Opinions

Everybody has one...

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. An active shooter event is a high profile, multi-casualty event that requires special training. To better prepare for an active shooter event, firefighters from Union County Fire Department attended a Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) class in Hall County last week. This is Fire Dept.

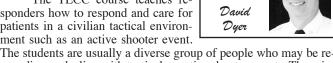
from Union

County

Fire Chief

the third such training that UCFD has either attended or hosted in the last couple of years. The TECC course teaches re-

sponders how to respond and care for patients in a civilian tactical environment such as an active shooter event.



sponding or dealing with tactical or active shooter events. These included law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical responders, nurses, educators, managers, leaders, and many more. Developed by NAEMT's Prehospital Trauma Life Sup-

port (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. TECC uses lessons learned from our military and applies them to the civilian world of tactical medicine. 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. Students were placed in these roles during several realistic scenarios to better reinforce their training. Some students were taken out of their field and comfort zone to be placed in different roles in order to better understand the different points of view. However, the main focus of the training was to operate as a rescue task force and to treat the victims.

The TECC class was sponsored and coordinated with our

See Dyer, page 7A

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. One year later, one of the surviving prisoners, Viktor Frankl, wrote about his experiences.

Frankl published "Man's Search for Meaning" insisting

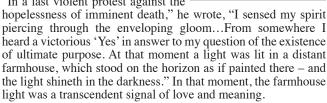
"life holds a potential meaning under any conditions, even

All Things

New

Wayne

the most miserable ones." He tells the story about a pre-dawn work detail. He was hacking at the icy ground in a trench. Everything was gray: the sky, the snow, the rags the prisoners wore, their faces. He began to focus on his love for his wife. 'In a last violent protest against the



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' (John 1:3-5). For anyone stumbling in the darkness of suffering and meaninglessness, the Light that brings inner peace is pre-

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...The peace of God is first and foremost peace with God; it is the state of affairs in which God, instead of being against us, is for us. No account of God's peace which does not start here can do other than mislead."

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" (John 16:33). To have peace with God is to know Him. To that end Jesus prayed, "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3). His prayer is a call to the repentant life of faith, made pos-

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 outside 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. Some of this equipment is also wheelchair acces-

from Union County Commissioner Paris

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

sible. So there really is something for

everyone. Most of the equipment uti-

lizes your body weight to determine

the difficulty.

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. As a matter of fact, many trail walkers take a breather at this spot to work upper arms and abs and then they continue their

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. Any non-motorized boats can use the ramp. Non-Motorized Boats include kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, small sailboats, and even crew rowing boats. Of these, you will primarily see folks unloading and paddling in kayaks. If you paddle upstream, you will float up the Nottely River. If you paddle downstream, you will float towards Lake Nottely. Paddling towards Lake Nottely will take you under State Hwy 515, and shortly thereafter, you will see a gazebo that extends over the water. This lagoon backs up to the Meeks Park Dog Park. As you can see, the beautiful flow between the parks is seen not only in walking trails, but also by water flow

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

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. Through such an interaction, the lonely person's inner soul becomes nourished. Seeking out individuals with similar interests and values can result in a meaningful, won-

Overcoming loneliness can accomplished. It takes a conscious effort to change.

here in Blairsville

Dear Editor,

making much mess.

Sincerely.

Dear Editor,

derful relationship.



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. Calling a friend more often keeps the relationship active and continual. Going out to eat together is always a winner of a situation. It forces the lonely person out of the house, among the "living" population. One of my favorite pastimes is attending a movie at our local theater. Sharing the popcorn and candy is a huge WOW for me. The social support goes on

> See Ashurst, page 7A Letters to the Editor

> > **Healing Hands**

that most of us might need at some point in our

lives: Healing Hands Community Clinic right

tion 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. Although

they do ask that you make an appointment, in ev-

ery other respect they are like a walk-in clinic.

See Ogilvie, page 7A

Making Everything Political

week. As a UGA grad with an ABJ in journal-

ism, I try to write factually and objectively. I am

embarrassed by the political standoff between

conservatives and moderates, Left or Right in

not just our country but the world. The anger I

see even here in this small, rural town and world-

wide is so disconcerting. Having spent time in

four European countries recently, I witnessed

the same anger. Oh, and as an aside, inflation is

greater everywhere in Europe than in the U.S.

See **Turnbull**, page 7A

Thanking UCFD

tion No. 1 and all the firefighters who responded

to our emergency call when our home caught fire

ly and did a great job putting the fire out without

preciate each and every one of you. Thank you

all so much for saving our home. With great

gratitude, we thank you from the bottom of our

Clyde Disservices Veterans

cally votes AGAINST bills that would aid and

benefit Veterans, and also chronically lies about

Veterans of the 9th District is one of [his] top

priorities," has voted NO on ALL the follow-

ing: House Our Military Effectively Act of

U.S. House Rep. Andrew Clyde chroni-

Clyde, who claims that "serving the

hearts. Thank you for all of your hard work!

early Thursday morning, Feb. 22.

Wayne & Amanda McCollum

We want to thank Union County Fire Sta-

You all did an amazing job, arrived quick-

Every one of you were very kind. We ap-

I read our little hometown paper each

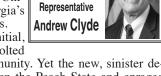
I want to shine a spotlight on a resource

For instance, if you find yourself in transi-

Georgians have been tragically reminded

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. After her roommate contacted cam-

The initial. horrific news jolted



the UGA community. Yet the new, sinister details have shaken the Peach State and enraged On Friday night, Feb. 23, police arrested

illegal Venezuelan migrant, in the murder of Laken Riley. According to multiple Department of Homeland Security and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement sources, Ibarra illegally entered El Paso, Texas, in September 2022. He was then released into the country via parole.

