

Opinions

Everybody has one...

It's Hot

This summer started out to be one of the coolest summers that I can remember for our area. May, June, and the first of July were relatively mild. Well, those cool days are over and now... It's Hot! We have seen some high 80s and low 90s in the last couple of weeks. The high temperatures combined with exposure to the sun can take its toll. As a reminder, Union County Fire Department would like to provide some safety tips for heat-related illnesses.

A good practice is to stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun. The summer sun can be brutal, and limiting exposure is a good practice. When available, stay in air conditioning. Whether you are indoors or out, stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water and other drinks designed to keep you hydrated.

If you must be outside, dress in loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible. Protect your face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat. Always remember the sunscreen.

The biggest concern associated with extreme heat is heat exhaustion and heat stroke. These conditions are treatable but can be deadly if allowed to progress. Heat exhaustion is usually the first to present. People who are in the extreme heat can begin showing signs after only a short amount of exposure.

Signs of heat exhaustion include confusion, dizziness, fatigue, headache, muscle cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, profuse sweating, cool, pale skin, and high heart rate. Treatment for heat exhaustion is to remove the person from the heat, have them drink plenty of non-caffeinated fluids if the person is alert, then cool the person. The symptoms usually resolve themselves. If the person doesn't recover from treatment or gets worse, call 911 for medical attention.

Heat stroke is a true emergency. The body has attempted to deal with the extreme heat but is no longer able to keep the body at a normal temperature. Heat stroke can lead to organ damage and death if untreated. The signs of heat stroke include the same as heat exhaustion except the person may become unresponsive, extremely confused, and their skin may be hot, dry, and flushed. Persons who are suffering from heat stroke should be evaluated in the emergency

See Dyer, page 5A

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief

David Dyer



Grace Pictures #4

For four days, what happened to the doomed Titan submarine was a mystery. Five souls aboard the craft traveled to see the Titanic resting on the sea floor two miles below the surface. One was a teenager whose mother gave up her seat so he could join his father. Would the passengers deplete their air supply? Could the vessel be located and raised? Then came the news of a debris field - catastrophic implosion and instant death. May God comfort those families.

The outcome of the Titan disaster was quite unlike the events of 2018. The world watched as rescuers in Thailand retrieved the soccer team boys trapped in a flooded cave. But these events do share something. They touch the human yearning for rescue, from either our own foibles or circumstances beyond our control.

The Bible appeals to this yearning for rescue as a picture of God's grace. Jesus is the Rescuer. I realize that skeptics complain about this truth, saying that Jesus needed rescue from God. They argue against a child-abusing God who would throw his son under the bus. This is disingenuous because Jesus revealed Himself to be one with the Father (John 10:30). A better analogy is that God shoved you away from the speeding bus and took the blow Himself.

So, from what do you need rescue? From yourself for starters. The default human condition is self-idolatry, which puts you in a precarious position with God. But Jesus, by His great act of love and mercy, "rescues us from the wrath to come" (1 Thes. 1:10).

You also need rescue from this fallen world. Jesus "gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father" (Gal. 1:4). You need not question the presence of evil - you see it and have experienced it. The same evil that compels humans to steal, destroy, and kill, the same evil behind flooded caves, undersea catastrophes, and death... that evil would keep you in the dark and away from the light of God's truth.

But there's grace! "He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

See Fowler, page 5A

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

A couple of years ago, Union County, with the permission of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), installed a nice new dock at the Canal Lake Boat Ramp off Pat Colwell Road. When the dock was dedicated, it was evident that most were not aware of the rich and vibrant history of that area of Lake Nottely. Periodically we get questions about that busy stretch of lake.

Q. The name "Canal Lake" has always been a mystery to me. Why is that boat ramp called "Canal Lake Boat Ramp?"

A. The story passed down goes something like this: Around 1840, Johnson P. Wellborn owned the land around what is now the Canal Lake Boat Ramp. In order to turn the wheel for a new grist mill, a canal had to be built. The canal was built with pick and shovel, but they hit bed rock. For this reason, the canal was never finished. After this, the area became known simply as "Canal."

Q. The lake is actually Lake Nottely. Was it once called Canal Lake?

A. No, but remember that much of this story happened BEFORE there was a Lake Nottely. In 1925, Arthur McAfee started construction of a Summer resort (Canal Camp) on the property adjoining the river and the canal. He was later forced to move Canal Camp to higher ground when TVA flooded the area. When he moved the resort, he changed the name from "Canal Camp" to "Canal Lake Camp." This is how the area came to be known as Canal Lake.

