

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## E911 - Enhanced 911

Calling 911 when there is an emergency is something that we take for granted. Most people know that when they call 911 that someone will answer and help is on the way. It is very helpful to have a simple, three-digit number to call for emergencies. It is also reassuring to know that when you call an Enhanced 911 center, they know your phone number, your location, and other vital information. But it hasn't always been that way.

I remember a time before we had 911 in Union County. Each emergency service had a separate telephone number. If you needed an ambulance, you called the hospital. If you needed law enforcement, you called the jail. If you needed the fire department, you called the fire department number. However, if firefighters were on another call, the phone call rolled over to the jail. The jailers would then relay the call via radio. When we left the station, we had to "flip" a switch in order for the calls to go to the jail.

When we did get 911 services in the early 90's and became a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), it was very basic. When you called 911, someone would answer, and they had to ask questions to get any information. They would ask for a call back number, location and nature of the call. They would then dispatch the appropriate units via radio. Calls and actions were recorded in handwritten logs.

Today, we have Enhanced 911. Which means when a caller calls 911 today, whether it be from a landline or cell phone, the dispatcher will instantly receive the phone number, the address or approximate location, and other vital information that is linked to that address or cell phone. The location is automatically mapped for the dispatcher. All communications, radio and phone, are recorded and can be played back for information. All calls and actions are recorded in the CAD or Computer Aided Dispatch.

The new telephone and radio upgrades allow the 911 dispatch center to use voice over internet protocol (VOIP) technology. This is one more step toward the future of E911 known as Next Generation 911 systems. These systems will eventually allow other information such as text, photos, and video to be utilized in the 911 dispatching.

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



## Times Eternity

I attended my 40th high school reunion. I have a confession about that. We were a class of only 46 souls, but I could not shake this fear that I would not recognize someone or remember a name. It wasn't that I wanted to impress anyone with a nimble mind to which I lay no claim, but because I wanted us to be as familiar as when we wished each other farewell 40 years ago.

Reunions like that are curious, given the memories and the more experienced vantage point. In my chats with classmates, we generally avoided discussing our metamorphosis from children to adults. In the beautiful home warmed by evening lights and old friends, we shared our stories of careers and families, success and failure. I suspect many wondered how different choices might have led to other outcomes. A review of history invites that. Forty years later we've learned some things, including the realization that we cannot change the past even though its lessons remain.

We humans struggle with the bounds of time. We look back with regret and satisfaction, considering the troughs and crests. We look forward with fear, anxiety, and hope, straining to see the weather ahead and accept its inevitabilities. Emily Dickinson penned the verse, "On the wondrous sea, sailing silently, knowest thou the shore Ho! Pilot, ho! Where no breakers roar, where the storm is o'er? In the silent west many sails at rest, their anchors fast; Thither I pilot thee - Land, ho! Eternity! Ashore at last."

The Bible reveals a God who pre-exists time. He intends His creation to be immune to the ravages of time. But we rejected Him and demanded autonomy, so He subjected us to the limitations and effects of time, our curse (Gen. 3). But He had a plan of redemption in the waiting. For sure, what Jesus did on the cross addresses our need to be saved from the penalty of sin. But it also offers to save us from the bounds of time. The Bible calls it eternal life because God invites us to join Him beyond time in holy fellowship. We receive that privilege by faith in Jesus Christ our Savior. In Him, we will be finally removed from the presence of sin, and the anachronisms of fear and anxiety. He will replace our hopes with a new and wondrous reality.

So here's a thought. When life brings to mind the trap-

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**All Things New**  
*Wayne Fowler*



## Commissioner's Questions

Due to the confusion caused by misinformation that has been circulating in our community, the following questions are all related to the helicopter service that is provided here in Union County, so everyone has accurate information.

**Q. I keep hearing that Union County did not renew their contract with Air Methods to provide the life flight emergency helicopter service free to residents. Is this true?**

A. It is not true, I am not sure where this rumor got started, but Union County DID renew their contract with Air Methods. It went into effect on June 1, 2019 and the contract was approved at the June 20, 2019 County Meeting. The newspaper did report on the approval of that contract in their article on the County Meeting. The service that is provided is the same that it has been in years past.

**Q. Who is covered by the Union General Hospital stationed helicopter?**

A. Anyone who lives in Union County or has a home in Union County.

**Q. Who pays for the medical emergency helicopter service in Union County?**

A. Union General Hospital and Union County Government share in the cost and pay for your membership so that there is no out of pocket cost to the user. You also do not need to sign up or fill out any forms.

**Q. What does this Emergency Helicopter membership cover?**

A. The membership with Air Methods is not a service. Union County has basically signed all residents and homeowners up for this membership at no cost to the individuals. This membership covers only emergency medically necessary helicopter transfers to another hospital. It does not pay for the entire cost of the service but pays for the amount that your medical insurance does not pay. If you happen to be uninsured, it will pay for the total cost.

