

Volunteers Needed

Union County Fire Department is a combination department, meaning that it has both career and volunteer firefighters. We are always in need of more volunteers. We must have a certain number to be able to operate safely and to be able to respond to the many calls we have each day.

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief David Dyer



On October 2, 1990, I joined Union County Rescue Squad which was part of the fire department. I had just started EMT school and joined in order to respond to car accidents. I had no idea what I was getting into or where it would take me. Volunteering for the fire department opened up an entirely new world to me.

When you join the fire department, you are not just joining an organization, you are accepting a lifestyle. It is not for everyone but there are people who want and accept this lifestyle. These people have certain traits - firefighter traits - that lure them to the service.

For the most part, firefighters have three universal traits. Firefighters are knowledge seekers, problem solvers and helpers. This is what makes them different. When they see an emergency, they see a problem that must be solved, and they jump into action.

Firefighters love to learn. They search for the latest information and skills to be able to handle just about any emergency. They train constantly to be prepared when minutes count. The fire service is a great environment for learning everything from how to handle an emergency to leadership skills.

Firefighters are problem solvers. We have stated many times how a firefighter must be a jack-of-all-trades because we have no idea what we will be called to next. Each scene can be different, and firefighters love the challenge of using all they have learned to solve the problem.

The best part of being a firefighter is knowing that you did something that day to help someone. Firefighters have the knowledge and skills to help on what may be the worst day of someone's life. There is no better feeling than knowing that you can make a positive difference.

Becoming a firefighter is the most rewarding service. Not

See Dyer, page 5A

Departure II

There are individuals in our lives who are like parasites in our lives, and it is a necessity to move them out of our lives. It isn't simple to let people go, especially if we have known them for a long time. We have to remember that God is not taken by surprise regarding this dilemma of ours.

Successful Mental Health Dr. James Ray Ashurst PH. D.



He is not going to leave us without friends—those individuals who will make our life a blessing, an adventure, and lots of fun. There are friends in your life right now who will remain there by your side. Those folks are the real friends!

Kelly was an attractive lady. Her personality was equally the same as her exquisite beauty. However, she lived a life of people-pleasing. She forced herself to tolerate being with people whom she didn't care to be around. She was a puppet on a worn-out string, at the mercy of

See Ashurst, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

Casualties of War

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the recent coverage of the local Stand for Israel prayer vigil. The terrorist massacres committed by Hamas are truly horrible beyond comprehension. The vigil also reminds us that, as Americans, we are the example that much of the world looks to. President Biden summed up our great country's critical role during his Oval Office address on Oct. 20. Since World War II, the United States has been the global leader in maintaining international stability. And, whether we like it or not, stopping the advance of terrorists like Hamas in Israel and Putin in the Ukraine is an essential step to keeping Americans safe. It's impossible to argue with President Biden's characterization that American values and leadership make us an "indispensable nation" in leading by example as well as military might.

While as individuals and as a country we support Israel in its justified quest to live free of terrorism and secure the release of its citizens, we also need to remember to advocate for the basic human rights of Palestinians caught in the crossfire. And as we focus on the violence in Gaza, let us not forget the civilian casualties of dictator Putin's unjust invasion of Ukraine. Whether you call them Russian war criminals or terrorists, they've bombed Ukrainian kindergartens, maternity wards, schools and hospitals, killing civilians. In both Ukraine and Gaza, we must support basic humanitarian efforts to mitigate the casualties of war.

Whether you consider yourself an R or a D, President Biden needs our continued support and prayers as he navigates this complicated

See Hadaway, page 5A

Rec Department Kudos

Dear Editor,

We thank the Recreation Department for the ongoing efforts to support, improve, and expand youth sports here in Union County. Scotty Thompson and Susan Stalcup have put in substantial effort to make sure that our children have opportunities in athletics that many never experience. These programs provide substantial benefits to our community, including youth fitness, education, camaraderie and sportsmanship. They also foster increased parental engagement and sense of community here in Blairsville.

