

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Remembering September 11

This week we remember the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. It was a sad and tragic time where there was a great deal of sorrow, fear and uncertainty. Each year we gather and remember at Patriots' Day events or parades. We also remember in our own personal way. This month I changed our Fire Department Facebook cover picture to the "September 11, 2001 Never Forget" and was looking up other September 11th photos or stories. As I was looking, I saw a statement that said, "Freshmen in High School will learn in school about the September 11th attacks as a historical event that happened before they were born." That sank in. It has been 15 years. Then I thought, "we should 'never forget' but also 'never let it be forgotten'."

What do I mean by "never let it be forgotten"? I mean that we should be teaching the next generations about the event. They should know every detail of what happened and why. I do not mean that we should drown them in structured and impersonal statistics. To say that 2,753 people died in that one event doesn't have the same meaning to the new generations as it would to the people who were witnesses.

For those of us who were watching it all unfold, it will always be there. We will remember where we were and what we were doing that day. We all remember the feelings and the sights on the TV. We saw the planes hit the buildings and we saw the twin towers collapse. We realized what had happened and that a great many people lost their lives in that moment. As a firefighter, I realized how many firefighters were in that building, doing what they could to save lives and all the while, knowing that they were probably not going home to their families. A great many, 343, didn't go home.

We cannot convey the feelings of that day to the next generation. We cannot instill the uncertainty of the situation. We cannot stir up the anger that was felt from knowing our country had been attacked and our people had been killed. What can we do? We can educate the next generation on what happened; who did this; why they did it and what we did about it. We can educate them on the need for pride in their country; to protect the innocent; to stand

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Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief

David Dyer



Visitors

I heard tires scrunching the gravel of my driveway as the car slowly crept toward where I stood in my yard. I noticed that the occupants were dressed very nicely for a Saturday morning. Then I realized I was being Visited.

I always welcome the opportunity for a robust conversation about religion. I appreciate that these folks were as gentle and polite as they were convinced and sincere. I was quite eager to make the case for who Jesus is. That is, by the way, how you can tell historical Christianity from its modern variations.

From the outset of John's gospel, Jesus is God. Not just a son of God, but God the Son. The Word was with God in the beginning, and "the Word was God." All things, even life itself, came into being through the Word. This Word became flesh, so no doubt this Word is Jesus. So, if the Creator is God, then Jesus is. To supply the indefinite article as in, the Word was "a" god, misunderstands the grammar of Koine Greek. Worse, it implies polytheism, quite foreign to historic Christianity. Not to mention that John's context clearly describes the existence and activity of God. The word "Trinity" does not have to occur in the Bible for it to provide systematic evidence for one God in Three Persons.

Did Jesus claim to be God? In one instance, Jesus mentioned Abraham (who lived over a thousand years prior), which his hearers didn't appreciate. "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" they retorted. Jesus said, "Before Abraham was born, I am." How could Jesus have existed that long ago? Why didn't he say, "I was" or just "Abraham and I are old friends!" To Moses at his burning bush, God revealed his name, I AM. I wonder Jesus' hearers looked around to see if there was another burning bush, because He just called himself by that Name.

Do the Hebrew Scriptures anticipate the Messiah would be a God-man? The prophet Isaiah describes a virgin-born child who would be called "Eternal Father" and nothing less than "Mighty God." Daniel describes the "Son of Man" with godly dominion over an eternal kingdom, a title Jesus applied to himself.

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All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q. What is the most pressing problem this time of year?

A. Coordinating and completing projects, including paving, are the most pressing issues this time of the year. By the time you read this, we will be unable to do any additional Surface Treatment Paving and will only be able to do Asphalt Paving because of state guidelines. Usually, by now, we are having very cool nights and cooler days so the Surface Treatment Paving will end by September 15th. We also have projects that have not yet begun because they are either waiting on grants, supplemental funding or contracts.

Q. What other projects will be started this year?

A. The Shotgun Skeet range along Highway 515 is one of the projects we have been working on for a couple of years. We have been waiting for months on environmental approval for this project and final grant funding for 75% of the cost. We only lack one more hurdle, which we hope will be completed soon. We can then have a groundbreaking and we are hopeful that work can begin prior to the end of the year.

We also have been working on the restoration of creek banks along the Nottely River in Meeks Park II and Butternut Creek that runs through the golf course. We received some FEMA grant money today and need one more environmental approval before we can start this project.

In line with this environmental approval, we will also be constructing a low impact outdoor exercise machine area for adults in the same area of the park near the Kayak Ramp. I am very excited to get this project under way. Environmental approval has slowed this project down by a couple of months, but we expect approval any day. So, all these projects could end up going on at the same time, right before the end of the year. While this will all be very exciting, it does mean lots more work by me and staff members.

Q. Will the Skeet Range project on Hwy 515 be placed out to bid?

A. Yes it will and this will also delay construction at least one month. However, we hope some minor preliminary work can

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Letters to the Editor...

