

Tactical Combat Casualty Care

Firefighters are responsible for responding to many types of emergencies. Unfortunately, an active shooter event is one of those possible emergencies.

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief



David Dyer

The TECC course teaches responders how to respond and care for patients in a civilian tactical environment such as an active shooter event.

The students are usually a diverse group of people who may be responding or dealing with tactical or active shooter events.

Developed by NAEMT's Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) Committee, the Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) is based on the guidelines from the Committee on Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (Co-TECC) and the Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) program.

This three-day, 24-hour course covers topics designed to decrease preventable death in the tactical situation. Topics include hemorrhage control; surgical airway control and needle decompression; strategies for treating wounded responders in threatening environments; caring for pediatric patients; and techniques for dragging and carrying victims to safety.

The course also provided training on how to operate on an emergency scene. Students were taught the responsibilities and tactics of contact teams, rescue task force teams, triage teams, collection points, and command.

The TECC class was sponsored and coordinated with our

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The Distant Farmhouse

U.S. Army soldiers liberated the Dachau concentration camp in 1945. The sights and smells revulsed even the most battle-hardened troops.

Frankl published "Man's Search for Meaning" insisting that "life holds a potential meaning under any conditions, even the most miserable ones."

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Did Frankl intend to quote John's gospel describing Jesus? "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it"

The highest expression of human meaning is being at peace with God. J.I. Packer explains. "The basic ingredient in God's peace is adoption into God's family..."

So, do not be misled. In Christ Jesus, God is for you. "In Me you may have peace." He said. "In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world"

See Fowler, page 7A

Commissioner's Questions

Q. What is the story on the outside exercise equipment at Meeks Park II? I've never heard of exercise equipment that is permanently installed for outdoor use.

A. The exercise equipment at Meeks Park II consists of various pieces of low impact exercise machines for use by the public, including exercise bikes, rowers, air walkers, a lat pull down machine, a chest press, and several more pieces.

Q. Does this equipment have to be reserved or can I just show up to use it?

A. The exercise equipment at Meeks Park II is first come/first served when it comes to usage. It is not uncommon to find couples and even their children working out together on the equipment.

Q. How does the kayak/canoe ramp work? Where do I go if I paddle upstream versus downstream?

A. This side of the park is carved out by the Nottely River that flows past the Meeks Park Kayak/Canoe Ramp. The ramp is a concrete slant that ends in the Nottely River and it is located between the adult exercise equipment and the Tate Grist Mill.

Q. I've seen a Grist Mill. Sometimes the wheel moves and sometimes it doesn't. What is the story behind this unique

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



See Paris, page 7A

Recovery from Loneliness

Spending time with others, whether we know them or not, can be beneficial for our mental, emotional, and physical health.

Overcoming loneliness can be accomplished. It takes a conscious effort to change. All of us have some specific people in our lives.

Recovery from loneliness can be done by means of these people. Strengthening existing relationships can be a miracle-in-action.

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



See Ashurst, page 7A



Chamber of Commerce

Does anyone know what last week was? The last week of February? Leap Year? No! I was referring to crossover day at the State Capitol.

Be sure to take time to stay informed so you will not only know what new measures have been passed, but what else is being considered.

See Chamber, page 7A

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President

Steve Rowe



Letters to the Editor

Healing Hands

I want to shine a spotlight on a resource that most of us might need at some point in our lives: Healing Hands Community Clinic right here in Blairsville.

For instance, if you find yourself in transition from one employer to another, you might not be in a position to pay for C.O.B.R.A. to cover minor medical expenses while you wait for your new employer's insurance to kick in.

See Ogilvie, page 7A

Making Everything Political

I read our little hometown paper each week. As a UGA grad with an ABJ in journalism, I try to write factually and objectively.

See Turnbull, page 7A

Thanking UCFD

We want to thank Union County Fire Station No. 1 and all the firefighters who responded to our emergency call when our home caught fire early Thursday morning, Feb. 22.

Wayne & Amanda McCollum

Clyde Disserves Veterans

U.S. House Rep. Andrew Clyde chronically votes AGAINST bills that would aid and benefit Veterans, and also chronically lies about doing so.

