

Partnerships

The Emergency Management Agency of Union County (UCEMA) is responsible for the overall management of any disaster that should befall Union County.

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief David Dyer



In order to be prepared and to respond to disasters, UCCEMA develops partnerships with public and private organizations, businesses, and resources.

The EMA partners with public organizations such as the U.S. Government, State of Georgia, Union County Government, City of Blairsville, Sheriff's Office, Blairsville PD, Union County Schools PD, Union County Schools, Union General Hospital, Union General Ambulance, Health Department, and many more.

The EMA also partners with private organizations in our community. They include private businesses, corporations, home owners associations, clubs, utility companies, and volunteer groups.

The most important partner is the citizens. A disaster affects us all and places extreme demands on the emergency services.

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Steady, Unrelenting

Paul Kingsworth sensed that he was the object of a steady, unrelenting pursuit. It was an unwelcome thought until he finally surrendered to it.

From his childhood, Kingsworth dismissed religion. "The message seemed irrelevant... Where was the mystery? Where was the promised connection with God?"

It was G.K. Chesterton's statement that describes the next chapter of Kingsworth's life. "Wherever the people do not believe in something beyond the world," Chesterton wrote, "they will worship the world."

One night, he had an explicit dream about Jesus. It was so vivid, he remembered what Jesus had said and how he looked. In the coming days, he began to encounter Christians everywhere!

C.S. Lewis experienced "the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet." Francis Thompson wrote of "the hound of heaven."

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All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q. Commissioner, I was approached by a group of people asking me to sign a petition to change our form of county government to a 5-person board. Why would I want to do this?

A. I do not recommend changing Union County's form of government. Changing a form of government is a significant undertaking, and it can be challenging.

Q. Are there any unique benefits of a Sole Commissioner form of government?

A. There are many, but two main benefits are accountability and speed of decision-making. If a citizen has an issue, they know who to come to.

Q. Are you against a commissioner board style of county government in Union County?

A. Yes. Remember that we are talking about 5 people who more than likely have never worked together.

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris



Life Happens

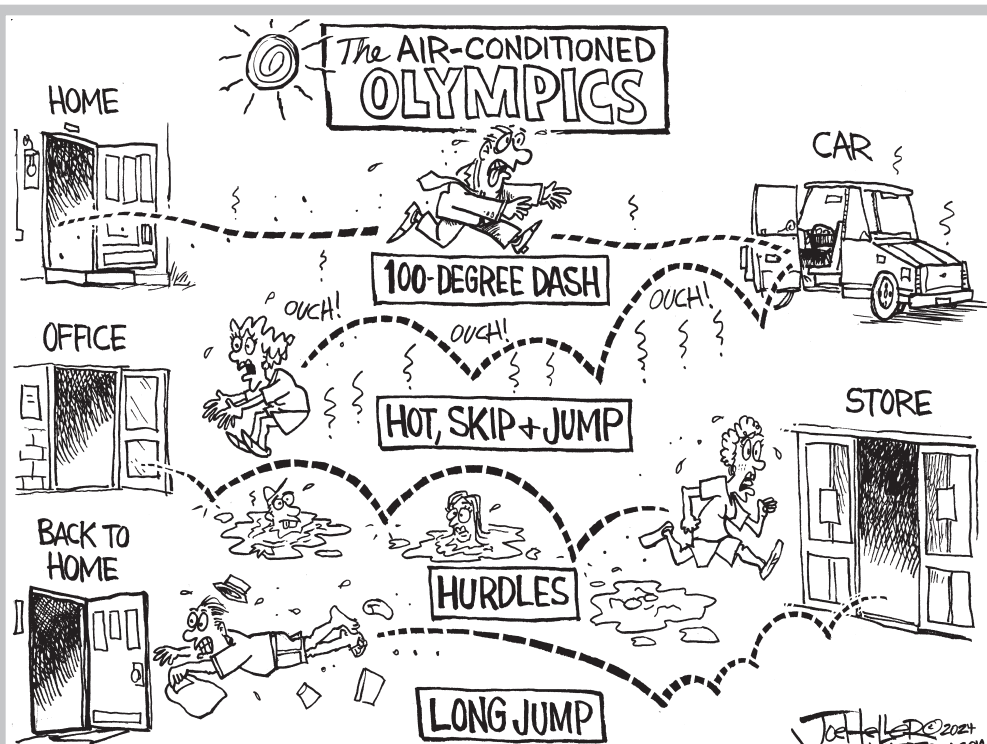
Even in the best friendships, there may be times when misunderstandings occur. Hurt feelings can happen. It's called human nature.

