

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Emergency Management

Some people may not understand the role of emergency management. Emergency management is a complicated effort of preparing for; responding to; and recovering from emergencies and disasters. Most people believe that if a disaster strikes, the local Emergency Management Agency (EMA), along with state and federal resources, will come in and take care of the disaster. However, there is a great deal more to emergency management and it takes a coordinated response from everyone to deal with a disaster.

There is a saying in emergency management, "All disasters are local." This is very true because emergency management is about how well a community can prevent, mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from a disaster. A major role of the local EMA is to inform the public of the possible disasters that may affect the community. Once the potential disasters and risks, are identified, the EMA must assist the community in individual preparedness using individual resources. Individual preparedness involves Emergency Kits that can sustain you and your family for at least three days.

Another responsibility of the EMA is to coordinate the local resources to save lives, property and stabilize the incident. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be opened by the EMA in the event of a disaster. The EOC is where information shall be collected; the public informed; and the resources shall be coordinated. It is also where mutual aid, state and/or federal assistance may be requested.

Most communities do not have an army of people and resources standing by to respond to a disaster. So if there is a disaster, public safety and the community respond with the resources available to them. However, if those resources are overwhelmed, assistance may be provided from other communities, the state, or federal governments. This assistance must be requested by the local community.

Recovery is the process of bringing things back to normal. State, federal, and private assistance is usually needed. When a community is hit with a disaster of such a magnitude, the Governor may declare a State of Emergency and may also request a presi-

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Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief

David Dyer



Influence

Reading a nursery rhyme is probably not where you would first look for life inspiration. But a keen observer knows we are surrounded with clues that point to the meaning of life. F. W. Boreham was such an observer.

Born an Englishman in 1871, at age 23 Boreham sailed for New Zealand to accept the pastorate of a new church in Mosgiel. A few years later, he was in a nearby town to speak. The service went long, and he missed his evening train. As he waited for the next train, he noticed a light at the *Otago Daily Times*. He stepped in to visit with the editor and inquire about publishing essays. The editor needed an editorial for the next day so Boreham, though pressed for time to catch the last train, jotted out an 1100 word essay. He went on to publish thousands of editorials and essays, and over 50 books. Ravi Zacharias calls Boreham, "my favorite essayist."

Perhaps his most popular piece is taken from the nursery rhyme "The House That Jack Built." The tale begins with Jack building his house, then extends to all the creatures and people affected by or connected to Jack. Horse, cow, dog and cat make an appearance, as do the farmer sowing his corn, the judge shaven and shorn, the man tattered and torn, and the maiden all forlorn. Boreham writes, "The intricate comedy of The House That Jack Built is indisputable philosophy." He explains that our lives have an indirect line of influence that we may never know. "You can live a life that tells on (impacts) other lives, and makes the world less full of evil and of pain, a life which, like a pebble dropped in the sea, sends its wide circles to a hundred shores."

Jesus may have anticipated this when he told stories of sowing seeds, giving cups of cold water, and going the extra mile. As we invest love, kindness, and truth in our fellow man, God can use that influence far beyond what we will ever know. "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world" are his appeals to lives that matter because of a God-given purpose (Mat. 5:13-14).

When Boreham was a baby, his nanny took him to the park where an old woman approached, held his hand, and said, "Tell his mother to put a pen in his hand and he'll never want for a living." Encouragement given to nanny, mother, then son, and

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All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Last week in the NGN there was an article regarding litter in Union County. It is something we try not to publicize very often, because it certainly is not an issue that helps in promoting our area's beauty, businesses or even employment. Those who litter don't always know what they are doing to our community. Below are some questions and answers that deal with some of the issues.

Q. How much does the county pay to pick up litter in the county?

A. Last year, we paid about \$42,778 for a detainee work crew from the Colwell Detention Center. But in addition to this raw cost, there is gas, vehicle cost and more. We also have a work crew from the Union County Jail that assists part time in litter pickup. This is another vehicle and employee part time cost.

Q. Are we the only county that has a litter problem?

A. Absolutely not, as every county has a problem. I was just coming home last week from Atlanta and Hwy 575 for a 6-mile span looked like a third world country. There was trash everywhere. It was obvious that a trash transport vehicle must have been losing trash from an uncovered load or bad tarp, because there is no way that much could have been thrown out intentionally.

