

Opinions

Everybody has one...

One tough customer

After one episode of *Alone*, the field of 10 individuals seeking to be the last man standing in the wilderness of Vancouver Island is down to nine.

Alan Kay of Blairsville is among those still competing to survive the wet, predator infested wilderness. The environment is so wet that most of the competitors are still having a time trying to build a fire.

Without fire, the men can't maintain fresh, drinkable water, cook, or stay warm. Temperatures dip into the low 30s after sunset.

Josh Chavez, a 32-year-old law enforcement professional from Jackson, Ohio, tapped out after one night in the wilderness. His biggest problem was fear of the wolves, cougars and black bears that inhabit the island.

He stressed that he was disappointed that he couldn't continue, but, he said he'd rather be at home with his family than stalked by the predators on the island.

One down, nine men remain.

On the first episode, which, by the way, airs each Thursday at 10 p.m. on *The History Channel*, Alan Kay was barely visible. The story line was too focused on the majority of the contestants who were for the most part scared of the wildlife on the island.

Bears grunting, wolves howling and the thought that they won't hear a cougar until it's all over the top of them, was the main reason for concern for much of the contestants.

Alan Kay, at least what we saw of him, was the coolest customer on the show. He never exhibited the first hint of fear of his surroundings, rather, he stayed focus on the tasks at hand. He worked to establish a shelter, gathered firewood, and kept his mind fresh and busy.

It should be noted that Alan Kay is a survivalist up to the task of surviving on Vancouver Island. In the episodes ahead, we should see more of our hometown favorite.

In the preview of the second episode, Alan Kay is very visible, and talks of what means most to him in this life - the people that he holds dear to his heart.

Tune in at 10 p.m. Thursday on *The History Channel* and cheer on the hometown favorite Alan Kay. He's making Blairsville proud, as well as giving exposure to an incredible community.

Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



Self-Identified

Some of the stories in the news these days about people identifying differently than the way they were born are confusing. We all wear labels whether we realize it or not, and for the most part they help our friends and acquaintances know who we are.

C.S. Lewis could be somewhat crass, but never cruel; silly but not sacrilegious. He supposed Jesus could be considered either as crazy as a man who says he is a poached egg, or as deceitful as the Devil of Hell. Perhaps you've heard his argument that given how Jesus self-identified, he was either a lunatic, a liar, or Lord. He summarized this way: "You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us."

So how did Jesus identify himself? Just within the confines of the gospel of John we find a trove of claims. He told the woman at the well, "I who speak to you am (the Messiah)." Isaiah tells us the Messiah would be Almighty God and Everlasting Father and Jesus knew that.

Jesus said, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." People clearly understood that he equated himself with God and were incensed about it. When He said, "I am the bread of life" and "I am the living water," He declared that the deepest, most basic, and most enduring human need can only be met by knowing and believing him.

He said, "I am the light of the world" as he made the blind man see. "I am the door of the sheep...if anyone enters through Me he will be saved." "I am the good shepherd" that lays down His life for the sheep.

Over and over he says, "I am." But probably my favorite is when Jesus enraged an argumentative bunch with, "before Abraham was born, I am!" Here he claimed the very name of God as revealed to Moses at the burning bush. Shocking! Lunatic, liar, or Lord?

Skeptics don't think the 'LLL' argument is very strong be-

See Fowler, page 5A

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Questions and Answers

Q. When will the Road Department be cutting the grass on my road?

A. The Road Department works very hard to keep the county roads mowed. We have a crew of employees that are dedicated specifically to mowing and weed-eating the approximately 570 miles of county maintained roads. This is a long and difficult process every year, but especially this year. With all the rain we have experienced this Spring, the grass and weeds are growing very fast. Please be patient because these guys are working very hard and they will get to your road.

Q. What does it take to get our private road to be accepted as a county maintained road?

A. There must be a minimum of 3 full-time residents living on the road who have resided there for a minimum of 2 years. The road must be paved and the road department will come and inspect it to make sure it meets county specifications. The county must also have deeded right of way from all property owners totaling 40 or 60 feet wide depending on when the road was constructed. It also must meet maximum grade requirements. Older roads may be grandfathered in if constructed prior to 1994 as to paving.

Q. I am a taxpayer and have been paying taxes here for over 10 years. Why can't you accept my road and maintain it as a county road?

Unfortunately, it is illegal to work on private roads and if your road has as blue street sign, unless there are any extenuating circumstances, we cannot work on it. Exceptions are for medical and other emergency issues that could be life threatening. Also, in light with this, we have assisted in some extreme cases with road sections during snow/ice removal where healthcare workers live or others having to take dialysis treatment or other important doctors appointments reside.

The other issue is that there are over 570 miles of county paved and gravel roads in the county. You must be certain that if you will be unable to assist either financially or physically with private road maintenance, you should make the decision when you purchase your home or property to be sure it is on a county-maintained road.

Q. You approved a Resolution at the County Meeting on Tuesday resolving to draft an ordinance for the regulation of the sale of fireworks. When should we look for this to take effect?

See Paris, page 5A

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Letters to the Editor ...

