# Opinions

## Everybody has one...

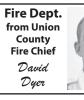
**All Things** 

New

#### Loss of a Brother

Charles Worden, retired Fire Chief, E911 Director, and Emergency Management Director, passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of September 22nd. Personnel from Union County Fire Department, Union County Emergency Management, and Union County E911 join other public safety organizations, coworkers, friends, and family in mourning the loss of this great man

Charles Worden started with the fire department in 1984. He was an influential and active member of Station 2 and the department. In 1993, he was offered the position of Fire Chief and became a driving force that led to the department that



you see today. At the time, the department was made up of five very different and distinct stations that had minimal equipment. Chief Worden took on the mission of unifying the stations into one department with a single mission. He brought the stations and its members together through training, policies, and a sense of togetherness that was a benefit to the department and the citi-

The one thing that is undisputed is that Chief Worden equipped and expanded the department more than anyone in the department's history. Early in his career as fire chief, he realized that there were not enough stations to cover the county. He developed a plan to build more stations. As a result, the number of stations expanded from five to 12 covering most of Union County. He also worked tirelessly to equip the stations and the firefighters with the best equipment available. There was an increase in basic training, and Chief Worden sought every opportunity to bring specialized training to the volunteer and career firefighters.

In 1997, Charles Worden became the Emergency Management Director for Union County. Over the next 20 years, he worked to improve readiness of Union County. He enacted several plans to improve our response to major emergencies. He helped obtain several certifications in order to qualify Union County for a higher percentage of Federal funds in the event of a disaster. In short, we are better prepared to respond and recover from major disasters.

Charles Worden had a great career and was the most influential leader of these departments. He was always serving the

See Dyer, page 5A

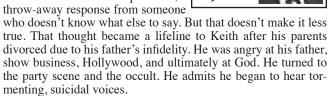
#### **Finding Purpose**

I thought Little Ricky on the "I Love Lucy" show was the son of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. Not true. His name is Keith Thibodeaux. Keith's life almost became a far worse Hollywood tragedy than mistaken identity.

Arnaz selected him for the popular show in 1955 because he could play the drums. Later, he made appearances on "The

Andy Griffith Show" as Opie's friend Johnny Paul. As he aged, Keith began to realize his good fortune. He asked his father, "Why did God pick me to do this?" His father answered, 'God's got a purpose for you."

That line can be a platitude, a



At the point of despair, Keith thought about God's purpose. He prayed, "If you're real, if you take me out of this mess I've made of my life, then I'll serve you." He attended a church service and had an intense experience. Sensing he was in the presence of Jesus, he felt unworthy because of his sinful lifestyle. He felt the Lord saying, "That's why I died." That day, he placed his faith in Jesus as his Savior. He said, "I had a whole new perspective on who Jesus is and what He did for me on the cross in dying for my sins, taking my sins." At the time, he was the drummer for the rock band, David

ed Christ. In 1977, they became a Christian band. Keith married dancer Kathy Denton, and in 1986 they founded Ballet Magnificat!, a Christian outreach ministry. His search for purpose begun as a child bore fruit in his life as an adult. What is your ultimate purpose? The Bible says you are

and the Giants. He shared his faith with them and they also trust-

'created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand." (Eph. 2:10). It says, "He who abides in me and I in him, he bears much fruit" (John 15:5). The Westminster Shorter Catechism teaches your purpose is "to glorify God and to enjoy

See Fowler, page 5A

#### **Commissioner's Questions**

You will probably recall that recent state legislation resulted in some changes for elections processes in the State of Georgia. We have been receiving questions about these changes so today's responses will address the highlights of those.

Q1. Anyone wishing to vote using an absentee ballot must make an application (request) to do so. Many of the recent changes impact this applica-

A1a. NEW: Requests for an

Absentee Ballot must now be made

by using the official Absentee Bal-

lot Form. Residents can complete the Absentee Ballot Form on the website

from Union County Commissioner Paris

for the Georgia Secretary of State at: https://sos.ga.gov/admin/uploads/2021\_Absentee\_App.9721\_2 pdf or residents can complete the form at the local Union County Registrar's Office at the Union County Courthouse.