**Q. So how is a medical emergency helicopter bill paid?**

A. Generally, a bill will be delivered to the patient's home, and the "membership" covers all cost not covered by your personal medical insurance or Medicare or Medicaid. You will also have

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



## Drug Free Mountain Life

### Tips for Teens About Alcohol

For many parents, bringing up the subject of alcohol is no easy matter. To make the most of your conversation, take some time to think about the issues you want to discuss before you talk with your child. Consider too how your child might react and ways you might respond to their questions and feelings.

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.

You don't need to cover everything at once. In fact, you're likely to have a greater impact on your child's decisions about drinking by having a number of talks about alcohol use throughout his or her adolescence. Think of this talk with your child as the first part of an ongoing conversation.

And remember, do make it a conversation, not a lecture! You might begin by finding out what your child thinks about alcohol and drinking. Consider beginning the conversation by al-

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## Chamber of Commerce

Our Annual Power Lunch featuring President of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Clark was a huge success. We are very grateful to Chris for taking the time to visit and speak with our attendees and discuss the New Georgia Economy and the multiple ways it may affect Union County in the future. He gave us all a lot to think about! I would like to give a special thanks to Union General Health System, our sponsor for this event. We are thrilled to be able to have individuals like Chris serve as our guest speakers for our many events, and it is because of sponsors like Union General Health System that we are able to do so. Thank you!

We were very disappointed that due to rain in the forecast, our 1st annual "Shoot for the Stars" charity golf tournament had to be postponed, but I want to thank all our great sponsors and players for being so understanding. The tournament has been rescheduled for Friday, November 8 at 12 p.m. We are looking forward to a

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



## Letters to the Editor

### Understanding Research: Who "Dunit"

A recent letter to the editor suggested bipartisan support for fixing the "crisis" of "climate change." Unfortunately the research came from a CBS News poll. CBS News is highly partisan and pro the "climate change" initiative.

According to Wikipedia, Luntz Global founder Frank Luntz's speciality is "testing language and finding words that will help his clients sell their product or turn public opinion on an issue..." Luntz was the "father" of the change from global warming (because it didn't) to climate change (because it does, under the control of Mother Nature).

Not found in partisan literature: Bat and bird deaths by windmills are "not significant," according to the Sierra Club environmental organization, but they don't say what the increase in crop pesticides (toxins) would be to compensate for the loss of these natural insect predators.

And: Carbon is a chemical element found in organic matter. Would be hard to regulate! Carbon dioxide is a gas essential for the healthy growth of the plant-based food that we eat and probably shouldn't be regulated.

Zeb Blanchard

### Importance of Prayer

Why is it so important for a child of God to have a daily prayer walk with the Lord, God? What does it mean to pray without ceasing? Does prayer change God's mind? What makes for a good prayer life? Does God only hear the prayers of His righteous people? How many times a day should we pray? Does prayer heal the sick?

These questions and many more are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to our prayer life. Down through the Old & New Testament we see time and time again how faithful men and women of God prayed for God's hand of mercy and grace to come to their rescue, to restore their unbelief and to make a way where there was no way. Prayer has changed the course of history and has changed millions upon millions of souls who once were lost, but now are found. Prayer opens the door to God's throne of grace where one can come and bring their request to the Lord, God of glory, knowing according to God's will the answer will come; maybe not the way we would expect, but the way God's thoughts and ways work all things out to those who love Him.

Did you know that Daniel the prophet got thrown into the lion's den for his prayer life, because Daniel refused to obey the decree of King

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## Pilgrims & Plymouth Rock

While in Plymouth, Massachusetts, last week at the Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy Workshop, we explored this historical area and learned a lot about how America was first settled, and yes, we saw Plymouth Rock. Plymouth is located approximately 40 miles south of Boston in a region known as the South Shore.

Throughout the 19th century, the town thrived as a center of rope making, fishing, and shipping, and was home to the Plymouth Cordage Company, formerly the world's largest rope making company. The town contains Pilgrim Hall Museum, the oldest continually operating museum in the United States. Prior to the arrival of the Pilgrims on November 11, 1620, the location of Plymouth was a village of the Wampanoag tribe called Patuxet. The region was visited twice by European explorers prior to the establishment of Plymouth Colony.

In 1605, Samuel de Champlain sailed to Plymouth Harbor, calling it Port St. Louis. Captain John Smith was a leader of the colony at Jamestown, Virginia, and he explored parts of Cape Cod Bay and is credited with naming the region "New Plimouth." Two plagues afflicted coastal New England in 1614 and 1617, killing between 90% and 95% of the local Wampanoag inhabitants. The near disappearance of the tribe from the site left their cornfields and cleared areas vacant for the Pilgrims to occupy.

Plymouth played a very important role in American colonial history. It was the final landing site of the first voyage of the Mayflower and the location of the original settlement of Plymouth Colony. Plymouth was established in December 1620 by English separatist Puritans who had broken away from the Church of England, believing that the Church had not completed the work of the Protestant Reformation.