Q. Do we know where most of the litter comes from?

A. There have been all kinds of studies done to pinpoint it, but it is different in each area. We feel that most of our litter comes from a combination of people throwing it in their pickup truck bed and it simply blows out, or those that haul trash, often do not have their loads tarped and it either blows out or falls out. Of course, some people simply roll down their window and toss it out. That seems to be where most of the drink cups, beer and soda cans come from.

Q. What kind of impact does litter have on individuals?

A. It is different for everyone. Some people drive around looking for litter and if you do you will see it everywhere, in our county and others. But most of the complaints generally come on a road after the first frost and throughout the winter. In the Spring and Summer, vegetation hides much of the litter. But it is still a mystery why people do not care more about not littering. We are blessed in Union County in that we have the money to pay to keep the litter picked up, but it

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Letters to the Editor

Immigrants, Then and Now

Dear Editor,
My paternal great-great grandparents were Scots-Irish. My maternal grandparents were from northern Italy and Austria, and entered the USA via Ellis Island. My mother, as a child, was forbidden to speak Italian or German in the house, for her parents understood that fluency in English was essential to acceptance and success in the new country.

All my immigrant ancestors came to the USA to assimilate into what they rightly saw as a national culture and a legal system superior to those they'd left behind. They all came here to work, to better their lives and those of their offspring. None came expecting government support. None intentionally arrived pregnant, so as to have an "American baby" to whom dozens of relatives could be pegged and thus naturalized. None came looking to organize revolutionary groups intent on "repatriating" American geography for their homelands. And none came here with the intention of destroying America's institutions and replacing them with copies of the failing systems they had left behind.

Simplistic? Not totally so. The problems with immigration that have developed in the past 50 years are largely the results of two significant changes

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Losing With Dignity

Dear Editor,
Perhaps the Democrats could learn something from Falcons fans. The Super bowl was a hard fought campaign that resulted in a tie breaking overtime with the Patriots pulling off a victory in the last minutes of the contest.

Our last election was a hard fought campaign that resulted in our presidential election. Like the Super Bowl it was a very close contest. As the votes were being counted the liberal media and many Democrats were already claiming victory and planning celebrations. However, in the last minutes of the contest the score began to shift. More and more states electoral votes came in for the Republican candidate, who ultimately won the election.

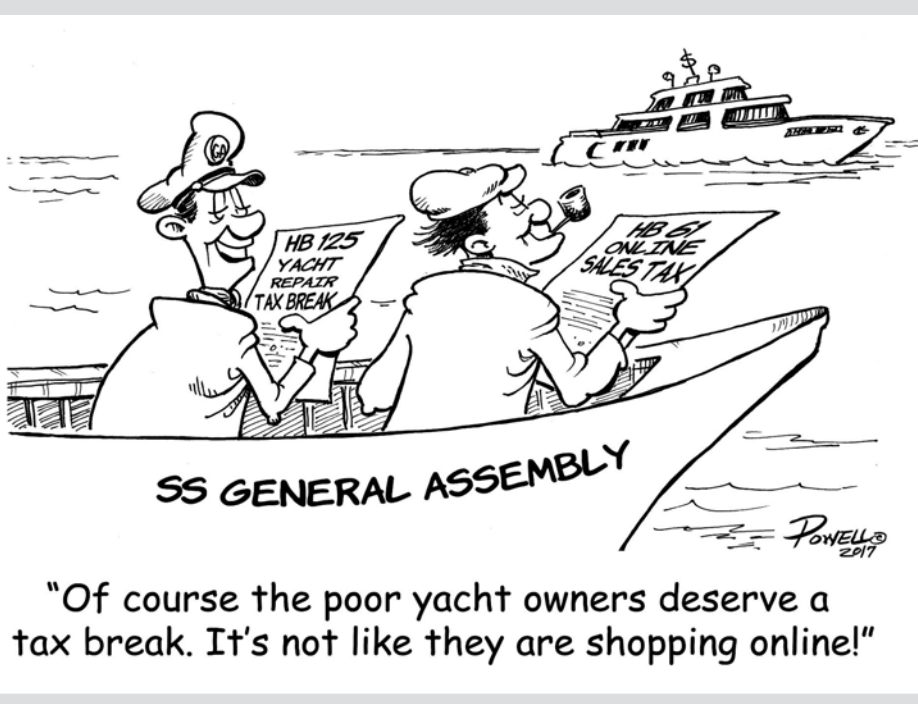
When the Super bowl ended, Falcon fans did not riot in the streets, burning cars and destroying public and private property. Falcon fans did not physically attack Patriot fans or burn the Patriots' logo and flags in the street. Falcon fans did not go to the Patriots training camp dressed in black with hoods covering their faces to break windows and burn vehicles. Falcon fans did not fund large groups of people to march and violently protest all over the country. The Falcons did not label the Patriots as bigots, racists, or some other made up "ism." Falcon fans did not put idiot sports announcers on TV screaming that the rules were not fair. Stating nonsensical things like; Since the Falcons had the most

