

Flooding

Union County has seen several major storms come through over the last couple of weeks. Many of these storms have brought heavy rain. We have seen up to five inches of rain fall within a few hours.

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief David Dyer



According to Ready.gov, basic safety tips for dealing with flooding or rising water are to follow the Turn Around, Don't Drown! advice. This applies to walking or driving through flooded areas.

Walking through standing flood water can be just as dangerous. Most flood water is filled with debris and mud, making it difficult to see the bottom.

Driving through flood water is extremely hazardous. It takes only two feet of water to sweep your vehicle away, even less for some smaller vehicles.

Flood water is dangerous, and most people do not understand the power of flood water until it is too late. It is best to avoid flood water altogether and move to high ground.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

It Happened

The bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ is celebrated as a focal point of the Christian faith. Skeptics dismiss it as a myth or metaphor.

I love my non-believing friends and offer here a few of the many reasons to consider the Resurrection a historical event. I appeal to the scientific method of abduction, which is what detectives do as they seek the most logical explanation of a non-repeatable past event.

Was Jesus even a real person that died like the Bible says? Consider secular sources. Josephus was a first-century Roman Jewish historian who wrote an account of Jesus' death by crucifixion.

Maybe the disciples made it up to save face? For this to work, they would need to remove the body. In fact, those who had Jesus killed circulated that story.

Were the appearances of Jesus hallucinations? The disciples were pragmatic working men, not dreamers. They were disillusioned, afraid, and confused because they had no expectation of a resurrection.

What is the most plausible explanation for the empty tomb? No one ever produced a body to refute a resurrection "hoax."

See Fowler, page 5A

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Our office has received numerous calls from residents asking about the possibility of installing speed bumps on certain county roads because of speeding vehicles.

Q. Why do people speed through neighborhoods? Don't they realize kids are playing outside and adults are working in their yards?

A. We all seem to be in a hurry to get to our destination. Sometimes we forget that our neighborhoods are DELICATE communities where neighbors visit, children play, residents walk their dogs and pets often roam.

Q. Why isn't the Commissioner's Office doing anything about the speeding in our neighborhoods?

A. Traffic and vehicle control in Union County falls under the authority of the local Sheriff's Office.

Q. Several households in my neighborhood have discussed the problems we are experiencing with speeding vehicles. Can you install speed bumps along the straight runs of road to slow down the traffic?

When it comes to slowing down traffic the first thought that usually comes to mind is the idea of using road obstacles as a solution. People have suggested speed bumps and parking on the side of the street as possible deterrents for speeding vehicles.

Q. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using...

See Paris, page 5A

Q & A from Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris



Military Eats

My husband just received the April 2021 edition of the Reader's Digest, and on the front cover of the magazine was the title of an article, "I Love ARMY FOOD!" Well, of course, as an ARMY Veteran, that immediately spiked my curiosity.

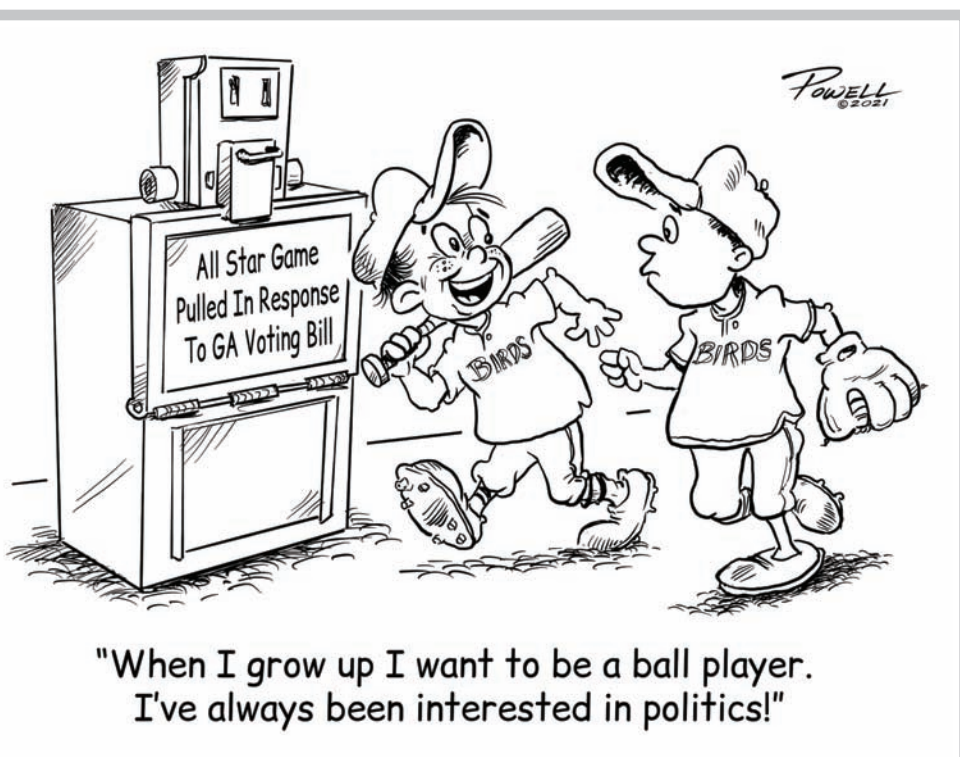
Military Musings

Janice Walters-Taylor



My experience with field meals were quite a bit different. I was treated to C-Rations during my 10-year stint in service.