"Vanished"

Dear Editor,

On a serious note about the movie coming out called 'Vanished' later this month in show houses across the country. A lot of folks scoff at the idea that there is coming an end to this old earth when Jesus Christ comes back as He promised He would to gather His true believers up into the sky, called the rapture of the church.

I saw just a little clip of the upcoming movie "Vanished" and it depicts total chaos across the whole planet of earth. Loved ones gone without warning, only their clothes are left behind. It's a movie that will entertain some, give others food for thought and yet others will

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A Strong Anticdote

Dear Editor,

Here is a strong truth many humans fail to see... The term 'racism' is misused, unjust and should be wiped from our minds and vocabularies. Racism implies unwelcome feelings toward other humans. Oddly, this term is used to define thoughts and acts against humans of different ethnicities or religions. The proper term for this is 'Prejudice'.

Fact - We are called Homo Sapiens, all of us. Chinese, African, Russian, American, etc. (Since scientifically we are all homo sapiens, so there is only one race, Humans. Culture and religion dictate our differences. So, by this fact, for an individual to be truly racist, this person must entirely hate the human race as a whole, not just certain religions or ethnicities.)

In all my travels in my life, I've learned a valuable lesson. There are only two types of humans, selfless or greedy. Selfless humans give of themselves to other humans without thought, expecting nothing in return, to any human, regardless of culture or religion. These same recognize

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Should America have a Godly Government?

Dear Editor,

Government is an ordinance of God. The Apostle Paul explains, "There is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God" (Romans 13:1). This is not to be understood that every ruler is ordained of God. God is not responsible for acts of despotism and oppression. The meaning is government is an ordinance of God—that God has ordained or appointed it, that there should be authority and rulers. Government is necessary.

Paul explains the ruler is "the minister of God to thee for good" (13:4). Those in authority over us are ministers of God. Just as God ordained ministers of the Gospel, God ordained ministers of the government. Civil rulers act on behalf of God and must rule in the fear of God: "He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God" (2 Samuel 23:3).

On the contrary, our government officials do not rule in the fear of God and dethroned Him as our supreme lawgiver and king. They declare their own wicked laws in defiance of God's Law.

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Turtle Rescue

Dear Editor,

When the driver ahead, turned on emergency flashers and steered to the shoulder of the road, I instinctively followed thinking it was a mechanical failure. The young woman smiled at my offer of help and told me that she had stopped to rescue a little turtle that was very slowly crawling across a busy road. From her much appreciated act of human kindness I decided to start rescuing turtles also. I learned that our subject is a dry-land turtle known as the Eastern Box Turtle and they are especially plentiful in certain locations. They are very attractive and harmless little reptiles and if you ever see a baby, you will be tempted to take it home for

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THE HISTORY OF TOSS-UP ELECTIONS

THEN...



NOW...



Fentanyl Causing Overdose Epidemic in US

Painkillers containing illegally made fentanyl, a synthetic drug up to 100 times more potent than morphine, are responsible for a surge in overdose deaths in the United States. A new report by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found "substantial increases in fatal synthetic opioid-involved overdoses, primarily driven by fentanyl-involved overdose deaths" in multiple states since 2013.

Fentanyl has been used for anesthesia purposes since the 1960s, and today it is often prescribed for cancer pain and other chronic ailments. Pop legend Prince, who died of an accidental overdose of fentanyl in April, is the latest high-profile victim of the addictive and often counterfeit pills that are sweeping the nation.

According to the CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, the current epidemic is unprecedented in scope. There was a prior fentanyl overdose outbreak in 2005-2007 but the deaths were confined to several states. Illegally made versions of fentanyl began to skyrocket in 2013 and drug traffickers often incorporate it in counterfeit pills or add it to heroin, which can kill the drug user by shutting down his or her respiratory system.

Although fentanyl deaths are not reported separately in national data registries, CDC researchers were able to outline the scope of the problem by analyzing synthetic-opioid deaths, along with law enforcement seizures of drug products that tested positive for fentanyl. According to the CDC study, analyses also were conducted on data from 27 states with consistent death certificate reporting of the drugs involved in overdoses.

Researchers also found that law enforcement seizures of products with fentanyl rose 426 percent from 2013 to 2014. Meanwhile, synthetic-opioid deaths increased by 79 percent during the same period, and researchers found that police fentanyl discoveries "were strongly correlated with increases in synthetic opioid deaths." There was no change in fentanyl prescription rates that could have explained this rise in use and deaths, the report said.

When researchers combined data from state reports, they estimated that over 1,000 more people died from fentanyl over the course of one year. Fentanyl deaths in 2013 totaled 392 and increased to 1,400 deaths in 2014.

Eight states were most affected by the epidemic: Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Ohio, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, and North Carolina. Last year, the US Drug Enforcement Administration and CDC issued nationwide alerts calling illicitly manufactured fentanyl a threat to public health and safety.

