

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Ladder 1

Union County Fire Department is proud to have its first ladder apparatus. The apparatus is called "Ladder 1" and is stationed at Station 1. It is a refurbished 1995 HME custom cab quint. This apparatus carries the necessary ladders and tools required of a ladder apparatus and can be used as a fire engine to pump water.

A ladder apparatus has been recommended for Union County by several independent consultants and ISO for many years. The department began a serious search over the last two years to find an apparatus that fits our needs and budget. This apparatus was found during the summer and was inspected by several Union County firefighters prior to purchase. The apparatus was also inspected and tested by two independent organizations. A new apparatus of this kind would cost up in the \$500,000 to \$750,000 range but this refurbished apparatus was purchased for \$89,000. Ladder 1 was purchased with SPLOST funds.

Prior to obtaining this ladder apparatus, Union County Fire Department depended on the surrounding fire departments of Fanin, Towns, Lumpkin and Cherokee counties for assistance with emergencies requiring a ladder apparatus. These departments agreed to respond through mutual aid agreements, but the response times would be long.

There are many questions about the new ladder apparatus and why it was purchased. Most people associate a ladder apparatus with rescuing people from tall buildings. That is a major reason for the purchase. A ladder apparatus is needed for any building over three stories or higher than 35 feet. There are several that meet these criteria. Buildings such as Brannon Lodge and the Union General Hospital are examples. The ladder apparatus can be used to gain access to upper floors or the roof of a burning building. Firefighters can safely ventilate the burning building or conduct search and rescue of the upper floors.

The main need for this type of apparatus is an elevated master stream. Fires in large buildings require a great deal of water to extinguish. Union County has several of these buildings, some requiring over 3,500 gallons per minute of water. These buildings also require water be placed in the correct area. An elevated master stream can pump large amounts of water and can place it directly

See Dyer, page 5A

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



Names

Identify this quote: "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other word would smell as sweet."

The quote means that a name doesn't change the essence of a thing. Yet we do use labels to identify and describe. Clintonite and Trumpian are political. Calvinist and Arminian are theological. Capitalist and Socialist are economic. But none of these names change a person's essence, made in God's image.

Some names are intended as pejorative. If you're into hashtags, #ShePersisted and #Deplorable are both labels coined as derogatory terms, now embraced by their targets. A more ancient example of that is, "The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26). Unfortunately, "Christian" has become freighted with centuries of use and misuse, and remains offensive to some.

Trying to make a name for yourself may not be wise. You know the Tower of Babel story when God confused their language, but why were they building it? "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth" (Gen. 11:4). The name they wanted would reflect their success in religion and strength in numbers. God nixed that as self-aggrandizement.

Have you seen that curious Bible passage about new names? In a message to the church in Pergamum, God says, "You hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of (persecution)... To him who overcomes, I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it" (Rev. 2:13,17). A secret name written on a white stone? A bit mysterious, but it does signify that God knows you personally.

Back to that quote. Juliette was saying that her Romeo's name Montague should not prohibit their union despite the feud between families. I'll borrow Shakespeare's point. We identify with Jesus even if those close to us feud with his loving grace and his claim on their lives. It's less important to me whether I'm called Baptist, Christian, or Bible thumper. What matters is that God knows my name, and He can call me any name He wants

See Fowler, page 5A

All Things New
Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q. If we have a complaint or issue about a state highway, does the county take care of these problems?

A. Unfortunately, we cannot. However, we are glad to pass along information and/or complaints to the State of Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for their consideration. Unfortunately, since they are such a large organization, it usually takes them a lot longer to deal with an issue and make changes. However, they are always willing to listen to any idea or suggestion that we have.

Q. We heard that Highway 19/129 South to Blood Mountain was going to be repaved this year, but we have seen no signs of it. When will it be repaved?

A. While the contract was awarded this year to Colwell Construction Company, because of the late time of year, it will not be paved until the next paving season in the late spring.

Q. We are concerned about the highway striping on Highway 19/129 South being hard to see at night or in the rain. Do we know when this highway will be restriped?

A. Right now, we do not. We have put in a request for GDOT to try to improve the striping visibility for the winter. I recently had to cross the mountain (Neal's Gap, Gainesville Highway) at night, in the rain, and with some fog. It was extremely difficult to see on both sides of the mountain and even scary in a couple of spots. If we receive any additional information, it will be published.

