

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Letters to the Editor...

Kudos to Animal Control

Dear Editor,
To the citizens of Union County, did you know we have an Animal Control Division within the Union County Sheriff's Office? Did you know we are lucky enough to have two outstanding Animal Control Officers, Mike and Jeff? These guys work tirelessly to protect our domestic animals, from dogs to cats to horses. They truly care about the welfare of all animals and do a wonderful job. But they can use our help.

First, if you already have a pet, please spay or neuter your animal to prevent unwanted litters. There are many low cost options offered by local groups. Next, please keep your animals on your own property. If they are outside, please make sure they have a collar on with identification, including your phone number. Better yet, have your pet microchipped. Keep your pet up to date with their vaccinations, for their protection, as well as for the protection of other animals and people too. We have an annual low cost rabies clinic in Union County each year. We also have several wonderful veterinarians that serve our community.

Taking these steps insures that we have a community that is pet safe and pet friendly.

If you are thinking about adding a pet to your family, please adopt from one of our local shelters, pet rescue organizations, or directly from Animal Control. They all have many wonderful dogs and cats that are just waiting for their forever homes. Please be their angel.

Did you know that Union County Animal Control has their own Facebook page that keeps us updated daily? Check it out- you may be surprised by what they do for our community.

Thank you,
Janet Cornwell

Where we are today...

Dear Editor,
Almost half of all Americans (47 percent) do not put a single penny out of their paychecks into savings. If you have no debt and you also have ten dollars in your wallet, you are wealthier than 25 percent of all Americans. Almost half of all Americans (47 percent) do not put a single penny out of their paychecks into savings. When LBJ's "War on Poverty" began (1964-65), less than 10 percent of all U.S. children were growing up in single parent households. Today, that number has skyrocketed to 33 percent.

In 1950, less than five percent of all babies in America were born to unmarried parents. Today, that number is over 40 percent.

Forty eight (48) percent of all Americans do not have any emergency supplies in their homes whatsoever.

In 2013, women earned 60 percent of all Bachelor's Degrees that were awarded that year in the United States.

George A. Mitchell

A small town is like a big family

Dear Editor,
I was reading last week's issue and recognized the number of articles that indicate that we are quite a self-sufficient community. There were articles about groups raising money and supporting such diverse projects throughout our County, like festivals and fairs and raffles to benefit schools, libraries, animals, wounded soldiers, folks who are strapped by medical expenses, distributions of food, clothing banks, grief and Alzheimer's support groups, free books for young children, and helping in innumerable other ways.

As I read the paper, I realized that none of the above mentioned cases indicated that appeals were made to Big Brother in Washington to solve our problems. No, we take care of our own in most situations. Isn't that the way our Country used to function, before Big Brother decided he should tell us what our needs were and that he'd take care of them?

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Giving Thanks

Dear Dr. Gowder:
Nine years ago my wife and I purchased a home here in Blairsville. This home was to serve as our second home and a place that we could escape to on weekends and holidays. Through the years we came to love the city of Blairsville and the surrounding mountains and counties. I retired this past December and we decided to sell the city home and move full time to Blairsville. The one real big concern we had was healthcare. We moved here in March and not long thereafter I had the unfortunate opportunity to test the healthcare system.

The middle of August I suffered a fainting episode. This required that Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) to transport me from my home to Union General Hospital for evaluation and treatment. Dr. Kathryn Blocker, Dr. Suzanne Turner, Dr. Travis Albright and the emergency room staff on call at that time wasted no time or effort to diagnose my problem. My Primary Care Physician, Dr. Alan Sanders, and my Cardiologist, Dr. James Varnell, were consulted and after lots of tests from state of the art equipment, determined the proper course of action. They referred me to doctors in Gainesville who concurred that I needed a pacemaker in order to keep my heart

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Gun Control?

Dear Editor,
I get so upset of hearing the president talk about gun control and if he could get it under control and take all our guns away, then there would not be any more killings, seriously!

Question to you Mr. President, would you allow you and your family to just walk out of the White House without any protection from the secret service agents. Of course you wouldn't. You all would become sitting ducks as well, so controlling guns is not the answer. If all guns were taken away, people would always be able to get a gun from somewhere. The answer has always been in the home. Are the parents of children teaching their kids about Jesus Christ. Are they praying for their daily bread at each meal. Are the parents teaching their kids right from wrong. Are our schools being given the freedom to teach about the love of God, instead of worshipping Allah or some other Muslim religion.

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Forgiveness

The Vietnam Moving Wall came to our town. My generation's war ended before I was old enough to be a soldier, but not before I realized that if it didn't, I would be. My earliest recollection of it was from church prayer meetings when the adults requested prayers "for the boys in Vietnam." We may never learn the lessons from the 58,000 American lives listed on that Wall, but I would like to describe a lesson from the life of one little girl that isn't.

In 1972, the iconic photo of the Vietnamese girl with burned skin fleeing a napalm attack won a Pulitzer Prize, and changed the minds of many about the war. It also changed the life of the little girl herself, Kim Phuc.

