

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are valuable tools that are essential for home safety. They are used to extinguish smaller fires before they get out of control. People should understand the different types of fire extinguishers and how to safely use them to put out a fire.

There are actually five types of fire extinguishers. Each type is based on the type of fuel (material) burning. Type A fuels are ordinary combustibles such as paper or wood. They are what we would consider normal burning materials. Type B fuels are flammable liquids such as gasoline or diesel. Type C fuels involve electrical equipment. Type D fuels are combustible metals such as magnesium or lithium. Type K fuels are combustible cooking fuels such as vegetable or animal oils.

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



Choosing the correct type of extinguisher for the type of burning fuel is very important. Some extinguishing agents used for one type of fire will not work on the others. Rarely do we encounter Type D fires and the type K extinguishers are usually used in commercial kitchens and restaurants. Most fires that we encounter are going to be types A, B, or C. For that reason, most fire extinguishers available today usually contain extinguishing agents that may be used on types A, B, and/or C.

Fire extinguishers must be labeled with the type. These labels will have the letter and a picture designating the type of extinguisher. If any part of the label has a line through it, that type of fire cannot be extinguished with that fire extinguisher. When encountered with a fire, look on the side of the extinguisher to determine if it is the correct type for the fuel that is burning. Most extinguishers also have instructions for use on the side.

The use of a fire extinguisher is simple. Most use the PASS method. From a safe distance: Pull the safety pin at the handle; Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire; Squeeze the handle to apply the extinguishing agent; Sweep the nozzle and agent across the base of the fire until the fire is extinguished.

Fighting fire, even small fires, can be dangerous. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind. Never attempt to put out a large fire with a fire extinguisher. Most extinguishers are portable and are limited on the amount of fire that can be extinguished. Never enter the fire area if you are unable to breathe or see due to the smoke.

See Dyer, page 5A

Solving Life's Mysteries

I do not know if British actor and comedian Russell Brand has arrived anywhere on his spiritual journey. But he's saying things that might be helpful to someone looking for answers to the mysteries of life.

Brand's tradecraft can be offensive as he entertains the disaffected, directionless younger generations, i.e., the folks enticed as children to "follow your heart" and ego-stroked to "be whatever you want to be." As adults they wonder about life's mysteries but look for answers in the wrong places. Some of those answers about morality and identity are harmful lies. They believe Richard Dawkins who says they are merely a random collection of DNA and can only dance to its music. They demand affirmation, shout down disagreeable on-campus speakers, and dare anyone to challenge their conclusions. They look berserk, floundering with no grasp of ultimate reality.

Back to Brand. He has been transparent about his spiritual journey, a winding tale along a rocky path. He said, "Like many desperate people, I need spirituality, I need God, or I cannot cope in this world." That looks like a signpost pointing to answers. "My personal feeling is the teachings of Christ are more relevant now than they've ever been," he said. "There's a famous quote: 'Every man who knocks on a brothel door is looking for God.' Humanity is knocking on a brothel door, looking for fulfillment in things that will only leave them empty." I hope these words mean he is considering all the truth claims of Christ. I hope his audience considers the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection.

You are on a quest, knocking on doors, whether you realize it or not. That quest is to unravel the mystery of the universe and find your place in it. Perhaps the best way to characterize the question is, "Does life offer any reason to hope?" It matters how you look for answers. If you remove God as a starting point, you end up with subjective, untenable, and hopeless answers. Wrong answers lead to boredom, frustration, and even violence.

But the right answers about ultimate questions make a person peaceful, hopeful, and wise. God has unraveled the mystery for us. His Word reveals "the mystery which has been hidden

See Fowler, page 5A

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q. Last year in the Spring, the County held a contest for trash pickup. Will there be another county-wide effort to collect garbage off the highways and roads?

A. Yes, and it's happening this week. In conjunction with Earth Day celebrations, a county-wide litter clean-up competition will be held on April 22, 2023. The contest is sponsored by the Union County Commissioner's Office, Union County Recreation Department, and the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.

