

Opinions

Everybody has one...

A Message

As we close out another school year, we are reminded of the life changing event of graduating high school. There are students graduating who know who they are and exactly what they want to do in life. There are others who are not so sure. Union County Fire Department would like to provide a firefighter's point of view that not only helps in the realm of emergency services but in any job or even life in general.

The fire service has a standard; a set of core values and a work ethic that promotes success. We try to instill these elements into all firefighters. Don't get me wrong, I can't say that all firefighters have these characteristics but for the most part, they can be seen in successful firefighters. Knowing these characteristics and consciously striving to follow them will add to your success.

Work ethic cannot be overstated. Everyone has their own work ethic but have you ever asked yourself if it is a good one? A good work ethic starts with being on time. Have you heard the expression, "if you are on time, you are late"? That is how you should think about your time management. People depend on you to be there on time and ready to go. Be on time and stick to your commitments.

A major aspect of work ethic is doing your best. This does not mean some of the time but all the time. Put in the effort. We try to instill in firefighters that everything that you do has your name on it. It reflects on you. It is important to take pride in your work and do it the best that you can the first time, every time. Do not worry about if you will get paid or if certain things are "not your job" or if you will get recognized for your efforts, just do your best. You will know if you did your best or not and eventually, so will everyone else.

The last thing we promote to firefighters is integrity and doing what is right. One of my most favorite quotes is, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing" by Edmund Burke. Doing the right thing is not easy. We will fail at times but we must always continue to try. It may not be popular or even pleasant but in the end doing the right thing is the best for everyone. So hang tough and do the right thing. Keep these things in mind, practice them, and you will stand above the rest.

**Union County Fire Department ~
Our Family Protecting Your Family~**

**Fire Dept.
from Union
County
Fire Chief**

*David
Dyer*



Dezilme

TITANYEN, Haiti, May 11, 2017 -

The beginning of the rainy season didn't stop the powdery dust from settling on everything. The 25 mobile medical team members braced ourselves in the back of the covered trucks lurching along the uneven, rocky road. The sultry air only reinforced our determination to minister the love of Jesus to the underserved people.

We set up the clinic in a little church building made smaller by the 50 uniformed school children attending classes in the same quarters. Pastor Anderson shared the gospel and prayed with those who had been waiting since before sun up for the primary care.

We unloaded (and dusted) the boxes of supplies and pharmaceuticals, furniture and equipment. The sign-in process brought some order to the chaos, and the work began. I assisted Anderson in greeting people, and Thomas, the team evangelist, in probing individual spiritual needs. The medical staff worked efficiently.

I chatted with those who weren't too sick to enjoy speaking with a foreigner. The eventual question was, "Have you accepted Jesus yet?" to move the talk heavenward. And so it was that I met Dezilme, who at 86 has outlived his life expectancy by 25 years. He limped with a stick for a cane, but walked unassisted. His face was deformed around his nose and mouth but he could still make himself understood.

"Oh!" he exclaimed with feigned shock at the question. "Of course I have accepted Jesus and I have believed in Him for a very long time." So, he endured the pushback from voodoo for a long time too. "I live right across the road here by the church and I am here every Sunday to worship God."

His joviality, boldness, and sincerity struck me. I intended to pray for him, but didn't. Instead I asked, "Would you pray for me?"

"Of course I will remember you when I pray!"

"No, my papa, would you pray for me right now?"

"Of course!" and as his neighbors watched, he eagerly and

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**All Things
New**

*Wayne
Fowler*



Commissioner's Questions

This question was asked at last night's county meeting. I have also had a few of the grand jury members come to me with similar questions. So, while this may not cover all the issues, maybe it will give you an idea of my stance on this subject. This will probably cover three weeks of Q & A. Also, I will be using the remaining questions in the next couple of weeks as a way of explaining some of the other issues in the jail.

Q. The Sheriff has given us a tour of the jail and has shown us the overcrowding in the jail with mattresses on the floors and prisoners crowded in together. There are also apparently additional issues with door locks, tower controls and security cameras. Instead of the county continuing to spend money on "nice" or "fancy" projects and property, why can't the county fix the jail or build a new one?

A. This is a very complicated question and I am going to try to break it down into different parts to make it easier to understand. The final answer will be in next weeks' paper.

Part A1. When I first took office on January 1, 2001, the previous commissioner had let the contract on a new jail and the foundation was completed along with the first two rows of blocks. Towns and Union counties had both shared a jail and its operation cost for many years and had discussed building a new, larger jail. The Commissioners and Sheriffs of the two counties could not work together on the issue, so each county decided to build their own jail. A joint jail for the two counties had been estimated to cost \$4 million and so our commissioner said we should be able to build one for just half that amount or only \$2 million.