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



We can make matters worse by waiting for the other person to bury the hatchet and apologize.

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Chamber of Commerce

The Blairsville - Union County Chamber of Commerce's next big event is the Blairsville Business Expo at the Union County Sports Complex on Thursday, September 12th, from 4-7 p.m.

This event has over 80-plus vendors and welcomes up to 1,000 attendees.

The Blairsville Business Expo is for everyone, even kids! There is a Kid Zone, with emergency vehicles, mascots, and learning about big equipment.

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President Steve Rowe



Everything is right under one roof! Whether your business is hiring, expanding your network, or you are just wanting to get your products or your company information out there to the community, this event is for you.

Register before it gets full by calling the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce at 706-745-5789.

For more information about the Chamber, check out https://www.visitblairsvillega.com/. And remember that Life is Better in Blairsville!

Letters to the Editor

Democracy Today

A significant fact to note is that the party which is constantly blathering on about "American Democracy" just overruled the primary voters of the entire Country who chose Biden.

All that campaigning, the signs, the speeches, the millions of tax dollars, the millions of hours of volunteer work.

All now nothing due to the will of the elite.

You should ask any friends that you still have left who voted for Sleepy Joe how they feel about being disenfranchised just like the days of

See Tarter, page 5A

Party Platforms

A recent writer encouraged voters to study platforms, especially given possible disaffection of both presidential candidates. I wholeheartedly agree with this position.

However, the writer goes on to quote platform positions from a well-known Think Tank, ascribing those positions to one of the two parties. Excuse me? Should we study the platforms of the two parties or of all the (many) think tanks in the country? I'm confused.

Carol McKechnie

Do we love our grandchildren?

We say we do, but a growing \$36 trillion debt and Social Security going broke, partly because the Democrats raided the SS Trust Fund, says we DON'T love them.

See Bell page 5A

Post Truths

Hi, North Georgia News. Long-time reader, first-time Op/Ed submitter. Has anyone besides me noticed that when Liberals feel they are losing an election, they start saying we have to be able to have a civil and rational discourse about things and the direction they feel the country is headed?

See Dinos, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

From a Former Democrat

Following my parents' tradition, I was a Democrat. That was back when the party was what the Republican Party is now... conservative and caring.

It took time, thoughtful observation, and conscientious learning to recognize how far Democrats have drastically digressed from good intentions to manipulative, evil ones.

The day after the Republican Convention, I landed on TV's C-SPAN channel. The show host took phone calls from Democrats, Republicans and Independents.

Asked why, she assertively replied, "Because he is good looking and an actor." That's precisely the typical ignorance far too many Democrats possess, completely lacking understanding of their party's despicable descent, then making absolutely wrong voting choices.

After that ridiculous phone call and others, I later heard Biden's family was going to confront him about dropping out of the election before the July 26th deadline. It was reported Biden

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On Congressman Clyde

As Union County residents, we always welcome reading updates from our Ninth District representative, Andrew Clyde, who has been doing an outstanding job as our representative in Congress.

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Climate Change

When polls are taken to learn of people's main concerns, climate change/global warming is usually high on the list.

Really? Where did that come from? To see the future, look at the past. Earth has been warming since the last ice age.

So hold up your hands to stop the wind. Stomp your feet to stop the earthquakes. Enjoy the milder winters.

Clyde Woolsey

Home Cooking Baseball

My Dad and his brother played baseball during the summer with a bunch of boys from Trapptown. In those days all the little communities had baseball teams which traveled all across Alabama and Tennessee playing baseball against anyone wishing to play.

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



The Trapptown Team made the trip to Birmingham to play baseball in front of a crowd of 1,000 spectators, which was more people than most of them had ever saw.

In the bottom of the 6th inning Uncle Bud was batting and hit a line drive that went under third base. While the third baseman from Birmingham was looking for the ball, Uncle Bud ran all the way to third base.

