

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Summer Safety

Summer is my favorite time of the year. It's warm; the kids are out of school; and it's time to enjoy some outside adventures on those long summer days. Unfortunately, some of those adventures can lead to injuries and accidents. Union County Fire Department would like to remind you to practice some safety tips to ensure a fun and safe summer.

Swimming is a favorite summer activity and no matter if you are on the lake or sitting at the pool, it's a good idea to practice these swimming safety tips. Never leave young children alone when swimming; always have an adult present. Although we want to have fun, running and horse play is dangerous around a pool so no running or swimming stunts. Swimmers should also be aware of water depth and not dive in shallow water. Have safety equipment and flotation devices near the pool or swimming area for emergencies. If there is an incident, you want to be prepared. A CPR class could provide lifesaving information and skills to help if an incident occurs.

Another activity of the summer that may cause accidents is riding motorcycles and ATVs. These activities can be fun, but they can also be dangerous. Always wear your safety gear. Helmets are a must. Head injuries are a leading cause of death from motorcycle accidents. Use caution on rough and steep terrain. Never operate a motorcycle or ATV under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Hiking is another summer activity, but you must be prepared. Plan out your hiking route and take a map if possible. Water and snacks are a must. Hikers should dress for the terrain with good hiking boots and proper clothing. Take extra clothing and a flashlight just in case it gets dark before you get back to your vehicle. Probably the most important is to never hike alone and know your limitations.

The summer sun can be dangerous no matter what activity you prefer. Keep cool by staying out of the sun as much as possible. Stay hydrated with water and avoid other drinks that may cause more harm than good. Wear sunscreen. I know we may want to work on our tan, but skin cancer is real. Every moment that you expose your skin without sunscreen increases your risk. Even on partly cloudy days, sunburn is possible.

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Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief David Dyer

Providence

"The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps" (Prov. 16:9).

We describe an unusual event as "providential," usually to express good fortune encountered, or disaster averted. Our town recently laid a hero to rest. In WWII, every man in his platoon died. He wasn't with them due to appendicitis. Providential.

David Martyn Lloyd-Jones was minister of Westminster Chapel in London for 30 years. As a school boy during the early 20th C., he became a member of his parents' church. During college he taught Sunday School. In his 20's he realized something. "For many years I thought I was a Christian when in fact I was not. But I was a member of a church and attended services regularly." At that time he was a medical student at St. Bartholomew's Hospital under the famous Sir Thomas Horder.

What changed? His clinicals required him to interact with London's poor. He observed disease directly related to ungodly lifestyles. The progressive thinking of the day was they suffered from lack of education and opportunity. Yet he also helped treat Horder's wealthy and famous patients (prime ministers, intellectuals, writers). They too had health issues resulting from ungodliness, unprevented by their education and opportunity. The hand of Providence showed him that sin is common to the human condition, himself being no exception. "My trouble was not only that I did things that were wrong, but that I myself was wrong at the very centre of my being." The happy result was, "The Hound of Heaven caught me and led me to the way that leads to life." By grace he was saved through faith.

Lloyd-Jones' medical studies offered more providential lessons. Horder included Lloyd-Jones in social events where accomplished people were given to jealousy and criticism. He began to doubt where his career ambitions were leading him. Once, another accomplished faculty chief asked Lloyd-Jones to sit with him by the fire. His close friend had died unexpectedly. For hours, the grieving man stared silently into the fireplace. In that quiet, hopeless moment, the professor's greatness was meaningless. These events caused Lloyd-Jones to dramatically rethink his



All Things New Wayne Fowler

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Commissioner's Questions

Q. I would like an opportunity to speak with you. How do I manage this?

A. You may always call my office at 706-439-6000; send an email to me at commissioner@uniongov.com, message me on Facebook on my page at Lamar Paris, and if you see me at the Farmer's Market or Church you can let me know you need some of my time.

