Opinions

Everybody has one...

A Place to Start

Last week we asked everyone to take a minute to think about emergencies and disasters that may affect our community. As stated before, most people have the same thoughts of "It will not happen to me" or "The emergency services will take care of it." We have learned that emergencies and disasters can happen to anyone and it is the responsibility of each individual person to plan and prepare

Union County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) encourages citizens of Union County to prepare for these emergencies and incidents. This fulfills a major goal of the EMA which is to have a prepared and resilient community. A good place to start is to learn a skill that can save lives. That skill is CPR.



One of the leading causes of death in the United States is sudden cardiac arrest. Each year, over 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States. It can happen at your home, work, or in public. Unfortunately, only a small percent of cardiac arrest victims receive CPR before emergency services arrive. Performing CPR or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival.

Most people want to help but are too intimidated to act. That can be due to the lack of experience or fear of doing something wrong. People may also have the fear of having to do mouth to mouth. There are a few things to keep in mind if you have these First, any help is better than no help. Learning CPR can better

prepare you and give you confidence for these situations. Second, the likelihood of doing something wrong causing a worse outcome is extremely low. Third, according to the American Heart Association, Hands-Only (compressions only) CPR has been shown to be as effective as conventional CPR for cardiac arrest. If a person were to go into cardiac arrest near you, it can be stressful and shocking. Immediate action should be taken. CPR

emergency response system, and begin lifesaving actions such as chest compressions. I have been in emergency services for 30 years. I can say from experience that there was a better outcome on cardiac arrest

training teaches people how to recognize cardiac arrest, activate the

See Dyer, page 5A

Man of Prayer

during his lifetime. He was a father to the fatherless because he saw his Heavenly Father answer prayer.

George Muller (1805–1898) cared for over 10,000 orphans

Wayne

The plight of the orphan was a recurring theme for Charles Dickens (think "Oliver Twist"). He was so impressed with Muller's work for orphans that he wrote a 5,000-word essay in his weekly journal ("Household Words," 1857) about "Brother **All Things**

Muller and his orphan work." Dickens noted the remarkable role of prayer in Muller's life. One

morning, Muller gathered the children for a breakfast without food. Just as they finished giving thanks for God's provision, the baker arrived with a donation of fresh bread. The milkman's cart broke down nearby, so he donated

the milk. Muller never solicited funds or donations. He simply prayed for the Lord's provision and waited. Over his lifetime the cost of multiple orphan houses was the equivalent of millions of dollars in today's currency. Dickens wrote, "When he wants money, he prays for it. His reports make no appeal." Jesus said, "What man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those

who ask Him!" (Matt. 7:9-11). Even though a father can give

in to the temptations of the human condition ("being evil") and

do wrong by your children, you still want good things for them. The Heavenly Father loves your children and knows what they need. Jesus invites you to pray, and witness what the Father will do for them. Do you pray for your children? You are far more motivated to pray when you contemplate the love and providence of God. The One who created your children, the Son who sacrificed His life to reconcile them to God, the Spirit who comforts and guides, He is the One who invites your prayers. The all-powerful God

Your children live in a culture that encourages godless liv-

See Fowler, page 5A

"You know, with this new Father's Day shirt the

kids gave me, I don't mind wearing a mask in public."

New Math/Higher Education

high school in Phil Campbell in 1927. She en-

joyed getting away from the tiny community of

Trapptown and visiting the bigger town. After

all, Phil Campbell had a railroad depot. Anyway,

Aunt Mabel especially enjoyed math class, and

of the world of mathematics. His one weakness

was arrogance. Mr. Isom had graduated at the top

of his class from the University of Alabama and

mester of school the class began to study alge-

braic simultaneous equations. Mr. Isom's custom

was to demonstrate the method of problem solv-

ing to his class and then assign a list of problems

to be worked out during class. After solving the

problems, the students could then check their an-

swers in the back of the book. The last problem

of the exercise was particularly difficult. Aunt

Mabel and the other students worked through

the problem, and all deduced the same answer.