Q. Is it a problem to restripe a road and then come back and pave over it?

A. All Road Departments, state and local, hate to place new striping on a highway knowing that it will be paved over in just a few months, but sometimes it cannot be helped. In the case of Blood Mountain (Gainesville Highway), it might be possible that they place the small stick on reflective tape squares to get by in the short run. While we would all love to have the large highway reflectors placed that are so easy to see, it is a pretty costly knowing that the snow plows are going to pull most of them up when they scrape the highway this winter. So hopefully GDOT will have a good solution to make the mountain as safe as possible.

See Paris, page 5A

Q & A from Union County Commissioner
Lamar Paris



Drug Free Mountain Life

Not All Addictions Are The Same

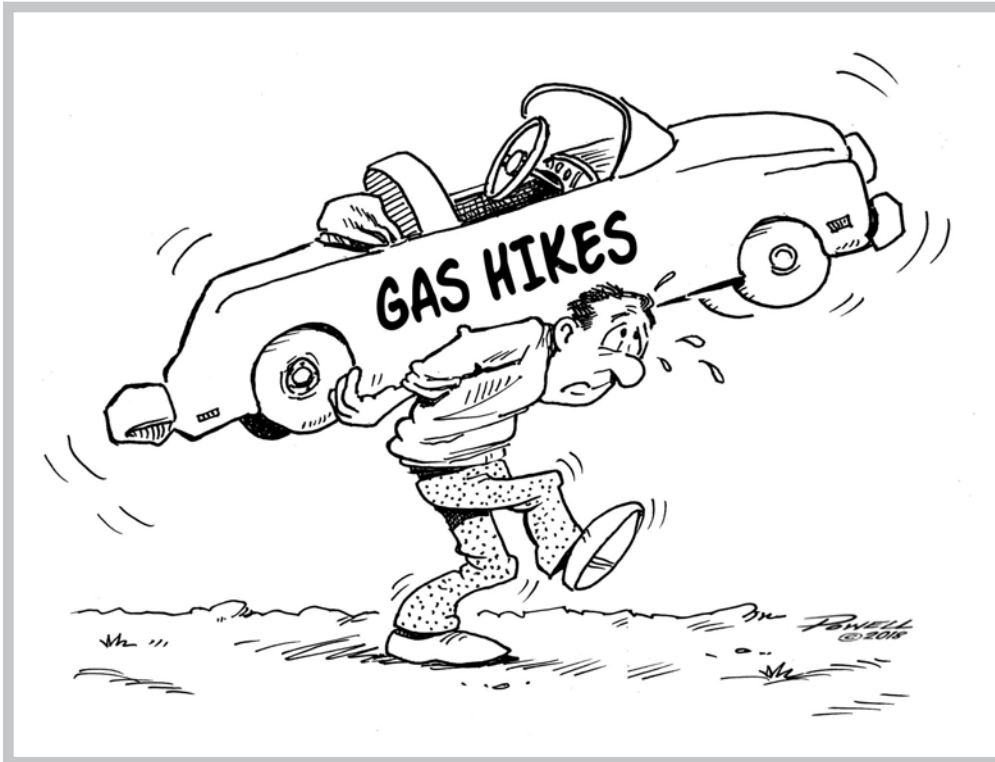
Each year, millions of Americans try drugs like alcohol, marijuana, cocaine or heroin for the first time, and a disturbing percentage of these people will be unable to stop without help.

"Drug addiction" is a general term that refers to the compulsive need to seek and use substances, despite the harmful consequences. But in fact, drugs vary in their addictive properties, and social trends influence the popularity of certain drugs. Listed below are some of the most commonly abused substances.

Marijuana has become one of the most widely used — and abused — drugs in the United States. The Journal of the American Medical Association notes that while the prevalence of marijuana use in the U.S. hasn't changed much since the 1990s, the prevalence of cannabis abuse and addiction has greatly increased.

The 2012 Monitoring the Future survey, 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.



Chamber of Commerce

This week, I want to encourage everyone to get out and vote on Nov. 6, 2018. Listed below are some of the key points to better understanding the designation of dollars and proposed projects associated with SPLOST.

Not A New Tax But A Proven Funding Source: Many successful projects covering Basic Infrastructure, Quality of Life and Public Safety have been funded with previous SPLOST campaigns.

Growing Demand: As our population grows, demand for services grow with it. Water and sewer access in the City of Blairsville as well as road maintenance are important to our quality of life and prosperity of our businesses. In order to fund these improvements, SPLOST offers an alternative to a large increase in property taxes.

