

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Help Us "Give Burns The Boot"®

The Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation (GFBF) is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. In those 35 years, the origination has made a profound impact on the lives of many burn survivors in Georgia. The GFBF is a non-profit origination with the mission to partner with fire service and burn care community to provide fire safety and prevention education, support medical facilities and to assist burn survivors in their recovery.

Union County Fire Department is joining nearly 100 other fire departments throughout the state of Georgia by participating in the 28th annual "Give Burns The Boot"® drive benefiting the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation. The funds collected enable the GFBF to help prevent fire related injuries and deaths through fire education. In addition, the GFBF supports burn centers in Georgia to allow them to offer the best possible treatment for burn patients.

The best activity that the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation provides is "Camp Oo-U-La"® Georgia's only camp held exclusively for burn-injured children. There are approximately 70 kids who attend the camp each year. The camp, paid entirely by the GFBF, allows the campers one week in the year in which they can live without society's comments and stares and just be kids. The camp has a major impact on these children and it wouldn't be possible without these donations.

Union County Fire Department will be participating in the boot drive and there are several ways that you may help us make this possible. The department will display fire boots with the "Give Burns The Boot"® sticker on the side. Donations to the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundations will be collected in those boots. We will have them at the Farmer's Market and at all of the events this year. You may also join our on-line team and donate on-line. Visit our Facebook page or go to www.tinyurl.com/ucfdgive. At this site you can make a donation. This will give our Union County Fire Department fundraiser team credit for your donation.

The Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation is an awesome organization who has made a significant impact on the burn pre-

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Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



Changed Boy

A mother's love can transcend what she can express or demonstrate. We do well to appreciate her yearning for what's best for her child. In the case of one mother, her deepest desire was for her son to trust Jesus. From her autobiography "They Call Me Mother Graham" (1977), here are the words of Morrow Coffey Graham about the son she called Billy Frank.

The year 1934 stands out significantly for our family. It was to prove to be particularly meaningful for Billy Frank. The complacent churchgoers of Charlotte needed a fire kindled in their hearts. Who better could do this than the well-known, fiery Southern evangelist Mordecai Ham? The men, including my husband, met together in one of our pastures to pray. While the men met, I had an all-day prayer meeting and Bible study in our home.

The invitation went out to the evangelist. Before long these same businessmen were erecting a large tabernacle of raw pine. For eleven weeks, beginning in September 1934, the meetings were each night.

Billy was now sixteen and just beginning his senior year in high school. Two of the first verses I ever had Billy commit to memory were, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:5-6, KJV). Now those verses were to become meaningful in his young heart.

Vernon Patterson, one of the men who led the meeting in our pasture, had prayed very pointedly that "out of Charlotte the Lord would raise up someone to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth." God answered that prayer and chose to do so by putting Billy under conviction and sending him forward to walk that sawdust aisle and trust in the Lord with all his heart.

Billy actually went to the meeting out of some curiosity. But God was working out His plan for Billy Frank's life. Yes, I saw him go forward, and my mother heart was beating very fast. I was just rejoicing. I felt it was a wonderful thing to do, but my emotional experience was yet to come.

When we arrived home that night from the meeting, Bil-

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All Things New
Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Some of the questions below are familiar since we have answered them in the past, but they are questions we continue to get. I thought I would touch on them again.

Q. I am confused. Where can I take glass to be recycled?
A. We can only accept glass at the Convenience Center that is located at the intersection of Highway 325 and Highway 515. The Transfer Station and the Recycling Stations located at the voting precincts are not equipped to take glass. The cost of recycling glass is very high and by taking it only at the Convenience Center, it is giving an option for those who would like to recycle their glass. This cuts down on storage and transportation costs.

Q. Is it possible that the glass I recycle could end up in a land fill?

A. There are times when the glass recyclers will not accept glass because they have all that they can market. They will occasionally close off the market, which would mean in these cases, the company might have to dispose of the glass in a landfill. In the meantime, it at least gives you the option to continue to recycle glass and not have to pay to dispose of it. The company that we contract with, Advanced Disposal, has agreed to do this until further notice. We are not guaranteed that accepting glass will continue, but we are working with them to help make it possible to continue.

Q. Why can we only recycle #1 and #2 plastics with a screw top lid? There are lots of other plastics that are #1 and #2 that the Recycling Centers will not take.

A. Even though some plastics may have the same number, they are processed in different ways which makes the recycling process for each different. For instance, say you have a 2-liter coke bottle and a salad container. During the production of both these items the molecular structure was changed in different ways in order for the plastic to be molded into that certain item. Now, when they are recycled, they will be melted down. The problem is due to the change in the molecular structure they will melt at different rates. The salad container will melt while you will still have

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner
Lamar Paris



Anti-Drug Coalition

Fentanyl – Heroin's Deadly Synthetic Cousin

Fentanyl, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is up to 100 times more potent than morphine and many times that of heroin.

