

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Hurricane Preparedness

There is so much going on in the world today. We have been dealing with COVID-19 for months. This has involved making many adjustments in our daily lives. We see civil unrest and protests all around us. We also cannot forget that there are other dangers and emergencies that we must be prepared for.

June 1st was the first official day of hurricane season and we have already seen two named storms in the month of May. It has been predicted by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center that there may be 13-19 named storms, 6-10 hurricanes, and 3-6 major (category 3 or greater) hurricanes, with a 60% chance of this season being more active than normal.

Hurricanes weaken as they move off the coast and further inland, but they can still bring significant weather to our area such as severe thunderstorms, tornados, high winds, and heavy rain. This can result in flooding, downed trees, and power outages. With that information, we must consider hurricane preparedness.

The Union County Emergency Management Agency (UCEMA) has been discussing the new CodeRED notification system that we switched to this month. This is a great way to stay informed of potential severe weather. We encourage everyone to register for CodeRED and update their information. The registration can be found at the county website at www.unioncountyga.gov or you can call the UCEMA office at 706-439-6091.

Building an emergency kit is also a great idea. Water and/or electricity could be out for several days or more after a major storm. You should have enough non-perishable food, water, and medicine to last each person in your family for a MINIMUM of one week. Also make sure you have extra cash, a battery-powered radio, flashlights, and a way to charge your cell phone.

Everyone should also check their insurance policy. Call your insurance company or agent and ask for an insurance checkup to make sure you have enough homeowner's insurance to repair or even replace your home. Remember, standard homeowners' insurance doesn't cover flooding. Whether you're a homeowner or renter, you may need a separate policy for flooding.

We understand that these are uncertain and unusual times; however, we want to encourage everyone to consider hurricane

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Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



Otherness

Chuck Colson wrote, "If we fail to stand for Christ at that place where the world is denying His Lordship, we are missing the mark." The death of George Floyd and the following events are such a denial. Christ is Lord over how we treat one another. You won't hear that narrative in the "outrage" media.

To stand for Christ is to think, speak, and act as He does. He walked this earth, Jesus befriended rich and poor, dejected and rejected, Samaritan and Syrophenician, untouchables and unlovable, the hated and the unnoticed. The Christian gospel begins with love, Jesus said (John 3:16). Hate has no place in the life of a believer, either as an action or a reaction. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Let no man pull you so low as to hate him."

A rejection of "otherness" is built in to human nature. We use race, culture, and language as sieves of acceptance. Yet God uses that very tendency to show Himself, by contrast, through the lives of his followers. "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). Life in Christ transcends "otherness" and is a powerful contrast to a disoriented, misguided world.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn put his finger on the real issue. "The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being." It's about me. The good news is that Jesus is in the heart-changing business! William Wilberforce wrote, "Is it not the glory of Christianity to extinguish the malignant passions; to curb the violence, to control the appetites, and to smooth the asperities (abrasiveness) of man; to make us compassionate and kind, and forgiving one to another; to make us good husbands, good fathers, good friends; and to render us active and useful in the discharge of the relative social and civil duties?" True renewal in Christ Jesus is quite evident, especially to the "other."

I am encouraged by the activities of the One Race movement, an organization based in Atlanta. They emphasize our commonalities, since God "made from one man every nation of mankind" (Acts 17:26). They promote The Atlanta Covenant which includes, "We believe that cultural reconciliation is inherent to the gospel of Jesus Christ and it is only through the gos-

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All Things New
Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Each year I try to publish a set of questions to inform citizens of how building and construction in Union County is going using information provided to us by Union County Building and Development Office.

Q. How many new home permits were issued in 2019?

A. There was a total of 221 permits issued, which included 184 custom homes and 37 spec homes. That is a lot of homes and is a very good indication of economic stability for our mountain area. New homes being built provide jobs for builders, grading and gravel contractors and all building trades including plumbing, electrical, cabinets, appliances, and landscaping. With everyone having more work available, they have more money to spend, which stimulates the economy.

Q. Did the number of permits issued for new homes increase from 2018 to 2019?

A. Yes, the total number of permits issued for 2018 was 211. This number included 180 custom homes and 31 spec homes. So, from 2018 to 2019 that is an increase of 10 homes. While this is not a huge increase from one year to the next, it still indicates that we have a stable economy.

Q. So far this year, does it seem like the permits issued are increasing?

A. We are only five months into 2020. Permits issued during the first five months of 2019 were a little more than the permits that have been issued this year. So far, we have issued 52 permits for custom homes and 14 permits for spec houses. By the end of May in 2019 we had issued 63 permits for custom homes and 19 permits for spec houses.

