# **Opinions**

# Everybody has one...

#### **Carbon Monoxide: The Invisible Killer**

We all know that smoke alarms save lives. Smoke alarms detect smoke from a fire quickly and can give the occupants more time to safely exit the home. Smoke is a byproduct of fire; it can be seen or smelt. Carbon monoxide (CO), on the other hand, is called the "Invisible Killer" because it's a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that can only be detected by a CO monitor. The CO monitor can be a lifesaving alarm as well. Union Fire Dept.

from Union

County

County Fire Department would like to provide some information on CO and encourage people to install CO monitors in their homes.

**Fire Chief** Carbon Monoxide is produced by the incomplete burning of various

fuels including wood, charcoal, oil, kerosene, propane, and natural gas. According to the CDC, CO "is found in fumes produced any time you burn fuel in cars or trucks,

naces. CO can build up indoors and poison people and animals who breathe it." CO can be very dangerous and can affect everyone in There are several tips to prevent CO poisoning. People should have their heating system, water heater, and any other gas appliances inspected or serviced by a qualified technician. Chimneys should be inspected and/or cleaned every year. People should

small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, or fur-

never use outdoor appliances such as charcoal grills, portable gas camp stoves, or generators inside the home, basement, or garage. The best practice is to have a CO monitor in your home to detect the CO levels before levels rise affecting the health of the occupants. People exposed to CO will start to present with certain signs and symptoms. These signs and symptoms begin with: headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, and dizziness. Higher levels of CO or prolonged exposure produce signs and symptoms of mental confusion, vomiting, loss of coordination, and loss of consciousness. If not treated, CO poisoning can lead to death. A tale-tale sign is that more than one person in the home may have the same signs

If you suspect CO, evacuate the home or building to an area of fresh air. Call 911 and have the fire department check the home for CO levels. Working CO monitors work best to detect dangerous CO levels before signs and symptoms develop. Union County Fire

See Dyer, page 5A

#### **Place in Time**

When is the next election for U.S. President? When is the baby due? When did the U.S. declare its independence? The assumption behind these questions is that important events are marked by their place in time.

We humans are wired to understand things by their place in time. Demographers use a person's birth year to explain common characteristics, hence the labels

**All Things** 

Baby Boomer, Generation X, and Millennial. Disney recently began using this disclaimer to warn that some of its content is marked by its place in time: "This program is presented as originally created. It may contain outdated cultural depic-

tions." If you don't know what a beehive hairdo is or if you can't figure out your smart phone, then style or technology hints that you may be of a different time.

The fact is, we are creatures limited by time, at least in this life. That is surely why God chose to reveal Himself within the confines of time, even though He exists outside of time. In this way we could truly know Him. Otherwise, humanity's thoughts about religion, philosophies of life and death, and attempts to make sense of the world are speculations at best. But when God intervenes in history, well that has gravitas. Christians are not the only ones who explain the world

though encounters with an incarnate god. But there's a big difference. Dorothy Sayers mentions the Egyptian god Osiris and the Greek god Zeus, then writes, "But in most theologies, the god is supposed to have suffered and died in some remote and mythical period of pre-history. The Christian story on the other hand, starts off briskly with a place and date: 'When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King' (Mat. 2:1). St. Luke, still more practically and prosaically, pins the thing down by a reference to a piece of government finance. God, he says, was made man in the year when Caesar Augustus was taking a census in connexion with a scheme of taxation. Similarly, we might date an event by saying that it took place in the year that Great Britain went off the gold standard.'

We celebrate Christmas because God chose that place in time to take on human flesh. He then spoke to us in a way we can

See Fowler, page 5A

#### **Commissioner's Questions**

Q. Is the county doing their Food Drive again this year as you all have the past few years? A. Yes, we are! This time each year my staff puts out buck-

ets at various places in the county for the purpose of collecting nonperishable food items to be taken to the Union County Food Pantry located in the Pat Haralson Memorial Civic Center. While the Food Pantry needs donations all Q & A year, their stock of food items is depleted greatly during the holiday sea-

County Paris

taken immediately after the holidays to help with replenishing their supplies for the following year. Q. Where are the buckets lo-

son. The food items we collect are

cated this year? A. There are two here in the Union County Courthouse. One upstairs in the main lobby and one downstairs in the lobby outside of the Clerk of Superior Court's Office. There are also buckets located at the Chamber of Commerce, the Union County Library, and City Hall.

