

Opinions

Everybody has one...

New CodeRED Notification System

One of the major responsibilities of emergency management is to ensure that the public is properly informed of emergencies and incidents that may affect the community. Union County Emergency Management Agency (UCEMA) has utilized a system called WENS, Wireless Emergency Notification System for over ten years to provide emergency notifications to the public. The system has served us well; however, it is time for an upgrade. We have chosen to utilize a new system called CodeRED.

The good news is that if you were registered with our previous system, you will continue to receive notifications through the new system. However, we are requesting that everyone update their information by visiting the CodeRED enrollment page. If you have not registered for notifications, we strongly encourage you to register with CodeRED to receive weather and emergency notifications. There is no charge to register or use CodeRED and your personal information will be kept confidential.

The CodeRED system allows UCEMA to provide notifications that may require immediate action (such as a boil-water notice, missing child, weather emergency or evacuation notice). The system delivers text, emails, and phone calls to cell or home phones.

The CodeRED system has several different types of notifications. CodeRED Weather Warning is a unique service that automatically notifies citizens in the path of severe weather just moments after a warning has been issued by the National Weather Service. UCEMA also uses CodeRED to send EMERGENCY notifications to keep citizens informed of emergencies such as evacuation notices, fires, floods, chemical spills, or other emergency situations.

UCEMA may also use CodeRED to send GENERAL notifications to those who register to communicate non-life safety matters, such as planned road closures, water main repairs, water and power service interruptions, etc. By selecting the box for GENERAL alerts when you register, you will also receive these types of notifications.

Residents and visitors alike can receive notifications no matter where you are located via the CodeRED Mobile Alert app - a free public safety app for both Android and iPhone users. The CodeRED Mobile Alert app delivers community and emergency alerts to individuals targeted within an impacted geographical area via your

See Fire, page 5A

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



Not Seeing, Believing

Evidence of facts leads to an understanding of truth. (At least that's the way it's supposed to work!) God created us with senses and common sense so that we can gain knowledge.

I know the coronavirus exists even though I've never seen it in a microscope. Somebody has, and they say it has spike proteins that make it look like a crown. That's how the pathogen got the name "corona," Latin for crown.

I accept that a 15 pound creature can silently defy gravity because the eagle floats in the sky. A land based creature can move without legs. Consider the snake on a rock when you are one step away. Boats can slip along silently with invisible propulsion when their sails billow. And who can deny the invisible bonds between a man and woman committed to loving one another? Oh the wonderful things we can observe and know! (Prov. 30:18-19)

We take thinking and reasoning for granted. One wonders how an unthinking and unreasoning universe that came about on its own could produce such higher order intelligence. But that's off point. The point is that God did create us with the senses of touch, sight, hearing, and taste which, combined with logic, means we can know things about our world. God has even embedded within us a framework by which we can know about Him. "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made" (Rom. 1:20).

Jesus' disciple Thomas relied perhaps a little much on his senses, declaring unless he saw and touched he wouldn't believe Jesus had resurrected from the dead. Jesus addressed Thomas' doubts straight up when He let him see and touch. Yet Jesus knew that millions would find other evidence compelling when He said, "Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed" (John 20:29).

That doesn't mean Jesus expects blind faith. It's a fallacy that faith means connecting the dots in the absence of evidence. Biblical faith is grounded in historical, scientific, and logical evidence. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1, KJV). God has created us and

See Fowler, page 5A

All Things New
Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

The following questions relate to the Air Methods contract which provides medically necessary helicopter flights to the citizens of Union County. You have seen these questions and answers before, but we are re-publishing them again this year to make sure everyone has the correct information.

Q. Is Union County renewing their contract with Air Methods to provide the life flight emergency helicopter membership free to residents again this year?

A. Yes, we are! The contract with Air Methods was approved last week at the County Meeting on May 21, 2020. Everything is the same as last year and you do not have to do anything to be covered. Union County residents are automatically covered.

Q. Who is covered by the Union General Hospital stationed helicopter?

A. Anyone who lives in Union County or has a home in Union County.

Q. I have a second home in Union County, and we are only there in the Summer and Fall. Will we be covered under this membership with Air Methods?

A. Yes, if you have a home here, on or before June 1, 2020 you are automatically covered while in Union County - whether you live here full time or not.

Q. Will we receive any paperwork on this emergency helicopter membership?

A. No, you will only receive paperwork if you must utilize your membership.

Q. What does this Emergency Helicopter Membership cover?

A. Union County has basically signed all residents and homeowners up for this membership at no cost to the individuals. This membership covers only emergency medically necessary helicopter transfers to another hospital. It does not pay for the entire cost of the service but it does pay for the amount that your medical insurance does not pay. If you happen to be uninsured, it will pay for the total cost.

Q. Who pays for the medical emergency helicopter service?

See Paris, page 5A

Q & A from Union County Commissioner
Lamar Paris



Drug Free Mountain Life

Online Recovery Support

In an infectious disease outbreak, when social distancing and self-quarantine are needed to limit and control the spread of the disease, continued social connectedness to maintain recovery are critically important. Virtual resources can and should be used during this time.