Q. What kind of activities did Canal Camp offer back in 1925?

A. The resort consisted of 22 cottages, a camping area, swimming pool, miniature golf course, tennis courts, store, dance pavilion, and a swinging bridge across the river. It was quite the gathering place for locals. The swinging bridge joined the southern peninsula to the northern peninsula, giving access to both sides. Mr. McAfee operated the resort in this location until 1940, when the Tennessee Valley Authority took over the property.

Q. Was Mr. McAfee compensated for his land?

A. Yes, the Tennessee Valley Authority bought the Canal Camp property and then constructed the Nottely reservoir.

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Burisma Bought the Bidens

Last month, Senator Chuck Grassley revealed a smoking gun in the ongoing corruption case against the Biden Crime Family Syndicate.

The Iowa Republican released the infamous FD-1023, which is a form used by the FBI to record "raw, unverified" information from highly trusted confidential human sources. The unclassified, lightly redacted document describes an alleged criminal bribery scheme involving then-Vice President Joe Biden, his son Hunter, and a Ukrainian business executive.

According to the FBI-generated form, both Joe and Hunter Biden "coerced" Burisma CEO Mykola Zlochevsky to pay them millions of dollars in exchange for getting Ukrainian prosecutor Viktor Shokin fired. As you may recall, Shokin was investigating Burisma when Joe Biden served as Vice President in the Obama Administration and Hunter Biden enjoyed a

See Clyde, page 5A

United States Congressman Representative Andrew Clyde



Chamber of Commerce

I would like to thank everyone for the recent birthday wishes. I feel blessed to live in a community where people will still take time from their hectic schedules to recognize someone's birthday. Our community is always so great about performing simple acts of kindnesses.

I would like to give a shoutout to Union County Sheriff's Office, Major Shawn Dyer. Major Dyer responded to a call and personally went above and beyond to help an individual in need. (Thanks to the North Georgia News and UCSO for recognizing Major Dyer.)

While I was driving through town, I noticed the school bus parked in front of United Community Bank. This bus symbolizes the perfect community project where a local business teams up with churches, businesses, and other organizations to provide school supplies to our local students. We now also have River City Bank jumping in to help collect shoes for students of all ages, partnering with Union County

See Chamber, page 5A

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President

Steve Rowe



Letters to the Editor

Rebuttal

Dear Editor,

This is a response to the writer of last week's letter to the editor entitled "Citizens Rights."

It was good that you put this information out there for the community to read since most were not at the Commissioner's Meeting when you spoke. But may I suggest you complete the process of reporting the threats and profanity to Lamar Paris even if you don't believe it

See Lodes, page 5A

County vs Country

Dear Editor,

I am proud of our county for coming out and supporting Makenna Cook. I am also proud that this area held a memorial service for Sean Willey, USMC Lance Corporal.

I am disgusted that our country discharged fine military members for refusing a vaccine. My heart goes out to his loved ones.

Sincerely,
Barbara Goergen

Humane Society

Dear Editor,

It has come to the attention of the Humane Society's Mountain Shelter Board of Directors that there is a rumor going around town that we are compensated for our service to the organization. The rumor is not true.

Our bylaws clearly prohibit any sort of compensation or indeed any other direct or indirect

See Priven, page 5A

So Grateful

Dear Editor,

My name is Mary Ingle. I will be 47 on Aug. 3 and am terminally ill, confined to a wheelchair. On July 11, several very kind people helped me find safe lodging after I ran out of money to pay for the motel I was staying at in Blairsville.

For three days, I had been trying to arrange a ride to an assisted living facility in Covington, but everything kept blowing up in my face. On the third day, I became homeless and would have had to sleep on the street if it wasn't for the Union County Sheriff's Office and Mountain Maws Dirt Cheap Taxi of Hiwassee.

The Sheriff's Office helped arrange the ride, with UCSO Maj. Shawn Dyer paying \$300 of his own money to fund the three-hour trip, and the taxi driver Mark Leech allowed me to sleep on his couch until the next day because it was

See Ingle, page 5A

Inner Tapes

What keeps us from having happiness in life? The kind of happiness that we spend much of our time trying to snag and to keep? Genuine happiness has absolutely nothing to do with external sources such as money, automobiles, jobs, home - absolutely none of these things carry a Certificate of Happiness attached.

We are made to believe by societal standards that such things will give us everlasting happiness. So, gullible and desperate as we are at times, with credit card in hand, we head out shopping for that one thing we believe will make us happy.