Q. How do I sign up?

A. Pull together your best "team," and then go to the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce website to register and compete for some pretty great prizes.

Q. What are the prizes for the April 22, 2023 county-wide trash pickup?

A. The third-place winning team will receive a \$250 Blairsville Bucks Gift Card; the second place winning team will receive a \$500 Blairsville Bucks Gift Card; and the first place winning team will receive a \$1,000 Blairsville Bucks Gift Card. These gift cards can be used at downtown merchants who support the litter pick-up effort.

Q. Is there a limitation on the specific roads I can clean? Do I have to stick to county roads?

A. You can clean up any location of your choice inside of Union County. However, if you choose to pick up litter on a busy road or highway, we ask that you take the necessary precautions to ensure that you can do so safely. During the litter pickup event, you will want to wear bright colors so that you can be seen by passing vehicles, and you will want to always remain aware of your surroundings.

Q. Will the County provide any safety equipment or tools to those who participate?

A. Yes. Before the contest begins, participants will receive gloves, vests, and trash bags for the event.

Q. Once I am registered, where do I go to get the safety equipment?

A. The competition kicks off at 8am at Granddaddy Mimm's

See Paris, page 5A

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Mar-a-Lago Raid

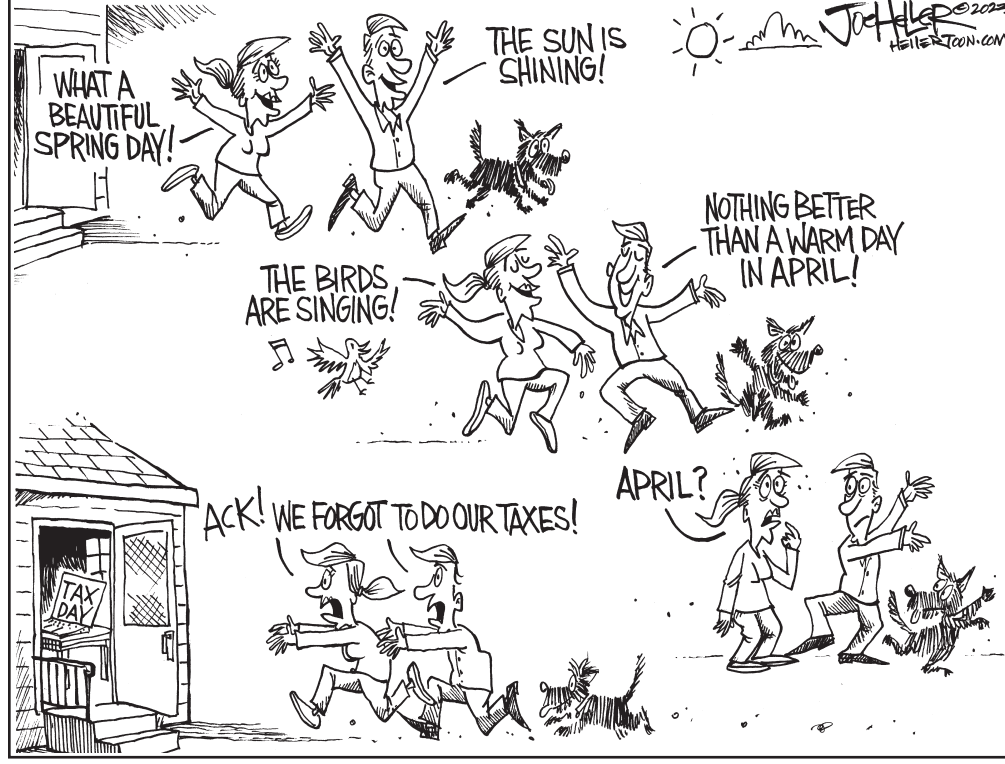
Back in August, the FBI took an unprecedented step in raiding President Trump's home at Mar-a-Lago. At the time, Biden Administration officials reported they were "stunned" by the development. Yet given his weaponization of federal agencies, many were rightfully concerned that President Biden was directly involved in the dangerous decision. While these claims were quickly labeled as conspiracies by the left-wing media, we now have evidence that the Biden Administration was directly entangled in the controversy.