The mission of the Union County Anti-Drug Coalition is to support an overall safe community by providing information, education and support services to children, families and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse. Visit and Like our Facebook page for additional articles and videos.

In its prescription form, fentanyl is known as Duragesic, Actiq, and Sublimaze. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid analgesic, which helps a patient deal with intense pain or as a pain management tool after major surgery. The substance is like morphine, but much more powerful. Fentanyl laced street drugs are popular and are known by the following names: Jackpot, Friend, Goodfella, Murder 8, China White (heroin and fentanyl), and Apache – to name a few.

Fentanyl works in a similar fashion as

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"I'm not sure about Perdue's school lunch changes. I think some of this might have been grown on a farm!"



POWELL 2017

Letters to the Editor...

Thank you Union County Union County Family,

When my family moved to Union County in 2012, we had no inclination of the impact you would have on our lives. From initial introductions to the community and to the most recent sincere and heartfelt conversations, it will be difficult to leave this place. As we went through the people that positively impacted our tenure in Blairsville, it became more and more difficult to find a stopping point. Instead, I wanted to share with each of you our appreciation. We have forged wonderful relationships inside and outside the school. We have seen our children spend the majority or all of their childhood in Blairsville and developing relationships with great friends. Along the way, God has closed doors while giving us a plan about what He has in store for us. Thank you all and please pray for our family as we commit ourselves to a new community.

If there is anything I can do for you, don't hesitate to contact me. My cell phone will remain the same and my personal email address is jeremy.h.williams@gmail.com.

God Bless,
Jeremy, Jenny, Molly & Rhett Williams

Simplicity

Dear Editor,

As I read Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle's announcement that he will seek to become Georgia's next Governor, I thought of Henry David Thoreau's advice in Walden: "Simplicity, simplicity. Let your affairs be as two or three, and not a hundred or a thousand; instead of a million count half a dozen, and keep your accounts on your thumbnail."

In declaring, Lt. Gov. Cagle has unfurled his masthead full of political promises, couched in the usual tsunami of political platitudes.

He's going to create (he says) 500,000 new jobs, cut \$100M in taxes, order a 10-year transportation plan, boost third grade reading proficiency, and "declare war on the drop-out rate in Georgia's [public schools]."

And, I assume, that's just for openers. Instead of the usual political folderol, if he were to commit himself and the Assembly to the restructuring of all offices and levels of Georgia's government to dependency on a uniform, State-wide, sales tax instead of the current tax system, he would shift the financial onus from legislated, politically-manipulated, taxation to consumption — with all of the attendant requirements, possibilities, expectations and benefits. The effect of such simplifying would be immediate and profound.

Sales tax occurs once: at the point of sale.
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Priorities

Dear Editor,

Is it just me? Or do we sometimes spend money in Union County like giddy lottery winners? SPLOST appears to have been a very good idea at its conception but I question whether it has morphed into a spending habit. Recent expenditures appear to be nice additions to Union County; however they also come with ongoing maintenance costs... lasting forever. For example, the new Art Center, Ag Center and outdoor exercise equipment are all very nice, but I question the need for such facilities at this time vs. the want of a few, as all will be burdened with ongoing and unwanted costs of upkeep.

Conversely, I wonder if we're allocating sufficient funds towards the less visible yet vital needs and responsibilities regarding public safety. The law enforcement personnel of Union County see teacher salaries and benefits increasing, while their pay remains painfully low — sometimes barely above minimum wage for work that puts lives at risk. Personnel at the jail need to put bedding on the floor because the jail is too small for the number of inmates. While I do not feel sorry for anyone sleeping on the floor, the maintenance of order is crucial and the lack of space needed for daily routines at the jail

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Church opened my eyes

Dear Editor,

A lot of people wonder why they need to attend a church after they get saved and the Bible tells us to not forsake the assembling of like-minded believers in Christ. When I first got saved back in 1992 I felt the same way. Now that I have my fire insurance from hell, what is the need to attend a local church, but I soon found out that to be a faithful and committed follower of Christ it was in my best interest to fellowship with others of the same faith.

First, I met folks that shared the same desire to want to know more about who Jesus Christ was and why He would come to earth from heaven to save a sinner like me.

Second, church opened my eyes and heart to listen to God's word from a pastor who was ordained by God to bring the message of salvation and to go out and share that same message with others who are lost without Christ.

Thirdly, the fellowship and friendship in a loving church brings us all closer together in one accord, in one mind and of one Spirit.