A1b. NEW: Residents may make application for Absentee Ballot no earlier than 78 days before the election.

A1c. NEW: Applications must arrive at your local Union County Registrar's Office no later than 11 days before the elec-A1d. NEW: Applications now require some form of identi-

fication. Applications must include a GA Driver's License number or a GA ID Card number. If neither of these are available, the form lists other acceptable forms of identification.  ${f Q2.}$  In the past, other organizations (third party) could

mail out Absentee Ballot Applications. Can I get my official application from the same independent organization that I A2. Maybe. Third party applications must clearly and prominently disclose on the face of the form that "This is NOT an

any governmental entity," and "This is NOT a ballot." Third parties must also clearly state who is sending the application. Q3. In the past, my absentee ballot only required a signature. Has this changed?

official government publication and was NOT provided to you by

A3. NEW: Absentee ballots require the following information: Name, Date of Birth, Signature, and GA Driver's License number or GA ID number. If neither form of ID are available, the

See Paris, page 5A

#### Part 4

Hello there Musing Mates:

Previously I wrote about a program that my husband and I attended, and I thought that I would take the opportunity to write a parted series about the program, ahead of the game, as my husband and I venture off to Yellowstone.

As we spent much of Wednesday of the program looking at the past, Thursday was a look to the future. We identified a bucket



list and sorted through decks of cards with values on them, and then were asked to hone down the lists to the utmost important of each. Then came the hard part — we were asked to create an action plan to accomplish the items on the bucket list and embrace the values that we held most dear.

We spent two solid days taking a deep look at our lives, past, present, and future, ending the day by being asked, "What would you do to create a better life so you could write a better letter in the future?" So, I ask you, what would you

See Walters-Taylor, page 5A

**Struggling with Addiction** 

skyrocketed across the country. In the third week

of March 2020, sales of alcohol increased by

online increasing by 243%.

ing to The National Library of Medicine, 60%

of those surveyed reported an increase in daily

drinking. We at Narconon have also observed an

increase in career professionals who drank more

heavily after losing their careers due to local and

the most dangerous addictions. It leads to a wide

range of long-term medical problems which can

include jaundice, liver disease, kidney damage

and brain damage. To make matters worse, those

who are physically dependent upon alcohol can-

dependent upon alcohol, they can suffer from

very severe withdrawal symptoms such as trem-

ors, uncontrollable shaking, and seizures that

have the potential to be fatal. Because of this,

medical intervention is necessary to make with-

drawal from alcohol safe. You may have a friend

or member of your family you suspect of strug-

gling with alcohol addiction. If this is the case, it

is important you know how to spot the warning

signs of alcoholism. If you see a combination of

See Olson, page 5A

**Misinformation** 

"Vaccinations," has contributed to the misin-

formation being disseminated in this newspaper

about the COVID vaccination. He cites statistics

from Israel and the U.K. showing the vast major-

ity of patients in their hospitals being treated for

COVID have been fully vaccinated and the death

rate among the vaccinated is almost seven times

in North Georgia. Let's forget what is suppos-

edly happening in other countries and concen-

trate on the statistics in our country. The fact is,

throughout the nation, up to 90% of the COVID

patients flooding our hospitals are those who

newspaper which reported last week on the front

page "the vast majority of COVID inpatients

continues to be unvaccinated." The same article

informed us that "vaccination continues to offer

strong protection against severe illness and death from COVID-19." That's in stark contrast to

See **Meier**, page 5A

We don't need such fear mongering here

For proof, we need only refer to your

Another letter writer, under the heading

Physical alcohol dependency can be one of

Once an individual has become physically

government shutdowns.

not simply quit.

Dear Editor,

that of the unvaccinated.

have not been vaccinated.

At the onset of COVID-19, alcohol sales

#### Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

#### Life Chain Sunday

We would like to make sure that those who are interested are aware that on Sunday, Oct. 3, from 2-3 p.m. that The North Georgia Pro-Life Event is once again taking place at the intersection of Georgia 515 and US 129 around the Park

It's a Life Chain to draw attention to preserving life of the unborn children.

