

# Opinions

## Everybody has one...

### School Walkthroughs

Last week Union County Fire Department conducted a walk-through of the main Union County School buildings and campus. The purpose of this walkthrough was to familiarize each shift with the school buildings and the emergency systems of each. We also reviewed the School Emergency Plan to understand the school's emergency procedures. Being familiar with these systems and procedures will help firefighters respond if there was an emergency.

The firefighters were escorted through each school building by school police and Assistant Superintendent David Murphy. The first matter to review was where to enter each school campus to avoid students evacuating the building during an alarm. We discussed where to place apparatus and which areas were best for firefighters to enter the buildings. Inside the buildings, firefighters were shown the locations for the electricity shut off, the domestic water shut off, gas shut off, the sprinkler systems, and the alarm systems.

The shut off locations for the electricity, gas, and domestic water are helpful to firefighters in the event that there is a fire in the building. Electrical systems may be involved, and the fire department would want those systems shut down before they applied water to the fire. LP gas is used in some of the buildings and can be a fuel source. The best way to control that type of fire is to remove the fuel source by shutting off the gas line. Domestic water systems carry water that is used for normal operations. Knowing where to turn off that water is also helpful in the event that a water line has burst or burnt.

The most important was the alarm panels and fire sprinkler systems. Each alarm panel was located in the building and the procedure for operating each panel was reviewed. These panels can tell firefighters where the fire is most likely located and how large the fire may be.

Firefighters also reviewed the many fire sprinkler systems and how to operate each system. Firefighters must know how to determine if a sprinkler head has been activated and how to support that sprinkler with the fire engine. We must also know how to cut the water off to that sprinkler head after the fire is out to minimize water damage. It is not like the movies, only the sprinkler heads that

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



### Beginning and Ending

The World War II era was a frightening time as people realized that life as they knew it could actually end. Two leaders from that period noted the link between beginning and ending, expressing hope even in those dark days.

The British army had finally turned back Rommel's tanks in North Africa. In a speech in November 1942, Winston Churchill tempered his nation's thrill over the victory. "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." The beginning had been quite bleak with the embarrassing defeat at Dunkirk. Some had even called for terms that would have resulted in the liquidation of the British Empire. Yet Churchill saw reason for hope. He continued, "Here we are, and here we stand, a veritable rock of salvation in this drifting world." A few years later, this hope would be realized as a new beginning for post-war Europe.

As the shooting war was ending, Pastor Dietrich Bonhoefer was imprisoned for resisting Hitler and Nazi brutalities. He was in the Buchenwald concentration camp, and later Flossen-burg. In April 1945, at the end of a Sunday service, the guards came for him. His fellow prisoners knew what this meant. He said, "This is the end ... but for me it is the beginning."

This history reminds you that what looks like an ending might well be a beginning. A childhood completed is an adult life begun. A long goodbye at the airport begins the journey of a lifetime. The loss of health begins a certain thoughtfulness about the gift of life. A career completed means time for new pursuits. A friendship turned toxic begins a season of forgiveness. The passing of the faithful means "to be at home with the Lord" (1 Cor. 5:8).

You are not abandoned to the chaos of meaningless endings. Jesus owns beginnings and endings! He said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end" (Rev. 21:6). He is there in the world's beginning (John 1:1). He is there in the end, promising, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20). He will be there when you take up residence in the Father's house (John 14:2). You can trust him to renew you

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**All Things New**  
*Wayne Fowler*



### Commissioner's Questions

**Q. What if the tree has fallen across the road? What do I do?**

A. Please call the Road Department at 706-439-6062 to report the problem. If there is a tree across the road they will get out there immediately to take care of it. If it is an emergency after hours, call 911.

**Q. I have a tree/brush blocking my view when I try to pull out of my road. What do I do in this circumstance?**

A. Please call the Road Department at 706-439-6062 to report the problem. They will go out and investigate to see what needs to be done to correct the situation. If it is an emergency they will respond in kind, or they may write up a work order so it will be taken care of in the next few days or weeks. If you ever have an emergency after hours, please call 911.

**Q. Most road questions you've answered have started with a similar response. Why is that?**

A. The Road Department has standards and procedures that are adhered to when responding to problems, or reports of problems. The first is the issue/problem needs to be reported, so you are asked to call the Road Department at 706-439-6062 to report the situation. Secondly, after the problem is reported, someone has to go out and investigate so that a decision on the corrective action that needs to be taken can be made and implemented. It may take immediate correction, it may be that a special type of equipment is needed to solve the issue or it could be a case of when they have a work crew in that area, and they will resolve the issue. All of these types of responses are prioritized based on public safety first. They take reports of problems very seriously and do not take the responsibility they have to the public lightly. That is the reason there are guidelines in place to handle reports of problems, so that they may try to do the best job possible. So I've said all of that to explain that yes, all of my answers start the same way for a reason. The procedures they have in place at the Road Department have been proven to work and work effectively. If you ever have an emergency that is after hours please call 911.

