

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## Community Preparedness

Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness - This is the last week of National Preparedness Month. This week's theme is, "Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness." We have already discussed the different themes for the previous three weeks. Week one was "Save Early for Disaster Costs." Week two's theme was "Take a Plan to Prepare for Disasters". Week three's theme was "Make a Youth to Prepare for Disasters". During this last week, September 22nd through the 28th, we go beyond individual preparedness and move to how we can help prepare our community.

This year's theme is "Prepared, Not Scared." Once we have prepared our family, it's time to ask what we can do for our community to help prepare for a disaster. We can start in our neighborhood. When we know that a major event or disaster is about to strike our area, we should contact our neighbors and help them get ready. We can check on each other periodically during and after the event ensuring that everyone has what they need and they are safe.

We can also learn more about how to deal with emergencies and learn lifesaving skills. A lifesaving skill is anything that a person can do in an emergency or disaster that may save lives. This includes learning CPR and First aid. CPR has been proven to save lives when performed early on a person who is in sudden cardiac arrest. A first aid class is helpful and teaches a person what to do in a medical or trauma emergency. Learning how to perform CPR and First aid can give a person the skills and confidence to respond to an emergency.

For you over achievers who want to really get involved, you can join a volunteer organization that helps people during disasters. Organizations such as the Red Cross, Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster (VOAD), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), etc. are great organizations who help their local community as well as other areas during a disaster. The Union County CERT is actively recruiting members and training is available. Anyone interested can contact Union County EMA at 706-439-6091.

As we have stated before, disaster preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Not only do we need to prepare ourselves and our family, but we need to be involved in preparing and helping our

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



## Make a Way

I won't describe the published details of what happened because it's too painful to read. But I'll offer enough for you to understand.

Dr. Craig Phelps, his wife Susan, and their four children left their home in Oklahoma, excited to begin their trip to a ski resort in Colorado. That evening, somewhere in the wilderness desert of the Texas panhandle, a tractor trailer hit their van. As he triaged his family in the darkness, Dr. Phelps discovered that his son Jeremy had not survived the crash. They sat beside the roadway in the darkness for 45 minutes waiting for help to come.

During his flight to Oklahoma to attend the funeral, Susan's brother Don Moen read, "I will do something new, now it will bring forth. Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert" (Isa. 43:19). Those words inspired him to write a song for his devastated family. "God will make a way where there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see. He will make a way for me." One of the verses says, "By a roadway in the wilderness, He'll lead me and rivers in the desert will I see. Heaven and earth will fade but His Word will still remain, and He will do something new today."

In 2018, Moen published the book, "God Will Make a Way - Discovering His Hope in Your Story," to offer healing. He writes that the song "was born out of a tragedy that started me on the path to understanding that when storms threaten our lives, we are about to see the power of God move in miraculous ways. Here's the catch though. We must make the intentional decision to look for Him there."

In the midst of pain, clichés on church marquees and trite but well-intentioned quips from friends can seem to mock your pain. In the deepest night of your soul, you realize that you cannot continue without help from somewhere. Into that darkness shines this ray of light. "And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me...for when I am weak, then I

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**All Things New**  
Wayne Fowler



## Commissioner's Questions

**Q. I know deer season must be getting ready to open, because people have started firing their guns. Is there anything that can be done about this?**

A. Georgia law allows for gun owners to discharge their weapon in a reasonable manner, at a reasonable time and in a reasonable place. This responsibility lies on the owner themselves, and obviously what I would consider a reasonable time may very well be skewed by my lifestyle and personal choices compared to what the next person may consider reasonable. So if you find a weapon discharging disconcerting or alarming you may call 911 to have an officer investigate. The law enforcement officer will go out to investigate and check to see if there is a problem.

**Q. If my neighbor is making a lot of noise, what should I do?**

A. It is always a good thing when we can work together. I would suggest that you sit down and talk with your neighbor and let them know the situation and how it is affecting you, and see if anything can be done. If you have a situation that is not amenable to having a conversation it may be best to let law enforcement handle it.

**Q. Is there any way you could make a noise ordinance?**

A. A noise ordinance is more complex than most realize. Occasionally you may hear loud noise or disturbing music, most times this does not occur on a regular basis. When disturbing noises occur on a regular basis, seriously impacts your way of life and cause you a continuous amount of stress you certainly have a right to contact law authorities.