Q. Do you have suggestions of items that we can do-

A. Canned food is always a great option to donate, but a lot of people don't realize that boxed items are great to donate also. It is always good to remember that food items for all age groups are needed, including items for children. Below is a list of suggested items that are always needed at the Food Pantry: Peanut Butter, Dry Pasta, Dry Beans, JellyRice, Canned Soups, Canned Fruit, Dry Milk, Crackers, Canned Tuna, Dinner Kits, Fruit Snacks, Canned Chicken, Spaghetti Sauce, Cereal (low sugar).

Q. I would prefer to just make a monetary donation and let the Food Pantry purchase what they need as they need it.

Â. Absolutely! This is actually a great idea and very beneficial to the Food Pantry. When they have money on hand, they can purchase food items when they need them. If they give out all their instant mashed potatoes, they can go and purchase some instead of waiting for someone to come donate instant mashed potatoes. You can bring your monetary donation to the Union County Commissioner's Office or you can take it directly to the Food Pantry in

See Paris, page 5A

### **Drug Free Mountain Life**

#### What Parents Should Know About Kids Using CBD

THC is the most well-known component of marijuana, and it is the one that "gets you

high," so to speak But have you heard of CBD? Many parents haven't, or even if they have, they aren't sure what to make of it or even understand if their

The DRUG FREE MOUNTAIN providing information, educanity toward prevention of illegal

son or daughter is using CBD. What's certain is that it's becoming more and more widely available, and like vaping, is often marketed to young

CBD, short for Cannabidiol, is the largest non-psychoactive component of marijuana, and interest in its effects is growing. High levels of CBD and low levels of THC are found in most medical marijuana products, but the CBD industry has started to expand and market their products as "life promoting" to healthy individuals. There are hundreds of online companies

selling CBD, with the market estimated to grow to \$2.1 billion by 2020. CBD tinctures, edibles, sprays, vaping liquid, capsules and items such as gels, hand lotions and shampoos are widely available, varying in price and CBD content. Some of these products are illegal, while

others can be purchased in supermarkets and health stores by anyone. The legality of CBD varies by state, often based upon whether it is hemp-derived or marijuana-derived. Hemp and

See **Drug Free**, page 5A

#### **Letters to the Editor**

#### A Huge Thanks

Dear Editor,

On behalf of my wife Lauri and I, we would like to say a huge thanks to ALL the volunteers, pastors and church kitchens that made it possible to provide close to a thousand Thanksgiving meals for many that might not otherwise be able to enjoy one. Many are shut in or living alone with very limited grocery money.

And then there are working First Responders and Law Enforcement Officers that we played a small part in by having the privilege to deliver meals. So many names and faces should be shown instead, but Lauri and I just happened to be in the right place at the right time when ministry organizer Cal Wolcott asked North Georgia News staff writer Mark Smith to tag along and catch some photos.

We really did not want recognition, as I'm sure most the volunteers would feel. But at the same time, we all simply want, first of all, recognition and Thanksgiving to our Creator for His abundant provisions.

And second, thanks for the kind of true giving love that only comes when GOD's love fills the hearts of a community in a way that just

And third, thanks to North Georgia News for calling attention to this God-inspired ministry. May God bless you all.

Phil Redditt

#### **Merry Christmas!**

Dear Editor,

I say "Merry Christmas" to people. It disturbs me with commercials that say "holiday" as opposed to Christmas. Example is so many simply say something like, "This holiday..." trying to sell presents for Christmas. Yes, Christmas is a holiday, but it is the celebration of the birth of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Politically correct advertisers have joined the many in politics, the news media and those opposed to any mention of Christ in the public arena to abolish the reason why we celebrate. I personally will not purchase anything from any company referring to Christmas as "this holiday." I hope others will do the same.