However, when checking the answer, the book

did not agree with their conclusions. Mr. Isom

found the same answer as the class. He worked

through the problem three other times and came

to the same conclusion each time. Mr. Isom and

the class were consumed with this math word

problem for three days. Finally, Aunt Mabel

asked Mr. Isom if she could take the book home

to show the problem to her father, Lon Cum-

mings. Mr. Isom asked where Lon had attended

school. Aunt Mabel proudly proclaimed that her

father had attended school at the Hallman School

House and had finished school after the third

grade in 1899. Mr. Isom smiled at the naivety of

ucation, he owned and operated a sawmill and

blacksmith shop as well as a 300-acre farm. He

had traveled as far away as Missouri to solve

bookkeeping problems at his father's sawmill.

What he lacked in education he made up in expe-

rience. A few years prior he'd worked with some

Cooperative Extension Agents from Auburn to

conduct some in-field demonstrations on his

farm. The men planted a cover crop of vetch and

installed a rotation system using field corn and

cotton. The result was an increase from 20 bush-

els to 85 bushels of corn in one year. That year

my great-grandfather went from subsistence ag-

See Cummings, page 5A

Although Lon had only a third grade ed-

Mabel but agreed to her request.

Mr. Isom worked through the problem and

Roughly halfway through the second se-

sne was one of the

top students. Her

math teacher, Mr.

Isom, was enjoying

his first year out of

college. He was re-

ally a great teacher

and had a firm grasp

was proud of himself.

was asked to intervene.

Aunt Mabel, Papa's older sister, started to

Around

The Farm

Mickey

Cummings

invites you to have a front row seat as His will is done on earth

Commissioner's Questions

As I mentioned last week, we get many questions about our roads – especially in the springtime. This week's responses continue the discussion on Union County's roads and I hope they will help you to understand how we respond to road service requests.

Q. Do you still get requests to accept private roads as County maintained roads?

A. Yes, and the Road Department carefully evaluates every request. Back in 1991, Commissioner Gooch set up standards for a road to be accepted into the county system. These standards included having 60 feet of right of way, paving the road, and placing a maximum slope for



roads. The Road Department has modified this in a few instances but try to keep as close to this criteria as we can. There are so many private roads in the county that we could not possibly afford to maintain all of them. There are already over 600 miles of county-maintained roads which would be the equivalent of driving from Blairsville to Washington, DC.

Q. Why does it cost so much more to maintain more roads, if you already have the equipment and manpower?

A. If you consider that we not only mow the grass on each side of a road three to five times a year, mow the brush on the road banks about every year, maintain the gravel and paved surfaces, and scrape and spread salt every winter, you can see that it becomes a huge physical and financial burden. Our employees are stretched to the limit as it is. With over 425 miles of private roads (blue signs), it would almost double the workload and would certainly be a budget buster. The problem with many smaller private roads is that they were built so narrow with the houses often right up next to the roads that it makes it practically impossible to ever convert them to a county road.

Q. Are you strict on every decision to accept a road as a county road?

A. As much as possible, the guidelines are fairly strict; however, there are always exceptions. For example, if a road was built prior to 1991 when the subdivision regulations were adopted. we can make a variance as to road width and right of way width if other factors are OK. Also, if it is a school bus route some ex-

See Paris, page 5A

Supporting the Supporters

Anyone watch the National Memorial Day Concert on Sunday, May 30, 2021? It is always a "not to miss" event for my husband and me. The personal stories, the graphics, the performers, and the military guards and bands are nothing less than a spectacle of perfection. Did you also know that there are

the www.pbs.org/ national-memorial-Gary Sinise

Dear Editor,

you free, free indeed.

Dear Editor,

Dear Editor,

Union County.

collection cycle."