Q. I called your office and it seems like it took a month for you to return my call. Is this a normal response time?

A. As I stated above you may reach me via several different outlets, and sometimes it can be hard for me to get back in touch with someone on what they consider to be a timely basis. The reason for this is I do always have a lot of messages that I have to go through and prioritize. My staff will try to help when possible, so sometimes it can be a couple of weeks or even longer before I can return a call or message. If it needs a quicker response, please let my staff know and I will make every effort to get with you sooner.

Q. The last time I called your office to speak with you the person answering the phone helped direct me to someone else that answered my question. Is this a normal practice?

A. I am very fortunate to have a wonderful staff! A few years ago I could keep all of my correspondence returned within the week. Now it is impossible for me to maintain that goal as much as I would like too. With one factor being there are so many different mediums available to reach me and leave messages, my message count has probably quadrupled to what it was years ago. So, yes I count on my staff more than I did in the past to help me find the answers you need to questions. If you ever call my office do not hesitate to let them know exactly what you need; most times they can help you or let me know what it is you need, so that we may facilitate your request sooner.

Q. Well I have called your office and didn't get the information I needed, so what do I do now? I would really like to speak with you.

A. That is exactly what you need to tell the person that answers your call, and they will get me the information so I may



Q & A from Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris

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Letters to the Editor

Pesky Details

Dear Editor,

To the writer of the "Two Gulfs" letter to the editor in the May 22 edition of this newspaper, I would agree with your conclusions, but then we'd both be wrong.

I would like to remind you that the "Trump haters" have been around for longer than I care to remember.

In fact, the first official "let's hate Trump" bandwagon started long before he was nominated to run for president.

I won't bore you with a list of his accomplishments; those pesky details just get in the way of a good tirade.

Jerry Driskell

Let's Have Revival

Dear Editor,

Humble our own selves before God, not in some far away place, but right here! In our church, community, homes, among our own people, is the best place to start! That we may see some of our own good works that God has placed in our own hands, those that may reach others far away, until!

Our arms may be too short to reach too far or too high! Come out from among the world, be ye a separate people. We cannot be two people — it is one or the other full-time employee for Jesus Christ. God wrote the book, we must read it and act accordingly! Live and learn from His word! Follow His instructions!

We don't need to tell others about our life, people see it daily! God already knows it! Our all-knowing, seeing Heavenly Father of all! Our manmade laws fail every day. So do we, myself and you. God's laws are forever, His unchanging word that will take us where we will spend eternity! Leading our way, not just for today, but through our life.

Let's have that Revival, not just for others, but may it begin in every one of our own hearts and life! There may be those who will not especially like this message. Tell God your problem with it! Praise the Lord, ask Him to make a change. The change is the answer! We only need to know, which one?

Every heart including mine, if need be! He changes hearts and our life, mine and yours. Not only on Valentine's Day, but every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before! Guard our heart above all. Love God with all of our heart!

Start Revival in our church, our people, our homes. Community Revival has been in cold storage long enough! There has been a time I felt like staying home and missing church! But there is one who is the pastor's son. He gets out of the pew and comes all the way up to the choir, where I try to sing, and gives me a hug every Sunday