Q. Does Union County keep up with Building Permits issued from year to year to show the trends in homes being built?

A. Absolutely! This is very important information for us as the county to have and it is also good for the public to be aware also.

2002 - 504	2007 - 279	2012 - 88	2017 - 170
2003 - 531	2008 - 124	2013 - 99	2018 - 211
2004 - 543	2009 - 110	2014 - 87	2019 - 221

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner
Lamar Paris



Drug Free Mountain Life

Mental Illness and Children

Children can develop the same mental health conditions as adults, but their symptoms may be different. Mental illness in children can be hard for parents to identify. As a result, many children who could benefit from treatment don't get the help they need. Understand the warning signs of mental illness in children and how you can help your child cope.

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.

It's typically up to the adults in a child's life to identify whether the child has a mental health concern. Unfortunately, many adults don't know the signs and symptoms of mental illness in children. Even if you know the red flags, it can be difficult to distinguish signs of a problem from normal childhood behavior. You might reason that every child displays some of these signs at some point. And children often lack the vocabulary or developmental ability to explain

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Letters to the Editor

Giant Knee-Jerk

To the Editor,

Last week's NGN had a summary of COVID-19 cases in Union County under the heading: "How are the county numbers . . . looking . . ." The numbers were presented as: ". . . cases reported on those dates." An average of the "cases reported" times the 30 day period from April 29 to May 28 would have yielded a total of ~1,155 cases, whereas the actual cumulative number of respiratory disease reported as cases of COVID-19 in Union County, to date, are 46 total.

Whether this misrepresentation was deliberate or unintentional is immaterial; it spoke to the Be Afraid, Very Afraid meme that is put out by MSM, CDC, NIH, FDA, Dog Catchers Anonymous, etc. And that is what led to involuntary house arrest, wearing of muzzles, an increase in suicide rate, deaths from OOD, bankruptcies, and is a sub-set of the riots that dominate TV.

More DPH data. The population of the four counties in North Georgia is 80,675. Four people have died from COVID-19(?). This is 0.005% of the population. Twelve people, total, in Union County have been hospitalized for respiratory issues and recorded by DPH as COVID-19. An average of 10 people per week appear on the NGN obituary page.

Did we need to do a giant knee-jerk in Union County for not much of anything happening? Were the unintended consequences far worse than the disease? Will the "New Norm" be more government oppression?

Zeb Blanchard

Red Cross Blood Drive

To the Editor,

Just to set the record straight, an article in the June 5 edition of the North Georgia News stated that the first local blood drive since the pandemic started was on Tuesday, May 26, at Haralson Civic Center. This is incorrect.

The Red Cross held a blood drive at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on Saturday, May 23, hosted by the Knights of Columbus. I was there and donated. I believe that somewhere between 30 and 40 pints of blood were collected at the St. Francis drive.

While I am on the subject of the newspaper article, a donor at the Haralson blood drive commented, "As for the pandemic, I think it is a big hoax." The lady is certainly entitled to her opinion, but how anyone can think that a virus that has killed over 100,000 Americans is a hoax is beyond me.

Judith Supinie

Letters to the Editor

Trump & the Bible

To the Editor,

I'm an Evangelical, but won't deny it: President Trump uses the Bible as a prop on the political stage to play up to Evangelicals. Despite Evangelicals' claim he is a Christian, if Trump were a born-again Christian, then he would not have chosen Paula White as his key spiritual adviser or as the adviser to the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative.

White is a Charismatic Dominionist of the New Apostolic Reformation. The NAR preaches the false doctrine of Dominionism: the Second Coming of Christ will not take place until the Church has gained control of the earth's governmental and social institutions. The NAR plots to make the Church the most important institution of the time, and have the power of the Roman Catholic Church that dominated the Medieval Ages.

America was founded as a Christian nation, and it should return to godly government. But the NAR wants to transform America into a nation ruled by their false apostles and false prophets: a Dominionist pope and papacy. And they now have Paula White in the White House advising 13 federal agencies to propagandize the dark kingdom of Dominionism.

Paula White must be ousted from the White House!
Karen Pansler Lam

Equal Opportunity for All

To the Editor,

The civil unrest across our country has weighed heavily on my heart and mind.

Since March, more than 100,000 people have died from COVID-19. More than 40 million people have found themselves unemployed. Cities across America have witnessed protests spurred by the killing of another black man at the hands of white police officers.

For far too long, people of privilege like me have stayed silent in the face of injustice and inequality. Those who have paid the price of that silence deserve better.