The next game was played in Trapptown. Skeeter Trapp was an old man of 38 but was still able to get a single and make it first base.

Immediately, the boy's father rushed from

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Chiggers

Chiggers are most active during the spring, summer, and early fall. If you haven't been bitten, then consider yourself fortunate, because you live a blessed life.

Some people call chiggers red bugs because they are tiny red mites that are less than 1/50th of an inch long.

Chiggers like to live in areas that are full of brush and debris. They can be found in leaf litter. If you have areas with tall grass, they'll like that too.

Chiggers only bite, they don't bury under the skin. When they bite they inject their saliva which has a skin dissolving enzyme in it.

Chiggers are susceptible to dehydration. Therefore, they like to populate areas with shade and high humidity.

There are some chemicals that can be used as repellents or to kill chiggers. Products containing DEET will be effective at repelling chiggers, mosquitoes, biting flies, gnats, and ticks.

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Watching and Working

Jacob Williams



North Georgia News

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mind, a county manager also adds to the budget's bottom line.

Q. Can new Commissioners learn all the duties required of the job?

A. Certainly, they can with a few years' experience and taking a lot of classes. They would have to do quite a bit of traveling all over the state of Georgia as this type of training is done in a wide variety of places. But why change the county government that has worked in Union County so well for many many years.

Q. What are some problems counties have faced with a 5-person Commission Board?

A. It would appear that problems come when commissioners attempt to work with other commissioners to resolve very tough issues. Hypothetically, decisions made on these boards often fall on a 3/2 vote. The deep division can lead to lawsuits as we saw most recently in a county to the North of us. This type of back-and-forth indecision in a governing body not only frustrates the Commissioners – it also frustrates a constituency awaiting resolution or decision on specific matters. Another point to consider, the current Sole Commissioner form of government has a great working relationship with the Blairsville Mayor and City Council as well as the school system, TVA, water companies, power company, and Union General Hospital. Other counties sometimes face hostilities between the Board of Commissioners and the City Councils and/or mayors. These relationships are important – especially when projects require partnerships. Additionally, there are strict state regulations that provide guidance on when and how 5-member board Commissioners can meet if a quorum is present.

Q. How expensive is it to maintain a 5-member board of commissioners?

A. Very expensive. First,

most individuals who serve on a board of commissioners earn money for their service and for travel. These stipends can increase the budget significantly. Training is also expensive. Every commissioner has to take specific certification classes through the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and through the Carl Vincent Institute of Government from the University of Georgia. New Commissioners are required to take initial certification classes as well as other related certifications. These certifications are costly. I have probably taken 100 classes or more throughout the years. ACCG offers three different conferences each year: Capitol Connection Conferences, in Atlanta, which focuses on issues before the Georgia General Assembly; the Annual Conference, in Savannah, which provides a forum to take leadership, government-related, and governmental accounting training; and the Legislative Leadership Conference, in Athens, Macon, etc., as it moves around the state, which allows Commissioners to approve the legislative positions and priorities for the upcoming legislative session. It is imperative that all Commissioners attend these events in order to remain current on local issues. Training, travel, and accommodation can be very expensive for a 5-person Board of Commissioners.

Q. I reluctantly signed that petition asking for a 5-person Commission Board. I would like to rescind my signature. How do I do that?

A. At any time prior to the date a petition is filed for verification, an elector who has signed the petition form may request withdrawal of his or her signature from the petition by executing and filing an affidavit with the election superintendent. Any signature so withdrawn shall not be counted in determining the legal sufficiency of the petition.

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and rational discourse. I have news for you, writer: politics, in the U.S., have NEVER been rational or civil.

Case in point, writer, I'd like you to go to YouTube and look up "Attack Ads, Circa 1800." You may have to sign in to see the video, but I think you'll find it informative and enlightening. To basically put it, the video deals with the 1800 Election between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.

