Opinions

Hurricane Helene

Hurricane Helene was a significant hurricane that was predicted to make landfall at the panhandle of Florida and move quickly inland through the entire State of Georgia. The hurricane was to maintain its intensity well inland, causing great concern for all of Georgia, including Union County. The multiple weather briefings that we attended continued to bring worse news for our area

as the storm entered Florida. It is safe to say that what happened in Western North Carolina was predicted for us. We have been blessed. We were spared the high winds and large amounts of rain that have caused such devastation in south Georgia and North Carolina. We did see and feel some of the



impacts of this storm. We saw the wind, rain, some minor flooding, and several trees down in the roadways. Some felt the effects of losing power, communications, and even some damage from trees.

We had been preparing for this storm for a couple days prior to landfall. Plans were activated and extra staff were called in. The Union County Road Department and public safety were ready. The Emergency Operations Center was opened. The Union County Swiftwater Team was put on alert the night before and was ready for any rescue missions. Fortunately, the team was never needed, and we had very few calls that were related to the storm.

As the storm approached, the E911 center began receiving multiple calls about trees down and blocked roads. Law Enforcement officers, Road Department, and GDOT began to immediately secure and clear these roads.

We did have power outages. There were several thousand customers without power in Union County at one time. Trees were on the power lines; lines were torn down; and utility poles were broken. Utility crews worked many hours to get to these problems and correct them.

We were blessed, but many communities were effected by this hurricane. Several of our staff volunteered to assist in the operations in south Georgia. Others have been assisting the recovery effort of collecting donations for communities in need.

This is just a highlight of the emergency operations performed for this one storm. It is a reminder to everyone to be better prepared for such storms by building ready kits and having an

See Dyer, page 7A

Life Is A Gift

People don't stop playing because they get old, but they get old because they stop playing. (anonymous)

Life is a gift given to us by our parents through the grace of God. The recognition and appreciation of life's gifts may not fully come

until one reaches a certain age or until experiences one and survives a life tragedy. When everything is wonderful in our daily lives, we just may



not acknowledge emotionally or mentally the high quality of life at its best. We can easily take the hours of our days for granted.

Why have we bought into the notion that growing older will be drudgery? Where did those tapes originate? Believing this can keep one from thoroughly enjoying the positive aspects of what lies ahead. Our hectic, chaotic lifestyles can subtly and sneakily wipe out our present gifts of fun and joy, resulting in an extreme case of depression and stress. Perhaps sub-

See Ashurst, page 7A

Letters to the Editor

All Saints' Day and Death!

Dear Editor,

Unfortunately, none of us escapes death. It waits for us around the corner, and can appear suddenly, very unwelcome. You can't dodge or jump over it. You are going to die. How does it happen? I have followed several people at the end of life, as part of my professional practice. There are different kinds of death; some take their last breath calmly, yes, even with a smile, while others do so in extreme anxiety and agony. Physically, the heart gives up, there is a very last heartbeat and then a last breath, and the blood supply with oxygen and glucose cannot reach the brain, whose functions therefore cease and physical awareness goes out. The body starts to get cold and muscles relax, the stiffness comes later. And it is noticeable that it is empty, something has left this body, a shell remains. Eternity is laid in people's hearts, that is why the finality of death and that one would cease to exist feels unreasonable and impossible. And so it is, we are eternal beings. The only question is whether, from the Christian point of view, "the elevator goes up or down," where the soul spends its eternity. The soul is thus the person "you," your personality with all its peculiarities, feelings and thoughts. See Kujala, page 7A

Everybody has one...

All Things

New

Wayne

Fowler

Glad for October

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." Maud Montgomery penned this line for the title character in her 1908 novel, "Anne of Green Gables." The setting is based on Montgomery's childhood home in Cavendish, Prince Edward Island, Canada. She describes "a glorious October, all red and gold, with mellow mornings when the valleys were filled with

delicate mists as if the spirit of autumn had poured them in for the sun to rain-amethyst, pearl, silver, rose, and smoke-blue.

The book's popularity led to fan fascination with the green-gabled Victorian farmhouse, preserved by the Canadians as a historic site.

It's a historical curiosity that tourists from Japan are among the most avid. A missionary gifted the novel to a Japanese friend who translated and published it in 1952. Tourists visit Green Gables in October to experience the crisp air, vivid colors, and misty mornings. They want to step into the fictional world of Anne, 'the dearest, most moving and delightful child," per Mark Twain.