**Q. How long must we endure this loud noise?**

A. We are so fortunate that we have a beautiful area to live in; we also have a beautiful place to visit. Many of the things that people visit this area for are outside activities. You may be inconvenienced by noise from weddings, music at festivals, activities at Meeks Park or even Vogel State Park. These events don't last forever and usually are only temporary. If for any reason someone is being unreasonable, our Sheriff's Office will pay them a visit and let them know what is considered reasonable and what is not.

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



## Drug Free Mountain Life

### Mind Your Meds

It's up to all of us to take action against medicine abuse. The best place to start is in your own home by storing medications safely and securely, and by talking with your kids about the dangers of medicine abuse. Two-thirds of teens and young adults who report abuse of prescription medicine are getting it from friends or family. Make sure the young people in your life don't have access to any medications in your home. Follow these three steps to monitor, secure and properly dispose of unused and expired prescription and over-the-counter medicine in your home.

1. Monitor all medications in your home and keep track of the refills. How aware are you of the prescription medications currently in your home? Would you know if some of your pills were missing? From this day forward, make sure you can honestly answer yes.

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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.

"It's official. Fall is here! What a relief! Yard work is done!"



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## Chamber of Commerce

What a great week! While the memory of 9/11 is difficult, it's always good to see our community and nation come together even if it is for a single day. The flags were out, and people took a moment of silence to reflect on what happened 18 years ago. The memories of that day will always be us, no matter how much time goes by.

Plans for our Extravaganza are almost complete and as with each year, the event will be held at North Georgia Technical College on October 3rd, from 4-7 p.m. This is the perfect opportunity to showcase your business, organization, church or event. In addition, we will have several local restaurants with samples of their new recipes and many of our longtime favorites. Don't miss out!

Mark your calendars: October 23rd Chris Clark of the Georgia Chamber will be speaking at our Power Lunch. Chris is from the area and is a very dynamic speaker. This event should fill-up fast so reserve your spot today. This Power

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



## Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 6 through Oct. 12 this year. It was originally 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 Oct. 8 but continued into and did most of its damage on Oct. 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.

Like any good story, the "Moo" myth, or 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'Learys may have started the fire. Some people have speculated that a fiery meteorite may have fallen to earth on Oct. 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 Oct. 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

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**RC&D Executive Director**  
Frank Riley



## Show and Tell

Sometime around 1964, I found myself starting school in a place called Kankakee, Illinois. School was not easy for me, and I had a difficult time that year. Most of the difficulty was due to my mountain dialect. Kids could not understand what I was saying half the time, nor could I understand their dialect. For example, just imagine their thoughts when I would say "That is a 'gaum'" when talking about a complex situation. Or I wonder what was thought when I would ask, "What are you'nes a doing?" Most of the time people would laugh when I spoke. I was in a new place trying to make friends, and when I tried to talk, people laughed. All I wanted was to be accepted. I know folks didn't mean to hurt my feelings, but, the laughing and pointing fingers gave me a complex.

I was withdrawn and homesick for the farm. The only place I really felt comfortable was at home with my family. Each evening, we would sit around the table at supper listening to Dad tell stories about home. One evening, I asked Dad about how he and Mom met. He grinned, and as Mom washed the dishes, he told the following story.

"Your Mom lived over in the back woods toward Baker town, which was so countryfied that they had to pump the sunshine into their home. One day, I decided to do some exploring and took off down toward the Little Bear Creek. Them woods became thicker the farther I went, and soon, they were so thick I couldn't walk through the area. So, I climbed a tree and found a good-sized grape vine. I grabbed the vine and commenced to swinging, just like old Tarzan. I had been swinging on them vines about an hour when I came up on an opening in the trees. There were voices down below, and as I looked down, a gunshot came to my ears. All of a sudden, the vine to which I was hanging broke as a result of the gunshot, causing me to fall to the earth. I could hear voices, but, it took me a while to wake up. When I came to, there were three bare-foot girls and two boys staring at me while their Paw held a gun on me. Old man Bill Adams said, "Boy, who are ye and who are your parents?" When I told him about Papa and Granny, he told me I was going to marry his oldest daughter. And that, young man, is how I met your Mom."