Clyde, who claims that "serving the Veterans of the 9th District is one of [his] top priorities," has voted NO on ALL the following: House Our Military Effectively Act of

See St. Lawrence, page 7A

Blood on Biden's Hands

Georgians have been tragically reminded that every state is a border state.

On Feb. 22, Laken Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student at Augusta University's Athens campus, set out for a morning jog but never came home.

The initial, horrific news jolted the UGA community. Yet the new, sinister details have shaken the Peach State and enraged the nation.

On Friday night, Feb. 23, police arrested and charged Jose Antonio Ibarra, a 26-year-old illegal Venezuelan migrant, in the murder of Laken Riley.

First and foremost, my prayers are with Laken's family, friends, and our entire Athens community during this heartbreaking and deeply unsettling time.

Folks, Laken Riley should be alive today. Yet radical, dangerous policies failed both her and her family.

As you may know, Athens-Clarke County is one of four sanctuary cities in the Peach State. According to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Guide website, Athens-Clarke County's policies include "prohibiting local law enforcement from inquiring into an individual's immigration status when conducting searches or questioning individuals."

But the buck doesn't stop there. Laken Riley's blood is ultimately on President Biden's hands.

From day one, Joe Biden has ignored immigration law, destroyed our border security, and incentivized illegal migration.

See Clyde page 7A

United States Congressman Representative Andrew Clyde



Gravity and Ivy

The Blue Ridge Mountains are a portion of one of the oldest chains of mountains in the entire world, and there is indescribable beauty found here if you will just look for it.

For example, back in January, I was looking at a topographic map of the Cowrock area and found a little stream that comes out of the ground near Hogpen Gap.

Two of our greatest fears on a trip like this are gravity and what many old timers call an "Ivy thicket." Steepness of terrain means you encounter more gravity, and this place was steep.

We soon began finding waterfalls, and before finishing, we found no less than seven along this stream. The main attraction is Ravens Cliff Falls, and yes, it was beautiful.

See Cummings, page 7A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Spring Peepers

As we move from winter into spring, the nighttime seems to come more alive. More and more animals will be roaming around, and insects start to show back up outside.

The scientific name for the spring peeper is Pseudacris crucifer. They are a small frog that measures from one to one and a half inches long.

These little frogs are abundant in Georgia. Their skin color ranges from tan to brown to gray. Their most distinctive feature is the dark X on their back.

Before coming out for mating spring peepers are in hibernation. They like to hibernate under logs and loose bark.

Spring peepers are hard to spot because they are so small and like to spend their time down in the brush. They have large pads on their toes for climbing, but they rarely climb very high.

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Watching and Working

Jacob Williams



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building?
 A. According to records, the original Old Tate Gristmill was built by Andrew Jackson Hughes in the late 1800's. It changed hands several times, and the mill was operated by several different families. It was last owned as an operating gristmill by the Ocean Tate family until the mid-1960's. The two-story mill was powered by a 14 ft. overshot wheel. The lower level held the corn shelling machine and the mills. The upper level held hoppers for the grains and a bolt to sift wheat and rye. The mill was in operation for possibly 100 years according to the families who used it to grind corn. It was dismantled in December 2008 and reconstructed in Meeks Park II. The waterwheel on the gristmill begins turning sometime in the Spring each year, and it turns until just after the Sorghum Festival. During the festival, visitors can tour the inside of the dwelling and view the mechanisms that

capture the water that make the wheel turn.

Q. What do we need to know about the dog park next to the Senior Center? Can we let our dogs run without a leash?

A. You can park in the rear Senior Center parking lot and walk your dog across the street to the dog park trails; however, dogs must be on a leash. Once inside the park, you will see a fenced-in area where you can unleash your dog – allowing him/her to run. While walking through the dog park, you might see a disc golf tournament going on as this dog park also serves as a disc golf course. We ask that all pet owners behave responsibly when it comes to pet waste and that all trails be kept clean for others to enjoy. Visitors will find a pleasant surprise at the back of the dog park, where a dock and gazebo provide a beautiful view of kayakers making their way down the Nottely River to the mouth of Lake Nottely.