After the newness of our purchases wears off, we are on our search again. Why? Because we believe that happiness is external, and that we can capture it. But the truth is that our true happiness is internal. Always has been and always will be. Happiness is an overworked word: we are happy to get a nap, happy to locate an address, happy to feel the sun's warmth, happy to be remembered on our birthday, happy to be eating a certain food. Perhaps a better word would be "contentment" since it means being at ease or satisfied with oneself.

Life is a journey, not a destination. Happiness is not "there" but here, not tomorrow, but today. -Sidney Greenberg

One of the reasons for our continual stress and our frantic search for happiness can be summed up as our "life tapes," which began at birth and continue until we draw our last breath. "Tapes" are the messages that we have been told, shown, or felt by those in our life arena - positive and negative - from our parents, siblings, relatives, teachers, friends, preachers - everybody. Every single message has been stored in our minds - every last one. While some make us very happy, others will not.

Our subconscious mind stores our tapes. Think of your mind as a gigantic computer where thousands of informational bits are carefully stored. Information is resting inside of an organ that weighs on average three pounds! Our brain has billions of neurons that communicate with one another to keep us functioning daily. Dr. Travis Stork said the following about our brain: "Picture 100 billion neurons (brain cells), which each 'fire' (talk to each other) five to 50 times per second (on average). The impulses can travel as fast as 270 miles per hour. This speed is what allows us to see an object (such as a cat or dog) and immediately identify it."

Just think of all the tapes (information) we have stored; it indeed is mind-boggling! Our tapes are very powerful. They can be subtle,

See Ashurst, page 5A

Successful Mental Health

Dr. James Ray Ashurst PH. D.



Mountain Tom Clark

Nobody Will Ever Run Over Me: My 3X Great-Grandfather, Wyatt Cummings, fought in the War Between the States. At the time of the war he lived in North Alabama. He voted for Lincoln because he was opposed to the war and his 2X Great-Grandfather fought with George Washington during the Revolution. When Alabama seceded from the Union most of the people in his community tried to sit out the war. They didn't want to fight against their Southern neighbors. However, the Home Guard tried to force my ancestor and others to fight for the South. It was reported that one of Wyatt's friends was hung two times (Uncle Billy survived both of these) because he refused to fight for the South. So, Wyatt and his friends slipped through the lines into Tennessee and signed up with the North to fight the remaining years of the war on the Federal side.

Most of these battles were in middle Tennessee around the Duck River. Most of the people wounded in the war died not from their wounds, but, from disease. One of Wyatt's brothers also volunteered for service in the 2nd Tennessee Mounted Infantry. Absolem died on the field of battle from dysentery. During this same period of time another young man from northern Alabama joined the Union cause and fought in the same outfit with my ancestors. His name was Tom Clark.

There was another fellow in the Union outfit from North Alabama of the same name. So, everyone called this fellow "Mountain Tom Clark." One of his first duties included serving as a guard to the camp. This was particularly important because many young recruits would try to slip out of camp and return back home. The danger was that these deserters would fall into the hands of the Home Guard and provide them with information about the Federal Army. One fellow was very homesick and wished to be back home with his young bride. After observing Mountain Tom for a few days the man guessed that he would accept a bribe. Clark received a gold watch and chain in exchange for turning his head so this fellow could slip out of camp.

At muster the next morning the man was found to be missing and an investigation ensued. In the meantime Mountain Tom had been showing off his watch to his comrades. The problem was that other soldiers knew this watch had been owned by the fellow which had deserted. So, it didn't take long before leadership put two and two together to determine that their guard had been bribed. Before he was arrested, Mountain

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Pollinator Census

2023 is the fifth annual Great Georgia Pollinator Census. This year it is actually the Great Southeast Pollinator Census, because South and North Carolina are joining. Year after year the pollinator census is a huge success. It is the first of its kind and has really generated some great data on pollinators. It's also a great way for citizens to become involved, learn about, and protect pollinators. This year's census will be held on August 18th and 19th. Let's talk about how you can be involved this year.

The pollinator census comes together because of the hard work of Becky Griffin. Becky works at GMREC just south of Blairsville. With concerns about pollinator decline, the census allows us to capture critical data that can be used year after year to track the health and wellbeing of pollinators.

Some locations will have guided counts. If you're unsure of how to participate, joining a guided count is a great way to be a part of the census. Check the GGPC website (<https://ggpc.org/>) to see if there is a count near you. If you would like to participate from home that is also possible.