We can only imagine the complications associated with logistics, 24/7 phone calls, emails, texts, and dealing with complaints, so please be sure to thank the staff and many volunteers that keep opportunities coming for the coming generation.

Josh Murauskas

End Times Prophecy

War is disruptive to complacency. It gives new urgency to latent thoughts, especially when the Middle East and Israel are involved. You may have thought about Biblical prophecy more than usual in the last few weeks.

You should. Since the circumstances of Jesus life, death, and resurrection fulfilled over 300 Biblical prophecies about the coming Messiah, it's worth noting the Bible's assurances that He will come again. And that subject ushers in some mysteries, like Gog, Magog, and the abomination of desolation. Jesus mentioned wars, rumors of wars, famines, and earthquakes. He calls those "the beginning of birth pangs" before he returns (Matt. 24).

The destruction and human suffering from this war in Israel and Gaza are dark images. The Hebrew prophets paint another picture, of nations that "hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nations will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war" (Isa. 2:4). Picture this tranquility: "Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each man with his staff in his hand because of age. And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing" (Zech. 8:4-5).

Critics of a prophetic future dismiss it as "pie in the sky by and by," a sedative for the angst of living in a fallen world with fallen people. But what if it's actually a stimulant for reality, rather than an escape from it? Tolkien writes, "Why should a man be scorned if, finding himself in prison, he tries to get out and go home? Or if, when he cannot do so, he thinks and talks about other topics than jailers and prison walls? The world outside has not become less real because the prisoner cannot see it."

The good news is that we prisoners of this fallen world experience the beauty of hope. Wars, rumors of wars, and tribulations are not the end of our journey. We hold fast the conviction that beauty is more consequential than brutality. We delight in the Lord's return, even if we have yet to unravel all the mysteries of Biblical eschatology. We celebrate our future reality with Peter who writes, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to

See Fowler, page 5A

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q. The names and numbers of highways and the GDOT highways confuse us. Could you explain it better?

A. Basically, there are two main state managed highways that bisect Union County and Blairsville in four directions. The North and South highway is considered US 19/129 or State Route (SR 11). It is also known as the Murphy Highway and the Jack C Lance Sr Hwy, going North. Going South, it is known as Gainesville Highway. When referring to crossing the mountain, it is sometimes called Neal's Gap, which is the name of the gap at the top of the mountain where Mountain Crossings or the Walasi Yi Center is located. The East and West Highway is referred to mostly now as Hwy State Route (SR 515). However, it is also US Hwy 76 and SR 2. Going East, you might hear it called the Young Harris Highway, but the total corridor is now mostly considered SR Highway 515.

An aside, the stone building that is now Mountain Crossings was built in the 30's by the Civilian Conservation Corps. My sisters use to wait tables there back in the 50's when it was a restaurant run by Bonnel and Roma Akins. (parents of Milton, Larry and George Akins)

