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ing each call with a vehicle and assistance. The volunteer Fire Department members in Suches were on the scene with a small child hit by a falling limb, providing quick medical assistance, and they summoned the Union General Hospital Helicopter (AirLife) who was in flight quickly to the scene. This is just an example of how blessed we are in Union County to have all the public safety and medical people in place. They are well trained and available to offer any of our residents or visitors professional emergency medical assistance. Without property taxes, which I usually do not talk about, this kind of service would be impossible.

Q. Does Union County Government operate the ambulance service?

A. No. The Ambulance Service is operated by Union General Hospital but in full cooperation with the Union County Fire Department. Our firemen go on call with any emergency requesting assistance and they automatically respond to every vehicle accident with injuries, as do our deputies and policemen. So of-

ten you will see a Union County Fire Department red SUV following or just ahead of an ambulance going through town on an emergency call.

Q. How many people does it take to operate our emergency services system?

A. It is different with each entity. Union General Hospital Ambulance Service runs four ambulances with two employees per ambulance during the day and usually three at night. However, if needed, more can be added in an extreme emergency. The Union County Fire Department has 4 firemen on duty, 24/7, in addition to our Chief, Captain and Administrative Assistant. Then our E911 system has a Director, Mapping Director, and normally two dispatchers on duty 24/7, and occasionally a third dispatcher when needed. Then the AirLife Helicopter Service at Union General Hospital has a total of 14 employees directly and administratively supporting their system. Then as backup to all of this is the Sheriff Department, the Police Department, and when needed, the Road Department.

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ing of fields and roadways, and their constant appetite and need to chew can cause excessive damage to valuable trees, shrubs, and crops. Beaver activity can also damage man-made ponds as they make dens in the banks.

If beavers are damaging your property, the most cost effective and long term solution is exclusion. A sturdy fence will deter beavers from entering and destroying your land, as well as keep out other

pest animals. If the damage is on a large scale, then you can use a drainage device designed by Clemson University, though this is costly and labor intensive. Finally, if exclusion does not work, contact a professional, such as a licensed trapper, to remove them from your property. However, it is still important to take preventative measures after the beavers have been removed to ensure they do not return to damage your property.

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to a mutual understanding. They decided they would just disagree on the matter of politics. In the matter of politics my family has been split ever since that day. Clifford's wife was a Franks and that family was also devoted to the republican side of politics. Uncle Luther Franks owned a store which my grandfather frequently used to purchase gas for his automobile.

Dad and Uncle Bud loved to pick on Uncle Luther about his politics. After Papa filled his truck with gas Uncle Luther would stand by the truck and wave at the family when the truck left the old country store. Dad and his brother would always ride on

the bed of the truck and as the truck left the store Dad would always holler out, "Luther Franks looks just like Harry Truman". Uncle Luther would always respond by tossing a rock at the old farm truck as it traveled down the road toward Phil Campbell. He was too weak to heave the rock very far. However, the two little boys always got a kick out of watching the old man's reaction to their name calling. Now Dad looks back with fond memories concerning those presidential politics of yesteryear. As for myself I believe that voting is important and should be cherished.

It doesn't matter how you vote as long as you vote.

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cap that read WWII Veteran and displayed the branch of the service that he had a privilege to be a part of. Just in case you were wondering; he was in the Navy.

I enjoy seeing Veterans show pride in their service by wearing clothing that depicts their chosen branch of service as well as the time period when they were active duty. It is a great way people can reach out to them and thank them for their service.

Stephen and I have done that a lot over the years and have taught our two sons to do the same. Not once did we have a Veteran brush it off, but every time they respond back with a very heartfelt "thank you". Sometimes they would further respond, with great humility, "it was my honor to serve and if I had it to do all over again, I would." To me that speaks volumes of the heart of these brave men and women and uniform.

I believe to serve in different professions it takes a special individual such as in Health Care, Teaching, etc.. it is a calling. I feel the same about those that serve our country. To their core, their mission is simple, to protect and defend the United States of America. Without them, where

would we be? We would not have the personal freedoms and liberties that we do today. Remember never to take those for granted. For some, it cost them dearly and they have visible wounds, others internal wounds that cannot be seen from the outside and for others they paid the ultimate price for freedom with their own lives.

The next time you are out and about around town and you see someone proudly wearing a hat displaying that they are a Veteran, be sure to thank them. I know it means a lot to them and it is a small way we can give back for all that they have done for us.