As I went to get ready for bed, I thought about my Daddy's story and decided to use his story in one of my homework assignments. Each Friday, we had something at school called "Show and Tell." When my name was called on the next Friday, I walked to the front of the room with an

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**Around The Farm**  
Mickey Cummings



## Hunting Season/Big Hornets

Hunting is more than just a hobby or a pastime for many people. It is a way of life. Hunting is also an important part of conservation for natural areas and wildlife. The number of hunters in the U.S. has been in decline the last 5 decades. Since hunting season is here let's talk about why hunting is important and how it benefits conservation efforts. I'm also going to talk about European hornets because I've gotten several calls about them recently.

In the early 1900s, wildlife populations were very low. Market hunting, over trapping, and invasive species pushed many native species of game to the brink of extinction. However, due to wildlife management many game species have had their populations brought back to flourishing. Most of the management is done by state agencies that rely heavily on sportsmen purchasing equipment and licenses to do their hunting. Even as the number of hunters in America continues to decline, hunters and anglers still contribute the most to conservation practices financially.

Hunters manage populations of wildlife that otherwise would be non-existent. Over-population of wildlife is a serious concern. Over-population of wildlife can lead to nutrition issues, disease, damaged ecosystems, and wildlife wandering into areas where they don't need to be. Over-population of deer is damaging to forests because deer will feed on tree saplings. Without young trees to come up and replace old, dying trees forests will diminish and turn into pastureland. This in turn will affect the food chain and watersheds. Disease is a concern as well because diseases from wildlife can spread to domesticated animals as well.

The European hornet is really big. They can be an inch and half or larger. Sometimes they are confused with Giant Asian Hornets, because both are very large in size, but the giant Asian hornet has not been reported in the U.S. European hornets have black and yellow stripes, and sometimes a reddish color on their head.

They will defend their nest by stinging if anyone gets too close, and can sting repeatedly. They build large paper nests that are about 6 feet off the ground. Sometimes they will raid honey-bee hives. A unique feature about them is that they will continue to work at night. Most hornets and wasps will decrease in activity at night, but that is not necessarily the case with these guys. They will be attracted to light at night. Usually they feed on large insects like grasshoppers, flies, and bees. If food becomes scarce they may move to fruit hanging on trees. They will also take bark from trees. If they take enough bark

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**Watching and Working**  
Jacob Williams



## Letters to the Editor

### Storms of Life

Dear Editor,  
We live in a world that has daily disasters that are unavoidable, but many times in our lives we create our own storms by doing things out of God's will. When we choose to disobey God's commands and go out and do our own thing, we are telling Him that we don't need His help, we can handle it on our own. Wow! How many times have I been guilty of this act of treason against God? Back in Moses' day, when he led God's people out of Egypt into the wilderness heading to the promise land, the people started complaining that they would be better off back in Egypt and complained about the food God sent their way, and for their disobedience, God allowed them to wander in the desert for 40 years instead of a journey of a few weeks. The people created their own little storm, and that storm rested in their hearts as the years went by.

How many times in your life have you created a storm that lasted for a long time with no end in sight? God knows the hearts of all, for all hearts are wicked before the Lord. But God's love never wavers, for His compassion is ever before us, and repentance is only a breath away. Remember when Jesus and His disciples got into the boat and went out into the sea, and as Jesus was sleeping, a mighty storm arose and His disciples awoke Jesus fearing for their lives. Jesus rebuked the storm by saying peace, be still, and the storm ceased and there was a great calm. Do you know what made the disciples fear? It was not so much the fact that Jesus quieted the storm, but that the storm obeyed Jesus' command immediately. This miracle was so great that it made these brave men afraid.

God puts us all into the storms of life in order that we might grow closer to Him and that we would know Jesus better in our daily walk with Him.

Frank F. Combs

### Thank You

Dear Kenneth,  
On behalf of the Blairsville Police Department, I would like to personally thank you for volunteering your time and service at our 1st Annual Blairsville Police Department Duck Derby. This event could not have been a success without your help.

Thanks to your help, over 100 children will have a wonderful Christmas this year.

Once again, the Blairsville Police Department thanks you for your efforts and contributions of time. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Michael J. Baxter  
Chief of Police, Blairsville Police Department

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