Thanks to a caring community

Dear Editor,

Once again Blairsville and Union County have shown how caring and generous our community can be. On Saturday, May 30th, the 21st Annual Relay For Life celebrated cancer survivorship, honored those taken by cancer, thanked the many caregivers, and raised awareness about cancer research, prevention, and patient services like Hope Lodge, Road to Recovery and more.

The Union County RFL Leadership Team thanks our community for the overwhelming support of this American Cancer Society signature event.

Many individuals, as well as large and small businesses, large and small church congregations, families and neighbors joined forces to further the fight to eliminate cancer in this century.

Special recognition goes to our area Boy Scouts of America Order of The Arrow Leadership team under the guidance of youth leader Blake Holman for 2015. This year marked the 10th anniversary of their commitment to the Relay For Life Logistics committee. This group along with their adult advisors and several alumni donated their time to make make our "carnival of HOPE" another successful community event.

Again, our community has been a blessing to the many cancer fighters who are supported through this Relay For Life event.

Sincerely,
Allyson McGraw and Sue Upchurch,
Co-chairs, Union County Relay For Life

Thanks Lamar

Dear Editor,

On behalf of all the members of VVA chapter 1101 Blairsville and on behalf of all Vietnam veterans in Union County I would like to thank Commissioner Lamar Paris for this proclamation. It has been 40 years since the end of the war, and Vietnam veterans are just now being recognized.

Additionally I personally want to thank Commissioner Paris for all that he does for all the veterans in this county regardless of what war they fought in. Other counties would do well to follow his lead.

One last thing, hopefully everyone knows the Vietnam Moving Wall will be here Oct. 8th thru 12th. Please come see it, you will never regret you did.

Thank you,
Mike Priven

Giving thanks for community assets

Dear Editor,

With Father's Day fresh in my mind I can only imagine what a son, who had to repeat the 9th grade, is taking medication for drug addiction, and doesn't have a steady job, would think when he receives a gift from his father for his 21st birthday that is a 45 caliber gun. The Father has just given his son an asset to go out and "shoot something!"

As fathers we can give our sons other assets. First of all, we can treat them as the assets they have been created to be, special gifts made in the image of the Creator. Secondly, we can provide opportunities for our sons to be assets to the Community, utilizing their gifts.

I want to publicly thank those who have given the Union County Community Garden a successful start this year. Located just East of the Farmers Market, the Community Garden provides quality produce for Community Food Banks which in turn give food for those who struggle to live from paycheck to paycheck. It also provides a potential garden plot for those who have none and wish to work a garden.

In particular, I thank John Pettit, Agricultural teacher at UCHS, who rounded up some of his Future Farmers Of America students (two weeks after school was out) and in 3 hours time

See Goltz, page 5A



The Front Line

When a wildfire breaks out the men and women who are called to control it are a special breed who put their lives on the line to protect our homes, businesses, and lives. Sometimes these brave firefighters pay the ultimate price with their lives when unexpected conditions cause the fire to quickly change direction or blow up and overrun the firefighters as happened a year or so ago when 19 of the best trained hot shots in Arizona died protecting a community that had already been evacuated. A senseless loss of young lives, but they were doing what they were trained to do, fight wildfires.

There are many different types of wildland fire crews, and most of the usual city, county, or volunteer fire departments are not trained to fight wildland fires. These fires require specialized training, gear, equipment, and tools. Wildfires can be unpredictable and erratic which makes the special training and procedures all the more important to protect the lives of the wildland firefighters. We were taught in Firefighter 101 that the most important person on the fire scene is me! If a firefighter gets hurt then not only has the team lost one member, but also the two or more needed to rescue or evacuate the injured firefighter. Safety is number 1 on any fire scene... buildings can be replaced but people can't. Who they are and what they do. America's wildland firefighters have earned a reputation for being among the best in the world.

These dedicated men and women endure exhausting work, harsh living conditions, and long separations from friends and family to protect our nation's natural resources from the ravages of unwanted wildfire.

Crews & Fire Managers - When a wildfire starts, fire managers analyze the situation quickly but carefully to determine the best course of action. Once fire managers have weighed these elements and developed a suppression strategy, they decide what kind of firefighters and equipment they will need to implement it. When fire is started by natural causes, the fire manager with a team of experts may decide to allow the fire to burn when and where doing so will safely reduce the amount of fuel for fires and not degrade water quality, wildlife habitat, or other resources and not cause any risk to the public. Fire managers must have extensive training and years of experience to qualify for the position.

Hand crews - These crews, usually consisting of 20 men and women, serve as the infantry of wildland fire forces. Their main responsibility is to construct a "fireline" - a strip of land cleared of flammable materials - around wildfires to contain them. After a few seasons, these firefighters can apply to be on "hotshot" crews.

Hotshot Crews - These highly skilled firefighters specially trained in suppression tactics are usually used to attack wildfires when they

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RC&D Executive Director

Frank Riley



The Baker Family

All families are comprised of saints, sinners, patriots, inventors and rogues. Such is the case in the Baker Family. John Baker was a prominent man. He served in several capacities to the English Throne. For example, he served as the Undersecretary of London in 1520, the Recorder of London, the Attorney General of England, Cabinet Minister, and Speaker of the House of Commons.