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Right to Life

Dear Editor,

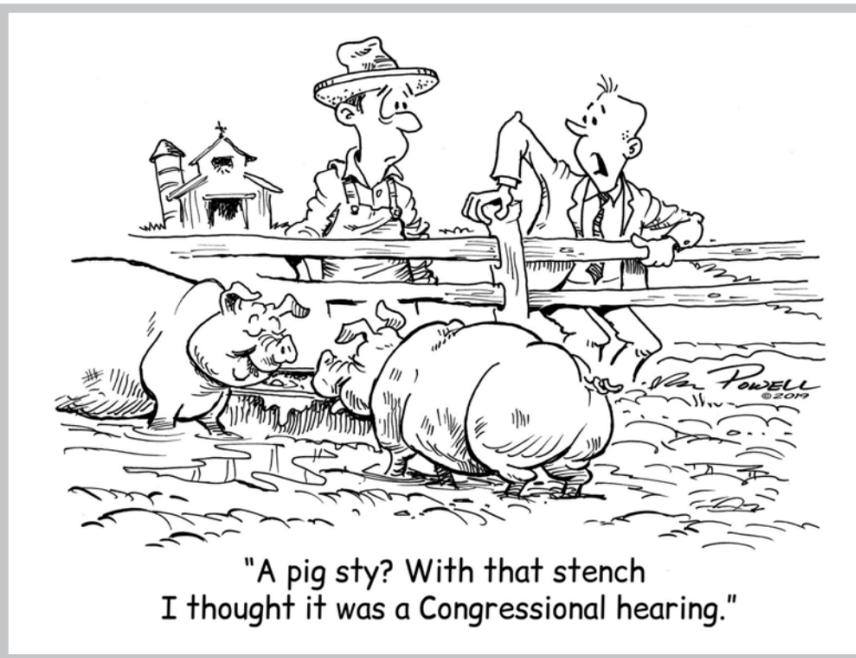
I'm sure there are some good people, who are Democrats, that need to replace some of their House members.

As a Christian, I fervently believe life starts at conception. And undeniably when a heart starts beating, how can anyone deny that an unborn child is not a person? The leading Democrat contender for president, Joe Biden, said, "Abortion is a constitutional right." As a former vice president, he should know the constitution guarantees "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," and not killing innocent lives, born or unborn.

Not until today did I know Joe Biden is a member of the ACLU, perhaps the most despised, loathed group of lawyers who stand up for the rights of the most heinous of criminals.

Abortion is not a right but rather a choice to do what God designed or play God. I agree a woman has the right to do what she wants to with her own body, but not decide life or death of the other body inside her.

Chris Crawford



The Greatest Generation

"The Greatest Generation" is a term created by Tom Brokaw to describe the generation who grew up in the United States during the Great Depression, and then went on to fight in World War II, as well as those whose productivity within the war's home front made a decisive material contribution to the war effort. Brokaw wrote, "It is, I believe, the greatest generation any society has ever produced." He argued that these men and women fought not for fame and recognition, but because it was the "right thing to do." Their remarkable actions, during times of war and peace, ultimately made the United States a better place in which to live.

Born and raised in a tumultuous era marked by war and economic depression, Brokaw asserts, these men and women developed values of "personal responsibility, duty, honor and faith." These characteristics helped them to defeat Hitler and the Japanese, build the American economy, and make advances in science and implement visionary programs. Brokaw credits the Greatest Generation with much of the freedom and affluence that Americans enjoy today. "They have given the succeeding generations the opportunity to accumulate great economic wealth, political muscle, and the freedom from foreign oppression to make whatever choices they like."

Brokaw concludes, "It is a generation that, by and large, made no demands of homage from those who followed and prospered economically, politically, and culturally because of its sacrifices." These are the true American Heroes, and the ideals they represent should be an inspiration to all of us who now enjoy the freedoms that they fought and died for in faraway lands.

Many were lost forever in battles in desolate forests or on isolated islands or lost forever in the depths of oceans. When a survivor of this Great Generation leaves this life, they take with them memories and experiences that are gone forever never to be told again. We need to spend time listening to the stories and tales so we can pass them on to our next generation.

Many times I put off visiting one of these walking history books and unfortunately these books were closed before I could make time to go and listen. On September 29, 2015 we lost a member of the Greatest Generation who was my mentor, my teacher, my coach, my supervisor, my disciplinarian, my advisor, and my friend. He was Frank Montfort Riley Sr., my Father. He always had something to say to me, and his funeral was no exception. He spoke to me while I was at the grave site, and this is what I plainly

See Riley, page 5A



RC&D Executive Director Frank Riley

Neb Isom

It had been very cold in late January for northern Alabama standards. Christmas had come and gone leaving the warm, wet weather of 1945 behind. The 17th of January began with a cold rain. Late in the day the temperatures began to plummet and yet the rain continued. By 4 p.m. the rain began freezing and by 5 p.m., sleet began to fall continuing all night long. The next morning revealed more than 6 inches of ice covering the ground in front of the Cummings house. A deep penetrating cold settle over the Tennessee Valley and remained for two long weeks. For those 14 days the high temperature never broke the freezing mark. The cold was so intense that it penetrated one's bones. The ice never melted and traveling was treacherous. Trapptown School had been closed because the students could not walk the roads due to all the ice.

