

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.

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief David Dyer



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.

As the storm approached, the E911 center began receiving multiple calls about trees down and blocked roads.

We did have power outages. There were several thousand customers without power in Union County at one time.

We were blessed, but many communities were effected by this hurricane. Several of our staff volunteered to assist in the operations in south Georgia.

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

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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."

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



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.

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.

See Fowler, page 7A

Commissioner's Questions

The southeast has seen quite a few natural disasters recently. Fortunately for Union County, the bad weather skirted our beautiful little town.

Q & A from Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris



Q. When should I call 9-1-1? 1. When a fire breaks out. Even a tiny grease fire can grow and spread rapidly.

2. When a medical emergency happens. Call 911 immediately for any life-threatening medical problem.

3. If you witness a crime or possible crime. If you see an assault, burglary, or even a suspicious person lurking, call 911.

4. If you're in or if you see a car crash. Call 911, especially if someone is hurt, feels dizzy, or unwell.

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.

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Life Is A Gift

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

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

Successful Mental Health Dr. James Ray Ashurst PH.D.



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

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.

See Ashurst, page 7A

Letters to the Editor

All Saints' Day and Death!

Unfortunately, none of us escapes death. It waits for us around the corner, and can appear suddenly, very unwelcome.

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, eyes, even with a smile, while others do so in extreme anxiety and agony.

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.

See Kujala, page 7A

Helping and Respecting Each Other

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.

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.

See Shirkey, page 7A

Letters to the Editor

Informed Consent

Free people have a right to choose how they are governed. There's a small group in Union County gathering signatures for a ballot initiative for the citizens to vote about how we 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.

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

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.

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?

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.

Carol McKechnie

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.

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



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.

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.

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.

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."

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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.

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President

Steve Rowe



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

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Letters to the Editor

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.

Trees that have been grown in a pot or are balled and burlapped that have a well-developed root system can be planted at any time of year. However, the ideal time of year to plant them is in the fall.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

and dark clouds weigh.

I held the hand of a dying Christian. She had long pauses in her breathing, semi-conscious. 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

Partridge... continued from Page 6A

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 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!

Bone... continued from Page 6A

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!

Paris... continued from Page 6A

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

Williams... continued from Page 6A

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

Fowler... continued from Page 6A

able to the roots.

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

Ashurst... continued from Page 6A

ly 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 mean 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)

Dyer... 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

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 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 Educa-

tion. Bring your questions and concerns!

Thursday, October 17 at Legends Steakhouse in the private meeting room, 42 Tennessee Street, downtown Murphy, NC. Food ordering starts at 5 PM, meeting 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

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~

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.

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 Donation & 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 **SGAE Book Fundraiser** 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**
- Granddaddy Mimm's Distillery**
- Georgia Heart Institute, Blairsville**
- Young Harris College RCC building lobby**

Thank you for your donations and support!