Matching Dollars: SPLOST funds will allow the opportunity to leverage federal and State dollars to pay for qualifying projects. Without this revenue, federal dollars paid by Union

See Chamber, page 5A

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President
Steve Rowe



Letters to the Editor

POTUS Not Racist

Dear Editor,
In response to a tirade in the Oct. 3 edition of the North Georgia News accusing President Donald J. Trump of being a "racist":

Donald Trump has been under the close scrutiny of the New York media since the 1970s. Only when he won the 2016 Republican nomination for president and dared to take on the Clinton political machine was the R-word applied to him by the Democrats and their powerful allies in the media and "Hollywood." This was the same tactic used by the Democrats against Mitt Romney, John McCain, George W. Bush and other Republican candidates running for high office in recent decades.

Trump-appointed U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has been branded a "racist." This is the same man whose long career has included: filing several cases to desegregate public schools in Alabama; successfully prosecuting a Ku Klux Klansman for abducting and murdering a Black teenager at random, leading to a \$7 million judgment against the Klan; voting in favor of the 30-year extension of the Civil Rights Act; and attaching to an appropriation bill directing \$1 million to the Rosa Parks Library, Museum and Learning Center in Montgomery. Sessions doesn't sound like a racist by any definition of the word I can find. Just more slander from the political left and its media allies.

Trump is a "racist and white supremacist." Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David Shulkin is a Jew, as is Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin. The Secretary of Health and Human Services is Dr. Ben Carson, an American of African descent. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta is Hispanic, the son of Cuban immigrants. Secretary of Health & Human Services Alex Azar is of Lebanese descent.

Trump is a "sexist." Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao is not only a woman, but was an immigrant born in Taiwan to Chinese parents. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley happens to be a woman and her parents are Sikhs, immigrants from Punjab, India. Other women appointed by Trump are Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency Gina Haspel, and Linda McMahon, Administrator of the Small Business Administration. His 2016 campaign manager was Kellyanne Conway, the only woman in American history to successfully lead a presidential campaign. Conway now counsels President Trump.

Trump is "xenophobic." First Lady Melania Trump was born in Slovenia, speaks six languages and became a U.S. citizen in 2006. Trump's mother was an immigrant, a native of

See White page 5A

RC&D

Mallards Have Fun Too

Linda and I have had the pleasure of living on my Grandfather's mid-1800s farm down on the Hiwassee River at Mountain Scene for the past 20 years. Time flies when you are having fun living like my ancestors did but with modern conveniences.

This stretch of the Hiwassee (not Hiwassee as the DOT thinks) is one of the only natural stretches of the river left in Towns County. This stretch is bordered by Mountain Laurel, Rhododendron, white pines, oaks, Buckeyes, and all the wild things that have lived here for all time, such as: White-Tailed Deer, Raccoons, Possums, Coyotes, Rabbits, Snakes, all manner of birds, Otters, Beavers, Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Bats, Hellbenders, Bears, Mallard Ducks, and many other critters that live in our forest.

Our Sunday afternoon routine, when it is warm, is to sit in the cold water at the Blue Hole and enjoy the peace and quiet of the nature all around us. For a few hours, we are isolated from the rest of the world except for the occasional wild creature that passes by. One time, we saw a Bald Eagle fly up and land in a tree there.

Each year we see a pair of Mallard Ducks in the river in front of our house, and soon, we will see the babies swimming with Mama duck or Daddy duck, depending on who has babysitting duty that day. One day, while we were relaxing in the Blue Hole, we saw a male mallard floating down the river toward us. He swerved around us and continued bobbing down the whitewater rapids below the Blue Hole.

Soon we saw him flying back up river, and then here he came again, bobbing down the rapids. The next Sunday, we looked up and saw the whole mallard family — Mama Duck, Daddy Duck and 7 baby ducks — floating down the river. They paused on the sandy beach where many souls have been baptized over the years, and soon continued their way bobbing down the whitewater rapids, stopping on rocks as they floated down the river. This bird family was having fun shooting the rapids on a hot August afternoon. Ducks do know how to have fun!

Mallards have one of the most extensive breeding ranges of any duck in North America, extending across the northern third of the United States and up to the Bering Sea. The highest mallard densities occur in the Prairie Pothole Region of Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, and North and South Dakota, with nests placed in upland habitat near wetlands on the ground. Female mallards lay an average of nine eggs.