United States Congressman Representative Andrew Clyde



According to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) records obtained by America First Legal through a Freedom of Information Act request, the FBI acquired access to President Trump's records through a "special access request" from the Biden White House. This reveals NARA misled Congress about the Biden Administration's role in the FBI's raid.

See Clyde, page 5A



Chamber of Commerce

It's an exciting time to be a job seeker in the community workforce! As someone who had the opportunity to sit in on several Union County College and Career Academy committee meetings last week, I can safely say that there are jobs available in almost every industry. The best part? These businesses aren't just looking for experienced hires; they're also looking for interns and summer employment, they're even willing to hire on the spot! They're looking for quality workers that can come in and learn what these businesses are doing. So, whether you're still in high school, a recent graduate, or considering a career switch, you won't want to miss out on these amazing opportunities.

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President Steve Rowe



If you have a passion for helping others, then the health care industry is the perfect place for you! From nursing assistants to registered nurses, there's a wide range of job opportunities available. You could work in a hospital setting, long-term care facility, or even in-home care.

See Chamber, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

Animal Neglect/Cruelty

Dear Editor,
Recently I was driving on State Route 515 in the area of the Cross Church at Queens Gap Connector when motion on the roadside caught my eye. In the pouring rain, a deer carcass was being eaten by what appeared at first to be coyotes. When I realized it was a pair of German Shepherd dogs, I turned around and returned to the scene, hoping to get the dogs into my minivan and off the four-lane. They ran off, tails tucked in fear, before I even stopped the car. When I spoke to Animal Control I was told that the dogs had been loose for a couple of weeks and had apparently been dumped. Over the next week I saw these beautiful dogs several times, running frantically up and down both sides of the highway over a two-mile stretch.

See Malone, page 5A

Good Old Days

Dear Editor,
We all can remember when we were young at heart and nothing ever seemed to slow us down. We were like an energized bunny hopping here and there full of life and vinegar. When I was 13 to 18 years of age I used to ride my bike in the summer time five miles with a bag full of golf clubs over my shoulder and arrive at the course around 9 a.m., pay my \$5 for the day, and play as many holes as I wanted to with other youth that came as well. You might say that's impossible, but the year was 1953 and things were cheaper in the good old days. We kids used to play 36 holes and never got tired. Even the bike ride home was no big deal. I do remember caddying for two elderly gentlemen and carrying two bags for 18 holes, and for my reward they each gave me \$5, which went

See Combs, page 5A

More Than Sports

Dear Editor,
I appreciate you reporting news pertaining to sports in our schools. But what I really miss is:
*Info on upcoming performances at the Performing Arts Center. Prior to Covid, we attended several productions and they were five-star.
*Frequently we see, what appear to be, auctions at the Agriscience Center. Another event we would like to attend.
I think it is important to remember the other activities/talents that include objects "other than balls." I encourage you to include such events in your publication.
Thanks,
Janet Trlica

Soil...

Soil - Where Would We Be Without It? Many of our grants and project's concern Soil Health because without soil nothing would exist on earth. It's what holds everything together and produces everything we need to sustain life on earth. Soil is the thin layer of material covering the earth's surface and is formed from the weathering of rocks. It is made up mainly of mineral particles, organic materials, air, water and living organisms—all of which interact slowly yet constantly. These four ingredients react with one another in amazing ways, making soil one of our planet's most dynamic and important natural resources.