To participate, all that is necessary is to show up, be given a sign of your choice to hold up and stand — or bring a chair if standing is difficult — quietly off the sides of the roads. This is a peaceful and prayerful public witness.

This has been done for many years here and elsewhere.

See **Rashid**, page 5A

#### **Vaccination Is Safe**

#### Dear Editor,

Don't listen to lies, half-truths.

With 678,000 deaths and rising, COVID-19 is now the deadliest epidemic ever to hit the United States, surpassing the death toll of the 1918 flu, and indeed the combined U.S. military deaths in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf Wars and the Afghanistan War.

There is one overwhelming and grim reality: most of the COVID deaths could have been prevented, but America's fractured culture political, economic and personal — mainly See Grazis, page 5A

#### **Civic Responsibility**

#### Dear Editor,

I am not a writer, my eloquence is limited, and the intent here is to help not to hurt. In my opinion, we the majority of the people have a distaste for civic responsibility. We rather invest our time and effort constructing a life of comfort, while ignoring the greatest threats to the Coun-

We would look the other way and allow politicians to use the flag to secure a seat of their choice and commit crimes that we ignore. Face it, we vote for politicians that openly lie, steal and should be in jail instead of in Congress, Senate, State, County or City seats.

Let me qualify the last statement: we have some very good politicians, and it is your job to find them. The truth is that we treat politicians with greater latitude, and we groom them to become horrible leaders. We do not take our responsibilities seriously. We the majority of the people will be responsible for destroying

See Ramer, page 5A

#### Way in Yonder

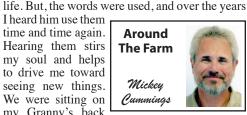
YES, THERE IS! A FALL WITHOUT

A NATIONAL

**ELECTION!** 

When I was a little boy, I heard my Uncle Bud say a phrase that has had a tremendous impact on my thinking. Most people will probably laugh at that this phrase and wonder why three little words would have an impact on anyone's

I heard him use them time and time again. Hearing them stirs my soul and helps to drive me toward seeing new things. We were sitting on



my Granny's back porch after sundown listening to the whippoorwills and other night sounds. There was no such thing as satellite or cable TV, and in the summertime, we practiced something that might be a novel idea today. We listened to the night sounds and to each other. Papa would tell stories of long ago, and Uncle Bud told tall tales.

After Papa finished talking about his old folks that came over here from Europe, and Uncle Bud finished talking about his Coon hounds, we heard a train blow its horn out toward Phil Campbell. I didn't know the distance to the train or exactly where it was located. So, I did exactly what a 6-year-old was supposed to do. I asked, "Where is that train?" My Uncle leaned back against a porch column and said, "Way in yonder," pointing toward the southwest. Then he began telling a story about a coon hunt over around Mississippi in which he had participated. Papa interrupted and stated that there was a petrified forest over in the area of which Bud was talking. To prove he wasn't telling a tale, he brought some rocks from his room which were layered just like the rings of a tree. That night I went to sleep with those words ringing in my ears. Now each time I travel to a new location to visit some natural attraction, I think of Uncle Bud and in my mind I hear, "Way in Yonder." I guess those words are the reason I love to ramble through the

As a teenager, a fellow which I greatly admired asked me to go with him to a place called the Cohutta Mountains. He and another fellow took a bunch of us boys to the Jack's River on a trout fishing expedition. Before we left I asked, "Where and how far was this place called the Cohutta Mountains?" Mr. Witt told me it was "way in yonder" and smiled. The time of year was fall, and I can remember stopping at a place to pick bunches of wild muscadines. We caught a few fish, but, what I remember most was the beauty of the Jack's River.