I would encourage you that if you are able to make it to Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium on Thursday morning November 10th at 10am, there is a very special community program that you will not want to miss. Each year, the Union County School system honors our Veterans. The High School and Middle School Bands play alongside the Chorus groups. Last year, it was the most powerful Veteran's Ceremony I had ever seen. Thank you to those who work so hard to prepare for this event and to all the students who come out to show their support.

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is equally bad? Absolutely.

In addition to your physical health, you also need to consider your mental health. Any drug that has psychoactive effects can create psychological dependence. And whether you know it or not, psychological dependence is harder to break than physical dependence.

Your time in school should be a time marked by learning new things and gaining new experiences. You don't need the experiences related to the drug and alcohol culture. If you already have a problem that you are trying to deal with, ask your family or a close friend for help.

If you go away to college, it will be as much about experiencing your first taste of freedom as it is about pre-

paring for your career. For many young adults, going to college is the first opportunity they have to live away from their parents. It can all be very exciting. Yet this new freedom also means being suddenly faced with a lot of unfamiliar choices, some involving the temptation to use alcohol and drugs.

If you haven't already been faced with such choices, you will be at some point in your school career. We want you to be prepared so that you make good choices. We hope you will take the time to educate yourself about drug and alcohol abuse, including facing the reality of how harmful substance abuse can be to you and your future.

Sincerely, Your Family,
Your Friends and
Your Community

Fowler...

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believes about the Triune God are two different things. All religions, at best, are superficially similar, but they are fundamentally different." The song responds with, "How many paths to God? If it's one I'm taking my steps. We are all on a journey together, and I know that there's a God out there that can make my eternity better."

The next time your stopped car vibrates at a red light, the culprit could be truth. Chanted loudly! A small price to pay if it changes lives. Mr. Lambert is convening a meeting soon to introduce other artists to Dr. Zacharias. If that begins to transform the hip hop community with truthful answers, America will be a better place, a reason to hope!

Riley ...

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to prepare our property before a fire approaches so it can resist a fire.

If you are in a situation where a wildfire is approaching and you decide (or must) shelter-in-place and ride out the storm, there are steps that you can take to prepare to survive the fire. 1. Call for help - Use a cell phone if your electrical power has been interrupted. 2. Close all entrances, windows and other openings - This includes doors, garage doors, windows, vents and any other entrances to your residence or garage. Close shutters, heavy drapes, Venetian blinds or other window coverings. This action is recommended to prevent sparks from blowing inside your house and igniting there. 3. Have tools & water accessible - Have a shovel, rake and long water hose accessible. Fill buckets and other bulk containers with water. 4. Dress to protect yourself - Wear cotton/woolen clothing including long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves and a handkerchief to protect your face. 5. Wet down the roof - If your roof is combustible, wet it down with a hose. Place the ladder you use for this task on the side of the roof opposite the fire. 6. Turn off residential fuel - If you use natural gas or propane, turn it off at the tank or the meter. 7. Prepare automobiles - Back as many vehicles as possible into the garage. Then close the garage door. In the event you evacuate, close the garage door behind you as you leave. If you do not have a garage or if the garage is full, park vehicles so they are heading in the direction of the evacuation route. 8. Evacuate the family - If evacuation becomes necessary, take your family and pets to a safe location as soon and as quickly as possible. You can't save your home with the tools most homeowners have so get out of the way and let the professionals get in and do their job without having to deal with you. Keep your eyes, nose and ears open for changing conditions and if you suspect somethings not right, call 911 and leave the area.

For more information on the wildfire situation, contact the local Georgia Forestry Commission office, the US Forest Service or Frank Riley, Executive Director Chestatee/Chattahoochee RCD Council at info.ccred@gmail.com.

Dyer ...

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The last tips are to have a disaster plan and make room for emergency access before wildfire may affect you. You should have a plan that addresses when to leave, how to leave and how to contact your family. Emergency go kits are also a good idea. Last, make sure that there is access for emergency vehicles to get to your home. These are just a few tips for this rare and dangerous wildfire season.

~Union County Fire
Department - Our Family
Protecting Your Family~

Shearer ...

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treatment process that's safe, effective, economical, and easy enough for most property owners to do themselves. Volunteers can also help save the hemlocks on our public lands.

So if you're truly grateful for our beautiful natural surroundings and want to do something to help preserve them now and for the future, please come to a training class taught by Save Georgia's Hemlocks from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 12 in Dahlonega and Hiwassee. To register, email donna@save-georgiashemlocks.org or call 706-429-8010. And thanks!

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Shearer