Part A2. The architect and contractor were stuck with a budget that was totally inadequate and corners had to be cut constantly to try to stay in budget. Grading was cut to a bare minimum with only enough space graded on the side of the mountain to barely hold the building. The original joint jail held 40 or so inmates and the new one was built to only hold 54 including the temporary holding cells.

Part A3. Only from the beginning the jail had issues. A large rain fell not long after I took office and the dirt washed and slid off the graded slope behind the jail. The debris covered part of the

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**Q & A
from Union
County
Commissioner**

*Lamar
Paris*



A True Warrior

Union County lost a "True Warrior" on January 5, 2017. This past week Lauren and I had the distinct honor of traveling to Arlington, VA to be with friends and family during the interment of Mr. Davenport in the national cemetery. Many people knew him as an outstanding soldier. Others knew him for his efforts as the Union County Hospital Administrator.

**Around
The Farm**

*Mickey
Cummings*



Others knew him due to his faith and his service to First Baptist Church as Chairman of Deacons. It matters not the role he played I am sure you will agree that he was a "True Warrior".

James Leon Davenport was born to John Prescott Davenport and Ethel Lee Souther Davenport on December 9, 1926. Leon married Barbara Hooper Twiggs on September 18, 1953. Their marriage has been an inspiration to many people due to their character and love toward one another. I first met him shortly after mov-

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"Of course I remember. Who forgets their heroes?"

Letters to the Editor...

Politics

Dear Editor,

I go on record saying that I don't know a lot about politics.

It's never been my strong suit, so when I watch the news of all the mayhem running wild, like a boar in heat, I find myself turning to God's Word in the Bible. This is where I seek the truth, nothing but the truth of solid facts to back up Scripture that enlightens me to who truly is in control of all things. God is! I have been studying God's word for over 25 years and it has never disappointed me at any turn and what I have learned from the Old Testament is God Himself does what pleases Him (Psalms 115:3) and God also sets kings, queens, judges and yes even presidents in high positions for His purpose and will.

It's funny when you watch the news and everyone is playing the blame game and wondering why a business man that really has no former political background could ever become president. The reason is they are looking in the wrong places to lay the blame. Did God set Mr. Trump in the White House? We have to remember with God all things are possible. There is nothing, I say nothing, that He can't do.

Yes I admit president Trump has made mistakes, but show me one president who hasn't; but the good news is I believe his heart is in the right place. He is keeping his promises to the American people, though it has been hard for him to accomplish much because of all of the onslaught of the media, the liberals, the Democrats and even some Republicans, yet he has done a whole lot of good things in his agenda to move America in the right direction.

What is the forecast for President Trump in the next four years or more? Well I don't have a crystal ball or a genie in a magic bottle, but

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Speeders

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to see the article in the paper two weeks ago from our Sheriff.

Getting serious about speeders is long overdue. I would like to see the sheriff post something in the paper each week with the details of everything regarding citations for the week without the name of the recipient of the citation.

I think a lot of people would like to know that speeding citations are on the increase. Red light runners; well that's a whole other story. Stand out in the parking lot at CVS sometime just for 30 minutes and count the number of red light runners. It's amazing that there aren't a 100 accidents each day, just on 515 alone.

Jerry Driskell

We, The People

Dear Editor,

What would it take for "Washington" to listen to (and to obey) We, the People?

Add your own choices but I number among the deaf, the too-long in power, the insensate, the too-comfortable, John McCain, Lindsey Graham, Johnny Isakson, Mitch McConnell, Chuck Schumer, Nancy Pelosi, Patrick Leahy, Bernie Sanders, Dick Durbin, Joe Manchin, Diane Feinstein.

Having experienced Tyranny in all of its forms — from crippling taxation to armed British Regulars appropriating their homes and foodstuffs, The Founders wrote a Document which turns on itself to prevent the consolidation of power too easily into ever-fewer hands.

In spite of the genius of the Founders, most of our "representatives" to the Congress no longer "represent."

Voting for "We, their Meal Ticket," has almost become for us an exercise in misguided optimism.

They no longer honor — much less have read or made the effort to understand — the historicity of the Constitution or the will of "We,

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Farm machinery

Dear Editor,

I have said it before and will say it again, and will continue to say it until something is done!

I don't mean to be rude or hateful or ugly about this, but farm machinery and equipment, and road work machinery and equipment do not belong on the highways!

They travel at slow speed, and hold up traffic and the people driving them don't seem to care one bit and won't try to pull over to the shoulder of the road if it is wide enough, or even in a place sufficient enough to pull off to let people by.

And if you get behind them, the people behind you go on around and there you are stuck for miles waiting for the chance to pass because every one else is going around.

And suppose you go around a curve at a decent and reasonable speed and there they are. Even with the speed limit you aren't going to have time enough to put on your brakes and that could be an accident in the making and perhaps a terrible one at that.

If people are going to work in some one's field or garden they just need to try to get something to haul the equipment on, and not have it on the main highway to disrupt the flow of traffic, and cause a major accident.

