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ways to communicate with local residents.

A. This is a great question, and it is one that I'm excited to discuss. We have indeed been researching and investing in new technologies for receiving communication and for pushing out messages to Union County residents. First, have you seen the newspaper articles and the Facebook posts about CodeRED? The Union County Emergency Management Agency has instituted the new CodeRED Emergency Notification System – an ultra-high-speed telephone communication service for emergency notifications.

The CodeRED system allows us to provide notifications for all or targeted areas of the county in case of an emergency situation that requires immediate action (such as a boil-water notice, missing child, weather emergencies or evacuation notices). The new system is unique in that it provides a mobile APP that residents can use for receiving messages. The system also delivers text, emails and phone calls. Phone calls provide a recorded message to a live person or an answering machine, making three attempts to connect to any number. Residents do need to sign up for the notifications and can do so at: <https://tinyurl.com/vyu8ucx2>

Second, the Union County Government website provides

a direct inquiry page that allows residents to send a message directly to a specific department. Open the Union County Government website at: www.unioncountga.gov In the top right-hand corner, simply click on the CONTACT US link. You will then see various departments listed, and by clicking on a hyperlink, you can complete a form that will automatically email that specific department.

A third option for contacting us is through the iWorQ application. This new option will be made available on the Union County website within the month. iWorQ's citizen engagement software provides convenient methods for citizens to notify county leadership about issues in the community – including fallen trees, broken pipes, potholes, code violations, or even kudos for a job well done. This can be accomplished with any internet-capable device, or via iWorQ's mobile app.

Finally, we are also investing in a mobile-based solution called TextMyGov – giving you immediate access to county contact information by simply texting to a specific number. Our goal is to roll out the TextMyGov in June, 2021. As you can see, we continue to implement new and innovative ways to communicate with Union County residents. It's a great season to live in Union County.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

First, they decided the to milk the family cow. Uncle Dennis sat on Papa while Poggy tried to milk the cow. She stepped on his foot and he began to howl. The pair of inebriated men gave up this dangerous activity and looked at tickling their young nephews. They began chasing Dad and Uncle Bud around the house during which the two young boys were screaming at the top of their lungs.

Uncle Johnny Blalock lived down the road a few hundred yards. He'd heard

the screaming coming from the Cummings home. So he grabbed his 12-gauge and ran up to Papa's house. He found Poggy and Dennis still trying to tickle their nephews. Uncle Johnny stepped from behind a tree, raised the gun and said, "You get your paws off them boys or I'll blow your brains out." Uncle Dennis and Poggy sobered up in a hurry and never came back to Papa's while they were under the influence. So, now our family abides by the rule, "No drinking allowed."

Walters-Taylor... continued from Page 4A

of the seal of Kings David and Solomon, 12) The emblem of eternity and glory for Christian citizens, and 13) Reminder of the motto "In God We Trust."

A full description of the 13 folds is easily found at the end of any Google search, and well worth the read for a more complete and robust understanding of the folding tradition. If you have never witnessed a full flag-folding ceremony, you are invited to the Memorial Day Ceremony at Veterans Park in Blairsville, GA, on Saturday, May 29, at 10

a.m. to witness one first hand. Bring your own chair or blanket and come to solemnly participate in and witness a ceremony that remembers those who died in active military service to their country. The flag will be folded and placed, along with a wreath, in honor of those who have perished in the ultimate human sacrifice.

And until we muse again, I bid you "At Ease!" And for those who have perished in service to our country, "I salute you and may you Rest in Peace."

Riley... continued from Page 4A

A key component of community fire adaptation is that there is not one silver bullet that reduces risk; there are many tools that, when used together and strategically, reduce risk. And it is not the responsibility of one agency or group to mitigate; it is the responsibility of everyone who lives and works in the community. Fire adaptation happens when local multi-jurisdictional stakeholders work together to identify risk, mitigate it, and maintain the work overtime.

Fire adaptation is not a recognition program, and it is not a checklist, and a community does not achieve "fire adapted community" status or certification because the work to reduce wildfire risk never ends, it becomes a way of life for those who live in the WUI.