Next, our same group of boys and men traveled to the Cooper's Creek Wildlife Management Area. We all caught our limit of fish for three consecutive days. But, what I remember

See Cummings, page 5A

### Chamber of Commerce

I want to remind all Chamber members that it is time to check your contact information on the Chamber website. The 2022 Community Guide will be going to press very soon and we want to confirm that your information is current. To check your profile go to visitblairsvillega. com and click on Blairsville

the "Find a Busi-

This Friday we will host the 2nd Annual Sporting Clays at Noontootla

- Union County Steve Rowe

Creek Farm. We still have a few spots left for the afternoon flight so contact Randi today to reserve your spot. This year a portion of the proceed will go to the VFW to help fund their programs to as-

Be sure to save the date for our next Business After Hours on October 7th. This is always a great opportunity to network and meet fellow colleagues and business leaders in our community. We will be congratulating, again, our previous Business of the Quarter, Grandaddy Mimm's Distilling Co. and also announcing the new Busi-

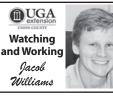
See Chamber, page 5A

#### Chrysanthemums

Chrysanthemums, also called mums, are the Queen of Fall Flowers. They can have gorgeous flowers each fall and bring a lot of color to the home this time of the year. There are several nurseries around here that grow beautiful mums. Let's talk about some of the properties of this

plant and what you could do to have mums in your yard.

Mums are a member of the daisy family (Asteraceae). This is one of the biggest families in



the plant kingdom with a wide variety of flowering plants. The mums was first cultivated in the 15th century B.C. in China. In the 8th century A.D. the mum made its way to Japan. They were so popular there that the mum became the official seal of the emperor. The mum was introduced to the Western world in 1753 by Karl Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist. Growers from ancient China would probably not recognize modern day mums due to the breeding that has given them more showy flowers. Chrysanthemum is also the source for an insecticide called pyrethrum. Because this insecticide is developed from a natural source it is considered an organic insecticide.

The easiest way to have blooming mums at your house each year will be to buy them in the fall from a local nursery. However, if you are interested in growing your own mums it is possible. There are many different varieties available, so talking with a local nursery will help you choose a variety that is acclimatized to our area. They do best when planted in the spring after the last frost. Planting in the spring will give them time to develop a root system so that the following winter they will be able to survive. Well drained soils with full sun are the best for growth. Mums need a slightly acidic soil with a

After planting fertilize mums with 5-10-5 fertilizer. The high phosphorus will assist root growth on mums. As the mum is growing in the summer pinching the tips of the mum will increase the amount of branching on the plant. More branching will lead to a fuller plant. Pinch the top half inch to full inch of the plant to encourage branching. Pinch every four to six weeks until August when the flower buds begin to ap-

Mums are relatively easy to take care of but there are a couple of diseases to look out for. Some of the most common diseases are powdery mildew, blight, leaf spot, and rust. These diseases are fairly easy to control either by fungicide applications or removing the infected leaves. Spider mites and aphids can be pests of mums. They can be controlled by insecticides but good cov-

See Williams, page 5A

### North Georgia News

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### Paris... continued from Page 4A

last 4 digits of the individual's Social Security Number will be

Q4. In the past, Union County made early voting drop boxes available outside on the front of the building. Will these drop boxes be available for this election?

A4. New legislation states that drop boxes are to be located at the early voting location, and they can only be available during early voting hours. Early (in person) voting is available Monday – Friday 9 AM – 5 PM three weeks prior to an election, as well as two (2) Saturdays 9 AM – 5 PM. **Q5. What is a Provi-**

sional Ballot?

A5. Provisional voting on a regular election day allows you to cast a ballot in person even if all the requirements

for doing so cannot be met at the time. The provisional ballot will count if the problem is solved within three days after Election Day. The three reasons for voting a provisional ballot are: 1. You are unable to show one of the required forms of photo ID when you vote in person; 2. When you first registered to vote in Georgia, you registered by mail, did not provide any identification at that time, and are unable to present acceptable identification the first time you vote in person; or 3. Your name does not appear on the list of registered voters in the precinct (out of precinct). A provisional ballot voted out of precinct will not be counted if voted before 5p.m. After 5p.m., an affidavit must be completed explaining why you are voting outside your precinct.

### Cummings... continued from Page 4A

most about this trip was that on one of the nights we were camping, a bear visited our camp. I don't think any of us boys slept the rest of the night.

