



Mickey Cummings & Kristy Peney

Meet Me at the Market

We are making plans for the week of June 25th to have a dessert contest at the Union County Farmers Market. If you make a good dessert please bring it to the Farmers Market between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Beginning at 10:30 the desserts will be placed in the Canning Plant where the public will be able to try them. If the person tasting the treat likes it they can place money in a bucket in front of the treat. At noon the money will be counted and the treat with the most money in the bucket will win a prize. All the money collected will be presented to the Relay For Life and American Cancer Society.

Today, let's introduce to you 4 more of our vendors. First, we'll talk about Two Crows Farm which is owned and operated by Michael and Beverly Woody Ham. Beverly's family is from the Skenah Gap area of Fannin County and she has always dreamt of coming back home to live in the area. So, in 2010 the land was purchased in the Hanging Dog Valley where the family began raising alpacas. The farm consists of 29 acres, 39 alpacas, 4 llamas and 3 Great Pyrenees livestock guard dogs.

Two Crows Farm sells and shows their alpacas, however, their primary focus is their fiber. Alpaca fiber does not contain lanolin, it has superior wicking ability, it is comparable to merino wool and cashmere in softness, also, it provides more warmth and less bulk than merino or cashmere. So, come meet her at the market in space 16 and look at her alpaca fiber products.

Crooked Creek Farms is owned and operated by Gerry and Shelia Ruud along with their daughters Allison Caldwell and Darcie Pritchett. Their family has been in this area for more than 60 years. Shelia learned to make soap from her great grandmother. Shelia says, "She cooked it outside in a big black pot".

After their retirement the couple purchased a small herd of Nubian Goats from which Shelia's soaps are made. She cooks her products in a soap kitchen using a "hot process" turning the product into a gel state. This process forces the lye out of the

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Thanks Dad!

For what does your father deserve your gratitude? Maybe the stories of two fathers whose lives and times are told in the Bible will seed your thinking on the question.

Noah was a man who walked with God. He was righteous and blameless. God chose him to save the human race by building an ark to float out the great flood. His three sons were part of the great endeavor of building the ark. With their wives, they entered the ark and witnessed God closing the door behind them. It was Noah's obedience that protected his family from the flood. After the flood, the sons tried to protect the father from an embarrassing incident, which you can read for yourself. (Gen. 6-9)

This father believed and lived in a way that was contrary to the culture around him. He was willing to obey God even when it seemed counter-intuitive. He spent time with his sons, and modeled a life of hard work and determination. He wasn't perfect, but he held the respect of his sons. They had much to be thankful for in their father: his courage, character, and faith.

The Apostle Paul claimed Onesimus as his son. During one of Paul's inconvenient stays at government accommodations, he came to know this young runaway. Paul, writing to Philemon to take him back, called him "my very heart." It was a sacrifice to send him back since he had helped Paul during his imprisonment. He offered to pay any damages his adopted son had caused.

This father figure was transparent about his love for his son in the Lord. He emphasized that the young man had done right, though he had done a great wrong. He offered to help his son make restitution and learn from his mistakes. Onesimus had reason to be thankful for a mentor who loved and encouraged him. (Phil. 1:10-20)

I hope you can be grateful for your father or father figure. It is a courageous man who takes up the challenge of providing for, and mentoring a son or daughter. If you still have the opportunity, consider offering him more than just a Happy Father's Day! wish, and tell him some specific reasons you are thankful. That should make his day happy without you having to wish for it. And if he's gone, remember him with gratitude.

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q. We have seen a lot of paving going on throughout the county this year. Can you tell us why some roads are resurfaced and some are not?

A. Sometimes if we post a list of road projects, I have some people that get upset because their road is not listed and I can understand that. But road work is not done politically, but is done based on need. If we are resurfacing a road but did not get yours done, it simply means the others were in worse condition or there was not enough money to do them all and yours will be the following year. Financially, we can only do so many roads each year for resurfacing and new paving. I think we get more work done than any other rural county in Georgia and our road system is exceptional, especially if you compare us to other rural counties.

Q. How does the county pay for the resurfacing of county roads?

A. The county applies for and usually receives LMIG (Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant) assistance from the Georgia Department of Transportation. It is a match grant with the state paying 70% and the county paying 30%. We always come up with the money to make sure we can receive all that is available to us through the LMIG grant. This funding is used to resurface our main roads and is usually in the \$400,000 range. We have heard that there is a possibility that because of the transportation funding bill that was passed by our Legislature last year we may be eligible for some additional LMIG money later in the summer or by next spring at the latest. So we will keep our fingers crossed.