Below is a list of available virtual recovery programs that can be accessed through your smart phone, tablet or computer.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Offers online support <http://aa-intergroup.org>; Cocaine Anonymous: Offers online support and services <https://www.ca-online.org>; LifeRing: LifeRing Secular Recovery offers online support <https://www.lifering.org/online-meetings>; In The Rooms - Online Recovery Meetings: Provides online support through live meetings and discussion groups <https://www.intherooms.com/home>; Marijuana

See Drug Free, page 5A

The DRUG FREE MOUNTAIN LIFE campaign supports an overall safe community by providing information, education and support services to children, families, and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse.

Letters to the Editor

Abject Overreach

To the Editor,
We recently took part in a community activity and got to interact with local folks.

Pretty much everyone was in violation of the over 65 stay-at-home order, and only one (not from around here) wore a muzzle (mask).

Our takeaway from these observations and lots of conversation (!) was that people are becoming aware of the abject overreach being conducted by the "government."

Every cloud has a silver lining, so maybe this is the beginning of We the People regaining control of our "... perfect Union."

"You never want a serious crisis to go to waste." -Rahm Emanuel

Zeb Blanchard

More Free Money

To the Editor,

Methinks the Democrats have come up with a really good plan to take back the Senate and keep the House in the next election. They have proposed a plan for a second stimulus totaling \$3 trillion that includes up to \$6,000 per household and extends the \$600/week coronavirus unemployment insurance through the end of the year.

Knowing it will never pass by the Republican Senate, they can pretty well count on all the poor, uneducated, in-debt voters to fill the voting booths come next November.

Yippee! More free money!

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Morris

Is a Green Stimulus Plan the Best Path Forward?

To the Editor,

First of all, I want to thank our Congressmen for working together in a bipartisan manner to put forth a stimulus plan that has helped keep America from sinking into a Great Depression.

As we look ahead to what must now be done, most evidence seems to indicate more will be needed. Much evidence indicates that stimulus money invested in the Green Economy will generate the most new jobs per dollar invested. A broad government study finds that renewable energy creates 4.3 times as many jobs as coal and 5.4 times as many as natural gas per dollar invested.

More than 330 major businesses, including Capital One, General Mills, Microsoft and Visa, are advocating for including climate solutions in the next stimulus. A recent survey of more than 200 central bankers, finance ministry officials and

See Dixon, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

Congratulations, Graduates!

To the Class of 2020,
I wish you all an abundance of joy and success as you move forward. Take all of those memories, relationships, life lessons and dreams with you on the next part of life's journey.

Be purposeful and intentional pursuing your goals. Know that you have everything you need to succeed inside you right now.

For my previous fifth-graders, you hold a special place in my heart forever. I am privileged to have been your teacher. We had a lot of fun learning back then. It was a joy for me to come to

See Maddaleni, page 5A

Gowder/Heaton Sentences

To the Editor,

I have been keeping up with the Gowder/Heaton cases from the very beginning since I'm a former Blairsville resident. It makes me sick to my stomach with these doctors getting by the law for the past four years. It's like if you're a doctor or lawyer, you're above the law. When is justice going to be served? If it was anyone else that had committed the drug crimes they were found guilty of, they would have already been serving time at a Georgia prison.

Sincerely,
Grapelle Partridge

Why so serious?

To the Editor,

Coronavirus, politics, religion, gay marriage, the Bible, the Constitution, the president, transgenderism -- the list goes on and on. And everyone has an opinion (backed up by "facts and figures"). And it all comes down to one thing: "People are going to believe what they choose to believe." Including me, LOL. Of all the advice offered, the one I like the best is "Don't take yourself too seriously."

Jerry Driskell

It's called Freedom, Baby!

To the Editor,

A self-proclaimed "Old Man" (who some call Grumpy) wrote last week, and I quote: "I cannot fully understand the mentality of some of the local people on wearing face masks. It is a fact that wearing face masks helps prevent the transmission and spread of virus." Well, sir, if you truly believe that, then keep wearing your mask. Here's a thought: if you're wearing a mask, and that mask you are certain is 100 percent effective in stopping the transmission of the virus, then why do I have to wear one?

See Rains, page 5A

Jesse James

My Pawpaw Adams' sister Lula married a man by the name of Early James. The last time I can remember Early must have been prior to 1970. He was tall and lanky and wore a pair of overalls. His fingers were stained due to his always holding a filterless Lucky Strike cigarette.

Even as a young boy, I thought he was ancient. I cannot remember a kid who did not like Uncle Early. When we went to his house, we sat on the steps of his large front porch and listened as he regaled us with stories from his youth.

Some of his stories were about baseball. Uncle Early was a fine pitcher in his younger days. Other stories were about his family. Uncle Early was born prior to 1900, and his father was born sometime around the end of the Civil War. We were told that the elder James was a first cousin to the outlaws, Frank and Jesse James. As Uncle Early told it, the James Gang came to North Alabama in their heyday and robbed a train near Spruce Pine, Alabama.

