

CodeRED Notifications

Being aware of potential severe weather, emergencies, and/or disasters is important. It can save time, money, property, and even save your life.

The CodeRED system allows UCEMA to provide notifications that may require immediate action (such as a boil-water notice, missing child, weather emergency or evacuation notice).

The CodeRED system has several different types of notifications. CodeRED Weather Warning is a unique service that automatically notifies citizens in the path of severe weather just moments after a warning has been issued by the National Weather Service (NWS).

UCEMA also uses CodeRED to send EMERGENCY notifications to keep citizens informed of emergencies such as evacuations, fires, floods, chemical spills, or other emergency situations that may affect citizens in the area.

UCEMA may also use CodeRED to send GENERAL notifications to those who register to communicate non-life safety matters, such as planned road closures, water main repairs, water and power service interruptions, etc.

CodeRED is a nationwide service. Residents and visitors alike can receive notifications no matter where you are located via the CodeRED Mobile Alert app.

If you have not registered for notifications, we strongly encourage you to register with CodeRED to receive weather and emergency notifications.

See Dyer, page 5A

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief David Dyer



Who Am I?

Fifteen million people listen to the Joe Rogan Experience podcast. His guest list includes the likes of psychologist Jordan Peterson, philosopher Sam Harris, and politicians from all over the map.

Unlike Huff, Rogan does not profess to be a Christian. But the three-hour dialog between the men was respectful, exploratory, and engaging.

Rogan dodged Huff's question by musing over his own. "A lot of people believe that there was this very exceptional human being that existed... Does it mean he was just some completely unique human being that had this... way of educating people and spreading this ideology?"

Jesus' identity is not well-framed by Rogan's question because an exceptional human and great educator couldn't also be a liar. Was Jesus telling the truth when He used the messianic title, "Son of Man"?

Who knows who Jesus is? The angels do. They announced the birth of the "Savior, who is Christ the Lord." The demons do, proclaiming Jesus the "Holy One of God."

See Fowler, page 5A

All Things New



From Your Commissioner

As we approach the month of April, I am reminded about some of the really great things that are going on with Parks & Recreation.

Coming up pretty quickly is the Easter Egg Hunt that will take place Saturday, April 12, 2025. It will be held at Meeks Park at the Colwell Fields for kids ages 2-12 with festivities beginning at 10 AM.

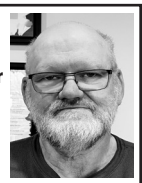
Please make a note that the Union County Sports Center is open for basketball and walking Monday & Wednesday 8 AM - 5 PM; Tuesday & Thursday 12 noon - 4:30 PM; Saturday 11 AM - 4 PM; and Sunday 2 PM - 6 PM.

We just started the Baseball, Softball, Volleyball and Wrestling seasons. At the beginning of the season, we had a record number of kids to register: Baseball = 539; Tball = 86; Lilballers = 51; Softball = 106; Volleyball = 146; Soccer = 174; and Wrestling = 37.

In just a short while, the Rec Department Pool will be open to the public. Kids will be swimming and playing in the splash pad before you know it.

Harold Collins

Union County Commissioner



A Celebration of Robert

A Celebration of Robert - A Handsome Adult Full of Life, Loves and Successes

Feb. 21 marked another birthday. Nowadays, I forgo parties and appreciate the personal touches of emails, snail mail and phone calls wishing me a happy day.