But they can't. You can't step into a fictional story, no matter how optimistic and vibrant the red-headed girl or how delightful the storytelling. But you can enjoy the October colors!

Jesus was a storyteller. What's intriguing about His stories is that they do invite you to step into a revealed reality. You write yourself into the story. Consider some stories in Luke's gospel. In "The Sower," you are the one who "heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance' (8:15). In the Lost (Sheep, Coin, Son), you stir up heaven – in a good way. "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (15:10). In The Rich Fool, you know the limitations of earthly possessions. "Do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing' (12:22-23). In the Wedding Feast, you are included with a seat at the table (14:23).

Jesus spoke in parables because He wanted people to lean into the reality reflected in the story. As you experience that reality, your understanding of God and yourself grows. "Whoever has, to him more shall be given," Jesus said, "and he will have an

See Fowler, page 7A



The southeast has seen quite a few natural disasters recently. Fortunately for Union County, the bad weather skirted our beautiful little town. Someone approached me last week asking that I provide direction in case of a local emergency.

Per the Emergency Management Agency (EMA), should Union County experience a serious natural disaster,

we ask that residents turn to trusted sources for information such as Union County Government, EMA, Sheriff's Office, and all media outlets such as local radio, TV, and related Social Media. In case of a natural disaster, the CodeRED system will send notifications to



people who are registered in the CodeRED system.

Q. When should I call 9-1-1?

1. When a fire breaks out. Even a tiny grease fire can grow and spread rapidly. Even if you think you can put out the flames on your own – call 911.

2. When a medical emergency happens. Call 911 immediately for any life-threatening medical problem. These include chest pain, choking, difficulty speaking or breathing, drowning, numbness, poisoning, sudden intense pain, severe burns, a suicidal threat, or other serious medical problems.

3. If you witness a crime or possible crime. If you see an assault, burglary, or even a suspicious person lurking, call 911. Go with your gut feeling. It's better to call for help rather than have police show up later during an investigation. If you call, the crime may be caught in the act rather than investigated later.

4. If you're in or if you see a car crash. Call 911, especially if someone is hurt, feels dizzy, or unwell. For a fender bender where you're 100 percent sure everyone is ok, you can call the non-emergency line at (706) 439-6038.

Q. When should I not call 911?

Never call 911 for any situation that's clearly not an emergency. That seems obvious, but we frequently have callers who ask about the weather, current road conditions, and even phone numbers to local businesses. Other reasons not to call: 1) A loud party or barking dog; 2) A power outage; 3) Burst water pipes; 4) To ask about paying a ticket; or 5) If someone has a minor cut.

See Paris, page 7A

Chamber of Commerce

I would like to thank the Union County Recreation Department for inviting me to participate in their year-end Mountain Masters Scramble. This junior golf league provides an excellent opportunity for golfers from 3rd through 12th grade to experience the game of golf. One young

golfer shared that he enjoys the sport because it is something he can play for the rest of his life. The scramble featured teams made up of one adult and



one junior golfer. I had the pleasure of playing a few holes with Miles and Fisher, who were not only talented golfers but also great kids. It seemed like the parents were having just as much fun as the kids! This year, the program had 25 golfers who played at several area courses. For information on when the next league will form, please contact Scott Thompson at the Union County Recreation Department.

You may have noticed extra traffic on the roads-more than usual for this time of year.

See Chamber, page 7A

A Time to Plant

Fall brings a change in the weather and the growing season slows down. A lot of people will put their gardens up for the winter, but there are still some tasks that are better done when temperatures are down. Lower temperatures means less water loss from plants. This makes it an ideal time to start **UGA** putting perennials in the ground.



Letters to the Editor

Informed Consent Dear Editor.

Free people have a right to choose how they are governed. There's a small group in Union County gathering signatures for a ballot for the citizens to vote about how want to be governed. Signing the petition does NOT mean you support a five-member board of commissioners. It means you support the right of the people to decide our structure of government. A petition is a formal written request made to an authority or organized body (such as a court). Submitting the petition with enough signatures will compel our current governing body to allow us to have a vote.

A Chicken Frizz

The Chicken Frizz was a custom in the hills of North Alabama. The event was a chicken stew and social gathering for teenagers. It was a time for young men and women to come together while under the supervision of young adults. And yes, some of the same things hapbened in those days that happen nowa-Around days. Usually, ro-**The Farm** mance was in the air during a Chicken Frizz.