**Q. What if I am not happy with the response from the**

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



### Drug Free Mountain Life

#### Trauma and Substance Abuse

When a person fears for his or her safety, experiences intense pain, or witnesses a tragic or violent act, that person can be described as having experienced trauma. Levels of resiliency vary from person to person, so reactions to traumatic events are similarly varied. Although frightening experiences impact people at any age, adults will generally be more likely to manage through trauma than children will be.

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.

If trauma and the feelings associated with it are not resolved, serious long-term issues can develop. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) disrupts the lives of people who have experienced unresolved trauma by negatively impacting their relationships, emotions, physical body, thinking, and behavior. PTSD sufferers may experience sleep disturbances, nightmares, anxiety and depression, flashbacks, dissociative episodes in which they feel disconnected from reality, ex-

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### Letters to the Editor

#### Immoral Policy

Dear Editor,

After traveling to Homestead, Florida, to see the migrant children's detention center for myself, I am overwhelmed with shame about what our country has done. Upon arrival, my first response was, "This is a prison." Under constant threat of arrest, those of us who were there could only watch helplessly from a distance, peering over a wall to see the children inside being moved from place to place by guards. There is no justification for this travesty. It is the ultimate hypocrisy that some Christians rationalize this policy of family separation and child imprisonment. No children for any reason should ever be treated this way. Please contact your elected representative to demand that our great nation immediately end this immoral policy.

Frank McKinney

#### Commending Union County Schools

To the Georgia Department of Education:

I just want to take a minute to commend the Union County School System, all of the teachers, staff, cafeteria workers, maintenance, and especially Superintendent John Hill.

Our family moved to Union County from the Cleveland, Tennessee, area in the 2016-2017 school year, with my son attending sixth grade at Union County Middle School.

My son was welcomed by the school and has flourished. It has been a positive experience, and I could not be happier with the school system. These teachers are fantastic. The principal, Gwen Stafford, runs the school as a positive, fair, enthusiastic learning environment.

In today's world, it seems teachers and staff fall victim to blame by parents at the drop of a hat. I can imagine it gets old and would be easy to lose the initial excitement of teaching. These teachers and administrators truly care about the kids.

Management starts at the top, so I recognize that those at the state office are doing a great job, too. Georgia students are in great hands. Thank you.

Jim Whitehead

#### Driving Without Laws

Dear Editor,

I see lots of people driving around Blairsville as if there are no rules or laws to abide by. Wouldn't that be a great idea? No turn signals, no stop signs, no traffic lights; funerals and emergency vehicles could just be ignored. I wouldn't

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### AirVenture 2019

This week I am attending an event that is completely different from my usual activity. It does not involve wildfire (unless someone crashes or a campfire gets out) and does not involve growing crops except for the beautiful farms along the way from where I am staying in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, to Oshkosh. I am attending the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) AirVenture 2019 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

**RC&D Executive Director**  
*Frank Riley*



It is the largest air show, fly-in, aviation gathering, trade show, aviation education forums, and any other words to describe everything aviation you can think of. Many pilots who fly in, camp under their aircraft's wings on the grass along the runways or in the camp grounds on the site. There is everything here from the oldest airplanes to the smallest home-built, to the largest transports, to all of the famous warbirds (B-17, B29, B-25, Mustangs, Corsairs, Spitfires, ME 109s, P40s, T6s, F82, Tigercats, Bearcats, Wildcats, and many others) to the most modern air planes the world has to offer (F-16, F35, F22, KC135, C5 Galaxy, DC10, B1B, and many others). I have attended this "Aviation paradise" for the past 5 years and attended with my son, Jason back in 1997. At that event we had VIP passes so we sat in the VIP section with some of the icons of the aviation world like Chuck Yeager, Tex Hill, Bud Anderson and others. I have a picture of Jason and Chuck Yeager who was the first man to break the sound barrier.

The annual event is held at Wittman Field in Oshkosh which is the home of the sponsor, Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) that is an international organization of aviation enthusiasts based here. Since its inception it has grown internationally with over 200,000 members and nearly 1,000 chapters worldwide. The EAA was founded in 1953 by veteran aviator Paul Poberezny along with other aviation enthusiasts. The organization began as more or less a flying club. Paul Poberezny explains the nature of the organization's name. "Because the planes we flew were modified or built from scratch, they were required to display an EXPERIMENTAL placard where it could be seen on the door or cockpit, so it was quite natural that we call ourselves the 'Experimental Aircraft Association.'"