To paraphrase the video, the Jefferson Campaign said, "John Adams is a Blind, Bald, Crippled, Toothless Man who wants to start a War with France. While he's not busy importing mistresses from Europe, he's trying to marry one of his sons to a daughter of King George. Haven't we had enough MONARCHY in America?" The Adams Campaign said, "If Jefferson wins, Murder, Robbery, Rape, Adultery and Incest will be openly taught and practiced." Those two excerpts were the cleanest ones in the video and the only ones I dared to have in this submission. Go watch the video. It's worth it.

In more recent history, who can remember when then Nevada Senator and Democrat Harry Reid went to the floor of the U.S. Senate chamber and said for all the world to hear that Mitt Romney hasn't paid income taxes in over 10 years? Barack Obama won that election and later, when it was revealed that Senator Reid had LIED about Mitt Romney, a reporter asked Sen Reid if he thought he owed Mr. Romney an apology. Mr. Reid said, Why? We won the election, didn't we? If you go back through our country's history, I'm sure you'll find many more examples of that. My Point: Politics in this country has never been civil, so stop saying it was.

The Writer later in their letter speaks of "American Core Values." A few of what you think are Core Values of our country I agree with, but when did a Living Wage, Affordable Health Care and the preservation of our Democracy become Core American Values? Core Values are values that our country was founded on such as Life, Liberty and The Pursuit of Happiness. Writer, our country is NOT a Democracy. We live in a Constitutional Representative REPUBLIC. In layman's terms, Democracy is mob rule. If you don't understand that, then Democracy is two wolves and a deer deciding what's for dinner. I think they're having deer.

While we are not a Democracy, we do use the democratic process, but that is different from a Democracy. So, writer, "Preservation of our De-

mocracy" is not a Core Value of our country since we don't live in a Democracy. How is that hard to understand?

A Living Wage: While the term Living Wage entered the lexicon in the late 19th century, the Living wage Movement, in this country, didn't start until the middle to late 1990s. Our country was founded in the 18th century, writer. How does a concept that wasn't around at the time of our country's founding become a Core Value of our country? Answer: It isn't a Core Value.

Now, remember the Op/Ed I'm rebutting was written when Biden was the Democratic nominee for president, you speak of values and say you support Joe Biden. My question to you is this: How could you support Biden who says he's a devout Catholic and then goes to an abortion rally in an abortion clinic and crosses himself invoking the Holy Trinity that we'll keep abortion in this country? In other words, Joe Biden invoked God to help us keep killing babies. Let that sink in for a moment. As I see it, ANYONE who would ask the Lord God to allow our country to keep indiscriminately killing babies has no morals, scruples or values. THAT is who Joe Biden is, and sadly, that's who Kamala Harris is as well.

All Joe Biden and Kamala Harris care about is what the Democrat Party cares about: making money from their offices, the sale of influence and the attainment, consolidation and maintenance of POWER. Writer, if you can't see that, then perhaps you've been exposed to too many Post Truths.

Bart Dinos

Dyer...

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to Union County; however, it is only as good as its partners. Developing these partnerships and working together can help Union County be better prepared to respond and to recover from disasters.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Williams...

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thin can be used on clothing to kill chiggers and ticks.

Chiggers are very aggravating to have, but hopefully this article has given you some options for how to deal with chigger bites and how to prevent them from getting on you. If you have questions about chiggers contact your county Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

the stands and pulled a knife to cut Skeeter. The local deputy sheriff happened to be next door at the country store next to the ballfield. He jumped into his car and drove right up to first base. Deputy Looney was not a big man but he meant business. When he got excited and under stress, his face would turn red and the pitch of his voice went up an octave or two.

As the police car came to a stop he jumped from the car and with a high-pitched, shrill, and feminine sounding voice asked, "What's the problem here?" The man from Birmingham paid no attention to the high-pitched voice of

the deputy as he took another swing at the ball player from Trapptown with the knife all while cursing the deputy at the same time. The Deputy did not like being cursed, so, he pulled his revolver, cocked the hammer and spun the man around. Looney placed the barrel on the end of the man's nose and told him to put the knife down. The man looked at the business end of a .38 revolver and the strength in his knees left him. He just passed out right there on first base.

The boys from Trapptown won that game 7 to 0 without any home cooking from the bunch out of Birmingham.

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by the Biden regime. Congress must eradicate the left's woke and wasteful agenda from DOD. The Biden regime and his co-conspirators in the Democrat Party have weakened our military, and morale is at a severe low point.