See Riley, page 5A

RC&D Executive Director
Frank Riley



The Great Robbery

I imagine that the young man moving from Alabama to the Windy City of Chicago felt out of his element while walking among skyscrapers and driving on paved roads. He was a little out of his element and probably on the naive side. The young Paul went to work for a finance company and soon found himself in the management training program. The young man graduated the program and soon found himself the manager of a small office in a suburb of Chicago called Cicero.

Barbara, a young woman from North Carolina, was a part of the staff. The staff also consisted of a lady by the name of Linda and a man named Johnson. One morning, as Dad walked into the front door of his office, he met a man walking out the door. Dad looked at the man and asked if his visit had been enjoyable. The trench coat clad man said, "It was a very enjoyable visit with your staff." Dad smiled and held the door as the man walked through it. When Dad came in the door, he noticed that Barbara was passed out in her chair. Johnson was lying on the floor with his hands covering the back of his head. Linda was pointing at the door. She finally stammered, "Robbery." Dad turned and ran out the door, screaming "robbery." As he ran through the door, he reached for his trusty pocket knife, and as he pulled the knife from his pocket, he ran into a policeman. What else would the policeman think? He had heard someone scream robbery, and next, he was almost knocked down by a young man wearing a suit and tie.

Before he knew what was happening, Dad felt the blow of a billystick to his head. It took five to 10 minutes, but the policeman was finally convinced by Dad's staff that this young man was not the robber. Dad's head throbbed for a day after the incident, and for days, the staff was extremely jumpy. Each time a stranger entered the door, Barbara would almost cry. Johnson would immediately hit floor if a door slammed. Finally, the staff began to relax. Then, one week to the day of the robbery, it happened again.

A man walked into the office wearing an overcoat and asked to fill out a loan application. While he filled out the form, Johnson asked Dad if he was ready to go through another robbery. Dad laughed and stated, "I am from Alabama and not afraid of anything." It was the custom of the manager to interview the applicant after a loan application was completed. So, after the man turned in the application, Dad called the man into his private office. Dad opened the door and allowed the man to enter. As the man walked into the room, Dad turned and grinned at his staff

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm
Mickey Cummings



Yellow Jackets

"The yellow jackets are coming!" may not carry the same historical significance as the Red Coats, but yellow jackets can bring fear and pandemonium when you unsuspectingly come across a nest. These underground dwelling insects can cause a great deal of consternation if you accidentally run over a nest with a mower. Let's talk about these insects and what you can do if you find a nest near your home.

Yellow jackets will become the most active during the late summer and fall. I've received a few calls from people saying that they have encountered some around their homes. I have a few around my own house, so I know they're out there! Yellow Jackets can look similar to wasps. Wasps are usually unaggressive unless threatened. Yellow jackets have a thicker waist, shorter legs, and wings that press more flatly against the body when resting than wasps.

Wasps' nests are usually under eaves or beneath porch railings and have hexagonal cells. Yellow jacket nests are usually built in old rodent holes or cavities that have been left behind by a small critter. They can build nests in wall spaces, although this is less common. Yellow jacket nests will die out over the winter and start anew with a new reproducing female each year. This means that yellow jacket nests will be the easiest to eradicate in the spring while the nests are still small. The flipside is that the nests will be harder to find in the spring because they only have a few individuals in them at that time. Nests can grow up to 5,000 yellow jackets, and will grow larger in years with a long dry spring.

Solitary yellow jackets can often be seen foraging for food for the colony. Yellow jackets feed on a variety of insect pests. They will also eat meat and like drinking Coke. However, since they never offer to bring anything, they're not very good guests at the picnic. They will also attack beehives. Yellow jackets are able to discern at a pheromone level which hives are weak. They'll choose those hives to attack, making them more opportunistic pests to bees than actual predators. If they are able to get inside past the guards, yellow jackets can take out the entire hive, killing bees, eating larvae, eggs, pupae and honey.

Control of yellow jacket nests this time of year can be very difficult because the nests have reached a large size. Pyrethroid insecticides that you can buy at the store will be effective at killing yellow jackets, but only when you make contact with them when you are actively spraying. If you can block the hole that they use as an entrance, you may be able to eradicate them this

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

Derek Richards
Advertising Director

Todd Forrest
Sports Editor

Mark Smith
Staff Writer

Website: www.nganews.com

Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com

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

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, 1987, 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