Q. Are there any other state highways in Union County?

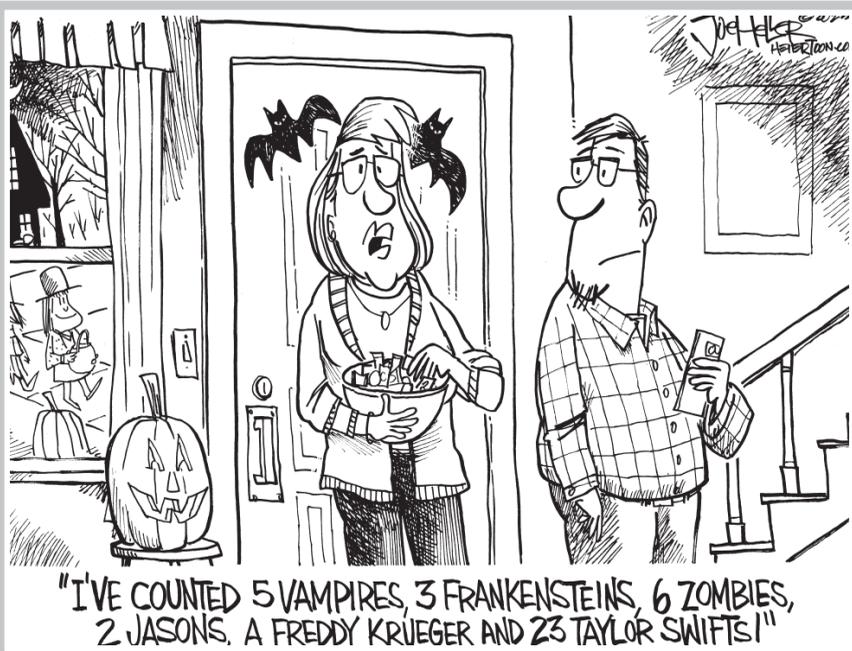
A. There are a few other state highways (state routes). One is Highway 325 also known as Nottely Dam Road and it runs from Highway 515 West to US 19/129 North, going across Nottely Dam on the North end of Lake Nottely. Then there is Highway 180 that goes from Suches to Brasstown Bald, with a short portion of this highway running in conjunction with the Gainesville Highway. Also, in Suches there is SR 60 which runs from the Fannin County line and goes all the way to the Lumpkin County Line. Then there is US Route 348, also known as Richard Russell Scenic Highway, which turns South off of SR 180 then goes across Hogpen Gap to the White County line. There is then a short portion of state highway going up to Brasstown Bald called SR 180 Spur.

Q. What is the difference in a State Route (SR) and a US Highway (Federal Highway) and how do we know the difference?

A. In most cases, a US Highway is funded by the Federal

See Paris, page 5A

Q & A from Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris



"I'VE COUNTED 5 VAMPIRES, 3 FRANKSTEINS, 6 ZOMBIES, 2 JASONS, A FREDDY KRUEGER AND 23 TAYLOR SWIFTS!"

Chamber of Commerce

Last week I had a friend, Heath Taylor, from the Dublin-Laurens Chamber of Commerce come and help us with our Chamber Board strategic planning for 2024. While here, he visited one of our great coffee shops around downtown and struck up a conversation with a retired veteran that was also enjoying the morning and his cup of joe. Heath stated while the topics may have changed, he could vision this as the way it was in days-gone-by and how great it would be if we could return to those days when everyone could have a conversation about their views and beliefs then shake hands and go about their business.

While taking a break from the planning meeting, I found him sitting outside staring at the leaves while breathing in the cool fresh air. Heath stated, "I hope y'all know how great you have it here." We took time after the meeting to enjoy a round of golf. The course was in great shape and the weather was perfect. I found my friend

See Chamber, page 5A

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President Steve Rowe



Letters to the Editor

A Successful Shelter

Dear Editor,

As the former Director of Humane Society's Mountain Shelter, I have resigned after 15 years of service. I would like to thank all the donors, volunteers and staff that have helped make the Mountain Shelter one of the best animal shelters in North Georgia.

The shelter started in 1987, growing into a beautiful facility helping thousands of animals find their forever homes. With the support of our thrift stores, county funding and public donations, the animals have a loving and clean, temporary home until they are adopted. Many of us have adopted a four-legged friend that means more to us than we could have ever imagined.

It was a pleasure working with Commissioner Paris, Commissioner Bradshaw and our local Sheriff's Offices and Animal Control. It takes everyone in the community to make a successful shelter, so we should all be proud!

God Bless, Lisa Collins

Fostering Hope

Dear Editor,

I experienced a moment of gratitude this week when I spotted a single monarch butterfly flitting among my garden flowers. For 40 years I've lived and gardened in these north Georgia mountains and can recall the numerous monarchs, skippers, swallowtails and more that have danced through my garden, bringing beauty and delight. As I stood admiring the delicate patterns in this monarch's wings, I knew that it had become our "canary in the coal mine."

