

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Summer Heat Dangers

As summer gets started, we need to remember that one of the most dangerous summer issues is the extreme summer heat. Temperatures can climb to the high 90s and even over 100 degrees. The high temperatures combined with exposure to the sun can take its toll. Union County Fire Department would like to provide some safety tips for heat related illnesses.

First is to stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun on those hot summer days. The summer sun can be brutal and limiting exposure is a good practice. When available, stay in air conditioning. Whether you are indoors or out, stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water and other drinks designed to keep you hydrated.

If you must be outside, dress in loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible. Protect face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat. Always remember the sunscreen. These tips can help you stay cool and safe during high temperature days.

The biggest concern associated with extreme heat is heat exhaustion and heat stroke. These conditions are treatable but can be deadly if allowed to progress. Heat exhaustion is usually the first to present. People who are in the extreme heat can begin showing signs and symptoms after only a short amount of exposure.

Heat exhaustion signs and symptoms include confusion, dizziness, fatigue, headache, muscle or abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, profuse sweating, cool, pale skin and high heart rate. Treatment for heat exhaustion is to remove the person from the heat, have them drink plenty of non-caffeinated fluids if the person is alert then cool the person. The signs and symptoms usually resolve themselves. If the person doesn't recover from treatment or gets worse, call 911 for medical attention.

Heat stroke is a true emergency. The body has attempted to deal with the extreme heat but is no longer able to keep the body at a normal temperature. Heat stroke can lead to organ damage and death if untreated. The signs and symptoms of heat stroke include the same as heat exhaustion except the person may become unresponsive, extremely confused, and their skin may be hot, dry, and flushed. Persons who are suffering from heat stroke should be eval-

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Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief David Dyer



Aging Fruit

The young fancy themselves wise, unable to reason with their feeble minds; the old fancy themselves feeble, unminding the season that finds them wise.

Growing old isn't for the faint of heart. Ok, that's cliché. Tennyson said it better in "Ulysses." "Death closes all; but something ere the end, some work of noble note, may yet be done, not becoming men that stroke with gods. We are not now that strength which in old days moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are - One equal temper of heroic hearts, made weak by time and fate, but strong in will to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." To be wise in advanced years means having a vital (noble) interest and a resolute (heroic) courage to engage life.

An inspired life is a joyful one. Robert Louis Stevenson writes in "The Lantern-Bearers" about boys and their bulls-eye lanterns. They took great joy in the tiny lantern buckled to the waist, well hidden beneath the topcoat. His point is that the source of a person's joy is not in the "salts and acids" of what is seen. "We shall see the trunk from which he draws his nourishment; but he himself is above and abroad in the green dome of foliage, hummed through by winds and nestled in by nightingales." Do you exist solely in the salts and acids, or has inspiration lifted you? Old age is no excuse.

Ronald Reagan exemplified inner joy and resolute courage. In 1984, he was the oldest person (73) to be elected President. When the issue of his age came up in debate, he looked to his opponent Walter Mondale and said, "I will not make age an issue of this campaign. I am not going to exploit, for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience." Even Mondale laughed!

Where does someone find a work of noble note, and a heroic heart strong in will? The Psalmist has the answer. "The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age" (Psa. 92:12-13). That righteousness is not your own but "through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith" (Phil. 3:9).

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All Things New Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q. We heard the county has plans to build a new access road from Hwy 515 near the Sears store and Aviator Café, to Panther Way, located behind the Sears store and providing access to the high school. Is this true?

A. Yes. GDOT asked us to consider this option back when the new Sears store was trying to get access approval from GDOT. Once the new divided highway is open from Blairsville to Towns County, there will be a center concrete median from Ledford Road (the road leading to the Memorial Gardens Cemetery) and it would have continued all the way to the traffic signal at Farmers Market Way and the Glenn Gooch By-Pass.

Q. That does not seem logical for GDOT to prevent access to all of these businesses. Why is this?

A. New highway construction is planned with safety being the primary component. Through time and studies, GDOT has determined that every driveway access on to a divided highway leads to potential serious traffic accidents and the fewer access points they can have, the safer it will be for the traveling public. They typically use concrete and divided medians to achieve this.

Q. Without this new access road, how would we have gotten to the Sears Complex from Young Harris?

A. Once the new divided highway is completed, without the county building this new access road and intersection, reaching these commercial properties would require the following. If you were coming from Young Harris to Blairsville and wanted to get on the Sears side of Hwy 515, you would have had to travel down to the red light at the Glenn Gooch By Pass, make a U-turn and then come back up to Sears. Obviously, this would have been a terrible imposition for current and future business on the South side of Hwy 515. However, once the county agreed to build the new access road adjacent to the Sears Complex property and the Leon Davenport family property, GDOT agreed to a road crossing at this point allowing direct access to these valuable properties.

