

Letter Drive

The first week of April is usually when I write something about the annual volunteer fire department letter drive...

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief David Dyer



The letter also provides dates and times for each fire station's annual open house. This is an invitation for the people to visit the fire station...

See Dyer, page 5A

Help My Unbelief

Tim Keller tells the story of Kevin, who worked on Wall Street at J.P. Morgan. Kevin was an atheist with stubborn doubts about God...

All Things New Wayne Fowler



Believers should not dismiss the skepticism of our fellow travelers. Let's give a wide berth to condescension and disrespect. Jesus kindly engaged doubt...

See Fowler, page 5A

Commissioner's Questions

The questions we are addressing this week pertain to the Tax Commissioner's Office. Lee Knight, Union County Tax Commissioner, provided the following information...

Q. What is required for me to register my vehicle in Union County when I buy a vehicle or if I am moving here from another county or from another state?

A. First you need a Georgia Driver's License showing Union County as your residence, proof of a Georgia insurance policy, your title or lienholder information, and person who's name the title will be registered in...

Q. What is the cost to register my vehicle in Union County?

A. To title and register a vehicle Georgia has a Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) which is 7.0% of the purchase price from a dealer minus the trade-in amount...

Q. How do I register my Multipurpose Off-Highway Vehicle (side-by-side/MPOHV) now that Georgia allows us to tag them for limited highway use?

A. Starting December 1, 2023, Georgia allows you to register and tag MPOHVs. First, owners will need minimum liability auto insurance. Registration is voluntary and MPOHVs will not be titled...

See Paris, page 5A

Q & A from Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris



Recovery from Loneliness

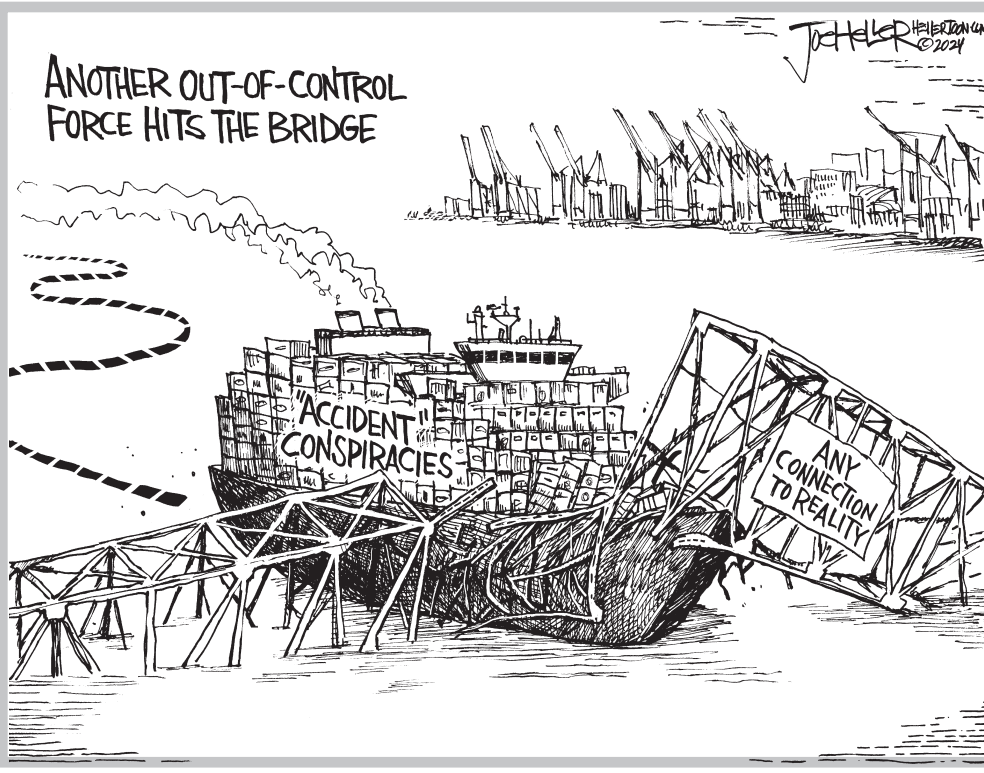
Recovery from Loneliness is the goal. For certain, keeping busy is essential. It is an excellent way to distract oneself from the miserable arena that contains the loneliness...

Successful Mental Health Dr. James Ray Ashurst, Ph.D.



The suggestions made in this article can be just words on paper. Each of the suggestions can work because each one connects the lonely individual to another human being or to a pet. The choice belongs to the individual!