If you want to join the pollinator census at home it's very simple. Go to the ggpc.org website. There you will find the different categories of pollinators. Each census count will be done by observing a flowering plant for 15 minutes.

For the census, there are eight categories that you count insects. They are: carpenter bee, bumblebee, honeybee, small bees, wasps, flies, butterflies/moths, and other insects. Let's go through how to identify each of the insects in these categories.

Carpenter bees are going to be the largest of the bees that we see. They look very similar to bumble bees. The major difference is that carpenter bees have no hair on their abdomen (also known as their hind end). Carpenter and bumble bees have yellow and black hair. Bumblebees will have all black hair on their abdomens.

Honeybees are smaller than bumblebees and will have brown or blackish stripes mixed with golden-brown. They have hair down their whole body. Small bees are any bee smaller than a honeybee. We have many different species of small bees out there that are native pollinators. These native pollinators are very important for pollinating native plants. Small bees can be down to the length of a staple.

Wasps include paper wasps and potter wasps. They are important pollinators for certain plants like rattlesnake master. Flies are pollina-

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UGA extension Watching and Working

Jacob Williams



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Paris... continued from Page 4A

Much of the original Canal Camp property was flooded. He moved all his cottages and when the reservoir was finished and the lake flooded his old resort, he changed the name from "Canal Camp" to "Canal Lake Camp." He operated this camp until his death in 1956.

Q. Is the current campground part of that property?

A. Yes. By 1969, the

sons of Arthur McAfee, Jim and Lewis, had started construction on the campground to include 50 campsites, bath house, laundry building, tables, grills, and access to electricity. Canal Lake Campgrounds opened in 1970. The present campground is located on a peninsula adjacent to the old canal, which is now covered by Lake Nottely.

Clyde... continued from Page 4A

well-paid role on the board of the Ukrainian natural gas firm.

Burisma bought the Bidens for a mere \$10 million — \$5 million per Biden.

Forget "10%" for the "Big Guy"! Joe Biden received a 50% cut of the Burisma bribe — so it appears that he's now an equal partner.

And these aren't baseless claims. The FD-1023 confirms Zlochevsky has audio recordings of conversations with the Bidens — 17, to be exact; 15 involving Hunter Biden and the remaining two include discussions with Joe Biden.

While the Biden Crime Family Syndicate's corruption is undoubtedly a more consequential scandal than Watergate, numerous bad actors colluded to conceal the truth from the American people. The FBI and DOJ have possessed this deeply troubling document for more than three years. Yet at every

turn, these weaponized agencies have sought to redact and obfuscate the FD-1023's criminal claims.

Why? To protect then-candidate and now-president Joe Biden.

I certainly applaud Senator Grassley's decision to release this information to the public, as I believe it is paramount to provide transparency to the American people. But our nation deserves — and demands — more.

It's up to Congress to deliver real accountability. We must continue uncovering every detail of the Biden family's criminal behavior, as well as the lengths conniving bureaucrats took to cover up the truth. Rest assured, I'm committed to assisting my Republican colleagues in this effort through the appropriations process so we can expose, eliminate, and defund the deep-seated corruption that is tarnishing our Republic.

Ashurst... continued from Page 4A

uplifting, dynamic, or downright vicious. Their power can be mightier than the worst of hurricanes and travel faster than Superman. The tapes have the power to change our thoughts, emotions, and behavior in a split second. Here are samples of negative tapes that we may have possibly been told: "You're costing me too much."; "Worldly things are evil."; "Education is a waste."; and "The devil will get you."

Imagine living with these kinds of tapes dominating one's mind. At any point in time, our tapes are running in a positive or negative way. They

are giving us messages that we may have heard when we were young, or when we are adults.

As for the "child tapes," they can be challenging. When we heard them for the first time, we may not have reached the age by which we were able to process them in a successful manner. They may have been based on the reactions of others towards us while we were still just kids, children, or teenagers. The tapes that are negative in their message can be self-destructive, chaotic, and stressful.

Read more about our Inner Tapes next week.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

Family Connection to distribute to local families in need. Upon hearing of the need for shoes, Alexander's Store has agreed to help by donating a pair of shoes for each pair purchased from them. Mountain Home Health Services will also be a shoe collection site, and Pat's Hallmark will be doing a Facebook Live event where some very special shoes will be available to be purchased and donated.

These are just a few examples of our "community." During these economic times

there is a desperate need to help our teachers and students provide the supplies needed to educate our children. Thanks to all who stepped up to the plate (and shopping cart) to help.