Still I felt gratitude, knowing that there are others who care deeply about life on our planet. Here in Union County, there are folks who volunteer in the Ethnobotanic Gardens at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center, advocating for native plant preservation and environmental stewardship. Master gardeners also work to educate and create pollinator gardens throughout our community. A recent article in the North Georgia News reported that a \$1.5 million dollar federal grant is paying for four electric school buses and two charging stations to transport children in the Union County School System. I am grateful for these people and for the federal funding that will help address and begin to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Much needs to be accomplished, but the question persists: do we have the leadership and the will to tackle the climate crisis? The Biden administration has begun to address the crisis by passing the bipartisan Inflation Reduction Act indicating that some elected officials in Wash-

See Cordier, page 5A

Uncle Bud & Cousin Junior

In 1954 Uncle Bud was entering his senior year of High School at Phil Campbell. Dad and Uncle Bud's cousin, Junior, was an 11th grader. Uncle Bud started at left tackle as a freshman on the Phil Campbell High School Football team. He was athletic and big, weighing in at 210 pounds. But Uncle Bud lacked two things. First, he was inexperienced. Second, Uncle Bud lacked a mean streak. What Uncle Bud lacked, Junior made up for.

Junior weighed close to 230 pounds. My Dad has told me he watched Junior carry two bales of hay (one in each hand) and toss each one 10 feet in the air on top of a hay wagon using only one arm. Junior also had a mean streak. He was the leader of the team because he was the meanest, toughest and strongest boy on the team. But he took care of his friends and family.

The first game of the year, the boys from Phil Campbell rode 12 miles south on Highway 181 to the little town of Hackleburgh. This team was good, and they had made the state playoffs for a number of years consecutively. There was one boy that played with them that was a senior and was headed to play college football. He was recruited by Alabama, Auburn and Mississippi State. The boy's name was Hovater, and he was big, experienced and mean, as the boys from Phil Campbell were about to find out.

Phil Campbell had the ball on the 20-yard line on the first play from the line of scrimmage. Uncle Bud found himself playing left tackle, and directly across the line was this monster of a man named Hovater. As the quarterback from Phil Campbell began running through his cadence, the young man across from my uncle yelled, "Hut," and Phil Campbell's center snapped the ball. Before the referee could blow the whistle, the defensive line of Hackleburgh crashed through the young line of Phil Campbell and gang tackled the quarterback of Phil Campbell. A new quarterback had to come into the game because the starter was hurt on the first play. This was a preview of things to come for Phil Campbell.

A few plays later Uncle Bud was still playing left tackle. He was holding his own with this outstanding yet very crooked football player. Just before the ball was snapped, this player called Uncle Bud a hillbilly redneck. As he looked up at his foe, the young man spit tobacco juice into his eyes. As he was trying to wipe his eyes the ball was snapped. The Hovater boy caught Bud in the nose and stomped his right foot with his cleats as he made his way to the quarterback.

A few plays later as the ball was snapped, this same opposing player threw a handful of

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



What to do with Wildlife?

Fall is a busy time of year for wildlife. Some animals are trying to put on the last bit of weight to help them get through winter. Deer are getting ready to begin the rut. Some wildlife we welcome, others we despise because of the destruction that they cause. This can even vary from person to person. Some people love seeing deer and bear wander through their yard. Others dislike them because of the damage that they can cause. Regardless of how you feel about wildlife, we should all strive to leave wildlife wild. Below are some ways that you can do that.

Don't feed wildlife. By feeding wildlife I mean leaving out food specifically for wildlife to eat. Most wildlife are browsers, meaning that they travel over an area to eat. In the wild, wildlife doesn't have the option of sitting down at a buffet for their meal and having all the different options in one place. Putting corn or other feed for deer or other animals is not a good practice. What is better is to plant the types of plants that would be feeding them in the wild. Trees like persimmon, black cherry, oaks, beech, and crab apple are all mast trees that are beneficial to wildlife.