A few years later found me and two friends in college at UGA. We took a trip to the Smoky Mountains and hiked on the Appalachian Trail. One evening, a bear interrupted supper, running us all into the shelter. But, what I remember most about this trip was sitting on a rock outcrop called Charlie's Bunion looking out over the vast Blue Ridge Mountains. Uncle Bud's words "Way in Yonder" rang in my ears as I watched the slowly sinking sun changing the sky to a beautiful pink color.

Early in my career I was fortunate to be able to take some time off to go antelope hunting in Wyoming. As my hunting partner and I sat on a ridge looking for antelope, I looked across the prairie and once again the words of my Uncle rang in my ears. We were there before daylight, and as we watched the sun come up, the place around us was indescribably beautiful.

Then my career brought me to Blairsville, where I began to take my sons, Will and Wade, on rambles through our mountains. We found all kinds of things of wonder out in the woods. One particular place I love and continue to go back to each year is a long lead coming off Slaughter Mountain. I have taken a few deer at this spot. However, the place is important to me not because of the deer, but, because it is the place where my sons and I used to hunt together. Getting there is not for the faint of heart. It is an hour's walk from the road and the terrain is steeper than a mule's face. I can remember my son telling one of his friends that the place was "Way in Yonder."

After my boys moved

away for their own rambles, I found others to ramble with around in the mountains. People like Harold Dyer and a host of others. Together we have found some glorious sites. We visited Lemon Gap and its ancient carvings, Spaniard's Mountain with its large Ash and Carolina Silverbell Trees, Fort Mountain and its old stone fort, Bower's Cove containing some gold mines, and Cass Mountain with its mica mines.

Another group of men which I ramble around are County Agents from all across the country. Fred Miller is from North Carolina. Henry Dorough is from Alabama, and Stan Moore is from Michigan. Through the years we have hiked 850 miles of the Appalachian Trail in Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Maine. Hiking in Maine is difficult, and climbing Mount Katahdin is the most difficult thing I've ever done. As I stood on top of the mountain, I looked toward Canada and again heard the words that have been driving me all these years.

A few years ago my son Will and I went on a jeeping trip to Yankee Boy Basin in Colorado. I have never been on a road at an altitude of 11,000 feet. At one beautiful spot we pulled over and parked. I got out of his Jeep to take pictures. As we gazed out over Colorado, I pointed at some golden colored aspen trees. They must have been 5-10 miles away. But, their colors were gorgeous. I said, "Look at those aspens, Way in Yonder." I realized that my Uncle had given me something with his words. He gave me a desire to see what was over the next mountain and a desire to see a big tree in some north facing cove.

Thanks, Uncle Bud! I love seeing what is "Way in

### Olson... continued from Page 4A

the following signs and symptoms, you should consider approaching them or facilitating

an intervention. Some signs of Alcoholism include: Money Problems; Decline in Personal Hygiene; Accidents; Drinking Early in the Day; Drinking Alone; Legal Problems; Irritability or Mood Swings; and Memory Loss.

In the event you know someone struggling with alcohol addiction, you should quickly get them into treatment.

Not only does alcoholism affect the person, it has a tremendously negative impact on their family, their friends, their place of work and even the wider community. Alcohol abuse results in emotional, financial, and in worst cases physical damage to those around the alcoholic. Drinking and driving is a common problem with alcoholics and puts those who live near an alcoholic in real danger.

If you have a loved one struggling with addiction, it is vitally important you get them help before something bad hap-

**Aaron Olson** Narconon New Life Retreat

#### **Grazis...** continued from Page 4A

delivered death rather than

Many lives would have been saved if the U.S. had only implemented basic public health protections until mass vaccine coverage was possible: mask mandates, physical distancing, testing-tracing-isolation procedures and closing large events. Once the vaccines arrived, continued use of precautionary actions would have helped to keep the virus at bay, as vaccines save lives but only partly prevent infections and transmission.