Some would like to say negative things about our community, but I'm proud to live in a community where our schools, local businesses, public safety, local governments, and citizens can all work together and get things done. Thank you to everyone that goes out of their way to Make Life Better in Blairsville.

Lodes... continued from Page 4A

will help. If you don't follow through, how will you know?

At the Commissioner's Meeting, you threw out accusations of profanity, harassment, intimidation, and threats from our County employees and have not followed through by taking it to the Commissioner himself. He has the ability to correct those who have done and said these things. Now you and others will suffer more of this because you are giving them the go-ahead to continue because there will be no discipline for their actions.

I know that you don't want to take this matter to his

office even after you told the audience at the Commissioner's Meeting about it. Later, your exact words to me were: "I don't want to get anyone in trouble." That was your reasoning for not wanting to make an appointment with Paris.

Show us that you stand behind your words and take it to the Commissioner and stop (finish) the harassment you and others are getting from the county employees about the Five-Commissioner Petition.

We all do stand behind you in this matter of harassment.

Marsha Lodes

Priven... continued from Page 4A

direct way of profiting from the Shelter or Thrift Stores. Our bylaws state, "No director shall be compensated, paid or gain in any way for any services to HSMS, either directly or indirectly, nor may any director have any business relationship with HSMS. No director shall engage in any activity which may constitute a conflict of interest unless the conflict is brief, minor, temporary, and fully disclosed. No director shall vote on any matter under consideration by the Board of Directors or any of its committees in which the director has a conflict of interest. No director may par-

ticipate in discussion on any matter under consideration by the Board of Directors or any of its committees in which the director has a conflict of interest without first disclosing the conflict."

We are happy to clear this matter up. None of us are compensated in any way. Our duty as the HSMS Board of Directors is to prevent animal cruelty, suffering, and the inhumane treatment of animals. We do this out of love for the dogs and cats who are our primary concern.

Mike Priven

Humane Society Mtn. Shelter Vice President

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

Tom decided to skip out. So, he left the 2nd Mounted Infantry and eventually fell in with some others of his type. The people of North Alabama called these people "bush whackers." They weren't Union nor were they Southern. They preyed upon the innocent. And after the war they continued in the same manner.

Mountain Tom Clark robbed banks, trains and payrolls. He also bragged to anyone who would listen, "Nobody will ever run over Tom Clark." He and his gang soon paid a visit to a plantation owned by John Wilson. They tortured him trying to determine where he hid his mon-

Williams...

continued from Page 4A

tors too. They will only have two wings and large eyes. Some flies have coloring to make them look like a bee or wasps to avoid predators. In nature, this is called mimicry.

Butterflies are usually pretty easy to identify because of their wings and variation of colors. The other category includes all other insects that may land on the plant while you're watching it. This could be beetles, dragonflies, lacewings, or ants.

After you've done your count for 15 minutes go to ggapc.org to enter your results. You can do the census as many times as you'd like on the 18th and 19th. If you see an insect leave your plant and come back count that as a new visitor.

If you have questions about the pollinator census contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler...

continued from Page 4A

in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1:13). "Enemy-occupied territory—that is what this world is," C.S. Lewis writes. "Christianity is the story of how the rightful king (Jesus) has landed" and has begun his campaign of rescue.

You receive God's rescue by faith in Jesus Christ. That means you cooperate with your Rescuer. It is a rescue not like the lost hope of the Titan submersible. It is more like the Thailand boys, brought through perilous darkness and danger, and delivered to the light of day and safely home. That's a picture of grace.

Dyer ...

continued from Page 4A

room. Call 911 if the person is showing symptoms or if you suspect heat stroke.

Summer extreme heat can take its toll on a person. Remember these tips for staying cool. Be aware of the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion/heat stroke and recognize when a person is showing these signs and symptoms in order to get them the needed medical treatment.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Ingle ...

continued from Page 4A

too late in the evening to check in at the facility in Covington. I befriended the driver's daughter Tiffany Leech, and we have been staying in touch. They didn't know me from Adam but took me in anyway.

I am very, very grateful to the people who helped me in my time of need. Thank you so much.

Mary Ingle

***Editor's Note: This letter was drafted with assistance by the editor because Mary is disabled.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



August 2, 2023
In memory of
Charlie McGraw
on his birthday
by Allyson McGraw

July 28, 2023
In honor of
Joan Mannheim
by Shirley Walker

July 28, 2023
In honor of
Aaron Mannheim
by Shirley Walker

Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493