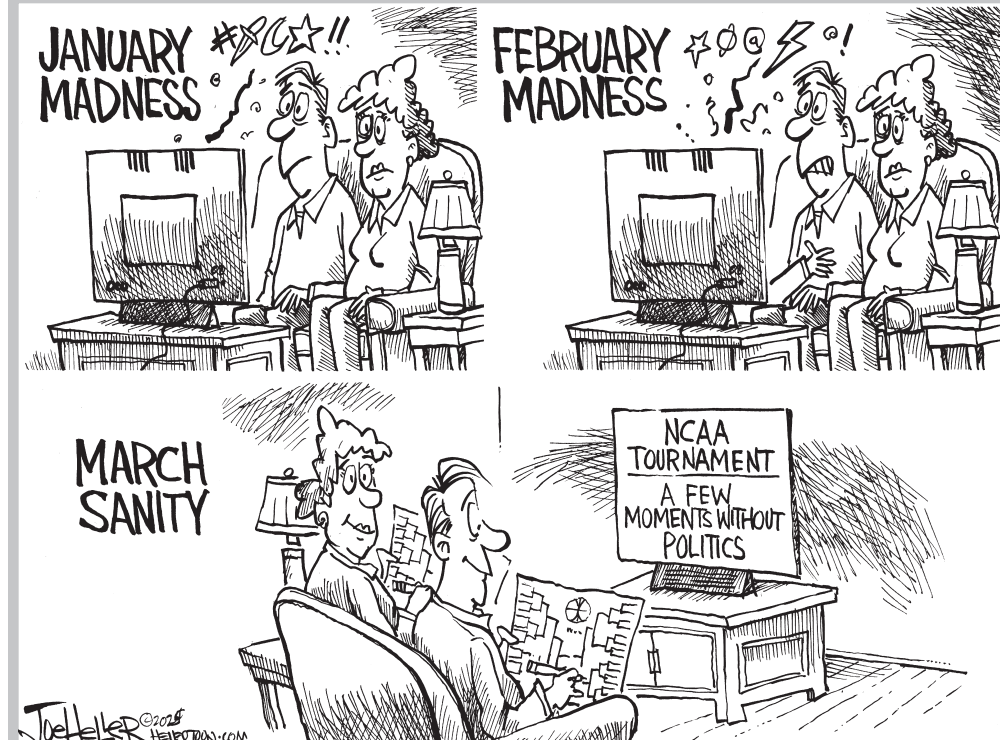
Guest Column

By Lisa Kramer

Milestones are different than bucket lists. For me the difference is simple, really. A bucket list is something I need or want to do while a milestone signifies a situation I reach, like age.

My bucket list and milestones, though different, do intersect, however slight. My high school and college graduation was a milestone that was expected.

See Kramer, page 5A



... A Divine Appointment

Each Encounter, A Divine Appointment By Yonatan Hambourger and Tzali Reicher

We all face moments that test our capacity for forgiveness. Sometimes it's small stuff - a friend forgetting your birthday or a coworker taking credit for your work.



Consider this scenario: You're seventeen, full of dreams and potential. Your siblings, consumed by jealousy, first plot your murder. They settle instead for selling you into slavery in a foreign land.

Then fate delivers an unexpected twist. Your family, now struggling to survive, needs your help. They don't recognize you in your position of power, but you see them clearly.

See Hambourger, page 5A

Taking Care of Our Own

As a little boy, my Dad emphasized the importance of taking care of your own family. I never fought with my sister or brother.



Family members were precious in the isolated communities of Appalachia, which included Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Another example of peculiarities in my family is what some people call clannish. People in my family are clannish. They take care of each other.

Charlie's youngest sister married a fellow of questionable reputation. The young man liked to drink, and when drinking, he became mean and cantankerous.

Later that evening word got around to the brothers about what had happened to their sister. The boys all met at their Daddy's house.

See Cummings, page 5A

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Have you seen small white cottony balls on hemlock trees? If you have then that means those trees are infested with Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA).



Hemlocks are a native species that ranges from Maine to Northern Georgia. They are a keystone species that provides habitat for about 120 species of vertebrates and over 90 species of birds.

It is important to treat your own trees with cultural and chemical controls. Cultural controls include keeping hemlocks well mulched and watered.

Therefore, it is important to treat trees as after finding that they have been infested.

It is important to treat your own trees with cultural and chemical controls. Cultural controls include keeping hemlocks well mulched and watered.

See Williams, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

A Terrible Idea

Abolishing the U.S. Department of Education is a terrible idea. Eliminating the department will devastate students, teachers and families across the country.

The Department of Education is responsible for overseeing federal student loan programs, enforcing civil rights protections, and ensuring low-income students receive the resources they need.

Public education should be a right for everyone, not a privilege for the wealthy. The Department of Education ensures that students with disabilities receive proper support.

It's important for all of us to contact Senators Ossoff and Warnock and Representative Clyde to ask that they vote against eliminating the Department of Education.

Thank you, Michelle Maloney

Trust God In All Things

Humanity didn't ask for a sinful life, but it was placed on us when Adam and Eve sinned in a perfect world called the Garden of Eden.

Someone might ask the \$64,000 question - Why doesn't God just heal everyone from their infirmities and all will be well? God's reply would be that he is not obligated to heal anyone and His decisions regarding healing are not based on our desires or understanding.

Sometimes suffering can lead to a deeper faith and reliance on God. We may not always understand God's thoughts and ways, for they are so much higher than our finite minds can grasp.

Sometimes God's blessings come in other ways besides healing. We must remember God never makes a mistake, for His ways are always in our best interest.

See Combs, page 5A

Battle for the Homeland

As we slept soundly on Saturday night, March 15, the Trump Administration was hard at work - sending planes full of dangerous illegal aliens to prisons in El Salvador.

According to the White House, there were 261 criminal illegals deported: 137 criminal illegals deported via the Alien Enemies Act of 1798; 101 criminal illegal Venezuelans removed via Title 8; 21 criminal illegal Salvadoran MS-13 gang members; 2 criminal illegal MS-13 ringleaders, "special cases".

