

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Why?

Leadership is a favorite topic of mine. I have read many books on the subject. One book that I have read is *Start with Why* by Simon Sinek. In the book, he explains that to lead people leaders must know what their organization does, how they do it and why they do it. All are important but the most important and the best place to start is with why. Organizations who know their "why" are more successful than those who only understand "what" they do or "how" they do it. He also explains that customers and employees who understand the "why" are more loyal and supportive of the organizations goals.

I believe that most people understand what the fire department does. Most would simply say that we fight fire, however there is much more. We respond to all fires, medical calls, motor vehicle accidents, searches, rescues, hazardous materials, and just about any other emergency you can think of.

I also think that most people have an idea of how we do things. We have explained the various certifications and training that we must have to be able to perform our jack-of-all-trades job. We try to employ the latest techniques and use the most up-to-date equipment. But I doubt that many people understand why we do what we do. Why would a person take all those hours of training? Why would they get up in the middle of the night to help strangers? Why?

To explain why firefighters do what they do is difficult to put into words. We can give the yearbook answer by saying that we "want to help people" but if you think about it; most people want to help. So what makes a firefighter different? Firefighters go beyond just wanting to help; they are moved to action — they do help. They put an effort into responding to an emergency, knowing what to do, and actually helping people in their time of need.

Firefighters sacrifice time and sweat to go to classes. They sacrifice time away from their families. Why do they do this? Some firefighters may like the excitement of a call. Some may like the opportunity to see things that others don't like or to do things that others can't. However, most firefighters can agree that the main reason, their why, is to make a difference.

Firefighters make a difference every day. They get a fulfillment from knowing that what they did made a difference in someone's life. That is the reason why. Firefighters do not join the department for what the department does or even for how the department does it; they join for the "why" the department exists.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



Restraint

The latest mass shooting once again has us debating, "How do we restrain such behavior?" Fueled by the emotion of the moment, the political posturing may answer the question with new laws.

It's sort of a domino question, as some wonder how to restrain the lawmakers. Sir William Blackstone influenced early American legal theory, arguing that eternal, immutable laws of good and evil, i.e. natural law, govern lawmaking. In the early 20th Century, Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote Supreme Court opinions based more on "the felt necessities of the times," unrestrained by the original text of the U.S. Constitution.

Regardless of the theory of jurisprudence, godlessness leads to chaos, which leads to more laws which cannot fix the original problem. Prisons are full of people who were not restrained by the most cleverly crafted laws. More to the point, the shooter at Douglas High in Parkland Florida broke numerous laws.

Even the law of God did not restrain him. "You shall not murder" (Ex. 20:13). Everyone has a God-given awareness of morality, a conscience that will be friend or foe "on the day when God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus" (Rom. 2:14-16). Self-interest does not always restrain either. British psychiatrist Theodore Dalrymple said, "How many people does each of us know who claim to seek happiness but freely choose paths inevitably leading to misery?"

The solution is "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:2). It resides inside the believer and effects a cognitive change. "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, and on their mind I will write them" (Heb. 10:16). John Piper explains it this way: "Real obedience to God is made possible through the work of Christ for all who believe in Him. God does the decisive work of taking out the heart of rebellion and putting in the heart that loves the commandments of God."

Same idea: "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh" (Gal. 6:16). "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires"

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All Things New
Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q. Has the county had any luck dealing with some of the property owners in trying to help clean up the county?

A. Yes, we have. Over 20 letters have been sent out to respectfully ask those who may have gotten behind in their property maintenance, to please consider working on it now that we have most of the bad weather behind us. We have been very pleased that work has already begun on many of these areas and there will be more to come.

Q. Does the county have a legal right to ask for people to clean up their property?

A. Yes, we do. Many people may not always realize that the condition of their property has gotten worse than they suspected. The county has the authority to look after the health and welfare of the community. Not only is garbage, trash, junk and unlicensed autos a public health issue, it can also be dangerous for pets and children being entrapped.

Q. Does the county believe in telling people what they can do on their property?

In most cases, the answer is NO. No two people look at certain property issues the same way. I have always been a stern "property rights" advocate. That is why we do not have zoning and too many unreasonable property guidelines. If you live in a subdivision, most of them have covenants and restrictions, but out in the county in general, that is not the case. Everyone does not have the money to build large or fancy houses or maintain their home perfectly. However, being poor or just too busy is no excuse for letting your property look and sometimes smell so bad that it adversely affects the value of your neighbor's property. That is when it becomes a public issue.

Q. What are you doing about junk cars, appliances and old lawn mowers scattered around a home?

A. If not a retail business, we are going to require that either a fence be built to hide them, or they be cleaned up. There are several locations currently that are totally unsafe for a child and we cannot tolerate that. Safety comes first for all our citizens. There is also a limit on unlicensed autos if not in a place of business.

Q. Does this new crackdown in the county on junk and

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner
Lamar Paris



Chamber Events

Hello from your Chamber. The weather is improving and we are beginning to see a lot of exciting things in Blairsville and Union County.