Successful Dr. James Ray Ashurst

Helping and Respecting Each Other Dear Editor,

Our country is less than a month from the November 5th election, yet so much is going on in the world. We are seeing disasters in America that have affected multiple states. Hundreds have died, and thousands have been impacted by fires, wind, rain and floods. We see wars killing too many people and children. Both the election and the turmoil in the world are driven by hate and retribution. If we could all just take a step back, and realize the world is big enough for all of us to live in and have different beliefs. Turning to hatred or violence serves no purpose but to hurt ourselves and those around us.

I hope we can all reflect on the good in each person, and the actions we can take to help others. You don't have to agree with a person to show them the same respect you would like others to treat you with. As we continue to unite to help those in need, may we also respect the election process and each other. In Union County I have found both the Board of Elections and the Board of Registrars to be great people that care about making our elec-See Shirkey, page 7A

You can sign the petition and still vote no on the ballot measure if you want to keep our county government structured with a sole commissioner.

'Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." That's in our country's

See Partridge, page 7A

Thank You

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the History/Homecoming Committee of Coosa Methodist Church, I wish to send North Georgia News our grateful thanks for the outstanding coverage of our 190th Anniversary and Homecoming celebration. Written and pictured by Brittany Holbrooks, Photographer and Staff Writer, it truly captured this momentous occasion.

We appreciate our newspaper and have enjoyed a longtime relationship. North Georgia News has long been engaged in full coverage of important occasions throughout Union County and the greater surrounding areas.

As part of the ecumenical community, Coosa is grateful for the coverage of missional opportunities in which Coosa Methodist seeks to

See Bone, page 7A

Fair Share?

Dear Editor,

We hear a lot these days about "fair share" and particularly how the wealthy are not paying theirs. Out of curiosity, I looked up government statistics and found this: The top 10% of wage earners in the U.S. provide 75% of the tax revenue the government receives. That means the other 90% of us contribute 25% of government's tax receipts. Let that sink in. Perhaps the government needs to curb its spending rather than punish the top wage earners with higher taxes. Carol McKechnie

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My father remembers a Chicken

Frizz being held at his home when he was very young. Dad was around 11 and my Uncle Bud was around 9 when Papa and Granny invited 15-20 of the youth from the Trapptown area to come to the Cummings' home for a Chicken Frizz. Dad remembers many kids being present. But, the primary characters were Vera and Mitch.

My grandfather and grandmother, Columbus and Glenna Mae Cummings, worked all day to get ready for the Chicken Frizz. The family killed and dressed 8-10 chickens. Glenna asked her sons to get out the big black cook pot and build a fire under it.

Teen age kids came from all across the community to the Chicken Frizz at the Cummings home. Vera and Mitch did not have to travel very far to get to the event. Herman lived just across the cotton field from the home of Columbus and Glenna Mae Cummings. He was short, jovial and of a light build. He was quite possibly the finest man in the community. His daughter, Vera, and son, Mitch, were the first teenagers to arrive at the Cummings home. The Wynn children were 16 and 15 years of age. While Dad and Uncle Bud were 5 or 6 years younger. Dad and Uncle Bud knew everyone at the Chicken Frizz, and this presented a slight problem.

Dad said, "Everyone was sitting around the campfire enjoying the meal and all the talk. Then for no reason at all, a boy and girl got up and walked away from the fire." As the two lovers walked away from the fire, Dad asked his father, "Where are those two a going?" Everyone around the fire began to laugh. Columbus scolded his son and said, "Don't worry, I will take care of it." With that statement, Papa left the fire and gently herded the two young lovers back to the fire. A short time later Uncle Bud noticed a young man whispering something in the ear of his giggling girlfriend. Uncle Bud was curious, so he asked the young fellow to tell everyone else the joke he was telling his girlfriend. Once again everyone around the campfire was laughing at the young man.

All at once Granny grabbed her two See Cummings, page 7A

Trees that have been grown in a pot or are balled and burlapped that have a well-devel-



oped root system can be planted at any time of year. However, the ideal time of year to plant them is in the fall. This is because the top portion of the plant has gone dormant and temperatures are lower, which means the tree will lose less water to evapotranspiration. During this time the roots below ground are still active. That means they will still be growing through fall and the winter. This gives you a more established plant come summer time. It also means that planting in the fall results in you spending less time watering your new plants.

Some of the most common issues when planting new trees is planting too deep, planting too shallow, and over or underwatering.

If you are planting in a poorly drained soil creating a raised bed will help improve drainage. Raise the soil level 8-12 inches using native soil. Plantings at new construction sites may need an addition of organic matter to improve soil health. You will also need to till deeply around the planting site to alleviate soil compaction.