Q. How will this new road project be funded?

A. GDOT will provide much of the funding with the county also participating.

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris



Drug Free Mountain Life

Tips for Teens About Alcohol

For many parents, bringing up the subject of alcohol is no easy matter. To make the most of your conversation, take some time to think about the issues you want to discuss before you talk with your child.

Consider too how your child might react and ways you might respond to their questions and feelings.

You don't need to cover everything at once. In fact, you're likely to have a greater impact on your child's decisions about drinking by having a number of talks about alcohol use throughout his or her adolescence. Think of this talk with your child as the first part of an ongoing conversation.

And remember, do make it a conversation, not a lecture! You might begin by finding out what your child thinks about alcohol and drinking. Consider beginning the conversation by allowing your child to share their view on alcohol.

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The DRUG FREE MOUNTAIN LIFE campaign supports an overall safe community by providing information, education and support services to children, families, and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse.

Letters to the Editor

Not Rocket Science

Dear Editor,

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that the Democratic Party, especially the career politicians in the House of Representatives, are not going to reach across the aisle and have an agreement of any sort with the Senate and President Trump. That would be equivalent to being ousted from Congress, I suppose.

The Russian investigation, costing the taxpayers well over \$25 million to complete, is over. It didn't end well for most Democrats, but eating crow will never happen. They will just move on to another fiasco. It wasn't the fault of most TV news networks because it was on the news 24/7 accompanied with innuendos to impeach the president.

All the grilling and pressure the president has had to endure may indicate some Democrats may have a few skeletons in their own closets that could create a little anxiety for them. Thereby, White House pressure must continue.

It's refreshing to me to have a president that has not been and probably never will be a career politician. The president, like all who have served before him, has made mistakes. I think his accomplishments show he is trying to put the USA back where it should be... his

See Moore, page 5A

I Love Union County!

Dear Editor,

I was born in Ohio, a Yankee by birth, and my ancestors were soldiers in the Union Army. Am I offended by Confederate flags on pickup trucks because Confederates wounded or killed my ancestors? No. This is history... it's in the past. Besides, I am living in the South and understand Southerners take pride in their heritage, just as other Americans take pride in their regional heritage: Westerners take pride in Western heritage, New Englanders take pride in New England heritage, and so forth.

A recent letter writer has implied that I should feel guilty for being white - "white privilege." In the 1980s, when I was single and desperately needed a job to support myself, I applied for a teaching job in Florida. The principal wanted to hire me but was told he had to hire a black woman. I was highly qualified but was discriminated against because I am white. White privilege? I suffered discrimination because of racist affirmative action - black privilege.

Indeed, the ideas I am responding to insult the leading figures in American black history who achieved great things before black privilege and other racist politically correct actions: Benjamin Banneker, Frederick Douglas, George Washing-

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Letters to the Editor

Book of Life

Dear Editor,

From the beginning of our existence, we all have a story to tell of how we behaved and lived our lives while here on earth. How we treated others and tried to help those in need. How we went the extra mile just to tell them how much God loves them. Our actions reflect our heart's desire to serve others, not just our own selfish gain. To Almighty God, our lives are an open book, for He is keeping a record from our birth to our death, as no one knows us better than our Creator, God.

Yes, God gives everyone a free will to decide how they want to live out their lives, but there are always consequences for our actions when they don't line up with God's purpose and will for us. Disobedience always leads to punishment or even great wrath from God. Sadly, millions of people choose their own path of destruction, ignoring God's commandments and laws, thus sealing their own fate of being totally separated from the One who created them in the first place. What a defining moment in eternity it will be for those who chose unwisely their destiny.

See Combs, page 5A

Santa is Coming

Dear Editor,

A petulant child throwing a tantrum - referring to our current president, of course - after delivering an ultimatum to Congressional leaders in a meeting purportedly dealing with an infrastructure bill. His demand to Pelosi: I won't work with you on this or any other bill until you drop your investigation of me.

Gee, but doesn't that sound a lot like obstruction of justice? And how about refusing to do your job as president? And the next day he requires his hirelings in the White House to proclaim his calm demeanor after leaving the meeting. I guess they like their paycheck.

MSNBC did an excellent job describing how Nixon and Clinton, while being adjudicated for impeachment, went calmly about their jobs as president, passing several important bills into law without blinking an eye. This president, having been described by several psychiatrists as suffering from malignant narcissism, comes from a different pack - maybe more like jackals or hyenas.