Fourthly, you learn to give back to God through your tithes and offerings to further God's kingdom work through supporting missions, missionaries across the world and even in our own

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Fond Memories

I remember a little white church house where the only means of keeping cool during summer were two ceiling fans and open windows. The only way of keeping warm was a pot-bellied coal powered stove. And the old church had no running water.

The bathrooms consisted of two outhouses. Our family went to dinners on the ground and all day singings at the little church. There were 3 families instrumental in starting the little church house. Lon Cummings sawed the lumber in his saw mill. Ed May donated the land for the building and Mathie Thomas donated the timber to be sawed into lumber.

The church actually began as a way for the local community to have a place for a "Singing School". When the church began there was no denominational designation. It was a place where the entire community could come worship. When I was a boy there was only 1 generation of Cummings buried at the cemetery. Now, the church is a brick building with central air and heat and there are 4 generations of my ancestors buried in the cemetery. I spent the summers with my grandparents and the Union Hill Congregational Methodist Church was a big part of our lives. Papa never missed a service. He was especially fond of Sunday School. After Sunday School Papa would sit in the regular place on the Deacons Bench. All the Deacons in the Church sat together in the right front corner every Sunday morning. Opposite of the Deacons in the left front corner sat the little choir which sang songs like "I'll Fly Away" and "Just Beyond the River".

One particular Sunday was a very memorable event for the choir and its leader, "Fred McMurray". Fred was a very proper and well kept man with not a hair out of place. His tie was always tied just right and his wife always kept his clothing starched and ironed to perfection. But, this particular Sunday was different. As he stepped to the front of the choir every one of the 62 persons in the service noticed that Fred's britches were unzipped. To make matters worse this shirt tail was sticking out of his opened zipper. This did not escape the attention of the eldest Taylor girl.

This young girl was a take charge kind of person meaning that she saw something needing attention she gave it her all. So, when she noticed Fred's zipper with the shirt tail sticking out she acted. The little girl got up from her seat and promptly walked up to the tall choir leader. Mind you this was during a rendition of "Have

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Around The Farm
Mickey Cummings



Carpenter and Bumble Bees

The warm weather has finally brought the familiar buzz of pollinators such as hummingbirds, insects, and various other nectar-loving critters. As many of us know, some of the most important of these assets to your garden are the busy little bees we see zipping around sipping the sweet nectar and catching pollen on their fuzzy bodies. This includes honey bees, bumble bees, and even those pesky carpenter bees. Because carpenter bees can be such pests, it is important to be able to distinguish them from other pollinators such as bumble bees.

Carpenter bees are large bees that burrow into dry wood to create a shelter for themselves and their young. Unfortunately, their favorite hangout spots tend to be our porches, outdoor furniture, and any other wooden structures located outside. The carpenter bees that we currently see outdoors are the surviving generation from last fall. These bees will hover around whatever wood they can find until they find a suitable spot to burrow. They will chew a perfect circle about half an inch in diameter. Once the hole is about an inch deep, bees will then burrow sideways to create corridors with the grain of the wood. The female will fill this burrow with a paste of pollen and nectar for her future young to eat. This paste can sometimes be seen leaking out of the hole. After she mates, she will return to her burrow to deposit her egg which will hatch and develop throughout the rest of the year. These bees will survive throughout the winter and cause more damage the following year. Carpenter bees do not form hives like honeybees, but they are somewhat social in that they will often expand their burrows to connect with those of other carpenter bees. This forms a network of tunnels that can, in time, cause considerable structural damage.

At first sight, carpenter bees look almost identical to bumble bees. However, the abdomen (back portion) of carpenter bees is black and shiny with almost no hair, while the abdomen of the bumble bee is covered in mostly yellow hairs. Bumble bees are also somewhat social, but they do not burrow into wood to create their communities. They prefer soil. Bumble bees construct nests underground and, unlike the carpenter bees, usually have a single queen whose main purpose is to reproduce and is cared for by other members of the community. Their hives are typically anywhere from 50 to 400 individual bees, which is far smaller than their cosmopolitan honeybee cousins who form hives of around 50,000 or more.

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Chamber Events

What do you call a huge event with 80+ vendors including restaurants, boats, horses, and a live radio remote? It is the Buy Local Extravaganza! Join us on Thursday, May 18th from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. at North Georgia Technical College-Blairsville Campus. Enjoy free samples from local restaurants and giveaways from local businesses. The culinary team from North Georgia Technical College will also be doing cooking demonstrations for everyone to enjoy. This is a free event that you will not want to miss!

We would like to thank United Community Bank for being this year's presenting sponsor. We would also like to thank the following corporate sponsors: Budget Blinds, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Mountain Elegance, North Georgia Technical College, and WJUL 95.1 WJUL 97.7. Some businesses will have items for sale so you can start shopping for the perfect gift right away!

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber
Regina Allison



UGA Extension From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee



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