The hole that is dug should be 2-3x wider than the size of the root ball. If you are planting into a well-drained soil the depth of the hole should be the same as the height of the root ball. In a poorly drained soil the depth of the hole should be 2-4 inches less than the height of the root ball, then build up the surrounding soil to be level with the root ball. Planting a tree too deep leads to poor drainage and not enough oxygen getting to the roots. Planting a tree too shallow leads to the tree roots drying out too quickly.

Once you have placed the tree in the hole refill the hole. You want to mostly use native soil. Break up any clods and remove stones. You can add compost to the hole, but don't put more than 20% compost in the hole. Tamp the soil down with your foot and construct a 3-inch-high ring around the edge of the root ball to hold water. Apply 2-4 inches of mulch over the planted area. Do not put mulch up against the trunk of the tree, as this leads to rot. For the first few months after planting you want to maintain constant soil moisture in the root ball. The soil does not need to be saturated, but there should be water avail-See Williams, page 7A

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CummingS... continued from Page 6A

young sons and strongly suggested the boys should go to bed. Despite their objections, Paul and Bud soon found themselves in the bed. But, the two lads could still see the campfire and all that was going on around it. Later in the evening as the boys lay in the bed watching the boys and girls at the Chicken Frizz, they noticed Vera and one of the young men sneak away from the fire. The lovebirds walked over to the well house where they felt hidden from the rest of the group.

Unknown to Vera and the boy was the fact that they were standing directly in front of the bedroom window of Paul and Bud. Dad and Uncle Bud were fascinated by what was happening. But, when the young couple kissed, the boys could stand no more. Dad let out a howl that would wake the dead. The howl scared the two lovebirds, and it scared my grandmother even more. She went running to the house with Papa close behind. They ran into the house to the bedroom of their sons.

onto his lips." The two boys had never seen anything like this, and they didn't understand it. Dad asked his father, "Why did Vera put her mouth on that boy's lips?" Columbus was trying to calm down his sons. But, the campfire was close enough to the house which allowed everyone to hear the conversation. Once again, everyone broke out into hysterical laughter. When the boys were finally calmed down, Granny left her sons at the house and walked back to the fire. Mitch Wynn snuck away from the fire to the bedroom window where Dad and Bud were watching. Mitch told Dad that he should make sure to tell his and Vera's father, Herman.

A couple of days later Dad was at Ebb Trapp's country store. As he walked in the front door, he noticed Herman Wynn sitting on an empty drink crate. Dad walked up to Herman and began to tell him the story. The old man sat on the crate listening to the boy's story. When Dad began telling about his response to Vera's kissing the boy, Herman laughed so hard he fell off the crate, all because of a Chicken Frizz.

Bone... continued from Page 6A

Papa then heard his sons say, "She put her mouth right

actively participate on a regular basis. North Georgia News has also covered our longtime projects that benefit the many efforts of these charitable organizations in our community.

Thank you North Georgia News and Brittany Holbrooks not only for the coverage of our long-storied history, but also for recognition of Coosa's focus on the future! It was truly a "God thing" when our Guest Pastor, Jon Herrin, gave a message of the same focus as our committee, to continue the message of the past into the future as we proclaim the name of Jesus Christ! Led by the Lord Jesus Christ through our Pastor Bill Burch, Coosa Methodist Church chooses to meet the challenges of its future, the times and the unique changes that may be required by facing forward. Through prayer and action, Coosa chooses to always meet the lost spiritually and the needs of many wherever they are – and the needs are many today!

Come! Join us as Coosa faces the "right" direction – Forward in Faith and Action. Cheerfully in Christ, **Darlene Bone**, **Chairperson**

Ashurst... continued from Page 6A

tly we have equated growing older with illnesses, medications, stubbornness, and other negative characteristics. Yes, as we grow older, we may need bodily overhauls, but in no way does that means our engines are ready to quit. We simply are able to put more mileage ahead of us on our journeys.

A healthy person cannot feel the agony of a chronic, suffering individual. On the flip side, one who is experiencing a continuously painful lifestyle may not be able to appreciate the full impact of life as a precious gift. However, if ill people can experience life as a valuable, divine gift – one day at a time, even one hour at a time – these individuals are worthy of our time and attention. We can learn much from their insights and backgrounds, which have the potential of enriching and challenging our own lives.