On the home front, Congressman Clyde has introduced H.R. 5512, the Rural Broadband Mapping Act, to help rural areas such as ours to expand broadband in the communities that need it most. We appreciate the effort put forth by Mr. Clyde. However, a recent writer to the North Georgia News took issue with Congressman Clyde. In a rather disjointed

and rambling letter, he accused Clyde of "callously and knowingly spreading debunked and disproven lies." The problem is, everything that Clyde points out is true and can easily be proven. And the writer failed to specify just what it was that Clyde lied about. The writer apparently felt that was not enough, so he went on and disparaged millions of Trump supporters by referring to them as a cult. I am not a doctor, but I recognize the symptoms of someone suffering from Trump Derangement Syndrome. I would advise some counseling for that.

Greg Fisher

Phillips... continued from Page 4A

"is hurt and he is angry."

How like Democrats, kicking their man when he's down, sidelined with COVID! And they turn on YOU even faster, something they've done to struggling Americans for

Fowler...

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the truth that pursued him: the ultimate narrative about God's creation, humanity's rebellion, and the Savior's sacrifice of love.

God's truth catches up to you sooner or later. It is steady and unrelenting because it is ever present. "Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen" (Rom. 1:20). God reveals Himself through nature, in the Bible, through believers, and by the Holy Spirit. He "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4). That truth is a Person, Jesus. He is Truth worth surrendering to. www.mountainchristian.net

Bell...

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You can't get elected to Congress if you suggest increasing the SS retirement age, but in 1935, life expectancy was 60; today, it's almost 80. A pyramid scheme only works if you have more at the bottom than at the top... we weren't supposed to draw from it this many extra years. Medicare is much the same, plus allowing people that haven't paid into it to use it dooms it, too.

The research I did for this letter to the fools forum actually made me realize that many parts of Project 2025 are very good. It loves our grandchildren more than we do as it proposes tough changes that need to be taken if our country is to survive. I do like that it shifts responsibility back to the states by defunding many departments. What has the Department of Education and HHS accomplished? We rank 27th in the world for levels of education and health care. Same for Energy in its 47 years... higher gas prices and importing oil from our adversaries.

The Trump doctrine is only 16 pages long and has very little similarities to Project 2025. Search "Forbes, what is Project 2025" for a decent synopsis of it. Fortunately, there's items in it that are controversial... otherwise our grandchildren will not have the standard of living we've enjoyed.

Dick Bell

American Red Cross Volunteers

Make a difference in your community! As a volunteer with the American Red Cross, you can help families recover after a home fire, train individuals in first aid and CPR, support America's military families, or take on any number of other roles that make our communities safer, stronger and more resilient. Get started at <https://www.redcross.org/local/georgia/volunteer.html> or call your NWGA chapter office to ask about volunteer opportunities 844-536-6226.

Ashurst... continued from Page 4A

and the excursions – just being together. The truth is that the one who comes forth to make things right is the stronger of the two. It requires integrity and inner strength to swallow one's pride in order for the friendship to be restored and healed.

A break-up in the relationship doesn't mean that the friendship was flawed in the beginning. Fractures happen due to misunderstandings or miscommunications. In reality, both friends have very uncomfortable feelings – they truly miss one another. They are miserable and extremely sad. They feel disconnected, and it is a gut-wrenching, destitute feeling. Not an easy emotion to wrestle with. As the adage goes: life happens. It isn't a hopeless act when the relationship turns sour for a period of time. In most authentic friendships, the two individuals are hoping to repair the relationship, and due to their desire and willingness, the friendship can be restored in

order that they can forgive each other and move on. It is like a breath of fresh, clean air.

When the relationship is revived, the individuals are on fabulous terms once again, and the repair work was totally successful. We want the relationship restored. Once the friendship is put together again, the cloud of despair disappears, whatever apparent guilt is buried, and the atmosphere is bright, sunny and refreshing.

Tarter...

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poll taxes and only white men being allowed to vote.

And think about the people in the shadows who are REALLY scared that their "Trump Plan B" failed in Western Pennsylvania.

On to "Plan C," but now, their movements are being watched.

God bless our Country.

J. Murray Tarter