We have a Ribbon Cutting coming up on March 15th at 11 AM for Rustic Mountain Décor on Merchants Walk, next to Copelands.

There is also a Ribbon Cutting scheduled on March 19 at 11 AM for Advanced Digital Cable, 326 Airport Industrial Drive. ADC has invested \$15 Mil into the expansion of their manufacturing facility here in Blairsville. This expansion will result in 65 jobs over the next 4 years. The public is invited to the Ribbon Cutting. Persons interested in applying for a job at ADC can submit their resume to careers@adcable.com.

Our monthly Mingle for March is set for March 21 at noon. Mike Kiernan, the CEO of Panel Built, will be the guest speaker and will discuss his philosophy on how to operate and grow a business. His presentation promises to

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber President
Al Harper



Drug Free Mountain Life

The New Normal – Synthetic Drugs

Gone are the days when all we had to worry about was the "Big 5": Methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, marijuana and PCP. Now we have to worry about synthetic opiates like fentanyl, synthetic cathinones like flakka and a myriad of other drugs.

Everything changed in the mid-1990s when the Internet became mainstream. Once global communication and instant access to information became available to nearly everyone, people began to share recipes for new drugs and share information about legal highs. Once this free flow of information on new drugs began to spread, new web sites and forums popped up so drug users could share their experiences with new highs.

So many new legal highs are available, users started switching their drug of choice to new legal drugs. As word spread among users, people subject to drug testing began to change their drug usage to these new drugs to avoid drug detection in the workplace. DOT and court mandated drug testing. Here is a short list of drugs that drug users can consume to avoid their mandated drug testing.

Synthetic cannabinoids are a fairly new drug, having been introduced to the market in the early 2000s. Some people initially thought that Synthetic Cannabinoids (commonly called K2 or spice) were naturally occurring herbs. This is far from true. Synthetic cannabinoids are a series of chemicals, such as HU-218 and JWH-200, that mimic some properties in cannabis (like THC).

Although synthetic cannabinoids are illegal in some states, it remains legal in many others. There are tests that can detect synthetic cannabinoids, but not all industries or workplaces require the test. Signs and symptoms of work places include anxiety, hallucinations, vomiting, increased agitation, body temperature changes, dry mouth, bloodshot eyes, and tachycardia. Dilated pupils may also be present. Tolerance and addiction does develop over time.

Synthetic cannabinoids are almost always sold in colorful packaging that are press lock sealed. The synthetic cannabinoids are sprayed on vegetative matter that has an appearance to cut grass that has been dried out. It does not smell like regular marijuana.

Bath salts is a slang term for synthetic cathinones such as Mephedrone and MDPV. These aren't the bath salts that you would buy at Bath and Body Works in the mall. However, synthetic cathinones do have an appearance that is like real bath salts like Epsom salt. The packaging that bath salts are sold in are like ones that contain synthetic cannabinoids and have colorful graphics on a press-lock foil pack containing anywhere from just under one gram to a few grams.

When people are under the influence of bath salts, they will have signs and symptoms like other central nervous system stimulant drugs like methamphetamine and cocaine. This would include dilated pupils that have a minimal reaction to light, rapid pulse, sweating and bizarre behavior.

People who use bath salts are typically current stimulant abusers who are trying to avoid arrest by switching to a drug that has less legal penalties than methamphetamine or cocaine or are trying to avoid detection in mandated drug testing programs.

Phenethylamines and Tryptamines are hallucinogenic stimulants that cause a high much like MDMA, or Ecstasy. They have become commonplace among users seeking a new alternative high. Many of the drugs in this category are com-

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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.



Letters to the Editor

Political Melanoma Metastasizing

Dear Editor,
Is there one — just one — Blabbist in duh mee-dee-yuh who can connect the attacks on the Second Amendment to the amplifying of politically-correct speech?

If we can't own certain types of guns, if we can't say certain words, then the entire Bill of Rights is under coordinated attack because they are deliberately, purposefully, interrelated.

If you can't own a gun, if you can't make mention of certain ideas, why, then, should you be allowed to choose not to attend church?

If you can't own a gun, if you can't make mention of certain ideas, if you're not allowed to choose not to attend church, why, then should you be allowed to refuse to incriminate yourself?

If you can't own a gun, if you can't make mention of certain ideas, if you're not allowed to choose not to attend church, if you should not be allowed to refuse to incriminate yourself, if the government can spy on you for the sake of "public safety," why, then, shouldn't the government be able to continue to prosecute you if they think that you're hiding something and hold you unless or until you confess?

If you can't own a gun, if you can't make mention of certain ideas, if you're not allowed to choose not to attend church, if you should not be allowed to refuse to incriminate yourself, if the government can spy on you for the sake of "public safety," if the government should be able to continue to prosecute you if they think that you're hiding something and hold you unless or until you confess, why, then, should you be allowed a trial by jury?

Political Melanoma, metastasizing.