The Mayflower first anchored in the harbor of Provincetown on November 11, 1620. The ship was headed for the mouth of the Hudson River near Manhattan, which was part of the Colony of Virginia at the time, but it did not go beyond Cape Cod. The Pilgrim settlers realized that they did not have a patent, so they signed the Mayflower Compact prior to disembarking. They explored various parts of Cape Cod and eventually sought a suitable location for a permanent settlement to the west in Cape Cod Bay. They discovered the sheltered waters of Plymouth Harbor on December 17, and the protected bay led to a site for the new settlement after three days of surveying. The settlers officially disem-

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



## Calvin and Alvin

My earliest memories of Calvin are those of adulation. He was a real mountain man. He was short in stature, bow-legged and potbellied. He was fearful of no man and loved deer hunting and coon hunting. He loved to laugh and didn't mind spinning a yarn to get a laugh out of you. I admired the man because he knew about the woods and didn't mind taking a young boy to the woods.

I must have been close to 9 years old the first time I was allowed to go to Deer Camp with Calvin. I was not allowed to carry a gun, but I was allowed to accompany the other men. Calvin took me with him, and I was sitting on top of the world. I can still remember sitting on top of White Oak Mountain watching the deer move about on those clear mountain mornings. But, the most memorable part of deer camp that year was Calvin's brother Alvin. Like his brother, Alvin loved to tell yarns about the woods. Just before this particular hunt, Alvin had just purchased a brand new Ruger .44 magnum. It was a good gun, however, Alvin had very poor vision, and I never remember him shooting a deer. He could tell you how to shoot and he could tell you about finding the biggest bucks.

Most people thought he was a great hunter because of his tales. But, I cannot remember him ever taking a deer himself. All the venison he consumed was given to him by his older brother Calvin. The first day of Deer Camp ended with a good hearty meal around a campfire. I sat pretty close to the fire trying to brace myself against the chill of that October night and ate some beef stew and cornbread. Alvin came back into camp and was immediately asked about his day. He told us that one 8-point buck had walked by his stand. He shot at the deer, but the wind had pushed the bullet off his mark. Actually, we had heard the report of Alvin's bolt action rifle four times. The next day was similar and produced similar results. That same 8-point buck had walked by his stand again. This time, the 8-pointer snorted after the man shot at and missed his quarry. However, his excuse was that the sun was in his eyes causing him to miss the deer. Four days came and went, and Alvin always had an excuse as to why he missed the same deer.

Alvin came walking into camp the last day of the hunt and was asked if he'd seen the 8-pointer. He told us the deer had shown up just after 9 a.m. He had a clear shot and slowly raised his rifle. "That buck looked right at me, and I noticed the sun glinting off of his antlers. Well, I lowered that gun and motioned for that old buck to come to me. When he walked up to

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**Around The Farm**  
*Mickey Cummings*



## BATS

In the vein of talking about spooky creatures around Halloween, I'm going to talk about bats! Bats usually creep us out. They can be a pest if they get into your attic. However, they are also good at mosquito control, and mosquitoes are the real bloodsuckers that I don't want to have. Let's talk about bats, how to keep them out of your attic, the services they provide, and how to build a bat nest.

In Georgia we have 16 different species of bats. The gray myotis and Indiana myotis are both endangered. Several of the others are species of concern, due to low population. A single bat can eat hundreds of mosquitoes in one hour. They will also eat moths and beetles that cause damage to crops and trees. A couple of bat species have specific requirements for humidity and temperature. Those will reside in caves. Otherwise, bats are opportunistic in finding lodging. These bats may roost in dead trees, old barns, or in your attic.

Bats don't cause problems in the house by gnawing or chewing. Their droppings do cause an odor. If you have bats in your house, avoid using exclusion practices from April 1st through July 31st. This is the maternity season for bats. If you put up a one-way door to keep them out during that time you will likely trap flightless pups inside your house. Openings that bats have used for a long time will usually have brown discoloration along the sides. There are a couple of different types of one-way doors that you can use. The first one is a mesh covering. Secure the top and sides of the mesh, but leave the bottom open. This way bats exiting will be able to squirm out through the bottom, but not be able to get back in. If you have openings in tight spaces outside you can use pipe (PVC, flexible, caulk tube) that is 2 inches in diameter and 10 inches long. Insert the pipe about a 1/4 inch into the opening and secure it with caulking, staple, nails, or screws. Bats will be able to exit through the pipes, but not fly back into them.

Sometimes it can be difficult to completely bat proof your home. Bats can enter through holes that are as small as half an inch. If you are continuously going through the process of excluding bats and then finding new ones, you may want to buy a bat box to house those bats outside your home. Or you may want to buy a bat box so that you can have bats to eat the mosquitoes around your home. Bat boxes are placed about 15-20 feet off the ground in a spot that gets lots of sunlight. Make sure that the box stays wasp free, because they are a nuisance to bats. It can take a couple of years for bats to move into a

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**Watching and Working**  
*Jacob Williams*



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