George H. Burch



aka "Lt. Dan" and Joe Mantegna do such a wonderful job hosting the event, putting their own inflections on the songs and presentations. Gary has been actively supporting troops and military families for over 30 years and has won many awards, not only for acting but for humanitarian efforts and service to veterans and first responders. In May 2012, Joe

the Sinise Foundation. It is wonderful that we have an annual See Walters-Taylor, page 5A

was appointed as National Spokesperson for the

U.S. Army Museum and is a spokesperson for

Letters to the Editor

No More Dying

book, the Bible, my heart jumps for joy, because

God cannot lie, and I see in His word that we

who have believed upon the Name of Jesus

Christ will never die, but live in glory in heaven

if I am telling you the truth. Well, don't take my

word, read it for yourself in Revelation, Chapter

20, and grasp the reality of the truth that will set

the bank with a full guarantee of spending eter-

sinned against God, He in turn had a backup plan

See Combs, page 5A

A Recipe for Disaster

row inlets, coves and blind corners. Add fast ski

boats, wakeboats with destructive wakes, jet skis

— often in groups of 2 or more — fishing boats

racing to the next perfect spot, pontoon boats

slowly cruising or towing kids or grandkids, ca-

noers, kayakers, paddleboarders and swimmers.

helter skelter at varying speeds. Stir in hot sunny

days and minimal law enforcement, then top off

See Brownhill, page 5A

Union County School Board Lies

tendent John Hill and the members of the Union

County School Board lie to the taxpayers of

Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST) is passed for a

period of five years. E-SPLOST is for certain

projects and for a projected stated amount. When the projected amount is met, the tax is no longer

edition of the North Georgia News, "the district

will reach its hard cap of \$21 million for Edu-

cation-SPLOST 11 months early in the five-year

tion hold to the promise to stop collecting E-

SPLOST? No. They want to break the five-year

cycle and not keep their promise. Can we trust

the Union County Board of Education to honor

their word to Union County taxpayers?

Mix thoroughly with everyone moving

It is amazing to me how easily Superin-

The Education Special Purpose Local

As stated in an article in the June 9, 2021,

Does the Union County Board of Educa-

nity in heaven with your Creator, God.

When I read God's promises in His Holy

Now, you might be skeptical and not sure

You can believe every word and take it to

We know by scripture that when mankind

Start with a small lake with numerous nar-

as it is in heaven.

"Take Five" - How to Comply with

We have preached about always get a permit to burn anything, even a small pile of leaves in your yard. This is protection for you in case disaster strikes and the fire escapes and



Now there is a new law on the books in Georgia as of July 1 that removes the requirement for a permit for small piles of debris, but it puts more responsibility on you to do things to comply with this new law to make the burn safer. If the fire gets out and help is dispatched and you are not in compliance with the law, then fines may be imposed to pay for the suppression costs, such as bulldozers, firefighters, engines, and you don't want to know what a helicopter or air tanker costs! So do what the law requires and you should be covered in case your fire escapes onto your neighbors property.

You can learn about Georgia's revised outdoor burning regulations and how to "Take Five" before burning; providing an easy fivepoint "S-S-T-A-R," to visually remember your responsibilities as burners. Go to www.gatrees. org and read the 5 points you need to take to comply. You can also check out this link and see our own Mark Wiles explaining all about it. #gatrees #wildfireprevention #takefive #georgialaws #forestry www.youtube.com.

As of July 1, 2021, changes go into effect regarding the legal responsibilities of Georgia landowners burning outdoor yard debris. Under Senate Bill 119, GA code section 12-6-90 was changed to eliminate the need to notify the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) by the person, firm, corporation, or association who intends to burn hand-piled natural vegetation/ yard debris. Any local burning ordinances are applicable and may be more restrictive than state law. In addition, restrictions on burning in 54 northern Georgia counties under the Environmental Protection Division summer burn ban from May 1-September 30 continue to be in effect. Changes to 12-6-90 include specific requirements of those intending to burn outdoors. A Georgia Forestry Commission communication campaign is informing landowners of these requirements in various media and is built on an acronym that emphasizes legal burning responsibilities. It advises burners to carefully plan their burn by remembering to "Take Five,"

Commerce announced their 2021 Legislators of the Year at the spring Government Affairs Council meeting. Representative Stan Gunter with the Blairs-

was recognized as one of this year's recipients. Stan and Rita have always been very active in Blairsville County

ville-Union County Chamber, so we would like to congratulate them on Steve Rowe this recognition by the Georgia Chamber.

