many years. This type of road may have been used by several property owners to access their property or it may be a connecting roadway that has been used by the public for many years. Finally, there are private roads which are owned by the property owners and are not county-maintained.

**Q. What is the difference between a "public road" and a "private road" neither of which is county maintained?**

A. A "private road" (not county maintained) can be controlled by those who live on that road or who actually own the road. The road has not been opened up for public access throughout the years; therefore, if the property owners want to gate or close the road, they have that right. The owners are also responsible for all maintenance of the road.

A "public road" (not county maintained) must be maintained by those that live on it or those that use it, or as in some cases, no one maintains it. Sometimes it is a homeowner's association, or just a group of property owners that get together to pay for maintenance. Usually, on a public road, access cannot be denied to the public since the road has been utilized by the general public for many years, and the road cannot be legally blocked off. This often causes problems when those paying to maintain the road cannot keep those that don't from using the road. This is often the case when an old US Forest Service road that is open to the public and utilized for hunting, goes across or through a subdivision or is accessed from a county road.

Both of these type roads "public and private" are identified

See Paris, page 5A

**Q & A from Union County Commissioner**

Lamar Paris



### American Road Trip

Well, I'm on my way to Yellowstone National Park, motor home, tow dolly with my little Christmas Tree Ornament Chevy Spark, hubby and two dogs. Should prove to be quite an adventure. This is a trip of a lifetime, although we said that when we cruised to our beautiful state of Alaska.

When my husband and I sat down to plan some of the stops along the way, we both decided that Custer's Little Big Horn Park

was a must see. Perhaps we will even be there on the anniversary date when Colonel George Custer confronted thousands of Sioux and Cheyenne Warriors on June 25, 1876. History tells us he never stood a chance.

Today we fight battles with satellite images, drone information, high tech weaponry and vehicles. Imagine riding into battle, on the ground, with nothing more than your horse and your weapon. What a daunting thought that is to me, probably to the men who fought at Big

See Walters-Taylor, page 5A

**Military Musings**

Janice Walters-Taylor



### Letters to the Editor

#### Re: WWII Generation

**Dear Editor,**  
First of all, the Johnny Carson interview of Lee Marvin did not take place. Also Lee Marvin did not receive a Navy Cross and he did not fight on Iwo Jima. He was actually wounded on Siapan (in the rear).

Bob Keeshan did enlist but never served overseas. He enlisted two weeks before his 18th birthday, which was several months after Iwo Jima. He never saw any combat.

Fred McFeeley Rogers did register for the draft but was 4-F because of some illness. He did not have any tattoos and wore his sweaters to look more at ease with his audience.

See Bateman, page 5A

#### UDSDs

**Dear Editor,**  
In response to Sheriff Mason's proposal to reduce speed limit to 55 mph at Georgia 515 and Kiutuestia Creek Road:

The number of accidents at GA 515 and K Creek Road is not a matter of speeding. It's a matter of Unaware, Distracted, Stupid Drivers, or UDSD (stupid driver as described by an LEO at an accident I was in). I had just pulled out from Ingles heading west, and a UDSD crossed in front of me, causing me to hit her broad side. Neither of us were going over 30.

See Wallace, page 5A

#### Can something be done?

**Dear Editor,**  
It is ridiculous how many cars use the CVS parking lot as a road between Young Harris Street and US 76. Today, we went to pick up prescriptions at CVS, and it was like playing Dodge Car there. There were so many cars going every which way. Compounding the problem was a large truck in the parking lot making it difficult to see. Probably the only answer to this is to close the parking lot entrances at CVS and Fatz. Can something be done please?

Linda Bowe

#### Not Patriots

**Dear Editor,**  
What happened at our nation's Capitol on January 6, 2021, was one of the most horrifying events I have ever witnessed. Americans waving American flags attacking Americans.  
Only when I was in Iraq did I see Americans being attacked in this fashion. The only difference was the people that were attacking us were not Americans.  
These people are not Patriots and do not

See Miller, page 5A

### Hay Fire!

My usual topic is about wildfire around the forests and your home, but there are fire dangers in rural areas also, particularly on our farms. Farms have a lot of excess "fuel" laying around just waiting for a match, spark, or a hot exhaust to start a fire that will put a farmer out of business for a long time or forever.