Ashurst... continued from Page 6A

after the movie is over: talking about the movie.

Another means of overcoming loneliness is online support. Using digital technology can be exciting if done correctly and with caution. Developing digital friends by means of your personal computer can offer support and connection to the outside world. Some lonely individuals link up with others online because they can find others with similar interests. However, one must be careful of excessive use being involved in the digital world. Also, don't ever give out any personal information and facts... at any time!

Loneliness does not have to be ever-lasting. IT IS REVERSIBLE! This is good news for those who live under the bondage of loneliness.

There are additional ways for the lonely individual to see the light of day once again.

One recovery method is joining a club or organization. This enables the individual to escape one's home environment to meet persons who have the same interests or share identical goals in life. As one becomes more involved in the organization, a keen sense of belonging takes place in the person's daily life. Civic and church organizations are usually available to individuals who are willing to commit to the purpose of the organization. The lonely person may discover a sense of belonging in a club that is oriented to sports, politics, or the arts. A refreshing feeling can happen once a person seeks fulfillment outside of the lonely home.

Turnbull... continued from Page 6A

I am an independent in my thinking as I have no faith in government at this time. Conservatives are blaming President Biden for every ill thing going on when, as a highly educated adult, I know for instance that the economy runs in cycles as does inflation throughout history. I bought my first home in the '80s when I was not even 20, and my interest rate with stellar credit was 14% – and that was considered fantastic!

My husband and I have worked hard to make our family both recession and inflation proof, and it can be done with smart planning. Start by having zero debt.

Unfortunately, I cannot find anything redeeming about

our former President Trump, despite the fact that when he was in office, we got thousands back in taxes because we fit his profile, while friends making less than 20% of our income often paid. We used to tell them he is not your friend despite his largest support coming from the lower income, lower educated segment of the population. He has been impeached, found guilty by jury trial of sexual misconduct, owes \$350 for bad business practices. He accomplished few if any of his objectives in office such as his wall or proper border control, and his wife did absolutely nothing.

We are all in a very unfortunate place at this time.
Rick Turnbull

Clyde... continued from Page 6A

Once migrants from across the world accept Biden's invitation, they're immediately released into our communities. In fact, Ibarra's release into the country was made possible by the President's abuse of parole authority, which the Biden Administration has weaponized to funnel millions of illegal aliens into the United States.

Until our border is secure and every illegal alien residing in our communities is deported, we can only expect avoidable tragedies to continue devastating our nation.

Congress must stop funding the Biden Administration's disastrous policies – the very policies that invited Jose Antonio Ibarra into our country and emboldened him to senselessly murder Laken Riley. Please know that as lawmakers consider government funding, my conservative colleagues and I are fighting to attach border security, such as House Republicans' H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, to any spending bill. Anything less is simply unacceptable.

St. Lawrence... continued from Page 6A

2023; Honoring our PACT Act of 2022; Veteran Service Recognition Act of 2022; Ensuring Veterans' Smooth Transition (EVEST) Act of 2022; VA Employee Fairness Act of 2022; Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access for Veterans Affairs Act of 2022; Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act of 2021; VA Employee Fairness Act of 2021; Honoring our PACT Act

of 2021

This isn't my opinion. These are FACTS from Clyde's public voting record.

I'm furious and disgusted that someone who talks a lot about being a Veteran himself has nothing but deceit, contempt and disdain for other Veterans. Andrew Clyde has no honor.

Integritas ante lucrum.
Gary St. Lawrence

Cummings... continued from Page 6A

terfalls. It was truly a winter wonderland. But soon our biggest fear of the day began to prick at our minds.

We began looking for a way down the cliff face, and there was a way. But, looking at it made the hairs on my neck stand up, and I probably would have taken this way many years ago. This way down would require a person to ease down a slick rock to a muddy area that had some ice-covered rocks, and then drop about 8 feet to another icy stretch of rocks and then drop 4-5 feet to solid ground. Milton said, "We need to find another way." We soon found another way around a muddy ledge which could be traversed. It was steep and the righthand side at least had a slope and not a sheer drop. The last part of the climb you had to use both hands and feet to climb down. But we made it around the cliff. We walked over to the base and looked up at our first option of climbing down to find that those 4-5 foot drops were more like 10-12 foot drops, and the ground at the bottom of each drop was muddy, icy and very uneven. A miststep at the bottom would hurt! We made the right decision.