Journalists on the scene found medical treatment for massive third-degree burns on her back and arms. She left the hospital after 14 months of treatment, about the same time the U.S. military left in 1973. In 1980, while Kim was in medical school in Saigon, the fifth anniversary of the war's end brought questions about "the girl in the picture." The communists saw an opportunity for propaganda, so they moved her to a government job in her home province so she could greet visiting dignitaries and even display her scars. But it was the emotional scars and hatred that made her increasingly depressed.

In her free time, Kim visited the library and found a New Testament. She was attracted to the first-hand account of the Christian gospel unfiltered by what she had been taught. She began attending a church and after experiencing a convincing answer to prayer, she became a joyful follower of Jesus! In her words, "It was the fire of the bomb that burned my body, and it was the skill of the doctor that mended my skin, but it took the power of God to heal my heart."

In 1992, Kim and her husband defected to Canada and she later became a citizen. With her newfound freedom and motivated by faith, Kim established a foundation to provide aid to child victims of war. Her biography, "The Girl in the Picture," was published in 1999. Speaking with NPR in 2008, Kim said, "Forgiveness made me free from hatred. I still have many scars on

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All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Questions and Answers

Q. Can I get a Flu Shot at the Health Department?

A. Absolutely! The Union County Health Department has plenty of shots on hand and available now. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday you can come by and get the Flu Shot. No appointment is necessary. The shots are also available on Tuesday and Thursday, but we advise that you call ahead to find out the best time to come. The number to the Health Department is 706-745-6292, located next to the County Road Department on the Glenn Gooch By-Pass.

Q. Why do I need a flu shot?

A. The flu is a contagious disease that is spread by coughing, sneezing, and close contact. Each year thousands of people in the United States die or are hospitalized because of the flu. It is more dangerous for the elderly, young children and infants, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems. The flu shot helps keep you from getting the flu, can make it less severe if you do get it, and keeps you from spreading it to your family and other people.

Q. When should I get a flu shot?

A. The best time is NOW. As of now, there have been no reported cases in Union or surrounding counties. It takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop after receiving the vaccine. So the best time to get it is before there have been any cases that way your immune system has had time to prepare.

Q. Can the flu shot cause me to get the flu?

A. There are no live viruses in the flu shot, so it cannot cause the flu. Each year the flu shot is different and made to protect against three or four viruses that are likely to cause the flu in the upcoming season. If you come into contact with a person who has a strain of the virus different than those in the vaccine there is a possibility you could get that particular strain, but the shot drastically improves your odds of not getting the flu. Union County Health Department has the Quadrivalent vaccines which covers four strains of the virus and offers the most and best protection.

Q. Since elderly patients are more susceptible to the virus, is there anything different they need to do?

A. The Health Dept offers a higher dose flu shot for people

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Employer Summit comes to Blairsville

An excellent half-day employer education program is coming to Blairsville! Business owners, managers, and HR professionals in the Georgia Mountains region will soon have the opportunity to learn how to better understand and conquer compliance challenges in the workplace.

Blairsville - Union County Chamber

Cindy Williams



The Union-Towns Employer Committee and the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) are co-presenting an employer business summit and networking event, sponsored by the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, entitled Employers In The Know. It will be held Monday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Union County Community Center located at 129 Union County Recreation Road in Blairsville. Employers are encouraged to pre-register by Monday, Oct. 19, but may register at the event.

Employers In The Know will feature presentations by Georgia Labor Commissioner Mark Butler and Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp. Additional experts will discuss a range of employment and legal issues of importance to employers. Commissioner Butler will discuss current GDOL initiatives and programs designed to encourage job growth and economic development throughout the state. Secretary Kemp will discuss issues regulated by his office. Nancy Castor Sprattlin, an attorney with the Castor, Sprattlin Law Group, LLC in Atlanta, will discuss

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The Sweetness of the Season

I was sitting in front of the Magnovox, rolling my tongue back and forth over the gaping space where my front two teeth had been just days before, pajamas on and tucked up under my Mom on the couch the first time I heard Jackie Gleason say "How sweet it is". Every Saturday night after, we gathered around the TV to watch Mr. Gleason as he hosted his show that featured one of the best bands on TV, led by Sammy Spear. Mr. Gleason's monologue included humor that exceeded my life experience, but his exaggerated expressions would send this second grader into fits of giggles. My sister and I couldn't wait for the June Allyson dancers to make their appearance each week, performing with lavish costumes in amazing synchronized routines. And the crowning glory, every week, was when Frank Fontaine showed up at Joe's Bar as Crazy Guggenheim. For the rest of the evening, my mother would have to hear my poor imitation of Crazy. I seemed to find his vocal intonations quite irresistible.