RC&D Executive Director

Frank Riley



Soil is used by people in numerous ways. Because of this, it has many definitions. An engineer may view soils as a material upon which infrastructure is built, while a diplomat may refer to "soil" as a nation's territory. From a soil scientist's perspective, soil is: The surface mineral and/or organic layer of the earth that has experienced some degree of physical, biological, and chemical weathering. Soils are limited natural resources. They are considered renewable because they are constantly forming. Though this is true, their formation occurs at extremely slow rates. In fact, one inch of topsoil can take several hundred years or more to develop.

Soil formation rates vary across the planet: the slowest rates occur in cold, dry regions (1000+ years), and the fastest rates are in hot, wet regions (several hundred years). To identify, understand, and manage soils, soil scientists have developed a soil classification or taxonomy system. Like the classification systems for plants and animals, the soil classification system contains several levels of detail, from the most general to the most specific. The most general level of classification in the United States system is the soil order, of which there are 12. Each order is based on one or two dominant physical, chemical, or biological properties that differentiate it clearly from the other orders. Perhaps the easiest way to understand why certain properties were chosen over others is to consider how the soil (i.e., land) will be used. That is, the property that will most affect land use is given precedence over one that has a relatively small impact.

The 12 soil orders all end in "sol" which is derived from the Latin word "solum" meaning soil or ground. Most of the orders also have roots that tell you something about that particular soil. For example, "molisol" is from the Latin "molis" meaning soft. The particles that make up soil are categorized into three groups by size: sand,

See Riley, page 5A

A Minister's Experience

My father was a minister in many small churches across north Georgia, southeastern Tennessee and northern Alabama. He had many entertaining experiences, some of which were sad, some funny and some were rather scary.

For example, back in the early 1970s Dad had just made a profession in faith and was baptized into Wallaceville Baptist Church in Chickamauga, Georgia. Our pastor was a man named Milo Knight.

Right away Milo took Dad under his wing and began to train him in the ways of becoming a minister. He insisted that Dad drive him to visit people in the hospitals, and the old fellow wouldn't even accept speaking at funerals unless my Dad drove him. One day Dad was called to drive Milo to a funeral on top of Sand Mountain close to Henegar, Alabama.

The pair of men had a drive of about 1.5 hours to get to where the funeral was to be held. Since they had the time the two of them talked about life and the ways of people in relation to the Church and God. Milo told Dad that he wanted to warn him about the people that would be at the funeral. My father was told to be ready because the relatives of the person being buried would probably like to show out today. The old man explained that he had conducted funerals for these folks in the past and each time there were certain individuals that wished to make a public display of their love for the one which had died. Dad wasn't a preacher yet and didn't really understand what the old preacher was saying. To further explain, Milo said, "When a person passes to the other side, some people feel guilty because they never came around to visit an older person while that person was still alive. Therefore, they make a big display trying to prove to everyone that they were real close to the one which died."

The pair of men pulled into the church yard and walked into the church to begin the funeral. Dad was sitting on the front row as the service began. Milo preached the sermon and songs were sang. After the service people began to file by the body of the deceased. The last to come by was the family and the very last was the youngest daughter of the woman being buried. When the woman viewed her deceased mother in the coffin she began a long and high-pitched wail. Soon she began to sob and next she made a lunge to climb into the coffin with her mother. The stand on which the coffin was resting gave way and the coffin containing the dead woman and the daughter turned over, tossing the body toward the congregation. Dad was horrified watching the spectacle. He told me the dead

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



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 citrus oil

See Williams, page 5A

UGA extension Working and Working

Jacob Williams



North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

Kenneth West Publisher/Owner Shawn Jarrard General Manager/Editor Derek Richards Advertising Director Todd Forrest Sports Editor Lowell Nicholson Photographer

Website: www.nganews.com • Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com • Mail: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514

The North Georgia News is an independent and nonpartisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

Publication No: 001505

Advertising, News deadlines Friday at 4 p.m. • Mail Service for all subscriptions except 30512, 30514 & 30572 (Union County) - One Year \$45 INCLUDING UNION COUNTY CUSTOMER REQUESTS MAIL SERVICE. In county, carrier delivered subscription is \$10. 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. 24, 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, GA 30514