Foundational tools of fire adaptation include: A local multi-jurisdictional mitigation group to share risk reduction responsibility in the community. This core group teaches, mentors, and develops trusted relationships with local residents and other stakeholders to foster on-the-ground mitigation. A community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) which identifies where wildfire risk exists, outlines ways to reduce or mitigate that risk, and helps do the risk reduction work on the ground. It is not enough to have a CWPP, it must be updated and implemented. The risk reduction tasks must be accomplished and maintained. Hazardous fuels treatment inside and around the community on public and private lands. This means the landscape can experience wildfire and its benefits without the threat of catastrophic wildfire. A volunteer or career fire department or fire protection association plays a big role in reducing risk from wildfire and being ready to respond should a wildfire occur. Research shows that firefighters are a local trusted authority in delivering the mitigation

message and in helping stakeholders do mitigation. More information at Ready, Set, Go! Defensible space around structures means flammable fuels like leaf piles, unmown dry grass, lawnmowers and gas, lawn furniture, propane tanks and wood piles, leaves and needles in the gutters and on the roof, and flammable trees too near the home are removed or stored in more appropriate places. This defensible space provides a fuel buffer for the structure and a place for firefighters to do structure protection if the home is defensible. More information at Firewise and Living with Wildfire. Resilient structures are less susceptible to ignition from embers – the primary cause of structure loss. A resilient structure, for instance, is constructed of less flammable materials, has a class "A" roof (not a cedar shake roof or siding), has metal screen over eave vents, and under decks.

For more information on Fire Adapted communities go to: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/> - Ready Set go to: <https://www.wildlandfirersg.org/> - Firewise: go to <https://www.Firewise.org>.

Implementing these programs can help you buy time for the fire department to arrive to protect your property when a wildfire strikes, Help them help you!

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

So we strive to promote our waterfalls, lakes and hiking trails while simultaneously showcasing our shops, restaurants, and small businesses because they exude the southern hospitality that keep tourist coming back. Did you know that our area has become a wedding and wine tasting destination? And don't forget about Granddaddy Mimm's. The fact that we have historically been a desirable destination and as we grow, we continue to be just that poises us at the Chamber to promote

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stands our vision to make this the best department and to provide the best services possible. Our department is a combination department meaning that we have both career and volunteer firefighters. The community supports the volunteers by donations, which are essential in supporting the volunteer firefighters and the operations of their stations.

We want to thank the many people who support our efforts and make a difficult job easier. We ask that you please continue that support.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

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For the 2,4-D to be effective the timing of the application is critical. If you see buttercup flowers, it's too late. The 2,4-D application must be done when the buttercup plant is still small. Ideally, you want daytime temperatures to be 50 for two or three consecutive days. 2,4-D does have haying and grazing restrictions. Generally, you must wait 30 days before haying after spraying, and wait 14 days before grazing lactating dairy animals. As always, follow the label.

A common weed that may be confused with buttercup is field mustard. Field mustard also has yellow flowers. Field mustard is an annual plant that usually flowers before buttercup. Because it is an annual you can also use pre-emergent herbicides on it. Like buttercup, field mustard is not good for livestock to eat.

If you have questions about buttercup, identification or control contact you County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler... continued from Page 4A

plied, "Because we knew Mordor was real. Resisting the evil Sauron was our story too" (see Dreher's book, "Live Not By Lies"). That her children kept the Christian faith to this day is a testament to their mother.

Despite a changing America, we still value Mom (and apple pie!). Mothers have had a key role in human flourishing since the beginning of time, and we still celebrate them with a holiday. So, thanking God for family and for the mother's love I have known, I value all mothers and wish you a happy Mother's Day!

Brown... continued from Page 4A

This has gone on long enough. If the judge and prosecutors don't have the backbone to do what's right, why not just go home? You're doing us no good and you're an embarrassment. Mike and James... just man up. You know you're guilty and we know you're guilty. Just do the right thing for once.

Darrell Brown



Annual Membership Meeting of the Human Society's Mountain Shelter

The Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Humane Society's Mountain Shelter will be held at the Blairsville Thrift Store at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. The meeting will also be available on Zoom.

If you are a member and would like to attend via Zoom, please contact Lisa Collins at 706-781-3843 at the Mountain Shelter; she will send you an invitation to the meeting.

The Board of Directors will meet directly following the meeting of the membership.

both the destination as a location and the shops and merchants that fill the location with warmth and charm making our community what it is today.

Our annual Shoot for the Stars Golf Tournament is this week, and I would like to thank our players and Butternut Creek Golf Course for helping us help the seniors at Union County High School. Our partners for this event are: Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Rick Urban-Re/MAX, South State Bank, Granddaddy Mimm's Distilling Co., Chick-Fil-A, Blairsville Chill and Fill, Mountain Top Furniture, Tank Town USA, King Ford, and Abide Coffee. These events would be impossible without our annual partners: Union General Health System, United Community Bank, Downtown Development Authority, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Homestead Hospice, Enotah Valley Wedding and Event Center, The Barn at Young Harris, Sharon Davis, Realtor, Cozy Cove Realty and Cabin Rentals, and Nelson Tractor Company. Thanks to these generous partnerships, our field is full, and we should have a great time of fun and fellowship as we raise money for scholarships.