Wildlife also need forbs for food and cover. Forbs include plants like ragweed, poke-weed, asters, partridge peas, verbena, and others. Forbs generally need sunlight, meaning that only having woods is not ideal for wildlife. Many wildlife also need brushy areas that provide cover and food. So, if you like to feed wildlife I would strongly encourage you to plant things to create the habitat that they need not just put a bag of feed out for them. Putting out bags of food encourages wildlife's dependence on you. It also encourages the spread of disease. It forces animals to feed close together, which leads to exchanging saliva. This is a concern especially with CWD on the horizon.

If you see an injured wild animal the best course of action is to leave it alone. Rehabilitating wildlife is only allowed by people permitted by the Department of Natural Resources. If you find an injured wild animal that animal is more likely to defend itself and harm you. Some diseases that wildlife have can also affect humans. If you need assistance with sick wildlife call 1-800-366-2661. This is a Georgia Department of Natural Resources number.

In the case that you find a wild animal that appears to have been orphaned, the best thing to do is leave them there. Wildlife has a much better chance at survival if it is not disturbed by people. If you are certain that the mother is

See Williams, page 5A

UGA extension Watching and Working

Jacob Williams



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**Paris... continued from Page 4A**

Government, although the state has to pitch in a certain percentage on projects and maintenance. Whereas a State Route (SR) is funded and maintained by the State of Georgia.

Usually you cannot tell the difference in the highway except by the type of signage that is used. The signage for a US Highway is shown by the picture below and the highway number is inserted in the middle. All State Routes are identified as the State Route number in an outline of the State of Georgia as shown below.



**Q. Do you have the distances of the highways here in Union County?**

A. US Highway 19/129 South (Gainesville Hwy) = 12.49 miles; US Highway 19/129 North (Murphy Hwy) = 10.65 miles; US Highway 19/129 (Glenn Gooch Bypass) = .86 miles; SR 515 (Towards Blue Ridge) = 9.39 miles; SR 515 (Towards Young Harris) = 6.28 miles; SR 180 (SR 60 in Suches to Fannin County line) = 18.36 miles; SR 180 Spur (Up to Brasstown Bald) = 0.7 miles; SR 60 (Fannin Co to Lumpkin Co in Suches) = 10.57 miles; SR 348 (Richard Russell Scenic Highway from SR 180 to White County line) = 7.01 miles; SR 325 (Hwy 515 to US 19/129) = 11.09 miles

Total State Highways = 99.89 miles; Total County Paved = 439.06 miles; Total County Gravel = 105.12; Total County = 544.18; Private Roads = 498.67 miles

**Ashurst... continued from Page 4A**

whoever was in charge at the moment.

Kelly had difficulty in saying "No" to others. She had never learned to be a self-assertive individual. She found it impossible to declare to others her intentions with her life and to demand respect from those who made up her personal arena.

There were people in Kelly's life whom she wanted out, but she didn't have the nerve or fortitude to make it come to pass. These individuals were too forceful, and Kelly was too timid. These individuals were continually sucking the life out of Kelly's well-being. When Kelly needed someone to lean on, they were too busy. When she needed to be uplifted, they were critical. At times when Kelly needed to vent out some feelings, they were judgmental. She existed in a very sad, frustrating, and gloomy world. Her dark and forlorn world beat down on what self-esteem she had. Year after year, she suffered.

Kelly wanted to make

advancements in her life, but her people-pleasing need was much stronger—too powerful, too awesome. Kelly will destroy herself inside many times throughout a normal day's activities, surrounded by uninvited individuals who demand her attention.

On the exterior, Kelly will maintain her gorgeous appearance, but she will continue to be the subject of ill treatment by her negative acquaintances who have established homestead rights within her space unless she gets professional help. If not, she will maintain her people-pleasing personality traits and possibly suffer from depression and anxiety attacks.