What kind of father reared him to become both so thin-skinned and aggressive? Like narcissists in general, he never apologizes, refuses to accept criticism, deflects criticism by pointing out that the critic does even worse (Nancy attacked me with the naughty words first before I attacked in kind), attacks those who he sees as

See Schilling, page 5A

Sitting Hens...

...Peddlers and Popsicles - It is difficult to imagine not being able to go a local store to purchase a cold drink or candy bar. But, in 1946, that is just the way it was in the Appalachians. The closest store to my Dad's home was about four miles away, and there was no money to buy gas for the old truck let alone a Popsicle. The only time Dad and Uncle Bud were able to enjoy a treat was the monthly trip to town or when the peddler came by.

The peddler came by once a week in a horse-drawn wagon. He had everything in that old wagon, even Popsicles. My Dad and Uncle could trade six eggs for a Popsicle. What a deal!

So, one hot July day, they noticed the peddler coming down the road toward their house. Paul (my Dad) and Uncle Bud ran to the hen house to gather up the needed eggs. But, that old boss hen was there, and she would not give up her eggs easily to these two young boys.

Paul was afraid of the old hen and she knew it. She would flap her wings and try to flog him every time he reached for an egg. When I say flogging, I mean the old hen would rise up on her legs, spread her wings, and flap them in my Dad's face. Next, she would try to stab his hands with her spurs. Now, as an adult, that might not scare too many people. But, just imagine yourself as a 8-year-old boy. So, on most days, Paul and Bud would have just counted their losses. However, that day was not just another day.

The temperatures were in the high 90s, and Paul could just imagine the taste of that banana-flavored Popsicle. When that old boss hen chased him from the hen house, he saw the peddler getting closer and closer to his home. In an act of desperation, Dad reached down to pick up a stick and went back into the hen house. He walked back into the hen house and told the old hen, "I aim to get one dozen eggs whether you like it or not." As the hen opened her wings, Dad struck her in the head with the stick. The brothers gathered up their eggs and ran to meet the peddler, where they exchanged their eggs for the Popsicles.

The boys sat down under a shade tree close to the peddler's wagon to enjoy their Popsicles. He told his younger brother to keep quiet about the incident: "Just tell Mom the old hen fell over dead." As they enjoyed their Popsicles, they noticed their mother walking out of the hen house. As Granny neared her two sons, Uncle Bud began to get nervous. Granny walked over to the peddler to ask about a new coal oil lamp. As they were talking, Uncle Bud could stand it no longer. He grabbed Granny's hand and blurted out,

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Around The Farm Mickey Cummings



Pond Management

I know that not everyone here has a pond, but chances are that you know someone who does. Maybe you enjoy fishing or someone close to you does. Either way I want to talk about pond management today. There are some simple practices that people can do to manage their ponds to a healthier status. Healthy ponds can lead to better aquatic life, which makes every fisherman happy. Let's talk about pond management.

Controlling weeds doesn't only happen in the garden, but also in ponds. There are four different types of weeds that will grow in ponds. They are algae, floating weeds, emergent weeds, and submersed weeds. Algae is very common in ponds. Algae can be microscopic; sometimes it's bigger and visible. Floating weeds are not attached to the bottom of the pond. They'll have roots that are free floating in the water. Some common examples are duckweed and bladderwort.

Emergent weeds are usually found along the edge of the shore. It includes water lily, cattails, and rushes among others. Submersed weeds are rooted to the bottom of the pond. They won't rise above the surface of the water.

Grass carp can be used to maintain control of weeds. It's recommended to get sterile grass carp so that they don't multiply. The recommended stocking rate is 5-10 per acre. Generally, when you stock grass carp it's recommended that they be at least 10 inches long. That way other fish in the pond won't eat them. Grass carp will be effective for about 7 years. After that point, their metabolism slows down so that they don't eat as many weeds.

If the weed infestation is heavy, herbicides will need to be used to control the weeds first. After the initial control, introduce grass carp so that they can maintain proper weed levels. Several different herbicides can be used depending on the types of weeds that you have present in your pond. If all the aquatic weeds are killed at one time, it can result in a fish kill, because the oxygen is depleted from the weeds decomposing.

Fertilizing a pond can result in bigger bass for you to catch. However, if you don't plan to increase the amount of fish that you pull out of the pond, fertilizing can have a negative effect, because the amount of pond weeds can also increase. Therefore, if you are going to fertilize it's best to follow a regular schedule so that weed growth doesn't get out of control.

Testing the water hardness of your pond will tell you how much lime you need to add.

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UGA extension Watching and Working Jacob Williams



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