"If you've done nothing wrong, you have nothing to fear." — Vladimir Herzov, Director of Josef ("Man of Steel") Stalin's NKVD

George A. Mitchell

Traffic

I certainly agree with the lady from last week about the traffic around Blairsville, but it is the same everywhere. Most folks don't know what you mean by the "Slow Poke" law or the "Move Over" law. If everyone would change just one thing, like using signals when you exit the square or any other traffic infringement, wouldn't driving be much safer? Grandmother used to say, "Watch out for the other driver."

Charlotte Rogers

The Collection

I was only a year and a half old when Dad moved us to Chicago. He was out of a job and needed work. His two uncles lived there as well as Mom's brother Uncle Ray. Uncle Ray helped him get a job as an apprentice carpenter.

He worked during the day and went to school in the evenings. One day while at work he witnessed an event which changed his life forever.

Uncle Ray was working high up in the skyscraper. He worked close with the iron workers. One of his helpers was carrying plywood to be used as flooring. As the man was walking across an I-beam carrying 2 pieces of half inch plywood a big wind caught the plywood, like a sail and blew the man off the building. Dad said the man looked as if he were flying. He just sailed along in a sweeping pattern and glided back toward the skyscraper onto the floor below where everyone was working. All the workers cheered and were happy about their co-worker's safety. Dad was happy but, also highly disturbed. He didn't like walking around on I-beams 20 stories off the ground anyway and couple that with the wind and he knew it was a dangerous situation. So, he quit his job then and there.

The next day he interviewed for a position with a company called C. I. T. This company was a mortgage lending company. He was hired on the spot. However, he didn't own a suit or tie. So, he went to a cheap place and purchased a suit for a very inexpensive price. While at work the next day his new suit came apart at the stitches. The sleeves just fell off while he was working. But, he didn't care; the job was his and suits could be repaired. Dad enjoyed his job and quickly moved up through the ranks. Soon he was promoted to manager. The folks back home soon found out about Dad's new job promotion. One such fellow was Glenn Cummins.

Glenn was a preacher that also owned a little store not too far from Grandmaw Adams' place. Glenn had known my parents for years. He was actually the man who tied the knot of the tie that Dad wore during his wedding. He borrowed the tie and didn't know how to tie a Windsor knot. So Glenn did it for him. Six or seven years after the wedding while visiting his folks, Dad stopped at the store owned by Glenn Cummins. The two men talked about old times and Dad's new promotion. Glenn asked him if he ever had to collect on any of his loans. And of course he had so Glenn asked if he would help collect on a loan which was owed to him. Dad agreed to help because he was a friend.

As the two men left the store Dad noticed

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Around The Farm
Mickey Cummings



RC&D

Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Seasonal High Tunnels

It's that time of year when our thoughts turn to spring with flowers blooming, grass growing and garden planting. Traditional gardens are at the mercy of the sun, rain, wind, and sudden drops in temperature when the plants have started to bloom.

A seasonal high tunnel is basically a covered garden that can protect our plants from nature's destructive forces and extend the growing season on both ends by at least a month. In 2017 Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D, along with the other 11 RC&D councils in Georgia, was the recipient of a \$15,000 grant from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority due to efforts of our Senator John Wilkinson and others in the State Capitol.

The guidelines for how to use these funds were somewhat loose and RC&D Councils could use the funds for most anything that would enhance their mission in the counties they serve. Chest/Chatt RC&D's mission is to "Assist local people in planning and carrying out activities that conserve natural resources, support economic development, enhance the environment, and improve the standard of living for all citizens in the 13 counties of Northeast Georgia".

Our goal is not only to help people improve their way of life in these counties but to help teach our young people how to provide for themselves in the real world. Chest/Chatt wanted to make use of these funds to make a difference in people's lives so we decided to donate one 20'x16' Seasonal High Tunnel, or hoop house, to each of the 13 counties in our work area, plus The Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation District that covers Union, Fannin, Towns, and Rabun counties kicked in some of their funds to double the size of the donated tunnel house up to 20'x32'. Upper Chatt Soil & Water Conservation District also kicked in funds to increase the 5 tunnel houses in their area, as did Broad River and Stephens County S&WCD.

A High Tunnel or hoop house is an unheated greenhouse with sides and doors that roll up for ventilation during the warm months and roll down when the temperatures drop. These structures maximize vegetable, fruit, or flower output from a small area since the plants are protected from winds, rain, sun, and animals. A high tunnel can extend the growing season by a month on each end of the season. These growing houses are placed in public places and schools where they can be a benefit to the community by

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RC&D Executive Director
Frank Riley



North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

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Owner/Publisher

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Todd Forrest
Staff Writer

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Mark Novak
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Lowell Nicholson
Photographer

Publication No: 001505

Advertising, News deadlines Friday at 4 p.m. • Mail Service for all subscriptions except 30512, 30514 & 30572 - 1 Year \$40. In county, carrier delivered subscription is \$3. All subscriptions must be paid in advance. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is published weekly by NGN/TCH, Inc., 266 Cleveland Street, Blairsville, Georgia, 30512. Entered as Second Class Matter as of Dec. 10, 1987 at the Post Office in Blairsville. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

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