Homebuilding is still a large part of EAA, but the organization has grown over the years to include almost every aspect of aviation and aeronautics. The EAA Aviation Center at Wittman Field also includes the EAA Aviation Museum, with more than 200 aircraft, approximately 130 of which are on display at any

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### The Big Fight

It was a hot July day in 1970. All of us cousins had finished working in the chicken house and garden. We were on our way to Baker's Rock swimming hole. Robin was the eldest cousin and she was left in charge by our Grandmother Adams. We had no problem with her being in charge except that she was bossy. Each day when we arrived at Baker's Rock we would make the swimming hole deeper by adding another layer of rock to the dam across the creek. Next, we would clean up any debris that had floated down the creek. Then we would jump off Baker's Rock and swim in the cool waters of Little Bear Creek. This afternoon was no different, and soon Robin was barking out orders, as usual, to all of her younger cousins. She was good at barking out orders and we were all scared of her. I was next in line to Robin, and behind me was Dewayne. He was two to three years younger than Robin and her continuously ordering us around was grating on him. It would've been different if she had helped. But, all she ever did was bark at the rest of us, telling us what to do while she sat on a rock. We were nearly finished with the task of piling up rocks when she told him to get a couple more rocks for the dam. Dewayne looked at her and said, "I don't have to listen to you and I am sick and tired of your bossiness." All work stopped at that point and all of us looked at Robin to see what she would do next. She calmly walked to Dewayne and tried to negotiate, but, he just stood his ground.

**Around The Farm**  
*Mickey Cummings*



I am sure Dewayne thought he could bluff Robin and she would back down. They were standing nose to nose when Dewayne pushed her. That was a mistake. She grabbed him and placed him in a headlock. By this time they were standing in knee-deep water when she told him to say uncle. He screamed out, "NEVER." At that point she sat down in the water and pushed his head under the water. I began to worry when the bubbles came to the surface of the water. Robin yanked up Dewayne's head and said, "Say Uncle." He was resolved to fight to the end and said said, "No." Dewayne had painted himself into a corner. He could not give into Robin in front of all the rest of us boys. Tony would think he was some kind of sissy. His little brother, Danny, was looking to him for leadership. And I was there watching in amazement and wondering how this stalemate would turn out. We fought snakes, rode hickory trees off a bluff, floated a bathtub down this creek, and he was not going to be fooled by this girl. But, she was no ordinary person. She was tough, and the fear of losing to her

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### Squash Vine Borer

Squash vine borers are insects that can affect a couple of different members of the cucurbit family. They are a huge pest because a single insect can bring down an entire plant. Control of them can be difficult because timing is very important. Let's talk about how to identify them and what you can do to keep them taking out your crops.

Squash vine borers (SVB) can be a very aggravating pest to deal with because, often by the time you realize that you have them, it's too late to do much about it. SVB commonly affect squash and pumpkins. It's less common on cucumbers and melons. SVB emerge from cocoons in the ground as moths in the summer time. The moths have metallic green wings and reddish-orange bodies with black dots on their back. The moths will mate after emergence and lay eggs at the base of squash or pumpkin plants. The eggs will hatch after a week. The caterpillar that emerges is a whitish cream color. It will bore into the stem of the plant and begin feeding. Sometimes they will bore into the fruit itself. They'll feed on the plant for four to six weeks before returning to the soil to cocoon, and begin the process over again. In Georgia we can get one to two generations per year.

The first symptoms that you will most likely see is wilted plants. The plants will wilt because the SVB is putting the plant under stress, preventing it from getting the water and nutrients that it needs. If you look closely at the plant you'll see small holes with greenish or orange sawdust around it. Eventually SVB will kill the plant.

For small gardens you might be able to carefully remove SVB from the stem if you catch it early enough. You can take a sharp knife and cut up the stem until you find the caterpillar. After removing the caterpillar cover the cut stem with soil. SVB can be controlled by using pesticides, but pesticides are only effective if you apply them while the moths are out. Direct pesticide spray at the base of the plant. You must get good coverage of the vines and stem to have success. Bifenthrin is an effective insecticide against SVB. Please always follow the label when using pesticides.

If you have SVB in your crops one year, it is important to rotate and plant something different in that spot next year, because the SVB will be in the soil. Another strategy if you have a larger garden is to use a trap crop. Trap crops can be used against a number of pests. Basically, the strategy is to plant a crop at least 8-12 feet away from your desired plants. The trap crop will

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**Blairsville - Union County Chamber President**  
*Steve Rowe*



### Chamber of Commerce

As we enter this renewal period, I would like to take this time to thank all our members. As I'm writing this, I'm reflecting on yesterday evening. We just had a fantastic Business After Hours at Odom Springs Vineyard. Nelson Tractor Company was named Business of the Quarter for the many contributions they make to our community and the public-school systems. Al Haywood, owner of Pathway Christian Counseling, and Servpro marketing manager was named Chamber Ambassador of the Quarter. Without the steadfast support of members and ambassadors, the Blairsville-Union County Chamber would not be recognized as one of the top Chambers in the region.

In my first year at the Chamber, we have made several changes to the website, the calendar of events, and we've proactively promoted Blairsville-Union County through our social media. In June 2019, we experienced exponential growth and engagement on our Facebook chan-

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