Laken's family, friends, and our entire Athens community during this heartbreaking and deeply unsettling time. I'm also grateful to all the law enforcement officers involved, including authorities from UGA, the Athens-Clarke County Police Department, and the Georgia Bureau of

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

is one of four sanctuary cities in the Peach State. Immigration Services (USCIS) Guide website, into an individual's immigration status when conducting searches or questioning individuals. tance to immigrants in need." This sanctuary jurisdiction undoubtedly incentivizes illegal immigration - putting families, small businesses, and students in danger.

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

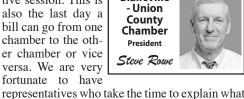
From day one, Joe Biden has ignored immigration law, destroyed our border security, and incentivized illegal migration. Secretary Mayorkas has shamelessly carried out the President's marching orders, willfully establishing a wide-open border agenda that has violated our laws and emboldened dangerous criminals like Jose Antonio Ibarra to illegally enter the U.S.

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. While the Chamber does not support a particular candidate, we do encourage everyone to get involved. Crossover Day is the 28th day of the 40-day legisla-Blairsville

Chamber of Commerce

tive session. This is also the last day a bill can go from one chamber to the other chamber or vice versa. We are very

County Chambei Steve Rowe



is going on at the Capitol to keep us informed by posting these bills in the North Georgia News. This year Public Safety, Healthcare, Education, and Workforce Housing received significant at-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. Many of the bills that are not passed in this session may come back next year. We will be hav-

See Chamber, page 7A

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. One of the earliest heralds of spring are the spring peepers. These little guys start coming out in February to let us

know that warmer temperatures are not too far away. Let's talk about who these spring peepers are and why they are peeping.

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. They weigh in at about two tenths of an ounce. These tiny guys are still able to make some pretty serious noise. Their peep is high-pitched, which means that it can be heard from a mile away. I've heard the sound described like the chirp from a baby chick. The trill is brief and repeated at about one second intervals. A large number of peepers peeping at the same time is called a chorus. Large choruses can sound like sleigh bells. The males are the ones making all the noise, as they are trying to attract a mate. Their peep can become more aggressive sounding as they compete with other

males for better spots to attract the females.

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. This is also where they get their species name, crucifer. At this time of year, they start coming down from the woodlands to find a mate near a water source. Once a mate has been found, the female will lay eggs in the water that hatch into tadpoles in one to two weeks. They prefer shallow, semi-permanent pools of water. These pools are less likely to have predatory fish in them. After about two to three months, the tadpoles will undergo metamorphosis and change into a frog. These little frogs live for about 3 years. Most of their lives are spent in the woods where they eat insects. They'll consume beetles, ants, flies, and spiders. They only come down to the water's edge during their mating season.

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

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. Most of time they do their insect hunting at night. However, if they are living in a dense, damp forest they may hunt in the day and at night. The reason for this is that frogs must be

See Williams, page 7A

Gravity and Ivy

The Blue Ridge Mountains are a portion

Around

The Farm

Mickey

Cummings

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. One of my

favorite things to do is to read maps, especially

topographic maps. Some people can read books

which contain maps of our area. When the win-

ter days become too wet for getting outside I

like to sit at my desk and read those maps. I

have found old mines, homeplaces, old roads and a variety of other useful things on some of

looking at a topographic map of the Cowrock

area and found a little stream that comes out of

the ground near Hogpen Gap. You can follow

that stream down the mountain to the Ravens

Cliff Waterfall to hit the Ravens Cliff Trail and

come out at the parking lot on Richard Rus-

sell Highway. I called Milton Bradley and Tom

Starrett to ask them if they were interested in an

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. The last thing we could afford was to fall

down, which at 65 years old is the last thing I

want to do. One's best defense against falling

is to wear good boots and walk slowly. And on

this trip we would have to walk slow in many

places. As mentioned earlier, another fear we

had was getting into an "Ivy thicket," which is

really an area where there is a lot of Mountain

Laurel. I once found myself in a place so thick

with the Laurel that I had to crawl 1/4 mile be-

fore I came to open woods. We were fortunate

before finishing, we found no less than seven

along this stream. The main attraction is Ra-

vens Cliff Falls, and yes, it was beautiful.

When you hike up from the bottom you see the

falls coming down a large crack between two

rocks. But, when you come from the top you

find another and even larger waterfall that falls

even farther into a pool before falling into this

crack that you see from the bottom when ap-

proaching from the trailhead. We stared at the

beauty of these falls while standing on top of

what can only be described as a cliff. Ice coated

everything in reach of the spray from the wa-

See Cummings, page 7A

We soon began finding waterfalls, and

on this trip and avoided most of the Laurel.

Two of our greatest fears on a trip like

adventure, and away we went.

For example, back in January, I was

for hours on end. I

can sit and look at

a topographic map

for hours. I have a

drawer in my desk

that is full of old

maps, and I have

apps on my phone

these maps.

Blood on Biden's Hands

that every state is a border state.

ous police to report

her missing, authorities found Laken's body near the University of Georgia's intramural fields.



and charged Jose Antonio Ibarra, a 26-year-old First and foremost, my prayers are with

As you may know, Athens-Clarke County According to the United States Citizenship and Athens-Clarke County's policies include "prohibiting local law enforcement from inquiring Additionally, the city also provides legal assis-

See Clyde page 7A

See St. Lawrence, page 7A North Georgia News

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Paris... continued from Page 6A

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 responsively 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

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

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 unac-

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

ceptable.

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

Integritas ante lucrum. Gary St. Lawrence

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

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.

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

These scammers will use a tactic that makes you feel

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

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

Williams... continued from Page 6A

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.

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~

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