If a hay barn burns then the feed that the farmer has invested time and money into to harvest and store for the livestock for that year could be gone. A fire in an equipment shed could take away all the (really) expensive equipment that is necessary to carry on farming. Fences cost \$10,000 per mile so burning them could be a business or life changing event. Many farms have old buildings that insurance cannot replace.

Most farmers are like most homeowners, they think that it will never happen to them, but I remind them that that first one is a real bummer! They could be the "somebody else" that it happened to instead of somebody else.

Here is an article that talks about a fire danger that we don't think about. It may have taken its time getting here, but warm weather has finally arrived. Farmers are glad to be out in the hay fields baling hay for the winter. One of the worst ways to waste your time and labor on the tractor is to put up hay that is too wet.

Molded hay is bad, but a barn fire is even worse. All the tending, raking, and waiting on the sun to cook your hay is a good thing that takes the hay from the original near 80% moisture down to the 20% or less it needs to be before you start the baler. A small amount of heat up may occur after baling and not cause any damage to hay quality or risk of fire. It can cause the evaporation of any remaining moisture. With moisture at less than 10%, hay will be dry and brittle. The 10-15% range is optimal with the least chance of fire. Up to 20% is when there is the potential for mold in hay especially if a preservative was not used when baling. Hay baled with 21-25% moisture will mold and there is a moderate chance of fire. Hay should never be baled above 25% moisture because of the extreme risk of fire.

Leave hay in the field for at least a few days on purpose to allow heat to dissipate. Stacking bales outside or in a barn too soon will concentrate the heat together and accelerate the chances of a fire because the heat cannot escape.

The easiest method to check for heat in hay is to use a compost thermometer. This is an affordable tool that everyone who bales hay should have on hand. Stick the it into the side of the bale and wait.

See Riley, page 5A

**RC&D Executive Director**

Frank Riley



### Fox Fire

In my younger days I enjoyed going coon hunting with my grandfather. I can remember hunting along Turkey Creek in northwest Alabama on crisp, moonless nights. For a boy less than 9 the woods were a mysterious place. I can remember the chills that traveled down my spine at the scream of a Mountain Lion, and then I would notice the glow of Fox Fire in the woods. Then I listened to the tales of the old mountain men that were with my grandfather. All these things happening together were enough to scare a little boy and make me want to go home.

Then one day I heard my grandfather tell the story of meeting what he thought was a haint. He was walking through the woods on his way home from a date. About 30 yards in front of him my grandfather noticed what he thought was a man without a head standing on the side of the road. He said the man was dressed in a black suit with a white shirt. He also noticed an eerie green light coming from the man's neck. My grandfather picked up a big stick and threatened the man. I think this one-sided conversation lasted about five minutes. Finally, he let out a war cry and charged the man and hit him with the stick before realizing it was only a rotten stump.

Sometimes we let our imagination run wild and show us things that are not real. My grandfather was talking to a burned stump that was in the process of decay. The eerie light he seen was nothing more than fox fire.

Fox fire can be seen mostly along the ground, in chunks of rotting wood and on old stumps in moist areas of the woods. Fox fire's source is fungi in rotting wood. The eerie glow of the stuff comes from growing fungal cells consuming wood.

Setting out to see fox fire can be difficult because of light pollution. You should pick overcast or moonless nights in an area without artificial lights. Let your eyes become dark adjusted (20 minutes) by avoiding using flashlights and candles. Finally, just pick out a trail and wander through a woodland. You will see the fox fire.

Bioluminescence (BL) is the emission of light from a living or dead organism. BL light comes from a biochemical reaction at air temperature. Light generated from rotting wood is produced by the sudden decay of a high energy molecule to a lower energy form.

