

Paris... continued from Page 4A

should be screened because of the potential negative impact they can have on not just the neighboring property, but on anyone driving by or seeing them from a distance.

A simple test for any of these ordinances is as follows. Imagine a billboard stuck up just across from your home with a light shining in your eyes every night. Imagine an RV Park next door to your home. Finally, imagine a junkyard right next to your yard. While there are a few who may not mind, you will find that the vast majority of the public concurs with these types of ordinances. That is why state law has determined they are appropriate and legal.

Is limiting the location of where these can be built taking away some of your property rights? Yes, to some extent it is, but whose property rights are more valuable, yours, your neighbors', or the general public? State law says the public's rights are paramount in many instances.

Q. Do you enjoy adopting these ordinances?

A. Absolutely NOT!! Adopting ordinances are hard decisions to make and they

require hours and hours of research, reading, and legal advice. However, in a growing community, they are occasionally necessary. By instituting some of these special ordinances, we are making every effort to stay away from zoning. If you want to talk about losing property rights, then try to comply with the zoning regulations that many other counties have. I am against outright zoning in Union County, but to prevent it in the future, we must all be considerate of how what we do with our property impacts the public – including your neighbor.

Often, the high price of property makes many of these considerations difficult to make and private property ownership MUST maintain its privileges and rights. The public should not take these measures to the extreme and begin to think that they should control other people's property just because they do not like what they are doing with it.

Bottom line: do only to your neighbor as you would have them do unto you. If this thought process was always followed, we would never need any more ordinances.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

bags smelled to the high heavens. As Annie stared at the bag, a panic began to well up inside of her. She reached into the washer and smelled of the other garments. Her husband had overalls in this wash as well as her sons. Annie sat on the steps of her back porch and began to cry. There were four other pairs of overalls in her washing machine, and each pair smelled terrible. She washed everything in the machine four times to no avail. She had to burn all the clothing in her washer, and it took another five rinses to rid the machine of the smell.

Twenty years prior to this event an influenza epidemic swept through the eastern United States, and many people died as a result. In the graveyard at the 1st Baptist Church of Phil Campbell, Alabama, there are graves of twin sisters, my Papa's aunts. These young ladies died during their teens as a result of influenza. You can find many graves like this spread throughout Appalachia. During the 1920s-50s, parents were desperate to ward off disease. As a result, these aspidi-ty bags became very popular. Dad told me that his mother made him and his brother wear them every day during the winter and early spring.

Granny sent her sons to school wearing these stinking bags. But, they weren't the only ones. Granny had Paul and Bud wearing bags filled

with Fennel, Ginseng and Goldenseal. Paul said, "The smell of the stuff would cause me to become nauseous." One day while riding the bus, one of the boys hit on a good idea. Dad told me, "Tucker suggested we tell our parents the older boys ripped them bags off our necks and threw them out the window."

Tucker, Paul, Bud, William, Jimmy and the rest of the bunch of 10-year-olds from Trapptown School House threw away their aspidi-ty bags and continued to do so until warm weather came to North Alabama. Nobody ever suspected they were telling a story because they all said the same thing, and I know some of the older boys got whippings because their folks thought they were picking on the smaller boys. All their teachers really appreciated those young boys not wearing their aspidi-ty bags to school.

The bags may not have had any effect upon the micro-organisms which caused the disease. However, the aspidi-ty smelled terrible, which kept others from getting within 10 feet of anyone wearing the bags. So, in a way the stench of the aspidi-ty bags did prevent the spread of disease. Maybe this information should be sent to the CDC, which might decide that aspidi-ty bags could be a way of ensuring people practice proper social distancing.

Chavis... continued from Page 4A

unpatriotic for simply taking a knee in silent protest. For those who wonder why we need to be reminded that there is such disparity, that Blacks are treated differently by law enforcement, compare the shooting of Jacob Blake (one Black man causing a ruckus) who was shot in the back seven times by a Kenosha, Wisconsin, police officer for allegedly having a knife – compare that to the handling of the violent mob by police officers at our Na-

tion's Capital.

The anarchy and seditious insurrection at our capital and the way it was handled by law enforcement made it painfully yet abundantly clear that certain Americans are, in fact, allowed to violently protest, to wreak havoc, to desecrate and denigrate the American flag freely, with little or no repercussions from law enforcement – as long as they are the right color.

Jan Chavis

Combs... continued from Page 4A

Lord, you can know without a shadow of doubt you will be headed to heaven some sweet day.