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The Father of His Country

Dear Editor,
The Sons of the American Revolution wishes to celebrate the birthday of our most prominent Founding Father, George Washington, who was born on Feb 22, 1732. The federal and state holiday for Washington's Birthday honors the accomplishments of the man known as "The Father of his Country". Celebrated for his leadership in the founding of the nation, he was the electoral college's unanimous choice to become the first President. He was seen as a unifying force for the new republic and set a great example for future holders of the office. The holiday is also a tribute to the general who created the first military badge of merit for the common soldier. Revived on Washington's 200th birthday in 1932, the Purple Heart medal (which bears Washington's image) is awarded to soldiers who are injured in battle. As with Memorial day and Veterans Day, Washington's Birthday offers another opportunity to honor the country's veterans. Community celebrations across America often display a lengthy heritage. At the George Washington Birth Place National Monument in Westmoreland County, Virginia, and at Mount Vernon, visitors are treated to birthday celebrations throughout the federal holiday weekend

See Trussell, page 5A



"Of course the poor yacht owners deserve a tax break. It's not like they are shopping online!"

Our New President

Dear Editor,
Our new president capped off his first week filled with delusional rantings about inaugural crowd size, millions of illegal votes, etc. with a ban on travel to the U.S. of persons from seven countries, including political refugees from war-torn countries (thanks, in large part, to our ill-advised invasion of Iraq) such as Syria and Iraq who are at risk of death if not allowed entry into this country. These refugees include many individuals who have served and supported our troops in Iraq, often at great risk to themselves and their families. This ban has been implemented despite the fact that, of the hundreds of thousands of refugees admitted into this country in the fifteen years since 9/11, not one person from the seven banned countries has been responsible for an American death on American soil.

For those of you who support this cruel and heartless policy that is so at odds with our bedrock principles, that's your prerogative, but you might, in the future, refrain from referring to America as the greatest country in the world. Rather, this ban suggests that we've become a nation of people too consumed by fear to do the

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EPA

Dear Editor,
The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) mission is to protect human health and the environment. The current administration is attempting to roll back critical regulations within the Clean Air Act and the Water Quality Act. Georgia is experiencing continuing decreases in air and water quality as a result of pollutants from fossil fuel emissions. These emissions directly correlate to unhealthy air quality days in Atlanta and elsewhere across the state.

Air quality in Atlanta is 32 on a scale to 100 (higher is better). This is based on new mea-

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Our Nation

Dear Editor,
In response to a letter by William Parks that we are not a Christian nation. To the informed it is very evident our nation was founded as a Christian nation, if you read any of the documents and accounts of our origins as a nation it is apparent the Founding Fathers had a strong faith, in fact 29 of the 56 signers of the Declaration held what are considered seminary degrees, and even to this day Congress is opened daily with prayer. Any walk around DC is hard to miss all the scriptures engraved on monuments and buildings. Liberals like to throw around "Separation of Church and State" even though that wording appears nowhere in our founding documents. The First Amendment says "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" which was in protest to a State

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The Great Ones

I have heard them called the "Greatest Generation" referring to their many contributions to our society. They brought our country victory in WWII, they led our country through the space race and helped mankind defeat polio. I think it can be argued that the greatest generation experienced the most intensive gathering and storing of knowledge of any generation. In a matter of 20 years the lives of the mountain people improved beyond measure, but not without some humorous events. Here are some examples.

Columbus Cummings was born in 1915 and his father, Lon, was still using horses and mules for transportation as well as field work. When Papa was only 7 or 8 Lon allowed him to travel to the big metropolis of Phil Campbell. Papa was excited because he'd never been to a town and this one had a gin, a dry goods store, a general store and a post office. Papa told me the town also had a railroad depot.