As you will recall Henry VIII's wife hadn't born him a male heir. So, he sought a divorce. When the Pope refused to grant an annulment or divorce to the King he began persecuting both the Catholic and the Protestant Faiths. My ancestor Sir John "Bloody" Baker helped Henry VIII in this persecution and as a result became wealthy through the acquisition of many lands and homes. He also acquired the infamous nickname and a bad reputation.

John's grandson had a different reputation. Sir George Baker was a Doctor. He served as "Surgeon-in-Ordinary" to Queen Elizabeth. He wrote several books about health and the making of medicine. George was probably a product of his environment. He probably witnessed many of his friends dying at early ages and he hoped to be able to stop this suffering. So, George ended up with a reputation of helping those who were suffering.

One hundred years later the Bakers had migrated to the colonies. John Baker traded with the Indians and was the first man to build a fort and blockhouse in Franklin County Pennsylvania sometime around 1650. Also, he later served as a colonel in the French and Indian Wars. So, by this time the Bakers had gained a reputation of explorer and settler.

John Baker's grandson was Robert Baker, Sr. He came from a line of 2 generations of gunsmiths. Sometime early in the 1700's Robert was called to England by Queen Anne to manufacture arms for the Queen's Army. Later, Robert came back to America and sometime around 1719 he acquired 200 acres of land at the confluence of Pequea Creek and the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania where he built a gunsmith shop and began manufacturing rifles for the people of Pennsylvania. Robert and his son Caleb were some of the first gunsmiths in America. The rifles which were being made at this mill were called Baker Rifles. These rifles were in the style of what we now call a Kentucky Long Rifle. Now we don't know the name of the inventor of the Kentucky/Pennsylvania Rifles. However, we know that Robert Baker was one of the first to make these types of rifles in the Lancaster area of Pennsylvania.

Robert died in 1728 and his sons took over the family business. When the Revolutionary War began the English came to the area and forced Caleb and his brothers to make bullets for the British Army. The British didn't know that Caleb's sons

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Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



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Take 5 with Art Millican

This week's Take 5 is with Art Millican, owner of Sleepy Hollow Enterprises. Unlike any place you've seen before, Sleepy Hollow is more than an art supply store. It is a 2,500-square-foot wood-working studio where Art creates unique masterpieces ranging from children's crank toys to child-size playhouses that have been featured on HGTV's *My Yard Goes Disney*. In recent years, Art has brought to life an enchanted garden where fairies roam and hobbits play. Both the young and young at heart will enjoy the experience at Sleepy Hollow. Before you go, here's a chance to learn a bit more about Art.

1. What is your job title and what do you do at Sleepy Hollow?

"I am a "Whimsical Engineer." I build and construct all the fairy houses, play houses, and bird houses here at Sleepy Hollow as well as being the honorary mayor for the Fairy inhabitation that reside here at Sleepy Hollow."

2. What is your favorite thing about your job?

"My favorite thing is bringing joy and smiles to all that visit our gallery. I love seeing children with their parents and grandparents enjoying the village and finding new items we make or sell to build their own magical worlds."

3. When did you open Sleepy Hollow?

"We started Sleepy Hollow 13 years ago with the idea of a place where families could

See Williams, page 5A

Sharing the Bountiful

If Mother Nature squeezes just a little harder on those spongy clouds these next several weeks, the farmers and gardeners in our community will likely see near record breaking harvests this summer. Those who garden for their own enjoyment will begin to share their large bounty to the delight of those on the receiving end.

Eventually family, neighbors, even the postal worker will raise their hands in surrender, as they can't possibly use all the squash and tomatoes they've been blessed with over the summer.

The Union County Farmers Market vendors thrive on those of us who purchase our weekly supply of fresh veggies and vegetables. But there are many in our community who don't have land or means to grow a garden nor do they have neighbors or family to share their plethora of squash and beans or funds to purchase them at the Market. "Fresh vegetables for many in our community is a luxury", says Ann Sullivan, Community Coordinator of the Union County Food Pantry and the 9th District Opportunity. "Food stamps have been cut back quite a bit and are going to be cut again, soon".

As you exit through the back of the Farmers Market, to your right you'll see a very large garden. As you turn left at the top of the drive, you may have noticed a sign on your left, identifying this garden as the Community Garden of Union County. If you have taken notice, the question might have crossed your mind as to who tends to this garden.

Let me introduce you to the Rev. Darrell Goltz, a retired Lutheran minister whose ministry for many years has been to feed the poor. When Darrell and his wife Mary came to this community eight years ago, they formed the Mountain of Life Church. They both have recently retired from ministering to a congregation, but like dance instructors don't stop dancing, and music teachers don't retire from playing the music they love, retired ministers can't stop ministering to God's children.

Four years ago, Darrell ascertained a need for fresh vegetables to be shared with those less

See Leone, page 5A

Farmers Market Moment

JorAnne Leone