The mission of the Union County Anti-Drug Coalition is to support an overall safe community by providing information, education and support services to children, families and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse.

Early Weeks

Thurman Harris was my father's uncle. He was full of life and enjoyed himself under all circumstances. Thurman loved to hunt, but he had no gun. Instead he carried a flip or what some call a sling shot. And he was pretty good with it. Some folks poked fun at him about using a flip. But, he was a really good shot and could shoot faster than a person with a "Long Tom" Shotgun.

On a crisp October day in the 1940s the Hyde family got together for a day of enjoyment. The men and boys went squirrel hunting. Papa took his hounds, Lou and Sam.

Uncles Dan, Freeman and Dalton had their trusty shotguns while Thurmon had his flip. The dogs treed and the men surrounded the tree looking up trying to find the critter. Papa was looking up into the tree when the squirrel fell almost hitting him in the face. He turned to find Thurmon grinning from ear to ear. This same sequence happened throughout the morning. The men would get to a tree and the squirrel would fall without a sound thanks to Thurmon and his flip. Enough squirrels were killed that day to feed the whole family a pot of dumplings and yet no shots were fired.

The men had killed their last squirrel and were on their way back home when a rabbit jumped up. The dogs trailed the rabbit as it made a wide circle and came within 25 feet of Thurmon. The rabbit was in a dead run when Thurmon saw it. Dad says, "I watched in slow motion as my uncle raised his flip and sent the small round stone hurtling at the rabbit". The stone hit the critter in the head and roasted rabbit was added to the menu that evening.

Everyone marveled at Uncle Thurmon's ability with his flip.

Paul and Bud hoped to learn to shoot a flip as well as their Uncle Thurmon. All they could talk about that fall was getting themselves a flip. So, on Christmas morning they woke up to find a beautifully decorated Christmas Tree with all kinds of oranges, candy canes and other goodies. And much to their delight there were 2 flips made of hickory wood stained with black walnut color. Each flip had pieces of rubber inner tube strapped to each prong of wood and a leather pouch sewed to the pieces of rubber.

Later in the day Uncle Thurmon presented each of his nephews with ammunition. Their Uncle worked at a tractor shop in Russellville. His job consisted of rebuilding moving parts of tractors. In these moving parts he would take out old ball bearings and replace them with new ones. So, each nephew received 25 ball bearings to use with their flips. Each was told, "These steel ball bearings are to be used for hunting, not practicing".

So, each boy practiced with smooth stones and they hunted with the ball bearings. Dad and Bud got pretty good at taking meat for the table.

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Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Fall Armyworm

The fall armyworm is a devastating pest that feeds on a wide variety of plants such as soybeans, alfalfa, sorghum, corn and it can even wipe out lawns and pastures. This year has so far proven to be one of the worst years for these destructive caterpillars in recent memory. Infestations have been reported in much of Northwest Georgia and they have recently been spotted in our area.

It is crucial to scout your fields for these critters so they can be caught early and the majority of damage can be prevented.

Fall armyworm larvae first hatch as pale green caterpillars with black heads. As they mature, they turn an orange-brown color. During their first few days, the caterpillars feed low to the ground, but after about a week they move up the crop and eat most of the leaf tissue except for stems and veins. Fully grown larvae are approximately 1.5 inches in length and can range from pale green in color to black with a brown head. Fall armyworms are different from true armyworms because they have an upside down "Y" and hairs all over the body. When it is ready to pupate, the larva burrows into the soil and then emerges as an adult moth with grayish wings that are about 1.5 inches in length. These adults will then mate and lay eggs in clusters of 50 or more in a single layer. After she places the eggs, the female will cover them with gray, powdery scales to protect them, making them look moldy or hairy.

Larvae generally feed on leaves, but when populations spike, they will damage other parts, such as corn ears. In corn, fall armyworms give the leaves a ragged appearance as they feed on them. They also leave sawdust-like frass near the whorl and upper leaves. The damage to corn ears is similar to corn earworm. However, unlike the corn earworm which moves down through the silk to feed, fall armyworms will burrow directly into the husk. Pastures, especially fescue stands, also suffer extensive damage during fall armyworm outbreaks. Though it may seem that an entire stand of grass will be devoured overnight, the larvae have been feeding there for a while. It is not until the later growth stages that they really begin to cause devastating damage.

Often, once a field is depleted of grass or other plants, fall armyworms will migrate to neighboring fields. For this reason it is important to constantly scout your fields for any sign of these pests. If you do have an infestation, contact your local extension office for pesticide options to prevent economic losses.

Don't forget about our SepTIMBER Forestry Ag Day on September 28th at GMREC in Blairsville from 9 a.m. to 1:45. Admission is \$5 and includes lunch and a chance to win door prizes. Topics covered include native tree identifica-

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber

Regina Allison



From the Ground Up

Melissa Mattee



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