Delores Barnes

London Fog, Penny Loafers, Madras Pants, & Ping Pong

I have reminisced here several times in the past about my days growing up in the 60's in Butler, a small dirt-Road Town in middle Georgia, and these days my mind drifts back there more and more when I see and hear all that is going on around us in the world today. Common sense has really left the building now and whatever happened to patriotism, family, and love of God and country? Many of our fathers and grandfathers gave up their time, families, careers, and many times their lives to protect this country so future generations could live like we can live today, not necessarily how we live. If you read World War II books, like I do, you wonder how any of them made it home.

The terror and horror they went thru is something we can't imagine, but they were 20 years old and believed that they were invincible and that they were right. They did what they had to do because it was the Right thing to do not what they wanted to do and they didn't question their duty or have to listen to a TV interview with some "way over-paid celebrity" or some useless, talking head telling them how what they were doing was wrong. They went, fought, and died so their children could enjoy freedom in this country.

I listen to talk radio sometimes while traveling, but after a while it just makes me mad because I can't tell which side to believe so finally I just turn on 60s oldie goldies music to put my mind at ease and start day dreaming about how we grew up back in the 60s in the small town in the middle of nowhere. I wish I could take my grandchildren back to those good ole days to experience the times that we had when we had nothing to worry about except keeping the old folks happy and having fun with our gang... no high technology to keep up with... the only cell phone that we knew about was Dick Tracey's wrist radio in the Sunday comics... we had no dangers to worry about except the dirt clod that came out of the bushes as we rode our bicycles down the paths, and the only standards that some worried about was whether their jacket was a real London Fog or from Belk's... mine came from Belk's but it looked the same and it was a jacket after all... or if our madras pants were real and would bleed when they got wet... or if our penny loafers were Florsheim or some imitation, but at least back then the imitations were made in America not China.

My best friend, Thurman, or Bubba as we called him, was our fashion leader because

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**RC&D
Executive
Director**

*Frank
Riley*



Chamber Events

From everyone at the Chamber, thank you for supporting the Buy Local Program! We were excited to see so many people in the community come out and support the Buy Local Extravaganza that was held at North Georgia Technical College-Blairsville Campus May 18th. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this event a fantastic one! Thank you to Linda Lawrence, Director of Member Services at the Chamber for spearheading the event. You did a great job! Thank you to the entire Chamber Team for all your help with this as well, including the Ambassadors and Board Members who volunteered their time to help.

We would like to thank all the members that took part in this year's Extravaganza. We appreciate your support! We would like to say a special thank you to this year's sponsors: Presenting Sponsor United Community Bank.

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**Blairsville
-Union
County
Chamber**

*Regina
Allison*



Bear-Proofing Your Home

I recently heard a story from a friend who, just as he was tucking into bed, heard a commotion on his front porch. He looked out his front door to see a big hungry black bear happily munching on his bird seed. Hungry though the bear was, he realized he wasn't welcome as my friend knocked on the windows and let him know that seed was for birds only. Slowly, he lumbered into the night, no doubt plotting to topple a neighbor's trashcans to see what goodies he could scrounge up.

Stories like this are not rare in the mountains. While black bears are the most docile of the three bear species in North America, they are curious and sometimes desperate for food just as the weather warms up and when it starts to cool down. Unfortunately, short of fortifying your entire property, there isn't much that can be done about wildlife presence in your yard. However, you can take steps to make your home less appealing to bears and prevent property damage.

Black bears are known as "opportunistic feeders," meaning they eat whatever is convenient. They are also intelligent and remember places that are reliable food sources. If you or your neighbor has particularly smelly trash with lots of food scraps sitting out, they will not only tear through the bags but also return to the area again in hopes of another feast. Bears have an excellent sense of smell and are especially enticed by outdoor barbecues, cat or dog food, and trash. If you have a cookout, always make sure to clean up completely and in a timely manner so bears aren't likely to follow the smell. Also, it is a good idea to either invest in bear proof trash containers, or wait until trash pickup day to place your garbage bags outside. To protect your porches, keep birdfeeders away from your house while bears are active. As my friend's story showed, they have an affinity for sunflower seeds.

As fruit starts to ripen, many of us have the thought "I'll let it go just one more day, then it will be perfect." Well, bears aren't that picky and the thought that most likely goes through their mind is "If no one else is going to eat this, I will!" Bears love peaches, apples, blueberries and many other fruits, so be sure to pick those as they ripen. Though it's not necessarily a big deal if you lose a few fruits, bears tend to grab onto and try to climb branches. This can seriously wound or break branches, which can lead to fruit trees contracting diseases later in the season. Black bears also love vegetables, so an electric fence is the best way to keep them out of your

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**UGA
Extension
From the
Ground Up**

*Melissa
Mattee*



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