Some of the crimes on their rap sheets include sexual abuse of a child, kidnapping, robbery, and aggravated assault on a police officer.

Hours after President Trump invoked the Alien Enemies Act to target members of Ven-



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down to the local bootlegger's place. The Baker brothers knew that Zed had been drinking all day. The eight brothers slowly surrounded the still and raised their guns. My great-grandfather, Dad Baker, was the leader. So, he called out to his brother-in-law, "Zed, come out of there. I aim to talk with you." The drunken young man staggered out from the still house with his hands on his head. The brothers tied him with leather thongs and forced him to walk 3 miles back to Dad's home place at Gray Rock. Although she never told me, I am pretty sure my Grandmother knew the man

was black and blue before the boys got him home. Upon reaching the home place they locked the young man up in a corn crib made of chestnut logs. He stayed locked up in that corn crib for 21 days and was fed nothing but corn bread and water. Many years later I asked my grandmother why hadn't the police been called? Grand paw said, "Back then the law wouldn't come to Ray Mountain. So, we took care of our own." So, the next time you hear someone say the people of Appalachia are clannish or they talk funny, remember there is a reason for our funny talk.

Williams...continued from Page 4A

drench. Putting the insecticide in the soil will mean quicker uptake by the plant and reduce the chance of off target drift. A soil drench does not require any special equipment. Soil injection can also be used; however, I only recommend using an injector if you are treating a large number of trees. Soil injection and soil drench are equally effective. You can also purchase imidacloprid in tablet form, so you don't have to mix with water. If the trees are near open water, a trunk injection of insecticide is necessary, which will require a professional. Whenever applying a pesticide follow the label.

The Union County Extension Office has a soil injector that is available to be checked out. Checking it out requires a \$250-dollar deposit that will be returned when the injector is brought back. If you would like instructions on how to treat hemlock trees contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu. The organization Save Georgia's Hemlocks have a website that also has lots of information. Contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu if you have any questions about HWA.

Kramer ... continued from Page 4A

extended to all ages and school grades as my children and their peers graduate from preschool, kindergarten, elementary, middle school, religious school, high school, college, a vocational campus, as well as all the secular and religious markers that go with it. As a parent, grandparent and friend, it's these events that mark my life. It lets me recall the memories I have of our children. My bucket list also has changed throughout the years. I have had to learn to accept life's twists, turns, and detours from the norm. And that is fine with me... it is all part of the journey. Remember, it is how you look at and cope with things that count.

wish for Robert is the same as yours. I want you to see my son as a person first, then notice his challenges. Remember we all have challenges. That is what makes us unique. I see Rob as a happy, loving, curious, focused, goal-minded, positive, hardworking, intelligent, considerate, talented person with likes, dislikes and an incredible laugh that fills the room.

His personality is a magnet whose temperament puts you at ease if you let it and watch closely with an open mind and heart. Praise aside, Rob is driven to learn. Sometimes to get through to our Robert, it is you who need to be where he is at. But no worries, he has to be where you are too, with little to no choice but to follow the rules of navigating our world. Luckily, he is a quick learner who wants to learn from you as well and make you like him and be proud of him. He loves success and praise. Oh, and he is so handsome. I wish I had those blue eyes and blonde hair. More important, he is beautiful on the inside. Of course, as his mom and greatest supporter, I have been known to be biased. And, if you watch me closely, I can help you be at ease with Rob, too. Remember, like you, he has his good and not so good days.

I've always felt that if you believe in a child, any child, he or she can not only meet your expectations but surpass them in their own unique way. Robert is no different. From our family to yours, we want to thank all of you that have welcomed us into your community with warmth, kindness, acceptance and love. We see how you are allowing Rob to be an even more confident, caring and responsible adult. He will, and is, giving back to you because he feels so happy and special to be a part of Blairsville. Many people have told me how lucky Robert is to have parents like me and my husband. I often say it is us who are the lucky ones. Now there's a thought off the traditional way of thinking, wouldn't you say?

Fowler... continued from Page 4A

Rogan recognized the implications of Huff's question. "If you do live like a Christian and you do follow the principles of Christ," he said, "you will have a richer, more love-filled life. But you have to submit to this concept that this guy was the child of God who came down to Earth, let himself be crucified, came back from the dead..." Rogan is right, which is why I pose a question to you. What would you say if Jesus asked you, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matt. 16:15).