There was a very high trestle about half-way between Phil Campbell and Spruce Pine that crossed a very deep hollow. At one time, this was the highest trestle in Alabama. I am not sure if the trestle is still there, however, my mother walked across the trestle as a little girl. Anyway, the James Gang robbed the train and supposedly buried the loot at the bottom of the deep hollow close to the train trestle. People have looked for this buried treasure for years with no results. This was one of the stories told to me by Uncle Early.

When I was about 12, Papa Cummings purchased a 60-acre tract of land from a fellow with the last name of James. I have always loved that particular piece of land. As a boy, we squirrel hunted and coon hunted the property. There is a deep hollow with 100-foot-high bluffs on the land, and during my teenaged years, TVA built a fine lake on the property. Our family has referred to this piece of property as the James Place ever since my grandfather purchased it. I was fortunate enough to purchase a portion of this land from my grandfather a few years ago.

Right after Papa purchased the land, I met the wife of this James fellow. She looked ancient as every other person I knew with the last name of James. I didn't know her exact age, but, she looked older than even Uncle Early. She must have been born prior to 1900. Anyway, back about 1935, Mr. James had purchased some timber, and he needed a little cash from his bank account. So, Mrs. James made a trip to the "Farmers and Merchants Bank" in Phil Campbell.

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Chamber of Commerce

We hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day Weekend, and that you were all able to unwind a little bit while celebrating the unofficial start of Summer and, of course, remembering the brave men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice to keep our great country free and safe. We salute you all!

What a great week to be in Union County! We may have had some rain, but it was great to see so many of our favorite restaurants and stores re-opening for business. We had the chance to visit several of our friends, and while there are still precautions in place, you felt that everyone was glad to be back doing what they love. As you visit your favorite restaurants remember that they have limits on the number of tables, so your wait may be a bit longer to be seated, so please be patient, and remember, if you can, to tip the staff as they are only allowed to serve 25 percent to 50 percent fewer tables.

Another shout-out to the Union County Chamber of Commerce for their efforts.

See Chamber, page 5A

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President
Steve Rowe



Weeds

Weeds are a common problem for any gardener. The problem with weeds is that they create competition. Competition for nutrients, water, and most importantly sunlight. They can also serve as a host plant for pests and diseases that you don't want in your garden. There a couple of different ways that weeds can be classified, and these impact how we want to treat them.

Weeds are classified as annual or perennial. Annual weeds only live for a single season. Perennial weeds live for two or more seasons. The goal of an annual plant is to produce as many seeds as it can in a season to ensure the survival of its progeny next year. Perennial plants are looking to store energy in their root system so that they can make it through the winter. If you can keep annual weeds from putting on seeds by mowing or tilling them, you will reduce the population that you'll have next season. Perennial weeds can be treated in the fall with a systemic herbicide. In the fall, perennial weeds are moving energy into their roots for storage. Therefore, that herbicide is moved into the root system and kills the plant at the roots. Crabgrass is an example of an annual and broadleaf plantain is an example of a perennial.

Broadleaf and grasses is another way of categorizing weeds. There are many herbicides that are effective on broadleaf weeds, like 2,4-D, but don't work on grasses. Therefore, understanding what type of weed you're dealing with is very important.

Mulch is a great way to suppress weeds. Many different materials can be used. Straw, wood chips, and sawdust are all effective. Mulch blocks the sunlight from hitting the soil and creates a physical barrier that weeds have to grow through, making it difficult for them to germinate and grow. You can also use weed fabric barriers. They do much of the same thing. However, because water can't penetrate fabric barriers you'll probably need to install some drip irrigation underneath the barrier. You can also inject fertilizers through the drip irrigation using an injector.

You can find any number of recipes online for natural herbicides. Some of these are effective, others are not. Unlike some synthetic herbicides, these are not selective. They will kill every plant they touch. One problem is that they only kill the part of the plant that they touch. Therefore, if you have a perennial weed you are going to have to re-treat that weed many times before its root energy reserves are depleted and it stops regrowing. Vinegar is a common ingredient in these mixtures. I've seen recipes with

See Williams, page 5A

UGA extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

Kenneth West
Publisher/Owner

Shawn Jarrard
Editor

Website: www.nganews.com

Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com

Mailing: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514

Derek Richards
Advertising Director

Todd Forrest
Sports Editor

Lowell Nicholson
Photographer

Publication No: 001505

Advertising, News deadlines Friday at 4 p.m. • Mail Service for all subscriptions except 30512, 30514 & 30572 - One Year \$40. In county, carrier delivered subscription is \$3. All subscriptions must be paid in advance. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is published weekly by NGN/TCH, Inc., 266 Cleveland Street, Blairsville, Georgia, 30512. Entered as Second Class Matter as of Dec. 10, 1988, at the Post Office in Blairsville. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

Phone: 706-745-6343 Fax: 706-745-1830 * P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514