How does BL work? Basically, it is the reverse of photosynthesis. In photosynthesis, a living organism captures light and carbon dioxide to make materials and release oxygen. In bioluminescence, light and carbon-dioxide are released

See Cummings, page 5A

**Around The Farm**

Mickey Cummings



### Hornworms

You may be familiar with these mean looking creatures. Tomato hornworms look menacing, but the real damage that they do is in your garden. Let's talk about what they look like and what you can do about them in the garden.

The tomato hornworm doesn't only feed on tomatoes; they will eat anything in the solanaceae plant family. This includes tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, and potatoes. They will grow and go into their cocoon phase to emerge as a type of sphinx moth. Tomato hornworms have v-shaped yellow lines that run the length of their body. They have small brownish dots that look like eyes running the length of their body too. There is a black protrusion on the end of their body that looks like a stinger. This is to scare predators away and can't actually hurt you. There is another hornworm called the tobacco hornworm that looks very similar to the tomato hornworm. The main difference is the tobacco hornworm just have diagonal white lines instead of a V-shape on its body. The horn on the tobacco hornworm is more reddish. Both can cause a lot of damage in your garden, and are controlled the same way.

The older and larger hornworms get the more damage they do, until they turn into moths. They start out pretty small at about half an inch long. At this size, they won't do a lot of damage to plants. However, they grow quickly, and within four weeks are full-grown and up to 4 inches long. A 4-inch long hornworm can cause some serious damage very quickly, especially if you have a lot of them. They can rapidly defoliate entire plants. Because of their green body, they blend in with the plants, so you might not notice them until they have done significant damage. They will also leave behind dark green or black droppings that you might be able to see.

Managing hornworms is not difficult if you are walking through and closely looking at your plants a couple of times a week. Hand-picking them and putting them in a container of soapy water usually works pretty well. If a jar of soapy water isn't handy, you can also sling them onto the ground. A sight that you might see is a hornworm with lots of small white egg sacks attached to its back. These are from a parasitoid wasp. The eggs will hatch and the larvae will eat the hornworm from the inside out. Ladybugs and lacewings also serve as predators of hornworm eggs and young caterpillars. There are a couple of insecticides that you can use. It's best to use insecticides on hornworms before they are full grown, because insecticides won't be as effective.

See Williams, page 5A

### Chamber of Commerce

We are so excited that the Buy Local Extravaganza is finally here. If you are a business owner and have not signed up, you are missing out on a great opportunity to promote your business. We have moved the event to the new Sports Complex to allow for more tables and more vendors. The Extravaganza will be Thursday June 17th from 4:00 to 7:00. Our vendors are excited to show everyone their new merchandise, and you may be able to pick up a bargain while you are there. If you are wondering what to do with the kids, we will have the helicopter, a fire truck, animals from Rhatigan Farms and the Rodeo will be there to clown around as well. Call the Chamber office to see if there are still tables available or plan to come and explore what our local vendors have to offer.

An event that is always fun for the entire family is the Tenth Annual Blairsville Pro Rodeo. This year's rodeo will be June 18th and 19th at the Union County Saddle Club Arena. Check

See Chamber, page 5A

**Blairsville - Union County Chamber President**

Steve Rowe



**Watching and Working**

Jacob Williams



## North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

**Kenneth West** Publisher/Owner **Shawn Jarrard** General Manager/Editor **Derek Richards** Advertising Director **Todd Forrest** Sports Editor **Lowell Nicholson** Photographer

Website: www.nganews.com • Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com • Mail: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514

The North Georgia News is an independent and nonpartisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

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 \$5. 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. 17, 1988, 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.

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

## Paris... continued from Page 4A

by a BLUE street sign - which means they are "NOT" maintained by the county.