Another trip found a group of us walking from Jack's Gap to the A. T. on the Jack's Knob Trail. We had three objectives on this trip. First, there were a couple of us that wanted to see the source of the Chattahoochee River. And Bruce Roberts had told me about some big trees and nice waterfalls. We found the spring source of the river not far below Chattahoochee Gap. The mighty Chattahoochee River comes right out of the ground in the southern end of Union County. This is one of just a couple of streams in Union County that flows to the south toward the Gulf of Mexico. We followed the river south through some open

woods and soon came to a White Oak Tree we measured at 38 inches in diameter. This tree would be the smallest we would measure on this trip.

The farther south we went the more big trees we encountered. There was one which both Dustin Rogers and myself stood inside. There was another in which a bear had made a den by chewing out a hole large enough to crawl inside near the top of the tree. The den was 60 feet off the ground. The largest tree we measured, a Yellow Poplar, was 61 inches in diameter at breast height. We estimated the tree to be 213 years old.

My greatest fear on this trip was not gravity, but Ivy. We were about 1.5 miles from our destination when we came to the thicket. It was comprised of Mountain Laurel and Dog Hobble. We began fighting our way through it, and it was thick. There were places where my feet never touched the ground. I actually walked on limbs of plants for yards before touching the soil. It took close to 2 1/2 hours to walk the last 1.5 miles to our truck due to the "Ivy thicket." I think that Milton, Dustin, Chris, Larry and I were all very tired after the 6.6 miles. But we did see some beautiful country.

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careful to avoid their skin drying out.

If you have questions about spring peepers or other wildlife, contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler... continued from Page 6A

sible by God's grace.

Frankl survived the concentration camps and lived to be 92. He found meaning in life by helping others find theirs. His later writings connected that quest with the necessity of a relationship with God. I'm unsure if Frankl knew the Light of the world, but you must if you are to live with God's peace and purpose. The distant light on the horizon has come near.

To talk with someone about finding peace with God, call 855-255-7729.

Chamber... continued from Page 6A

ing a Legislative update after the session, so keep checking the Chamber calendar for all of our upcoming events.

Remember this week is the last week of early voting, which is being held at the new Voting Center on Roscoe Collins Drive next to the Sports Complex. Be sure to get out and vote early, or vote at the precincts on Election Day!

Only you can help make life better in Blairsville!

Ogilvie... continued from Page 6A

Let's all pitch in to support this non-profit community wellness organization!

They are open on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Their contact information is 706-994-6768 and HHCC@yahoo.com. For more information, visit www.healinghandscommunityclinic.com
Mark Ogilvie

Dyer... continued from Page 6A

Region B Healthcare Coalition which covers northeast Georgia. Union County Fire Department would like to thank Region B Healthcare Coalition, Hall County Sheriff's Office, and Valkyries Austere Medical Solutions for the great instruction and for helping us be better prepared for these types of emergencies.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Union County Sheriff's Office: Scam Alert



If you receive a telephone call from someone claiming to be an Agent or Law Enforcement Officer, that THREATENS you with ARREST or LEGAL ACTION or FORCES you to WITHDRAW MONEY – BE AWARE THIS IS A SCAM!

Also, if the caller claims your family member is in jail and needs money to get bailed out. No Law Enforcement Agency will ever ask you for money.

Anytime you think it may be a scam, you can call the Union County Sheriff's Office at 706-439-6066. Or contact your local Police or Sheriff's Office.

"Gift Cards" and "Bitcoin" are very easy ways to scam individuals. Before sending money, gift cards, wire transfers to someone you DO NOT KNOW, consult your financial bank advisor or Sheriff's Office.

These scammers will use a tactic that makes you feel like you are in trouble with their agency and try to isolate you from your friends and family members and you will only believe what they tell you.

IF THIS HAPPENS, HANG UP IMMEDIATELY AND CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

Sheriff Mack Mason