See Walters-Taylor, page 5A



"When I grow up I want to be a ball player. I've always been interested in politics!"

Chamber of Commerce

Spring break has finally arrived, and we could not be happier to see the sun and feel its warmth. One thing I love about residing here is that we actually get to live in a vacation destination.

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President Steve Rowe



Here are four favorite stops for visiting vacationers and locals on a "Spring Break Staycation."

1. Vogel State Park: Complete with miles of hiking trails, cascading Trahlyta Falls, a sandy beach for constructing castles, campsites and more.

2. Brasstown Bald: We never get tired of the view from the top of Georgia's highest peak, Brasstown Bald.

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Letters to the Editor

Humble Servants

Dear Editor,

I wanted to share my thanks and joy for the people in this community in which we live. A special thanks to the person who purchased the breakfasts of a number of Blairsville pastors that meet every Tuesday at the Sawmill.

In my 15-plus years as pastor, I have been blessed with partnering with a number of our Blairsville pastors in conversation, service to the hurting, and prayers for God's will to be done in each of our lives.

Yes, the church is filled with flawed sinners, but that is where you and I need to be to hear God's Word that directs our eyes, ears and hearts to the One who died and rose so that it is "I who no longer lives, but Christ who lives in me."

Dave Wesche, Pastor, All Saints Lutheran Church

Preparedness Day

National Community Wildfire Preparedness Day, May 1st - Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is a national campaign that encourages people and organizations everywhere to come together on a single day to take action to raise awareness and reduce wildfire risks.

It is held in the United States and Canada on the first Saturday in May. Given that in-person gatherings are limited or on-hold in many places, this year's Prep Day is focused on what residents can do on and around their home to help protect against the threat of wildfires.

March and April are our spring wildfire months up here in North Georgia. Most of my articles are about wildfire preparedness in our communities and are intended to make you aware of the wildfire risks all around us and the small things that you can do to prevent one of these life changing events in your backyard.

Wildfire education is a never ending, year-round process. You can do things in your community all year to reduce your risk, but you can join with communities throughout the U.S. on Saturday, May 1, 2021 as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) launches its eighth national Community Wildfire Preparedness Day!

NFPA and State Farm insurance urge everyone not to feel pressured to have gatherings or events that may compromise public health at this time.

See Riley, page 5A

RC&D Executive Director

Frank Riley



Experiences at Church

Church and events surrounding the church have always been an integral part of my life, and I have learned much from those experiences.

Aunt June had a younger sister about my age whom I played with as a child. As we grew older, Debbie became a Tomboy of the highest caliber. She loved riding those Honda Trail 90's, and she could whip most of my male friends. Even as a young girl, upon noticing a problem, she did her best to correct that problem.

Union Hill Congregational Church, a little country church in Trapptown, was where our family has worshipped for more than a century. Five generations of my family are laid to rest in that little cemetery. Everyone in the church is connected through family or close friendship.

As you walked into the old church, the old tongue and groove pine planking would creak and moan as if in pain. During the summertime, the windows would be opened, and the old black ceiling fans would draw in cool air from outside of the building.

After Sunday School, everyone gathered in the pews of the sanctuary for the worship service.

This particular Sunday, Mr. McMurray asked the young'uns to come up to the stage. Debbie and I must have been about 5 or 6 years old. She walked up to the stage, and the kids began to sing "Jesus Loves Me."

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Blueberries

I think that most people enjoy eating a handful of blueberries. Eating them always reminds me of my grandfather because he always puts them on his cereal in the morning.

If you are selecting a site to plant blueberries, choose a place that will receive full sun for at least half a day.

Blueberries like soil with a pH of 4.5 - 5.2. This trait makes them well adapted to native soils because most of our soils will naturally be in that range. Therefore, lime is probably not needed when planting blueberries.

Blueberry bushes do require pruning each year. Once plants reach 6 feet high you'll want to start cane renewal pruning. This means removing 1 - 3 of the biggest canes each winter at ground level.

Blueberries aren't bothered by many insects or diseases. However, one disease to look out for is mummy berry. It will cause berries to shrivel up and drop.

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Watching and Working

Jacob Williams



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