See Ashurst, page 5A



Chamber of Commerce

On April 8th, Blairsville will be treated to a rare celestial event as a total eclipse unfolds. During this phenomenon, the moon will pass between the sun and the Earth...

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President Steve Rowe



Our animals and wildlife may also be affected by the sudden change in darkness during the eclipse. Avoid disturbing animals and be mindful of their behavior during the time of the eclipse.

See Chamber, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

Re: Epoch Times

Dear Editor, I noticed that a reader went to a lot of trouble to besmirch the Epoch Times for its relationship with the Falun Gong religion. A slow news day, I suppose. The newspaper and news service originated as a counter to Chinese CCP-run news outlets...

Democrat Party

Dear Editor, So you have voted Democrat for a long time, as did your Mom and Dad. Mine too. Back then, almost all the country voted for the party that was for the working man, the Democrat Party. But then something happened. What? I have several opinions but will leave the research to the professional class to break down.

Exposing Threats to Nation

Dear Editor, One of the greatest gifts our Founding Fathers endowed us with is the right of free expression and assembly. We appreciate Bryan Thomas' letter last week but wonder if his complaint is with the source or the content since he sent it to the newspaper before the movie was even shown at the Blairsville Cinema?

Biden is Coming...

Biden Is Coming for Your Car Keys It's official: President Biden is coming for your car keys. Despite receiving intense backlash for its proposed regulations pertaining to gas-powered cars, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the radical rule last month. The White House's policy enacts aggressive emission standards - requiring automakers to ensure 56% of light-duty car sales are battery electric...

United States Congressman Representative Andrew Clyde



See Clyde, page 5A

Doc Underwood & Clifford

I have told you many times about my Great-Grandfather, Clifford Hyde, who was from Dawson County, Georgia. His mother was a full-blood Cherokee and both Clifford's father and grandfather had fought with a group of Georgia Volunteers during the "War of Northern Aggression." As a young man Clifford was working down around Cumming when he got into trouble. Clifford was sowing some "wild oats" as many young people are prone to do. He loved the taste of moonshine, and one evening he'd consumed too much. Moonshine can make you believe you are stronger than you actually are...

Around The Farm Mickey Cummings



See Cummings, page 5A

Mummy Berry

Mummy berry is a fairly common disease that affects blueberry plants. It can be a pretty devastating disease to your blueberry harvest. By the time that you see the affects of it, the opportunity to treat has passed. Let's talk about mummy berry, how it works, and what you can do to manage it. Mummy berry is a fungal disease on blueberry bushes. It causes the blueberries to rot and fall off just as they are ripening to be ready to harvest. This can be very frustrating to you as it looks like you're going to have a lot of blueberries and then one by one they fall off the bush. Mummy berry is not too difficult to manage, but you have to follow a couple of steps to make sure that you get the best control of the disease possible.

Watching and Working Jacob Williams



See Williams, page 5A

**Paris... continued from Page 4A**

mirrors. Vehicles manufactured after January 2000 must also have a steering wheel. Proof of ownership is required by a Bill of Sale or Manufacturer Statement of Origin. The owner must also sign an affidavit stating the vehicle meets state requirements for the tag.

**Q. How is Union County Tax Commissioner handling delinquent and past due property taxes?**

A. Property taxes that are past due accrue monthly interest on the 21st of each month. The interest rate is based on prime interest rate plus 3%. Also, a 5% penalty applies every 120 days until a maximum penalty equals 20%. If you owe back property

taxes, it is best to go into the Tax Commissioner's Office and work out a payment plan. Otherwise, an intent to FiFa – (File a Lien) letter is sent and the taxpayer has 30 days to come in and pay the back taxes or a lien will be placed on your property & a report filed on your credit rating. If the taxes are still not paid, the Tax Commissioner will place a levy on the property and the lien will be sold in a Tax Sale. In this case, the taxpayers lose the property. This is the last thing the Tax Commissioner's Office wants to happen. Our office does accept partial payments on property taxes. Please call 706 439-6017 or use our website at [www.uniongatax.com](http://www.uniongatax.com).

**Tarter... continued from Page 5A**

grounds that day have been questioned and hundreds more detained in jail awaiting their hearings – for over three years now.

Visitors to D.C. who simply flew into the airports were investigated.

The Epoch Times has produced a documentary covering all of this.

No one has refuted the facts of the film. We just get totally irrelevant ad hominem

accusations about their relationship with the persecuted Chinese Falun Gong.