As we roll into the final weeks of the Farmer's Market season, we start by celebrating "how sweet it is". This weekend wraps up the Sorghum Festival at Meeks Park for another year. We too will honor our Sorghum Farmers with Millie at the Market Café offering her biscuits with Sorghum for just \$1. This is an affordable chance for everyone who hasn't yet acquired a taste for this native syrup. It usually isn't "love at first bite", but by the end of one of Millie's biscuits slathered with butter and this dark, earthy syrup, you'll feel vindicated.

Over the past five months of season, our crafters have been tucked in between our growers and food producers, giving shoppers opportunities to purchase beautiful handmade crafts, made from natural products. From llama yarn to pottery plates, local gem jewelry to goat milk soaps, our crafters are truly artisans. It is this Saturday the 17th that we honor them and help showcase their skills.

On Saturday the 24th, we go from sweet to robust, when we celebrate our annual Greens and

Farmers Market Moment

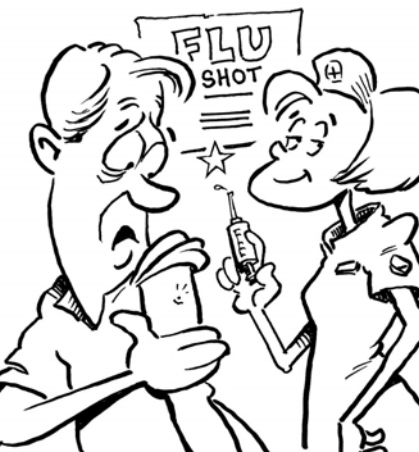
JorAnne Leone



"I believe in being a civic-minded citizen..."



"...Even when it hurts!"



Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871. According to popular legend, the fire broke out after a cow - belonging to Mrs. Catherine O'Leary - kicked over a lamp, setting first the barn, then the whole city on fire. Chances are you've heard some version of this story yourself; people have been blaming the Great Chicago Fire on the cow and Mrs. O'Leary, for more than 130 years. The 'Moo' myth, like any good story, the 'case of the cow' has some truth to it. The great fire almost certainly started near the barn where Mrs. O'Leary kept her five milking cows. But there is no proof that O'Leary was in the barn when the fire broke out - or that a jumpy cow sparked the blaze. Mrs. O'Leary herself swore that she'd been in bed early that night, and that the cows were also tucked in for the evening.

But if a cow wasn't to blame for the huge fire, what was? Some journalists blamed the blaze on a couple of neighborhood boys who were near the barn sneaking cigarettes. Others believed that a neighbor of the O'Leary's may have started the fire. Some people have speculated that a fiery meteorite may have fallen to earth on October 8, starting several fires that day - in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as in Chicago. While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8, 1871, roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado,' some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed. Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they'd been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. But the fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that

RC&D Executive Director

Frank Riley



Uncle Mack

Uncle Mack was my Maw Maw Adams brother. He enjoyed all kinds of hunting. But, he was particularly fond of Coon Hunting. My father began hunting with Mack and his brother Rufus as a teenager even before he dated my mother. Some of Dad's favorite memories are hunting the hills of North Alabama with Mack and Rufus Baker.

My father was a pretty good baseball player in his younger days and in his senior year at Phil Campbell High School Dad was offered a scholarship to play baseball at the University of Arkansas. The following September Dad made his way to Arkansas to begin his freshman year. But, even as he began school his heart was still in North Alabama. During the previous summer Dad and Mom began dating and all Dad could think of as he sat in Freshman English was a little black headed gal back in Alabama. For the first few weeks he tried to keep his mind off of my mother by immersing himself in baseball practice.

Dad was a south paw and could hit the ball well. He had no problem with the Arkansas starting pitchers. However, there was a former pitcher that had recently gone on to Cincinnati who was practicing with the team. The guy had a wicked curve ball and Dad could never connect with one of his curve balls. After a couple of weeks of practice Dad was discouraged and missed his girl. So, he quit and went home to Alabama. The next June Dad and Mom married after she graduated high school. Not long after the marriage Dad received an invite from Uncle Mack to go hunting. Dad didn't want to leave Mom at home by herself, so, he took her to Uncle Mack's house to visit with Tudler and the kids while Mack and Dad hunted.

The men spent the night hunting all across the area. Their dogs treed 6 coons that evening. The hunt was so enjoyable the men lost all track of time. They finally made their way back to the home of Uncle Mack at about 5:30 AM. Uncle Mack asked Daddy to put up his dog. As Dad was starting the car he thought Uncle Mack would wake up Mom. But, Uncle Mack didn't wake her up. So, after sitting in the car for 15-20 minutes Dad went inside to wake her up. He thought Uncle Mack had gone to bed and was asleep.

As Dad and Mom were leaving Uncle Mack hollered from his bed room, "Paul, where did you get off to last night. You left us so early we were worried about you going down to the boot legger's house and getting into trouble. Shirley, we tried to stop him." Mom looked up at Dad and gave him that "Boy, you are in trouble look". Dad tried to explain and the words wouldn't come out right. So, Dad ran into Mack's room and pulled back his bed covers. There lay Uncle Mack still wearing his muddy boots. He let out a

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



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