Chamber of Commerce This past week the Georgia Chamber of

The Buy Local Extravaganza is this

Thursday from 4:00-7:00 at the new Sports Complex across from the High School. Our local vendors are excited to show everyone their new merchandise, and to explore ways they can help you grow your business. We will have representatives from all different areas of business from retail and restaurants, to banking and finance, and accommodations and health care. The event is free to all visitors so come and network with our local businesses and enjoy a day

See Chamber, page 5A

Japanese Beetles

The Japanese beetles will soon be out in full force. I spotted the first few last week. They are a huge pest as they munch their way through your yard. Controlling them can be challenging because they are such voracious eaters. Let's talk about some strategies for lessening their impact.

Japanese beetles arrived in the U.S. 1916. They have spread to much of the East coast and across the Mississippi River. They will feed on a wide



range of ornamentals, fruit trees, vegetables, and shade trees. Feeding on such a wide range of plants means that your yard may look like an all you can eat buffet to them. They have a metallic green color on their abdomen. They look similar to June beetles. June beetles are typically about 1.5 to twice as large as Japanese beetles. Japanese beetles also have a row of five white dots along the side of the abdomen that can be used to differentiate them from other beetles. The damage that you see from them looks like skeletonizing of the leaves. They'll eat everything between

Thankfully, Japanese beetles only have a single generation each year. Usually the adults, which are the beetles that we see flying around eating leaves, will begin to appear in May – June . They live four to six weeks. The females will lay eggs for most of their adult life. The eggs are laid in the soil. They hatch in about two weeks. After hatching, the beetles live in the soil until they come back out as adults in May.

the leaf vein, but leave the veins.

There are three times a year that are most ideal for controlling Japanese beetles. The most obvious is when they are adults and are out feeding on leaves. You can use carbaryl, which is the active ingredient in Sevin to control adults. Sevin comes as a liquid or in dust form. If you don't have a heavy infestation you can also use a cup with soapy water in it. Knock Japanese beetles off plants into the cup and they will drown. The second time to control Japanese beetles is in September. By that time of year all the Japanese beetles are grubs living in the soil. Even as grubs they can do damage to turf by feeding on the roots. Milky spore is an organic product that can be used to kill grubs in the ground. It's a bacteria that feeds on Japanese beetle grubs after they ingest it. September is the optimal time to make a milky spore application. The third time to control Japanese beetles would be in the spring with another milky spore application. Soil temperatures need to be over 65 for milky spore to be effective. The grubs must ingest the milky spore for it to be work. It only works on grubs, so applying it while the beetles are out eating leaves won't kill

See Williams, page 5A

"Take Five"

Georgia's new Outdoor Burning Laws!

ourns inings it is not supposed to. It also emergency dispatchers information on where legal burns are taking place so they don't dispatch fire trucks



unnecessarily to put out your controlled fire.

See Riley, page 5A

North Georgia News

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Paris... continued from Page 4A inch binder and 1½ inch top

ceptions may be necessary. In some instances, we can accept a slightly narrower road width if the road is totally built out, meaning there is no other vacant property that can access the road in the future, which would assure the traffic count could never increase.

Q. What are the normal requirements for a road to be accepted as a county road?

A. Again, there are some exceptions, but mostly it requires a 60 foot right of way, but sometimes we can accept down to a 40 foot right of way if the road has a gentle terrain. Also, on very steep terrain, we sometimes need more than 60 feet to go over a "fill" area. The road must have 6 inches of compacted base and 3½ inches of asphalt, which includes a 2

Q. Is there ever a case where you can accept a private road as a county road?

A. Yes, in fact we recently accepted a paved subdivision road that had been a private road for several years. It has adequate right of way, even though we had to have some additional forms signed, the road was not too steep, and it was built to county specifications, meaning it had a minimum width of 18 feet of pavement and adequate base. We often core drill the pavement surface and subsurface to confirm adequate depths of gravel and paved surface. Sometimes an additional layer of asphalt or patching is required prior to our acceptance.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

and follow an easy to remember; "S-S-T-A-R" formula: S Space – 25+ feet between fire and woodlands; S - Space 50+ feet between fire and structures; T – Time – sunrise to sunset; A - Attendance - Person responsible on-site until the fire is extinguished; R – Reasonable precautions – Tools/measures in place to prevent escaped fire.