The Washington Post is owned by Jeff Bezos of Amazon and the Blue Origin space company and has a famously leftist slant. So what? When you are reading, look for facts, not opinions, folks.

Inform yourselves this year. Our country's future depends on you.

**J. Murray Tarter**

**Lausier... continued from Page 4A**

ally a Marxist calling for the destruction of the United States so it can be rebuilt on a Marxist framework? Do you truly believe that the earth will end in 12 years if we don't have a Green New Deal with all electric cars, no gas stoves, no fossil fuels, and paying higher taxes?

Do you still believe in right and wrong? Do you really believe the lawfare happening to President Trump is right? Law for Republicans but none for Democrats, because that is what this DOJ is enforcing. Prosecuting Trump and not Biden. Are you OK with that?

Can you honestly say you are better off now than four years ago? I am not.

Did you enjoy the tyrannical mandate that Biden forced on this country to get the untested vaccine or lose your job? Was that right? How many, many lives were lost at such a young age due to the vaccine side effects? Do you truly believe that lying and cheating are the best way to get your political ideology enforced? Because the national party believes that.

Are you proud of the invasion into our country from both the southern and northern borders, that the national party encouraged? To what end? The national party has thrown open the borders and let everyone in from all over the world, in-

cluding terrorists. Any city, any power grid and/or water supply is open to full terrorist attack, and the Democrat Party is letting this happen. Are you proud of that?

Are you proud that children who are not capable of making a decision in life are having their bodies chemically and surgically altered to supposedly become the opposite sex? Are you as Democrats proud of taking away women's sports and allowing men to cheat and be in women's sports? I think I am tall, thin with blonde hair and blue eyes, but reality is, I am not. Just saying you are the opposite sex does not make it so. Are you proud of enabling the transgender movement when these people really need mental health and compassion for their issues?

Are you proud of the Democrat Party? If you are then you believe in all of the above and more. If you do not believe in all of it, then why are you still a Democrat? The Republicans are not perfect, but they do not support these issues. If you do not fully support the radical national Democrat Party, then think for yourself; what is happening in this country is wrong, and hopefully deep down in your heart you agree. Hopefully. Hopefully you will become part of the change.

**Eva Lausier**

**Chamber... continued from Page 5A**

As thrilling as the eclipse anticipation is, remember that optimal viewing conditions depend on the weather. Clear skies are essential for experiencing the full wonder of this event. Keep an eye on the weather forecast and plan accordingly to make the most of this extraordinary celestial occurrence in Blairsville.

To view the eclipse from one of the best views in Blairsville – join Living Water Winery for their Eclipse Viewing Party beginning at 2 p.m. They will have a limited supply of glasses so please bring your

own if possible. This eclipse is just another reason why things are always better in Blairsville!

**Ashurst... continued from Page 5A**

ily members. It is healthy to own up to one's personal loneliness. Living in denial is a no-win situation because it will catch up to you sooner or later.

*It's healthy to spend time alone. One needs to know how to be alone. -Oscar Wilde*

**Yohe... continued from Page 4A**

in life and become a better person."

Grant you this is not salvation by Jesus, our Messiah, but it does not exclude truthful reporting unlike what we face today. The movie was based on the organization's own filming at the time unlike the edited and enhanced video from the government and mainstream media, especially the J6 committee.

Unfortunately, decades ago collegiate journalism was taught as a "social change agent," exchanging reporting for indoctrination. Because someone does not believe modern medicine is our salvation or that science is our god, does not refute the images recorded and the actions by our government on January 6 and the political persecution the current DOJ continues to enforce.

By the way, Falun Gong was banned in China because the Communist Party wanted

**Clyde... continued from Page 5A**

implement the Biden Administration's disastrous EV mandate. This commonsense provision was included in the House-passed FY24 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. Additionally, I joined Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) in introducing H.R. 4468, the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales (CARS) Act, to prohibit the EPA from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing its proposed EV mandate. If you recall, our legislation passed the House with bipartisan support in December.

Since President Biden is defiantly moving forward with his radical EV mandate, Congress must advance additional measures to stop this illegitimate power grab from being forced on American consumers and auto manufacturers. Please know that I will continue fighting against the Biden Administration's EV rule from burdening you and your family. Stay tuned!

**Fowler... continued from Page 4A**

Lewis' 'Mere Christianity,' I wrote in my notebook 'the evidence surrounding the claims of Christianity is simply overwhelming.' I realized that my achievements were ultimately unsatisfying... so I became a believer in Christ." His doubts, his unbeliefs, yielded to the evidence.