North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

Mailing: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514

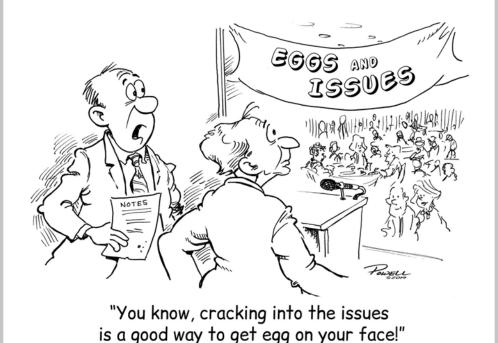
**Shawn Jarrard** 

**Kenneth West** 

Publisher/Owner

Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com

Website: www.nganews.com



# **Foothills Landscape Project**

U.S. Forest Service Announces Foothills Landscape Project: Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D works with many partners to produce the number of field days and programs that we do every year (there are only two of us) and one of our main partners is the U.S. Forest Service

(USFS). We work with the USFS in Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina to develop our Fire Adapted Communities in the com-



munities in and around the US Forest Service lands. Most of our work in Georgia is with the Chattahoochee National Forest here in North Georgia where our work is to help keep those of you who live in and around the forest safe from wildfires or from your own accidental fires that can destroy all that you have worked for.

Our goal is to keep the risk of wildfires at a minimum in the communities, so the surrounding forests are safe from destruction by fire. The beauty of these forests is why we moved here in the first place and if burned will never look the same. The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest in northern Georgia comprises two United States National Forests, the Oconee National Forest in eastern Georgia and the Chattahoochee National Forest located in the North Georgia Mountains. The Chattahoochee National Forest is composed of an eastern and western forest. The western forest contains Johns Mountain, Little Sand Mountain, and Taylor Ridge. The combined total area of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest is 866,468 acres; of which the Chattahoochee National Forest comprises 750,145 acres and the Oconee National Forest comprises 116,232 acres. The county with the largest portion of the eastern forest is Rabun County, Georgia, which has 148,684 acres within its boundaries.

The following is a press release about a national forest project in the Cherokee Foothills of North Georgia. Gainesville, GA (December 2, 2019) — Today, the U.S. Forest Service released its environmental analysis for the Foothills Landscape Project. The project is designed to maintain and restore healthy forest, habitat and watershed conditions across 157,625-acres within the Chattahoochee National Forest in portions of Dawson, Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Murray, Rabun and White Counties. Beginning in 2016, partners and community members from across North Georgia have been working together with the Forest Service over several years to realize a shared vision to address the complex conservation challenges across this

See Riley, page 5A

#### **Derek Richards** Advertising Director

**Todd Forrest Mark Smith** Sports Editor

> **Lowell Nicholson** Photographer

## The Serenade

When my mother was a little girl, Christmas was a much simpler time. There was not much money to buy gifts and use elaborate decorations. So, the family made do with other things. For gifts, a child might get a doll or wooden car. But, most times Santa Claus brought fresh fruit

and candy to children. I am sure you remember those orange candy slices, soft candy canes and chocolate drops. Mother said it was even a treat to get



fresh tangerines from Florida.

For decorations, Mom and her siblings would use popcorn strung together with sewing thread and real candles on the tree. They would also shoot mistletoe from the top of a tree and decorate inside their home. Instead of caroling, the folks around Trapptown would visit homes and serenade their friends and neighbors with Christmas songs. The people doing the singing would try to conceal their identities by wearing shabby clothing and bags over their heads. The host or the people listening to the songs were supposed to guess the identity of the singers. If the host could not guess the identity of those who were singing, they were obliged to feed them sorghum cake, cookies and maybe apple cider or coffee. This feeding would continue until the identities of the singers were determined.