Papa said, "My papa pulled the wagon into the line at the gin to wait for our cotton to be unloaded". They stepped down from the wagon before daylight and began talking with all the other farmers. All at once Papa heard a hissing noise coming from some kind of big critter. It was sitting next to a building called a "Railroad Depot". Papa began to describe to me the thing at which he was looking. "It was long and appeared to be sitting on two pieces of steel. Steam was rising from underneath the thing. Then it opened its eye. This eye was bright like a light and the thing was breathing out black smoke from the top of its head. All the hissing and growling it was making began to make the horses nervous so my papa grabbed the reins and held tight. Then the thing let out a shrill scream which sounded like a whistle".

Papa had heard his uncles talk of "boogers" and he felt this one was the biggest booger he could imagine. He told me he was holding on to his daddy's legs as tight as he could when the booger began moving and traveled down those two pieces of steel toward Hackleburgh. Papa asked his father, "What kind of one-eyed monster was that?" Papa's first encounter with a train was quite the experience for a lad of 7 years.

When my dad, Paul, was 12, papa moved the family up north to Chicago to hopefully find an easier life than that on the farm in Alabama. The family had never experienced indoor plumbing and the only toilet paper any of them had ever experienced was from a Sears and Roebuck Catalog. They caught a train in Haleyville and rode it overnight to the Windy City. My dad was so excited he couldn't sleep and when daylight came he woke up his younger brother Bud. The boys were looking at something they'd never seen. Dad said, "The houses were stacked on top of each other". Also, the traffic was horrendous. There were no interstates only 2 lane roads. One road had 6 lanes and each was filled with bumper to bumper

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Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Evening with the Stars

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Evening with the Stars Event on February 16th at the Union County Community Center. It was a wonderful evening to celebrate our members, our community and most importantly, the Star Students and Star Teacher. I wanted to take an opportunity to recognize those who helped to make this event possible.

First, thank you Woodmen Life for sponsoring the event again this year. We appreciate all that you do for the Chamber and the community. I would also like to thank and recognize the table sponsors for the event: Brainstorm Creative Productions, Ltd., Cabin Coffee of Blairsville, Chick-fil-A of Blairsville, JR Travel Advisors, Movinforward Marketing, LLC, North Georgia Technical College-Blairsville, Park Sterling Bank, Premier Designs Jewelry by Alysia Hargus, Rustic Mountain Décor, Union County Historical Society, Union General Hospital, Inc., United Community Bank, University of North Georgia. The tables were beautifully decorated with centerpieces provided by each table sponsor. The attendees voted on their favorite table decoration. Congratulations to this year's winner, the Union County Historical Society.

I would also like to say a special thank you to Movinforward Marketing, LLC for providing complimentary bottles of water. They had created a logo specially for the event featuring pictures of the Star Students and Star Teachers. Thank you to Sawmill Place Restaurant for catering the event. To Shawn, Amy and all the staff- thank you for all your hard

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber

Regina Allison



Treating Winter Injury

A few weeks ago I talked about how to prevent frost damage to plants, but there have been many other factors this winter that may have injured your landscape that you might not know about.

Desiccation, or drying out, usually occurs when the ground freezes below the root system. This prevents the plant from getting any water to its roots. The greatest risk for water loss is during mild weather with harsh winds, followed by bouts of intensely cold weather. Though we've had several warm periods this winter, we've also had severe cold snaps and windy days that could have dried out plants. To combat this, make sure that plants are still adequately watered during the winter. By giving plants, especially evergreens, a deep soaking before the ground may freeze, and watering on warm days in January, February and March, plants will have an adequate water supply throughout the season.

Freezing damage often goes beyond just burning new growth or new buds. The dramatic temperature changes we have seen over the past few months can greatly contribute to trunks cracking. This is because the water and fluids within the tree expand in warm weather and shrink in cool weather. If temperature fluctuation occurs too quickly, the trunk will crack under the stress and you may see sap ooze out or fungus may establish in these wounds. Sometimes this is called Southwest Injury, because it is often on the southwest side of trees due to the amount of sun received on this side. To prevent this, wrap susceptible trunks with burlap or some other protective material and make sure that trunks remain unwounded throughout the growing season.

Breakage is almost always caused by excessive snow or ice buildup, or careless buildup removal. High winds can also damage trees under structural stress that can usually handle windy conditions. Proper pruning is the best way to prevent this type of damage. If there are fewer branches, there is less chance of breakage because the branches present will have adequate

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UGA extension
From the Ground Up

Melissa Mattee



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