Beginning May 1st and ending September 30th, EPD's Open Burning Ban will be enforced in 54 Georgia counties. The Open Burning Ban prohibits citizens and businesses from burning yard and land-clearing debris. This rule is in addition to the year-round state ban on the burning of household garbage. Open burn rules in Georgia don't restrict you from never making a fire outdoors.

There are several legal ways to burn outdoors; thirteen ways in fact. These are types of legal burn activities as outlined by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division: 1. Reduction of leaves on premises, 2. Agricultural procedures for production or harvesting of crops (if land tract is 5 acres or less), 3. Burning vegetative

material for agricultural operations (if land tract is greater than 5 acres), 4. Prescribed burning, 5. Recreational purposes and cooking, 6. Firefighting training, 7. Acquired structure burns, 8. Vegetative debris from storms, 9. Weed abatement, disease, and pest prevention, 10. Open flame devices, 11. Land clearing, construction, and right-of-way maintenance, 12. Disposal of packaging materials for explosives, and 13. Land clearing with an air curtain destructor.

And though these are legal ways to burn in Georgia, some of these types of burning require permits or special equipment. Burning manmade materials like tires, plastics, lumber, or household garbage is never legal in the state of Georgia.

For more information on burning in Georgia or if you are in doubt about what you are allowed to burn, contact your local Georgia Forestry Commission office or go to www.gatrees.org or check us out ChestChatt RC&D on Facebook at Chestatee chattahoochee RC&D.

Walters-Taylor... continued from Page 4A

concert to entertain us. And most towns and cities across our nation put together programs for Memorial Day. I would contend that, in addition to memorializing those we lost, the ceremonies of the day should also bring light to how we may serve those who put themselves in harm's way, and returned safely to us.

There are about a billion organizations, for profit and nonprofit alike, that serve veterans just like the Gary Sinise Foundation Avalon Network, which provides transformative care to veterans and first responders experiencing posttraumatic stress, brain injuries, and substance abuse. Fisher House provides for housing so families may be near recovering veterans. Pets for Vets helps heal emotional scars and reduce the shelter population. Project HERO is a nonprofit dedicated to helping vets and first responders achieve rehabilitation and recovery from the trauma related to their duties. Another is VALOR Foundation, a hand up on the home front for veterans transitioning from active service to civilian life, and programs such as Veterans Unstoppable to aid veterans in coping with some of the same issues as the Sinise Foundation. And VALOR is located right in your community.

I urge you to pick one that is dear to your heart. It might deal with physical injuries, PTSD, Veteran Suicide, first responder support, or support for families of soldiers lost. It is probably true that most of us are not as well off financially as the Sinises or the Mantegnas: but you know that a little plus a little plus a little makes a lot. Let's show our veterans and first responders that they are not forgotten and that we do care - and that we support them to the best of our ability.

Until we muse again, I bid you "At Ease!"

Combs... continued from Page 4A

that would include sending His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to die for the world's sins so that we could be reconciled back to our heavenly Father, God.

What kind of love shows such compassion, kindness, forgiveness, mercy, and grace all wrapped up in the Trinity, 3-in-1. Folks, you will never go wrong if you put your whole trust and faith in a God who will never let you down, but wants to lift you up on high in His glorious place called

Does no more dying sound good to you? If it does, don't ponder the thought of coming as you are, but run to Jesus Christ and fall at His feet and invite Him into your heart by confessing and repenting of your sins and become a new creature, old things passed away, all things made new.