Combs... continued from Page 4A

have accepted Jesus Christ into their heart and soul. God tells us in His word, the Bible, not all will enter heaven. Not all will enjoy the fruits of their labor. My prayer is that you are a fruit-bearing, gospel-singing saint of the Most-High God. Hell was only meant for Satan and his fallen angels. In Heaven all will be healed by God's amazing grace. **Frank F. Combs**

Hambourger ... continued from Page 4A

do next. The urge for revenge would be tempting – after all, they deserve it, right? This is where the wisdom of Joseph, from the Torah, offers a surprisingly modern perspective on handling betrayal and maintaining our moral compass. After being sold into slavery in Egypt, Joseph had endured false accusations, imprisonment, and years of hardship. Yet through his wisdom and G-d-given abilities, he rose to become second-in-command to Pharaoh himself. When his brothers came to Egypt seeking food during a famine, rather than exact revenge, Joseph's response wasn't what most would expect. Instead of anger or righteous vengeance, he said something remarkable (Genesis 44:5-7). "Do not be upset with yourselves that you sold me here, for G-d sent me ahead of you to provide sustenance for you."

This wasn't just about forgiveness – it revealed a profound understanding of how to live with purpose rather than resentment. Joseph's perspective challenges our natural inclinations toward grudges and retribution. He saw beyond the immediate pain and recognized a larger purpose at work. More importantly, he understood a fundamental truth: every event, no matter how seemingly insignificant or negative, is divinely orchestrated for a greater good.

Think about how this applies in our modern world. A forced early retirement might lead to discovering a new calling. A health setback could inspire you to help others facing similar challenges. Even family estrangements, as painful as they can be, might guide us toward becoming the bridge that helps heal other divided families. And yes, even life's daily frustrations – being stuck in traffic, or waiting in a long checkout line – are opportunities in disguise, moments de-

Chamber...

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be sure to contact the Chamber today.

Thanks to all our Chamber members for all you do to keep Blairsville-Union County strong and thriving.

Dyer...

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information will be kept confidential. We will be conducting a countywide test at the end of this month, so sign up today.


The CodeRED system is a great communication platform that can inform people of these potential incidents. Having this up-to-date information can help everyone prepare and make better decisions. For more information about CodeRED, please visit www.unioncountygga.gov/CodeRED or call UCEMA at 706-439-6091.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Honor Flight trips to Washington, D.C. for Veterans

Sponsored (no cost to Veteran) Honor Flight trips to Washington D.C. to see the memorials to the Wars in which they served. Veterans do not have to have been deployed overseas ... just to have served during the War period. World War II, Korea, and Vietnam veterans are included. Spring and Fall flights. If interested, call Paul at 615-232-4445. Thank you!

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



March 11, 2025
In memory of **Paula Paris Johnson** on the anniversary of her death by Ginger and Terry Meeks

March 19, 2025
In memory of **Harry Walker** In honor of **Shirley Walker** on their 71st Wedding Anniversary by Joan and Aaron Mannheim

March 31, 2025
In memory of **Harry Walker** on his birthday by Joan and Aaron Mannheim

Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493

Clyde... continued from Page 4A

ezuela's Tren de Aragua – a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization with close ties to the Nicolas Maduro regime, U.S. District Judge James Boasberg quickly ordered the Trump Administration to halt flights removing these monsters from our country. The Alien Enemies Act of 1798 allows natives and citizens of an enemy nation to be deported without a hearing, and the law has been invoked during the War of 1812, World War I, and World War II.

Judge Boasberg erroneously placed a 14-day restraining order on the Administration's use of the Alien Enemies Act, ordering "any plane containing these folks that is going to take off or is in the air needs to be returned to the United States however that is accomplished."

The White House and the Department of Justice confirmed these criminal illegals were already mid-flight in international airspace by the time this activist judge issued his absurd ruling.

Keep in mind, Joe Biden blatantly violated immigration laws by orchestrating an illegal invasion of our country. Yet a judge wants to stop President Trump from invoking a law on the books to deport criminal illegals?

Unbelievable is an understatement.

Liberal politicians and the left-wing media have piled on, opposing President Trump's commonsense move to keep Americans safe. Time

and time again, the Left sides with violent criminal illegals. Yet President Trump and my Republican colleagues and I are working to rid our communities of these monsters.

While this matter will play out in forthcoming hearings, my friend and fellow conservative, Congressman Brandon Gill (R-TX), has already started drafting articles of impeachment against Judge Boasberg. I fully expect that the Trump Administration will succeed based on merit, yet Congress cannot allow activist judges to usurp President Trump's Article II authority.

As you know, I'm currently leading articles of impeachment against Judge McConnell, who weaponized his power to block the Trump Administration's temporary freeze and review of federal funds. Several other colleagues, including Reps. Eli Crane (R-AZ) and Andy Ogles (R-TN), are leading the fight against other rogue judges legislating from the bench as well.

It's simple: Liberal judges cannot unilaterally block lawful presidential actions over the entire country.

Make no mistake, this is a battle for the safety of our homeland and the future of our Republic. Please know that I fully support President Trump's actions to keep Americans safe, and I will continue to back articles of impeachment against activist judges abusing their power to obstruct his legitimate Article II authority.