You and I have the inalienable right to select the individuals who add to our lives, and also that right includes dismissing those who are self-serving, harshly critical, mean-spirited, and everlastingly a royal disaster. We can stop our never-ending misery by dismissing those who cause our drinking glass to be half-empty rather than completely full.

**Cummings... continued from Page 4A**

mud into Uncle Bud's eyes just as the center snapped the ball. Pretty soon the young man from Phil Campbell was covered with cuts and bruises. As he made his way to the huddle, Junior's eyes met Uncle Bud. Junior asked Uncle Bud, "Can you get Hovater on the ground"? Bud said, "Yes. What have you got up your sleeve?" His older cousin replied, "You just get him on the ground and don't let him up."

The next play Uncle Bud kept his head down until the ball was snapped, at which point he launched himself into the gut of his target, knock-

ing him to the ground and the air from his lungs. He laid on the player from Hackleburgh while Junior kicked him in the mouth, knocking out his teeth. This play changed the course of the game. The Hovater boy could not play anymore. He was the heart and soul of this team, and when he was removed from the game, the boys from Phil Campbell launched a comeback.

When he left the game in the 4th quarter, Phil Campbell was behind by 10 points. Phil Campbell scored a touchdown to pull within 3 points. The game still looked out of reach until the defensive end, Uncle Bud, intercepted a pass and ran the ball 83 yards for a touchdown. He carried two players on his back the last 5 yards of this run. It was the only time he ever scored a touchdown during his career as a football player. This play made my Uncle a legend in the annals of Phil Campbell Football. Junior carried him off the field on his shoulders in celebration after the play. And just to let you know, Junior went on to become a preacher later in life.

This story reminds me of life. We get behind and everything seems to be against us. However, just hang in there and things will get better. Somebody on your team will kick the teeth out of the mouth of hard times and you will make a comeback to win the game.

**Fowler...**

**continued from Page 4A**

be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...through faith" (1 Pet. 1:3-5). Why not confirm your reservation?

The land where Jesus walked is once again shedding blood in war. That's your reminder to "be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will" (Matt. 24:44).

**Chamber...**

**continued from Page 4A**

distracted so I had to ask what was going on; he said he was just looking at all the colors and he could swear the leaves were changing as we played. We are truly blessed to live in the North Georgia Mountains!

Remember, the mountains may attract visitors to our area, but it's the people that keep them coming back. Help make life better in Blairsville!

**Hadaway...**

**continued from Page 4A**

world landscape. After 9/11, our country came together as a united population against terrorism and tyranny.

While we aren't the direct victims of the current evils of Hamas, the United States still has a role to play in sending a clear message that our country will not suffer such attacks and violations of human rights and sovereignty, no matter where they occur.

**Melanie Hadaway**

**Cordier...**

**continued from Page 4A**

ington are taking the crisis seriously and are attempting to take positive action. After listening to an interview between Kelly Corrigan (PBS "Tell Me More") and Gitanjali Rao, a young inventor and student activist who was Time's 2020 Kid Of The Year, I am hopeful. Young people, like Gitanjali Rao, believe that if we study, work hard, and pull together, there are no unsolvable problems. Perhaps my lone monarch butterfly still has a chance, but only if we take responsibility, work together, support one another and foster hope for the future.

**Jennifer Cordier**

**Dyer...**

**continued from Page 4A**

only are you helping people and your community, but you are improving yourself with the training. UCFD is in need of more volunteers, so get an application today. Please contact Station 1 at 706-439-6091 for more information.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

**Citizens For A Better America**

Hal Weatherman, candidate for North Carolina Lt. Governor, will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of Citizens For A Better America. Are you happy about the way things are going in this state & country? Come and join like-minded patriots. Everyone is welcome and bring a friend.

Citizens For A Better America are uniting to promote freedom & constitutional rights, peacefully & patriotically. Monthly meetings are the third Thursday of the month. Next meeting is Nov. 16, at the Legends Steak House in the large private meeting room, 42 Tennessee St., Downtown Murphy, NC. Meal orders at 5:00, meeting is 6:00-7:30. This meeting is free & open to the public. United We Stand!