It doesn't matter who you are, whether you be in the White House or a CEO in the biggest company possible, or on the Supreme Court or washing dishes in a diner, even the vilest of sinners can come as they are and receive this precious gift of eternal life with God. Millions have come to Christ down through the ages

of time by faith in a living Savior and sadly millions more have rejected Christ and have chosen to be totally separated from their Creator, God.

Don't make the worst mistake in your entire life and die without Jesus Christ, the Son of God, for there is no hope for one who chooses to walk away from the only source of eternal life with Christ in heaven. Make this New Year special and make a commitment to follow Jesus and accept His free gift of salvation. He died for you and He wants so much for all to come as you are and let Him change your life for the better, a life worth the living in heaven with Jesus Christ, your Lord and Savior of the world.

Frank F. Combs

Union County Historical Society 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. The Historical Society is a nonprofit funded primarily through memberships and donations.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

now be postponed. Among the many deserving, we were especially looking forward to honoring our Business of the Year and our Person of the Year. Both have stood out in our community in heroic and resilient ways this past year.

Other community organizations including businesses and churches are reassessing and revamping what they are doing as we prioritize health and safety above the bottom line. Our schools, educators, hospital, medical staff, doctors, and EMS are operating at their

maximum, and we must absolutely stand behind them with support and prayers during this time. Please show patience and support to our small businesses as they attempt to offer services in a distanced manner.

These are the days when we count our outdoors among our highest blessings. Distanced hiking, and long, slow drives down our winding country roads are life-giving, safe past times we can all still enjoy. Be encouraged. Progress is coming. Access to the vaccine

Fowler...

continued from Page 4A

fear or coercion. Offer refuge and truth to those damaged by cultural lies. Forgive those who would cancel you because you do not live by those same lies. "I will rejoice in the God of my salvation (not in this rising ideology). The Lord God is my strength" (Hab. 3:18-19).

When enough people demanded truth and liberation in Eastern Europe, communism collapsed. History shows that the followers of Christ and his gospel outlasted it. As history reveals, the dark secrets of any modern ideology cannot remain hidden from the light of God's revealed truth. Side with your Creator and you will be on the right side of history.

Williams...

continued from Page 4A

This is where the uranium that decays to radon can be found at higher levels. If you don't know whether there is radon in your well water, have the water tested. The UGA Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratories in Athens test water samples for the presence of radon. To get a water testing kit, contact your County Extension office. We sell the radon in water test kits for \$40.

Radon is a real and serious issue in our area. If you have questions about radon contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Dyer...

continued from Page 4A

the E911 dispatch center (10% of the grade); the water departments, (40% of the grade); and the fire department, (50% of the grade).

The E911 dispatch center is evaluated for the dispatch equipment, the operations, and training. The water departments are evaluated on the number of hydrants, water pipes, supply, and usage.

The fire department is evaluated on apparatus, equipment, training, station placement, response, and personnel on scene of structure fires. All of these factors determine the ability of the community to respond to fires according to ISO.

Union County was last surveyed by ISO in August of 2015. Union County's PPC™ class was lowered from a 6/9 to a 4/4Y. Thus, improving the ISO rating and lowering insurance rates for some.

We received our 4/4Y rating from our last survey by 0.04 of a point. Any slight variation could drop our rating to a 5/5Y. The department evaluated the last survey. From that evaluation, the E911 center and the fire department has upgraded equipment and put in place certain procedures in order to maintain or improve our current rating.

In December, the department received word from ISO stating that Union County is being surveyed at the beginning of 2021.

The E911 center, the water departments, and the fire department have been working diligently to gather information for this most recent survey. The survey should be completed in January and the results should be posted sometime this spring.

We are hopeful that our improvements and hard work from all departments can maintain Union County's 4/4Y rating.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Stevens...

continued from Page 4A

believe in the process of fair elections and are dedicated to seeing that all persons who are registered and eligible to vote get that opportunity.

These women and men are our hometown heroes and deserve a big THANK YOU for the time and dedication they have shown.

Libby Stevens,
Board of Elections Chair

is just around the bend. We'll overcome as we always do, and when we do, our beautiful North Georgia Mountains will

still be standing sentinel over our wonderful community. God bless you all, Blairsville-Union County, and stay safe.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



January 2, 2021
In memory of **Virginia B. Meeks**
on her birthday
By: Terry & Ginger Meeks

January 21, 2021
In memory of **Dolly C. Meeks**
on the anniversary of her death
By: Terry & Ginger Meeks

Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493