**Q. So how is a county-maintained road different from a public road?**

A. This is confusing to people, always has been and always will be. A "county-maintained road" is a designation that is given to roads that have been accepted by the county for maintenance and are obviously for public use and maintained with public funds. It may have become a county-maintained road for many different reasons through the years. These roads are identified by a GREEN street sign. As stated in the previous question, a "public road" legally is accessible by the general public but is not maintained by the county because the road is no longer needed by the traveling public or it does not comply with county road requirements.

**Q. Are all county roads the same?**

A. No. On some county roads, primarily the main roads, such as Old Blue Ridge Highway, Pat Colwell Road, Gumlog Road, Town Creek School Road, the County actually owns the R/W which usually varies from 60 feet to 80 feet wide. These main roads were built with state funding and right-of-way purchase was usually required to receive the state funds. However, on many of the smaller county roads we do not have right of way that is owned by the County. Often, we may have easements or sometimes we only have prescriptive rights, or we may simply maintain the road based on classification by previous commissioners.

In the past county-maintained roads for which we have no right of way usually began to be maintained by the County for many different reasons, but almost always at the request of property owners along the road.

## Chamber... continued from Page 4A

the Chamber's website to see all the great events including Bull Riding, Barrel Racing and be sure to check out the Union County Sass 'n Saddle Precision Drill Team or sign up for the Steer Dressing Contest.

Many people have asked if we have any word on if we are going to have the Sorghum Festival this year and when the View Grill will be reopened. The answer to the first question is yes, the Sorghum Festival will be held the 2nd and 3rd

week of October and word has it the View Grill may be opened by the end of June. Stay tuned to the our Facebook page, Visit Blairsville, GA, to get the most up-to-date info on the Sorghum Festival, the View, and more!

Don't forget to go to the Chamber's website where you can see our Community Calendar and you can check-in on our local businesses and restaurants as to what's new. Remember, it's always better in Blairsville!

## Wallace... continued from Page 4A

In another incident I was heading west on GA 515 and a student going into North Georgia Tech, in a split second, turned in front of me. His vehicle traveled all the way down the side of my truck and knocked the differential out from under it. We weren't speeding.

At the westbound left turn lane at GA 515 and K Creek Road by Walmart, numerous drivers make a U-turn to head back toward Blairsville instead of going out the upper drive to make a left at the light to Blairsville. Right after the lower drive was made Right-Turn-Only to head west, I had a couple of hair-raising close calls, because UDSDs would go to the light and make a U-turn with no chance for the oncoming traffic to stop. I have since been very vigilant so a UDSD does not cross my path there.

I was a witness to two

accidents at GA 515 and 325. In one, a UDSD pulled into the travel lane and stopped. A woman heading west on GA 515 went underneath the UDSD's truck. The second involved a Mustang traveling west on GA 515 when a UDSD exited 325 from the north and they collided. Speaking of the GA 515 and 325 intersection, can someone explain how 12 cars could pile up there? If I were a betting-man, I'd bet that the UDSDs were the majority of that group. That loss was truly sad.

My point is, I highly doubt a 10-mph speed reduction at GA 515 and K Creek Road will solve anything. "ABSOLUTELY NO U-TURN" may be a more effective solution. Are the drivers who were traveling at 80, 90 and 100 mph you mentioned in the article still allowed to drive? I hope not.

**Tom Wallace**

## Bateman...

**continued from Page 4A**

Many of the other actors listed did serve with distinction and valor, however, the letter about these three is not true; each part has been disputed by the actors as well as the military.

This may be edited for any reason except content, which is correct.

**Roy Bateman**

## Miller...

**continued from Page 4A**

represent anything that I stand for. Look at where we are now — we are building a great wall around Washington, D.C. to protect us from our own people at a cost of several million dollars that could have been best used to help our struggling Americans battling the coronavirus.

**David Miller**

she will. It depends on her virtue. The sum of all is, if we would most truly enjoy the gift of Heaven, let us become a virtuous people; then shall we both deserve and enjoy it. While, on the other hand, if we are universally vicious and debauched in our manners, though the form of our Constitution carries the face of the most exalted freedom, we shall, in reality, be the most abject slaves."