For more information: Website: <http://www.CitizensForABetterAmerica.com>; Email: [Contact@CitizensForABetterAmerica.com](mailto:Contact@CitizensForABetterAmerica.com); Call: (828) 361-5422.

**Williams... continued from Page 4A**

dead then call a wildlife rehabilitator.

Another thing to note is that to keep any kind of wildlife you must have a permit from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. You can get permitted to be a rehabilitator, or permitted to have wildlife for educational purposes.

In Georgia wildlife is "held in trust by the state for the benefit of its citizens." O.C.G.A 27-1-3 Those benefits can include a variety of

uses including hunting and viewing. The fees and taxes associated with hunting and fishing make up the bulk of the conservation funds that DNR receives; making hunting and fishing a critical part of conservation, not only in Georgia, but in the United States.

If you have questions about wildlife contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu). You can also contact your regional DNR office.

## Ira Weaver American Legion "Supports Be the One" Campaign



Today, the number one issue facing the Veteran community is suicide. Sadly, Blairsville is not immune as we found out very recently. It is estimated that 17-22 veterans or active-duty military take their own lives every day, this is over 6,000 per year. The rate of suicide in this group is over 50% higher than it is for other adult groups. As a military commander, there is nothing harder than handling a death in the unit; but when it's a suicide, it's even harder. When you make that dreaded visit to the family to inform them "I regret to inform you about the death of your spouse, son,

"We want to be able to see our members so we can ask them how they are and if they need anything," stated Mike Merritt Post Commander. "We're always looking for Veterans and encouraging them to join so they can be around people that understand them," he continued. The Veteran Community is a unique brother and sisterhood. Only these members know what it means to deploy to some far-off land, to see things the average person will never see, to go the places no one else wants to go. Veterans understand. No one will ever understand why an individual veteran or military member takes their own life, but sometimes they don't feel as if they are a part of anything. Be The One and join the American Legion so you can be part of something. We help the community, and we help each other. This recent suicide from among our ranks will leave a hole, so Be The One to stop the next person. Be The One who asks for help; that ask can simply be showing up.

If you are a veteran in crisis, call 988 and press 1. Text 838255. Visit the VA Crisis Line website at [veteranscrisisline.net](http://veteranscrisisline.net).

The American Legion is the largest and one of the oldest and most inclusive of all veterans' organizations worldwide and devotes itself to mutual helpfulness, mentoring youth, advocating patriotic honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to fellow service members and veterans.

All members, and interested veterans, are encouraged to attend our meetings the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Veteran's Center, 78 Blue Ridge Street. It's a great opportunity to become engaged in the community and to establish strong bonds with fellow Vets. Our next meeting is November 21st. The Post and Auxiliary, for spouses of Veterans, will begin its meeting at 6:30 PM in the same building on the same day. Additionally, the Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders will have their joint meeting beginning at 5 PM.

For more information on the meeting or any Post activities email the Post at [post121@gmail.com](mailto:post121@gmail.com) or visit the website at [legionpost121.org](http://legionpost121.org).



daughter, father, mother" the "why, what happened, how" questions always come out of that family member. The family is in shock, they're trying to absorb this unexpected information, they're grasping for an understanding they will never get. When the death is related to the mission, most of the answers are sad, but factual. When it is death by suicide, there are no answers. The family is left wondering why, why, why, why. And they will never find out the answer. Kids will grow up without a father or mother, parents will have to put a child in the grave and absolutely no one will know or understand why.

The Be The One campaign is a national campaign by the American Legion about being the person who can step in the way of the one contemplating suicide. To Be The One is to ask a Veteran how they are doing. It's about asking for help. It's about providing access to resources. It's about getting involved. The focus of the program is to keep Veterans from committing suicide. The way we try to Be The One in our Post is by having a variety of activities that will draw out our members and other Veterans.