It will be an eternal blessing on you for all of eternity, and the rewards are out of

this world. Frank F. Combs

Weekly Patriot Refilection



Government Can't Be Maintained Without Religion

Most Americans today have little understanding of what motivated the Founders as they struggled to form our Republic. Unfortunately, less and less is being taught in our schools today about their heroic battles to be free, in a society unlike any other on earth.

One of the driving forces, of utmost importance was the role of religion to

this unique part of civiliza-Read what outsider Alexis de Tocqueville, from

France, observed about religion in America: "Religion in America takes no direct part in the government of society, but it must be regarded as the first of their political institutions. I do not know whether all Americans have a sincere faith in their religion -- for who can search the human heart? -- but I am certain that they hold it to be indispensable to the maintenance of republican institu-

This opinion is not peculiar to a class of citizens or to a party, but it belongs to the whole nation and to every rank of society.

At the 2016 Democrat Convention for President there was fierce determination expressed by many on the floor who shouted loudly "Take all mention of God out of the Democrat Platform!!" May God continue to bless America, in spite of those who would want to remove all mention of Him.

A Patriot Reflection is presented weekly by www. joshuaswarriors.org.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

at the new sports center. If you want to be enter-

tained, be sure you take your family and friends to the Tenth Annual Blairsville Pro Rodeo. This year's rodeo will be June 18th and 19th at the Union County Saddle Club Arena. Check the Chamber's website to see all the great events including Bull Riding, Barrel Racing and be sure to check out the Union County Sass 'n Saddle Precision Drill Team or sign up for the Steer Dressing Contest.

Don't forget to go to the Chamber's website where

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

riculture to farming for a profit on his Alabama farm.

The next day Aunt Mabel brought the book and the solved problem, written down on paper, back to Mr. Isom's Math Class. She demonstrated on the blackboard how her daddy solved the problem and the answer agreed with the answer in the book. Mr. Isom sat in his chair and was stunned that he was bested by a sawmill operator. But he was also wise enough to realize that he had been wrong. His lesson to his students that day was that even educated people can learn new things if they will open their minds.

Like many in his generation, Lon Cummings received just enough education to allow him to read. But he used his education along with a good helping of common sense, and if you couple those two with a good work ethic, the result will show up in your everyday life. Many in that generation demonstrated similar aptitudes.

Williams...

continued from Page 4A any Japanese beetles.

Using milky spore to kill the grubs doesn't mean that you won't have any Japanese beetles the following year, but you can significantly reduce the population that is present in your area. Some people will use traps to kill Japanese beetles. I try to discourage people from this practice because traps with pheromone lures will bring beetles in from five miles away, meaning that you have more beetles.

If you have questions about Japanese beetles contact your county Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler...

continued from Page 4A

ing and each doing what's right in his or her own eyes. Pray they know the truth and the joy that accompanies those who walk with Jesus. Pray that God will orchestrate the circumstances of your children's lives so that they have an anchor for their

souls in such a time as this. What does George Muller's life say to fathers? It is the man of prayer who can best love, support, and guide the children in your life.

Dyer...

continued from Page 4A

calls when a person was performing CPR before we arrived. It is that important and it

makes a difference. CPR is truly a lifesaving skill and is extremely easy to learn. Learning CPR can be one part that you can do to make Union County more prepared and resilient.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Brownhill...

continued from Page 4A

with alcohol readily available at least one lakefront location.

The outcome will be headlines in a future NGN edition: "TRAGEDY on NOT-TELY."

Big money, fast boats and rude boat operators are fast replacing common sense and common courteousness. Slow down. The life you save may be your own.

Paul Brownhill

UC Historical Society's **Brick Walk**

ciation for the overwhelming community support for the Union County Historical Society's Brick Walk, we are extending the current price of \$50 per brick. Please call the Historical Society at 706-745-5493 or come by the old courthouse to purchase one in memory or in honor of a loved

To show our appre-

you can see our Community Calendar and you can checkin on our local businesses and restaurants as to what is new. And, be on the look-out for a special announcement about our website, we'll have some-

Remember, it's always better in Blairsville!

thing new that we will need

to reveal to our members and

community soon!