Q. Can you print a list of roads that will be resurfaced this year?

A. Yes. This year the following roads are either already resurfaced or will soon be. We have already listed the new "surface treatment" paved roads, so here we will list the Asphalt resurfacing. This means that on older paved road, either surface treatment or asphalt, will have a new layer of asphalt, usually 1 1/4" to 1 1/2" thick unless required thicker because of a rough subsurface. The roads with the mileage to be paved include: Hidden Lake - 1.387, Blue Ridge Highway from the Park and Ride to Brook-

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Youth Perception of Marijuana Harm Decreases as Potency Increases

Although marijuana use among youth poses a risk to health, nationally only 1 in 5 adolescents perceived it as such. According to SAMHSA's 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, this misperception among youth exists at a time when marijuana concentrates continue to become more potent, which is cause for public concern. This demonstrates the need to educate young people about various forms of marijuana and their related health consequences and harms.

The mission of the Union County Anti-Drug Coalition is to support an overall safe community by providing information, education and support services to children, families and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse.

According to SAMHSA's Short Report, "State Estimates of Adolescent Marijuana Use and Perceptions of Risk of Harm from Marijuana Use: 2013 and 2014," in the 12 to 17 age group, approximately 1.8 million youth reported using marijuana in the past month. Health risks associated with youth marijuana use include poorer education/employment outcomes, cognitive problems, increased likelihood of vehicle crashes, and increased addiction risk.

The Drug Enforcement Agency describes marijuana concentrate as a substance containing highly potent THC (tetrahydrocannabinol, the psychoactive component of marijuana). This concentrate is often referred to as oil or "710" ("OIL" spelled upside down and backwards). THC levels in this oil could range from 40 to 80 percent, which is about four times stronger than what is found in a "high grade" marijuana plant.

Using marijuana concentrates is different from smoking marijuana in several ways. Oil is harder to detect. When marijuana is smoked it causes a distinctive smell. But when oil from the marijuana plant is extracted and concentrated, it is odorless, making it harder to detect, for example, in e-cigarettes or foods. Because of this particular characteristic, it could be harder for parents, teachers, and law enforcement to know when marijuana is being used.

Street names for cannabis extracts and oils are: Hash Oil, Butane Honey Oil (BHO), Shatter, Dabs, Honeycomb, Honey Oil, Budder, Crumble, Sap, Ear Wax, Black Glass, Erll, 710 ("OIL" spelled upside down and backwards).

Oil can be mixed into other products. Oil is also sometimes mixed with other drugs including alcohol, cocaine, methamphetamine, and phen-cyclidine (PCP), creating an even stronger psychoactive response. It is also commonly added to sweet drinks and foods like brownies that appeal

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Letters to the Editor...

Jefferson Bible

Dear Editor,

I had never heard of the Jefferson Bible before so I looked it up. Wikipedia said, "Thomas Jefferson in his later years constructed this book by cutting and pasting with razor and glue numerous sections of the New Testament." I will personally stick with my Genesis to Revelations Bible inspired by God that has lasted for over 2,000 years.

Mr. Parks (no relation) doesn't believe in miracles. Sad! I would encourage Mr. Parks to read some of the early Christian writers from the first and second century like Justin Martyr, Ignatius of Antioch, Clement of Rome, Augustine and there are many more. Also there is a book called *The Didache*, means teaching which gives instructions from the apostles on how to teach people to become a Christian, written between 65-80 AD.

Mr. Parks, you are a miracle and I am a miracle. They happen every day and I DO believe. God bless you.

Anne Parks



Vacation Fire Safety

People do not think about fire safety until a fire happens; especially on vacation. When you are on a vacation, whether it be the beach, a mountain cabin, or a trip, you want to relax and enjoy the time with family. Fire safety is probably the last thing on your mind. Union County Fire Department would like to remind everyone of fire safety while on vacation and we ask that you take a few minutes to ensure the safety of you and your family.

One of the first things that you can do about vacation fire safety is to get a vehicle fire extinguisher. This is not only a good practice for long trips but also for every day travel. You never know when you may have a car fire or if you come upon another driver with a car fire. The fire extinguisher should be automobile rated and secured in the proper place. In the event of a fire, it can be used to put out a small fire before it becomes a large fire and engulfs the entire vehicle. There may also be times where you are on a long stretch of highway and it takes the fire department a longer amount of time to get to the car fire.

Once you have safely reached your destination, take a few minutes after you are settled to check the fire safety of the building, cabin or home. Hotels and motels have sprinkler systems. Make sure the sprinklers are not blocked or covered. Know the locations of the fire extinguishers and check the room to ensure that there are smoke alarms. When at an unfamiliar place, have an escape plan and a meeting place in case there is an evacuation of the hotel or building or in the event that the family is in different areas of the building and do not have their cell phones.

If you are staying in a cabin or vacation home, make sure everyone knows the locations of fire extinguishers. Test the smoke alarms and replace batteries if needed. As you would do in your own home, have an escape plan with two ways out of the home. Create a meeting place outside in the event of a fire. Know the emergency numbers for the area. There are still places where there is no 911 system. Also know the address and directions to your location so units know where to find you.

Vacation homes and cabins usually have cooking areas and heating that may operate differently from your home units. You should educate yourself on the operation of the stove and the heating units and/or fire places. Make sure that they are operating properly and that the stove is turned off when you leave the home. The same advice can be applied to outside grills.