The lies/half-truths/ conspiracy theories cited by a letter writer in last week's North Georgia News - Israel vaccination hospitalizations mistruths, U.K. Oxford study lies, and spike protein vaccination lies — are just political conspiracy theories designed to create fear.

I am not gullible, as I was accused of. I worked 35 years in the medical field and depend on facts and science for the truth. You should, too! Vaccinate now!

Jim Grazis, CRT, RPSGT

## Rashid...

#### continued from Page 4A

It is sad each year how many folks tell us after the fact that they would have liked to have participated but were unaware of this event.

Numerous local church congregations and their pastors are getting the word out and plan on attending.

There are flyers posted all over town, so keep your eyes open if you need additional details. Please join us in this hour of support for the sanctity of life.

Look forward to seeing you there, rain or shine. Carol & Roger Rashid

#### continued from Page 4A do? I thought I had it figured out; I keep changing mine.

Walters-Taylor...

See you next week. Until then, I bid you, "At Ease!"

## Dyer...

#### continued from Page 4A

citizens of Union County and his employees. He was more than just a chief or a director; he was a mentor, a leader, and a friend. We can only hope to reach such heights. He will be greatly missed.

Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

### Chamber... continued from Page 4A

ness of the Quarter. This Business After Hours will be dutch treat and we hope you will join us form 5-7 PM.

There has been some confusion regarding the 52nd Blairsville Sorghum Festival so I wanted to let everyone know that the festival will be held this year. As in the past, the festival will be held the 2nd and 3rd weekends in October. The parade and the square dance has been cancelled but the festival

The Chamber is hosting a Board training secession on November 16th for all nonprofit boards. If you are interested in having your board attend, please contact crystal@ blairsvillechamber.com.

And please don't forget to thank our health care workers for the hard work and long hours. Union General Hospital and all of our health care providers are working to keep our

#### Fowler...

#### continued from Page 4A

Him forever." Taken together, these mean you find fruitful purpose by abiding in Christ. That glorifies God and brings joy into your life.

Looking over his life Keith concludes, "God has used dance, he's used Ballet Magnificat, he's used David and the Giants to change people's lives, through what the Holy Spirit does through us. It's all about Jesus." If "Little Ricky" can find purpose, so can you.

#### Williams...

#### continued from Page 4A

erage of the plant is necessary to control these pests. Spider mites and aphids are capable of population explosions in a very short amount of time, therefore make sure that you completely cover the top and bottom of the leaves when spraying for these

If you have questions about growing mums please contact your local Extension Office. Or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

#### Meier...

#### continued from Page 4A

what your letter writer reported is happening in Israel and the

Not to stop there, another article in your newspaper featured Dr. Samuel "Le" Church, one of the area's experts concerning the COVID. Dr. Church is quoted as saying "Most of those hospitalized related to COVID are unvaccinated folks.'

The letter writer, who is so opposed to getting vaccinated based on statistics from other countries, concluded his letter by stating: "And I will NOT be getting the jab." I suggest he get responsible and get the jab so he won't be taking up precious hospital space should he get the COVID.

Gary W. Meier Young Harris

### Kamer...

continued from Page 4A the Country. Until we put the shoulder to the wheel, our socalled leaders will reflect our lack of investment, ignorance

and cowardice. We talk about minds and hearts. Go along to get along. We have to step up and battle to prevent the destruction of the United States. It is about time to look for the truth. Commit to get this thing turned around and live up to our civic responsibility. Let go of flawed political allegiances and pledge support

to reason and excellence. Let us work to become the exceptional citizens that we

once were. Oscar Ramer

#### **Historical Society's Brick Walk**

To show our appreciation 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 one.



#### **Union County Schools** Virtual Title I **Annual Meeting**

9/30/2021 at 4:00 PM 10/1/2021 at 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM Join with ZOOM https://ucschools.zoom.us/j/ 85710595445pwd=MVluVH Jubm51K2N0VVVczRDR0d

GUT09

community safe and healthy. If you have not been vaccinated please check with your health care provider to see if it may be

the thing to do for you. It's Fall and that means the leaves will be changing soon and that cool breeze is in the air. That also means it's time for football, and watching football is always better in