The day after his 8th birthday Paul was awakened to loud knocking on the door of the Cummings house. One of the Abston kids was standing outside in the brutally cold weather. Glenna Mae opened the door and pulled the young'un inside. After removing toboggan and heavy woolen scarf the boy asked, "Mrs. Cummings, can you come quick. Momma has gone into labor and we can't get a Doctor to come cause of the weather." Paul and Bud began getting ready to walk down the road to the Abston house while Coon was called out of the barn. He told his family to go down to help the birthing of the baby and he would finish up the chores and then he would follow.

Granny and her two sons began the 1 mile walk down the road which was normally an easy walk. However, it was much more difficult due to the ice and extreme cold. A 1/4 mile before reaching their neighbor's home the mother, sons and the boy reached the foot of a small hill. It was so icy and slick the 4 of them had to walk in the ditch and hold on to limbs of trees to pull themselves up the hill. They finally reached the house and made it inside. Paul and Bud were plenty scared because Mrs. Abston was hollering a heap due to the pain she was experiencing.

Granny warned some water and began nursing the lady. A couple of hours later the baby was delivered still born. Just after the delivery Papa showed up to a house full of sadness. Just after he came in there was a knock at the door and Neb Isom walked into the house. When he was told about the still birth he and Papa took charge of the situation.

Normally, they would go Papa's Daddy, Lon Cummings, to get a coffin made. But, back

See Cummings, page 5A



Around The Farm Mickey Cummings

Chinese Privet

Chinese privet is an invasive weed that grows in leaps and bounds. It is capable of taking over large areas of land. The Georgia Forestry Commission consistently lists it at the top of their Dirty Dozen for nonnative invasive plants. It can become a real problem in wooded areas, especially along wood lines and roadsides. Let's talk about Chinese privet and how you can control it to keep it from overrunning our beautiful mountains.

Chinese privet was originally brought over to the U.S. in the mid 1800's to be used as a hedge. By the 1950's it had taken over entire forests. Privet puts on berries that birds and wildlife eat who spread the seeds and start new plants. Once established, the privet shrub will send up shoots around it to create a dense thicket that will force out native plants.

First, let's talk about how to identify it. Privet is an evergreen, which means that it's a lot easier to identify it during the winter because everything else has lost its leaves. It has thin bark with opposite leaves that are glossy. In early May, it puts on small white flowers that have four petals. It grows as a shrub, but it can grow up into the size of a small tree. The berries that it puts on are small, about the size of your pinky fingernail, and dark blue in color.

So, let's talk about controlling this invasive weed. For starters, it's good to be aware that controlling Chinese privet is not a one and done kind of deal. Repeated applications of herbicide will most likely be required.

Hand pulling is an option only when plants are very small. If the plant doesn't come up easily, it's most likely a lateral shoot off a main plant. In this case, the main plant needs to be removed. A weed wrench is a tool that can make hand pulling of plants more effective, by allowing you to hand pull bigger plants. Brush mulching will level thickets of privet, but because it doesn't remove the roots resprouting will occur. However, that regrowth will be uniform, making it easier to control with herbicides.

The two main herbicides used to treat Chinese privet are glyphosate and triclopyr. There are a couple of different ways to make the application. A foliar application from a sprayer will work if you have a concentrated enough mix. Ready to use mixes are usually not strong enough. The issue with foliar applications is drift. Nearby plants will also be affected by the glyphosate.

A couple of other options are cut stump and basal bark. Cut stump will require a saw for you to cut the plant down to just a couple of inches

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Watching and Working Jacob Williams

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