Fire safety is always important. While on vacation, take a few minutes to review fire safety to ensure a happy and safe vacation. Union County Fire Department

~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief

David Dyer



Moms and Dads

Many times I wonder if kids really know how much their folks love them. I believe a child really doesn't know until they have a child of their own. For example, I remember when my sons were in high school and began driving. Each night they were gone out I could never sleep until I knew they were safe at home. When the boys came home and found I was still up they seemed to be amazed. As I sit here writing this column I am reminded of the extent of my parents' love for me because of events in my life. The first of which happened when I was less than 5 months old.

We lived in an old clap board house 1/4 mile down the road from my Papa and Granny Cummings. I was told it was cold out and our only source of heat was an old wood burning, pot-bellied stove. We didn't have electricity or running water in the house. Mom and Dad were worried I would freeze, so, I slept with them in double bed which was pushed over to one wall in a tiny bedroom. I didn't cry much so the sound of me crying in the middle of the night immediately awoke my mother.

She told me that upon awakening she was confused because I sounded far away. She reached for me and I was not where I should've been. She searched frantically to no avail and shook Dad awake. She told him that someone had stole her baby. Dad jumped from the bed and retrieved his 16 gauge shotgun. It is a good thing we lived in the country because Dad ran outside wearing nothing but his drawers. If anyone had been on our road he would've filled them with bird shot. Dad ran around our house 3 times before Mom could stop him. Finally, she explained that I had been found caught between the wall and the edge of the bed. Dad said, "Nobody was going to get my boy".

A year later found our family living in Chicago, Illinois. You know I was 15 before I realized Chicago didn't have an "r" in it's spelling. Anyway, I was still on the bottle and my Dad took me to a Chicago White Sox baseball game. He said that I kept pointing at something as though I wanted it. But, he couldn't figure out what I was asking. Plus the fact he was intent upon the game. So, I got mad and threw my bottle. It hit the biggest man my Dad had ever seen right in the back of the head. Dad said, "I realized what had happened. So, when the man turned and looked at us I looked behind us and upward". The man looked up and Dad said, "Man people are throwing everything from that upper deck". How do you punish a kid who isn't even 16 months old? I went to many more baseball games, but, I never had another bottle.

When I was in the 6th grade I began to notice the clothing other kids were wearing. A cou-

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Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Fourth of July Fireworks Show

Summer is finally here and everyone is enjoying the many outdoor activities our area has to offer. One of the highlights of this season is the 4th of July Fireworks show which is held at Meek's Park each year. The date for this year's event has been confirmed for the evening of Monday, July 4th. While most residents of Union County are familiar with the show, some may not be aware that the event is organized and paid for by the Chamber of Commerce.

Blairsville - Union County Chamber Regina Allison



As in past years, the Chamber is again offering chances to win \$1000 by making a \$10 donation toward the fireworks display. The winner will be drawn on the evening of July 4th, and does not have to be present to win. Tickets are available from Chamber Board Members, Chamber Ambassadors and at the Chamber office in the Union County Community Center. Volunteers will also have tickets on hand Saturdays at the Farmer's Market and at Meek's Park the evening of the 4th. You can also log onto the Chamber's website at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com. Please consider a donation that will ensure the continuation of such a great show in Blairsville.

The Chamber would like to say a special thank you to Woodmen of the World, a not for profit organization offering a variety of insurance and investment options, who is sponsoring this year's event. We also want to thank the Union County Commissioner's Office, Union County Sheriff's Office, Union County Fire Department and Union County Recreation Department for

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Voles

Many of you have started to notice holes in the ground throughout your flower beds and vegetable gardens. While I have already written about one potential culprit (moles), it is important to understand the second possible pest: voles. While moles are typically pests in the lawn, they do not eat plant material. Voles, however, are notorious for destroying entire root systems of plants and sometimes whole gardens. It is important to catch them quickly before their populations increase and make sure they do not reestablish.

Also known as "meadow mice," voles are small mammals that range in size from two to five inches and only weigh about two ounces when they are fully grown. They are not actually mice, and you can tell the difference between the two because voles have short tails, short legs, and partially hidden ears. In their natural environment, they are important food sources for predators such as owls, foxes, hawks and snakes. The lifespan of these little pests is only about two months in the wild, but they can do an extensive amount of damage in that time.

Voles eat a variety of plants, such as legumes, grasses, ornamental shrubs, and even the bark of some trees. They prefer to gnaw on roots, especially bulbs, but have been known to graze on other parts of plants. Even when they do not eat enough of a root system to kill crops, damaged plants become weak and susceptible to many fungal and bacterial infections. Unlike moles, voles typically live in colonies which is why there can be so many of them in such a short amount of time. There are typically several main chambers, or dens, in their colony and they are connected by a vast network of underground tunnels. Voles also create several exit tunnels they use when they come to the surface to graze on seeds and grains. These exits are the holes that we see throughout gardens and are the best location to target when trying to control voles that have run rampant.

Though vole and mole repellants are easy

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UGA extension From the Ground Up

Melissa Mattee



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