Virtue and morality must be instilled at an early age, and reinforced at every step of life. It is in these who have been steeped in right, that will use its precepts to govern wisely!

A Patriot Reflection is presented weekly by www.joshuaswarriors.org.

## Riley... continued from Page 4A

Alternatively, you can also take a piece of metal conduit and drive it into a bale and then place a candy thermometer inside of that for at least ten minutes to get an accurate reading.

The guidelines for internal temperature measured in degrees F are as follows:

Less than 130 has the least risk of fire; 130-140 has little risk but recheck it to see if the temperature climbs; 150 has a moderate risk of fire; move hay to a safe location and check often; 170, fire is imminent; over 190, fire is present, run away fast!

Hay bales may combust when moved. Inject water and soak it when moving. The rate of increase in temperature while checking is an indicator of how much it is at risk of fire. A slow rise in temperature is much different than a rapid rise in which you should take precautionary measures.

If there is the smell of caramel around your hay bales it is an indicator that it is warming up and a good sign that you should check the temperature. Other symptoms include a browning in color, visible vapor, and feeling heat with your hand especially if you put your fingers slightly into the side of the bale.

If your hay is heating up then there are several steps you can take. The first would be to move them away from buildings and spread them out. Only

## Cummings...

**continued from Page 4A**

by breaking apart organic materials using oxygen. What is the true purpose of BL? That has never been proven. However, many people assume BL attracts animals which serve as spore disseminators. However, I like to think the Good Lord has a sense of humor and likes to watch young men talk to dead stumps. Fox fire is nothing more than the recycling of materials in an ecosystem. Enjoy the secret lights of the woods.

## Walters-Taylor...

**continued from Page 4A**

Horn as well, being able to see the whites of their eyes as each side fought valiantly to lay waste to the other.

There's more to the story, and I'll check back in the weeks to come as we traverse this great land, Spark, hubby, and dogs in tow.

Until we muse again, I bid you, "At Ease!"

## Williams...

**continued from Page 4A**

tive against a 4-inch caterpillar. Bt is an organic insecticide that is effective against caterpillars. Spinosad is an insecticide that is derived from natural microorganisms that also works well. Permethrin will also work well to control many different types of pests on vegetables. Always read and follow the label for any insecticide that you use, whether it is organic or synthetic.

If you have questions about hornworms or other garden pests contact your County Extension office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

## Fowler...

**continued from Page 4A**

Downey and Della Reese. Every episode promoted the theme that God loves people and cares for those who are hurting. It followed the Biblical theme of angels as messengers.

The show lasted nine seasons and continues to broadcast around the world in 60 languages. Williamson remains a fruitful Christian influence in Hollywood.

Whether in a Tinsel Town studio or a downtown post office, the Lord Jesus bears fruit in those who abide in Him. That is how you reflect the image of God imprinted on your soul.

## Dyer...

**continued from Page 4A**

or cause power and communications outages.

These issues can prevent public safety from reaching you for hours or even days. It is best to be prepared with emergency supplies from a Ready Kit and to have some basic knowledge on how to handle an emergency.

Everyone has the responsibility to consider and plan for emergencies. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be discussing disasters and what people can do to prepare for them.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

do this if there is no smell or sight of smoke because moving those could expose the smoldering hay to oxygen and exacerbate the situation.

If fire is present, call for emergency help. They should first put out visible flames. Next, use a straight tip nozzle to penetrate the hay with water. Soak the hay until the moisture content is so high it cannot burn. When the hay is no longer hot, you can consider moving the bales from barns or stacks, but keep water handy in case there are flare-ups.

Never walk across hay that has the potential for fire. It takes a long time to grow a good stand of hay and much work to mow and bale it.

Let patience be your guide in getting it ready to bale so your hay will be of high quality for your livestock, and you can hopefully avoid the risks of any fires.

For more information check with your local UGA Cooperative Extension office.