What God can do for you will override anything that someone else has done for you. (Pam Holbrooks)

Citizens for a Better America October 17th meeting scheduled

The most important election of our lives is coming up soon! Come and hear what these candidates have to say

tion. Bring your questions and concerns!

Thursday, October 17 at Legends Steakhouse in the pri-

Kujala... continued from Page 6A

But, how do we want to face death? We can't choose when, you can die today or in 10, 20, maybe 40 years, probably sooner as the world looks. Think how fragile life is, every second your heart has to beat and you breathe in and out 24 hours a day, a small "error" in the system just a few seconds and...

Those who faced death in peace and security, yes almost longing, have been warm believers. They have believed in a person who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me shall live, though he die." This Jesus who thus defeated death itself, to give eternal life.

Many are the strong and proud who at the deathbed tremble in terror before the last heartbeat, and many others have smilingly embraced death in peace, when they seemed to see their beloved Jesus standing with open arms welcoming them to the abodes of eternity in Heaven, where no more pain reaches, no sorrows and troubles haunt

Paris... continued from Page 6A

A full list of non-emergency numbers can be found on the Union County Government website at https://www.unioncountyga.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/nonemergencynumbers.pdf

Williams... continued from Page 6A

the second se

able to the roots.

If you have questions about tree planting contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler... continued from Page 6A

abundance" (Matt. 13:12).

I'm so glad I live in a world where Jesus told stories. I'm so glad I live in a world where reality is more than what I can see. I'm so glad I live in a world where eternity is within reach. And I agree with Anne. I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. www.mountainchristian.net

Dyer... continued from Page 6A

emergency plan. We would like to thank the many public and private partners who worked tirelessly to prepare and respond.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~ and dark clouds weigh.

I held the hand of a dying Christian. She had long pauses in her breathing, semiconscious. I prayed silently for her, suddenly she opens her eyes and looks at me with a big smile. Time stood still and eternity descended upon the room, the joy and peace she radiated in that moment I will never forget. She took her last breath, the hand became limp and cold, she was no longer there. Death was defeated ... Peter Kujala

Declaration of Independence. This idea is not new. Jonathan Swift (a writer who died over 30 years before our country was created) said, "For in reason, all government without the consent of the governed is

Partridge...

continued from Page 6A

the very definition of slavery." The only way in which we protect our freedom of consent to how we are governed is to sign the petition regardless of our opinion in the matter. Respectfully,

Jeanette Partridge

Chamber... continued from Page 6A

This is due to our neighbors leaving their homes to find safe places to ride out the storms. I had the chance to meet several new friends and reconnect with a few old ones. Please take a moment to welcome them and show what Southern hospitality is all about. Let's keep those affected by the storms in our thoughts and prayers, as well as the brave men and women working to restore services.

Thank you for showing why Life is Better in Blairsville!

and bring your questions.

We have an information packed meeting and guest speakers in store for you at the Citizens for a Better America monthly meeting. We will hear from Congressman Chuck Edwards in person and will have a live Zoom call with Michelle Morrow candidate for NC Superintendent of Public Educavate meeting room, 42 Tennessee Street, downtown Murphy, NC. Food ordering starts at 5 PM, neeting starts promptly at 6-7:30 PM. This meeting is free & open to the public. For more information: Website: http:// www.CitizensForABetterAmerica.com; email: Contact@ CitizensForABetterAmerica. com; call: (828) 494-7403.

Shirkey... continued from Page 6A

tions safe and secure. Respect those voting, and respect those working to be sure all voters can participate in our great process of Democracy! Thanks, **Kristie Shirkey**

Student Georgia Association of Educators and Phi Sigma Kappa Presents Children's Book Donction

& Backpack Toy Drive

Children need your help! In the aftermath of **Hurricane Helene**, many families are displaced, and kids have lost their belongings. **Young Harris College organizations** are partnering with **Coalition**

For Kids and Appalachian Association for Children's Early Development to hold a book donation and backpack toy drive. We will be collecting books, backpacks, and other items for children. The two organizations will then distribute the books and backpacks to children in Cocke, Unicoi, Carter, Johnson, Washington, and Greene counties in East Tennessee who were effected by Hurricane Helene.





Scan this QR Code if you would like to donate funds to support this cause. Make sure to select <u>SGAE Book Fundraiser</u> from the dropdown menu under "designate fund." Drop off locations if you would like to donate items: All Towns County Schools sites All Union County Schools sites Grandaddy Mimm's Distillery Georgia Heart Institute, Blairsville Young Harris College RCC building lobby

Thank you for your donations and support!