A father approached Jesus on behalf of his ailing son. He pleaded, "If you can do anything..." Jesus responded, "If you can?" Realizing his faux pas the man cried, "Help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24). And there you find the doubters prayer. The Truth is not far from you.

**Dyer... continued from Page 5A**

So, when you receive a letter from your volunteer fire station, we ask that you read it to stay informed. We also ask you to come to the open house of the fire stations. But most important, we ask that you please make a donation to your local volunteer fire station. Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

**Cummings... continued from Page 4A**

bing process and he was never stung during the process.

Later in life after he had slowed down Clifford became good friends with Doc Underwood. Doc was the resident Doctor in the little town of Phil Campbell, Alabama. Each Tuesday morning for the next 35 years Doc would visit his old friend Clifford Hyde for a game of Dominoes. The old men would sit on the front porch during the spring, summer and fall. During the winter the pair would sit by Clifford's old pot-bellied stove. Most of the time Clifford would win the game, and that was good because Clif-

ford could not stand to lose. But, when Doc won the game, Clifford would pout and say, "You must have cheated. Everyone knows you can't beat me at Dominoes. Get out of my house and don't come back." Then the old man would snatch the dominoes off the table and throw them in the fire.

By all accounts you would think the relationship between Doc and Clifford was over. However, early on the next Tuesday morning you could find Clifford walking the quarter mile to the Nix Mercantile to buy a new set of dominoes.

**Williams... continued from Page 5A**

well for mulch. The best control of mummy berry is to use a combination of spraying, removing, and mulching.

Mummy berry is simple to control if you get the timing right. If you have questions about mummy berry contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

On April 10th from 1-3 PM the Towns-Union Master Gardeners Association and the

Enotah Garden Club are hosting an afternoon tea with Ashley Frasca. The cost is \$15. You can register for this event by going to <https://t.uga.edu/9JK>.

I am also hosting a Master Naturalist training. This is an 8-week course that focuses on the natural resources around us.

If you are interested in participating in that email me or call the Union County Extension Office at 706-439-6030.

**Fallen Union County Deputy Derrick Whittle to be honored at Semiannual Blood Drive April 6th**

Blood Assurance and the family of a fallen Union County sheriff's deputy will honor his life during an upcoming blood drive.

The semiannual Derrick Whittle Memorial Blood Drive is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Haralson Memorial Civic Center in Blairsville.

On September 15, 2011, Whittle, 38, was critically injured in a car crash while responding to an emergency call. He died three days later at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga.

Since the first blood drive in 2012, Blood Assurance has collected more than 1,000 units of blood in Whittle's memory, which is enough to save more than 3,000 lives. Due to the overwhelming response from the community, the event now takes place twice a year: once in April to honor Whittle's birthday, and again in September, in memory of his passing.

Donors can schedule an appointment online at [www.bloodassurance.org/dwhittle](http://www.bloodassurance.org/dwhittle). You can also call 800-962-0628, or text BAGIVE to

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
ONE DONATION SAVES 3 LIVES

**Derrick Whittle Memorial Blood Drive**

Derrick began working for the Union County Sheriff's Office in April 2011. On September 15, 2011, Derrick was responding to a call and had an automobile accident. He succumbed to his injuries 3 days later on **September 18th**.

Because of Derrick's love for helping others and his love for Union County, his family would like to remember him by helping his County. For every one blood donation, up to 3 lives will potentially benefit from the legacy of Derrick Whittle. Please give.

**In memory of Derrick, there will be free cake and hotdogs!**

**Haralson Memorial Civic Center**  
165 Welborn St Blairsville GA  
**Saturday April 6th**  
**11:00 am—5:00 pm**

Schedule an appointment 1 of 2 ways:  
• Go to: [www.bloodassurance.org/dwhittle](http://www.bloodassurance.org/dwhittle)  
• Call 800-962-0628

All donors will be entered to win a \$500 donation to a nonprofit of their choice!

Over 1000 units of blood have been collected in memory of Derrick!

Upcoming April Promo

Donors who give April 1st-15th will automatically be entered to win a \$500 donation to a nonprofit of their choice!

Thank you for honoring Derrick and saving lives through blood donation!

#balifesaver @bloodassurance

999777. Walk-ins will also be accepted.

To be eligible to donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old (16 years old with parental consent),

weigh 110 pounds or more and be in good health. Donors are asked to drink plenty of fluids — avoiding caffeine — and eat a meal that is rich in iron prior to donating.