Mother was able to attend her first Christmas serenade at the age of 6 or 7. Mother's Aunt Tudler and her older cousin Athel dressed the young Shirley like a hobo. They covered her head with a burlap sack with holes around her eyes so she could see out. Tudler and Athel dressed in a similar fashion. The ladies and young girl walked a couple of miles to the home of Fat Morgan. Fat just happened to be Tudler's brother, and he was married to the best cook around Trapptown. Tudler spoke to her young niece, "Shirley, you must promise not to tell Fat who we are because he will keep feeding us cake and cookies if he can't figure out our names." So, Shirley promised she

Aunt Tudler knocked on the door of the house. When Fat opened the door, the trio began singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." After the song, Fat invited the trio into his home because it was cold outside. Fat sat down by the stove and shook his head, so the trio then sang "Silent Night." After the song, Fat said, "I'll swan I just can't figure out who you'ns are.' So, Mrs. Morgan brought out some sugar cookies and hot cider. Fat began scratching his head and stared at the three people in the serenade troop. Fat continued his stare and proclaimed, "I can't figure out you two big'uns, but, I'll wa-

See Cummings, page 5A

# **Chamber of Commerce**

Has anyone seen Santa? Santa has been sighted!

We had a great time at Breakfast with Santa at the Community Center this past Saturday morning and the fun and festivities contin-

ued into the afternoon on the Square including another visit from Santa at the Old Courthouse with the evening concluding with a

Chamber Steve Rowe

Blairsville great parade. There is something magical about

a parade after dark! I would like to thank United Community Bank and the Junior Board, Chickfil-A, Keller Williams, Union General Hospital and all of our other Sponsors of Breakfast with Santa and our Tour of Trees. If you haven't been around our town

square yet, be sure to swing by soon to admire all the wonderful Christmas decorations (and maybe stop by our downtown merchants and check some items off your Christmas shopping lists!). If you missed Holly Jolly Christmas/

Breakfast with Santa, you can still check out

See Chamber, page 5A

#### Dogwood

This week I am going to talk about dogwoods. Dogwoods are always a favorite of mine in the spring. They also have great fall color in their deep red leaves. They are not difficult to grow given the right conditions, and they are found naturally, as they are a native plant. Let's

talk about varieties. where they like to grow, taking care of them, and pests that can be a problem for The showy

flowers on dog-

Watching and Working

**@UGA** 

Williams woods are actually not flowers. They are bracts that turn white. Bracts are usually there to sup-

center of the four white, showy bracts. Dogwood varieties are split into white bracts and red/pink bracts. Some white bracted varieties are Barton, Cherokee Princess, Bay Beauty, and Welchii. Some red/pink bracted varieties are American Beauty Red, Cherokee Sunset, and Junior Miss. Most of the dogwoods planted in Georgia are the native white bracted variety. Most white varieties are grown from seed. You can also purchase dogwoods that are grown from vegetative cuttings. Plants grown from vegetative cuttings are usually more ex-

pensive but they may flower earlier or have more

port the flower. The actual flower is the in the

showy flowers. Since they are native, dogwoods are well adapted to the soils that we have in the mountains. However, there are a couple of things to keep in mind if you are selecting a site to plant them. They do like well-drained soils, so planting them in a place with some slope will help. Planting them in a poorly drained area will most likely result in the tree dying. Dogwoods also like areas that have partial shade. If they are planted in full sun, they're more likely to have health problems down the road. If they are planted in dense shade they can grow, but won't flower as much. Planting along a tree line is a good place for them. When planting make sure you dig a hole two to three times the size of the rootball. You want the root ball to be level with the surface of the soil, and then backfill the hole with soil. Place mulch on top of the bare soil. Container grown trees can be planted at any time so long as you take care to keep them watered. Balled and burlapped trees can be planted when the trees are dormant (November - March). Newly planted trees don't need fertilizer because that can actually make it more difficult for them to take up water.

The most common insect pest dogwoods have is the dogwood borer. It's a moth that in the caterpillar stage will bore into trees. The best prevention is to make sure you don't damage the bark of the tree with lawn mowers or weed eat-

See Williams, page 5A

#### **Publication No: 001505**

Advertising, News deadlines Friday at 4 p.m. • Mail Service for all subscriptions except 30512, 30514 & 30572 - One 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, 1981, 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. **Phone**: 706-745-6343 **Fax**: 706-745-1830 \* P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514