The murder of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd should never happen again in Georgia or the United States. Those responsible for their deaths should be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law.

Bigotry, misogyny, homophobia, xenophobia, and racism should be called out for what it is: hate.

Those who perpetrate intolerance and violence refuse to learn from the mistakes of our nation's past. We must all do our part to foster a better understanding of these issues through

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The Great Ones

I have heard them called the "Greatest Generation," referring to their many contributions to our society. They brought our country victory in World War II, they led our country through the space race and helped mankind defeat polio. I think it can be argued that the greatest generation experienced the most intensive gathering and storing of knowledge of any generation. In a matter of 20 years, the lives of the mountain people improved beyond measure, but, not without some humorous events. Here are some examples.

Columbus Cummings was born in 1915 and his father, Lon, was still using horses and mules for transportation as well as fieldwork. When Papa was only 7 or 8, Lon allowed him to travel to the big metropolis of Phil Campbell. Papa was excited because he'd never been to a town, and this one had a gin, a dry goods store, a general store and a post office. Papa told me the town also had a railroad depot.

Papa said, "My Papa pulled the wagon into the line at the gin to wait for our cotton to be unloaded." They stepped down from the wagon before daylight and began talking with all the other farmers. All at once Papa heard a hissing noise coming from some kind of big critter. It was sitting next to a building called a "Railroad Depot."

Papa began to describe to me the thing at which he was looking. "It was long and appeared to be sitting on two pieces of steel. Steam was rising from underneath the thing. Then it opened its eye. This eye was bright like a light and the thing was breathing out black smoke from the top of its head. All the hissing and growling it was making began to make the horses nervous, so my Papa grabbed the reins and held tight. Then the thing let out a shrill scream which sounded like a whistle."

He had heard his Uncles talk of "boogers," and he felt this one was the biggest booger he could imagine. He told me he was holding onto his Daddy's legs as tight as he could when the monster began moving and traveled down those two pieces of steel toward Hackleburgh. Papa asked his father, "What kind of one-eyed monster was that?" Papa's first encounter with a train was quite the experience for a lad of 7 years.

When my Dad, Paul, was 12, Papa moved the family up north to Chicago to hopefully find an easier life than that on the farm in Alabama. The family had never experienced indoor plumbing, and the only toilet paper any of them had ever experienced was from a Sears and Roebuck Catalog. They caught a train in Haleyville and

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Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Insect Mouthparts

As we move into the summer, insect pests on plants become more and more of a problem. Warm temperatures throughout the winter mean that insects could be more of issue for us this summer. I've already seen cucumber beetles earlier than I expected this year. However, not all insects are pests and a lot of that has to do with the type of mouth that the insect has. Today let's talk about the different types of mouthparts that insects have, and insects that fall into each of the categories.

There are four different categories for insect mouthparts. The first one is chewing. Chewing insects can be pests on plants as they eat leaves. Grasshoppers, beetles and caterpillars all fall into this category. Japanese beetles and tomato hornworm are two examples. However, not all insects in this category are pests. Some of them are beneficial because they use their chewing mouthparts to prey on other insects. Ladybugs are one very common example. Ladybugs will predate on many small soft-bodied insects like aphids. A praying mantis is another example. Mantids use their raptorial front legs to grab prey, and then starts to eat. Chewing insects all have a pair of mandibles. The mandibles help them rip and tear apart the leaves or insects that they're eating. Some insects with mandibles that are highly specialized for unique purposes, like stag beetles.

Piercing/sucking insects have a mouthpart that functions more like a straw. They can push their mouth into the plant that they're feeding on to suck out the juices. Stinkbugs like the brown marmorated stinkbug or the green stinkbug are a couple of examples. Stinkbugs can cause catfacing on fruit from where they've fed. When they put their mouth in it kills the plant cells in that vicinity, causing the deformed growth. Catfacing happens on tomatoes, peaches, apples, and grapes. The fruit is still edible, but it just looks a little ugly. Aphids are another example of piercing/sucking. Crinkled leaves and stunted growth can be a symptom of aphids. There are also beneficial insects like assassin bugs that use this mouthpart to feed on other insects. They will catch an insect and stab it with their mouthpart. Then they begin to suck up the insides of their prey. Assassin bugs will use their mouthpart to defend themselves if a person gets too close to them.

The siphoning mouthpart is found on moths and butterflies. These guys are usually not thought of as pests, but their caterpillar counterpart with chewing mouthparts can be. The siphoning mouthpart is used like a hose to suck

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber President
Steve Rowe



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