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Still, evidence suggests that if everyone who could wear a mask had worn one during those two weeks, we would be seeing numbers trend downward. Your chamber staff fully supports Gov. Brian Kemp in his efforts to keep Georgia safe and open. So, join us and the County and MaskUp.

The School Board Meeting held Tuesday, July 21st, found all board members masked up as they announced their strategic re-opening plan for Union County Schools. After working alongside Union General Health Systems, local physicians, and other professionals, they developed a plan to do what all agree will be best for the community and to keep everyone safe. With parents' wishes for their own children and the welfare of the education staff in mind, a program allowing for flexibility was

presented to the board. The vote was met with a unanimous decision to delay school commencement until August 17th, at which time a 4-day school week would begin, with Friday reserved for deep cleaning. Many other safety protocols are also being put in place. Furthermore, parents can elect to have their children attend completely online in lieu of face to face learning. It goes without saying that the board of education faced difficult decisions as they rallied around community, parents, and students with care and concern.

Please remember our nurses, doctors, and other first responders as they are true community heroes. Take time to thank them and offer words of encouragement! If we work together, we will get through this and become even stronger. We will truly be Union Strong!

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

never used substances, while others suspected that their kids might be drinking or using other drugs.

Over the next several weeks, I will share highlights from the focus groups in hopes of starting a discussion in this community among parents about early prevention. This week highlights cover effective parenting strategies to use if your child is using substances.

Parenting Strategies If Your Kid Starts Using Substances

Parents noted that they would have "the talk" (again) with their kid if they thought there was substance use and take away privileges like cell phones or driving — but if that didn't work, they weren't sure what to do.

Some parents mentioned "scared straight" tactics, telling their kids the awful things that had happened to them personally or to someone else in the hopes that this would work. Research suggests that scare tactics can work with young children, but typically won't with teens. Teenagers' sense of invincibility or "that won't happen to me" is more compelling.

Other parents shared that they would just hope for the best — that their kids would be responsible enough and not get into risky situations, while some parents said they might consider getting professional help if the situation escalated. Parents were worried that getting a school counselor involved would cause substance use to appear on a child's transcripts. Similar concerns surfaced regarding law enforce-

ment involvement and a child's record.

So, How Worried Should I Be, and What Can I Do?

The majority of parents we spoke to had not thought about where the boundaries are between being exposed to substance use, experimentation and a serious problem. In several cases, their kids having been exposed to drugs or alcohol raised questions like, "How worried should I be that there is a family history of addiction and I know my child has tried alcohol?" or "My child is anxious and is vaping and smoking pot sometimes. What can I do short of rehab?" The truth is, there is a likelihood that experimentation could evolve to a full-on substance use disorder, especially for kids with these kinds of risk factors.

So what should parents do if confronted with experimentation or early use of drugs or alcohol? We know the best outcomes occur when parents intervene early and take action. There are proven parenting strategies for redirecting early substance use, addressing the gap between a talk and professional help. These include ways to have conversations about the topic so that it doesn't go in one ear and out the other, how to consistently reinforce teens' positive behaviors (even if those are few and far between), and letting kids deal with the negative consequences of their substance use as learning experiences. Getting to know these and other strategies and tools can help parents take effective action to reduce, delay or eliminate substance use altogether.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

got a late start coming home from Gainesville, they would sometimes stop and camp at this little shelf. Harold's Dad made many a trip over the gap. And his grandfather, upon the end of World War I, had come via the Logan Turnpike from Europe.

Harold was told by his father that people traveling over the Turnpike would cut logs in the gap and tie them to the wagons when going downhill to help them brake their speed. While standing at the camping spot, he said, "I can just see some old wagons and a bunch of farmers, including my grandfather, sitting around a big campfire." We walked a little further down the old roadbed to a place where a tornado had knocked down perhaps 15 acres of timber. Looking toward the east, you could see rock outcroppings that witnessed much history on the old roadbed. If you looked to

the west, you could see the top of Cowrock Mountain and the cliffs of Cowrock.

Along the trail there are at least three nice little waterfalls, with the largest located at the bottom of the steep part of the trail. Once the trail reaches the flatlands, you walk perhaps another 1/2 mile until you reach the end of the trail. The total length we walked was about 2 miles. We turned around with about half a mile of trail left. All along the trail there was an abundance of wildflowers. We could see Squaw Root, Wild Violets, Trillium and Squirrel Corn. Going down the trail is not difficult, but, coming back up is another story. If you are interested in walking the trail it is easy to find — just take Highway 348 south from Highway 180. When you get to Tesnatee Gap, park on the right side of the road. The trail is marked by a sign just to the east of the parking lot.

Huber ... continued from Page 4A

you have a bottle of cloudy water? How long before the Boots and Shirts require more dollars to purchase? That nest egg you hide all those years for retirement, it now takes it to purchase a pair of boots or shirts, but the value of the boots and shirts has not changed. Two shirts for a pair of boots. When the boot factory complains, the government thugs create a Department of Boot Kickers. They take 9 out of every 10 pair of boots made, and the value changes from one pair of boots to one shirt. The shirt factory goes along with the scam

before the government creates The Department of Shirt Scoopers.

Without a doubt November 2020 will be the most important election our great country has ever had. The election choices have never been more clearly defined. Voters can choose to keep our Constitutional form of government or change to a Marxist form of Communism. So what's really at stake for our future? Will we become another Cuba, China or Russia? The voters will decide!

Ed Huber

Williams... continued from Page 4A

\$20 test that is the basic test + nitrates. Above that is a \$40 test that is basic + nitrates + minerals.

A single hay test can cover an entire hay lot. A hay lot would be all the hay from a particular field at the same cutting. I have a hay probe in my office and I would be happy to come out and collect the hay sample for you. Once we've processed a hay sam-

ple, I can help you come up with a balanced ration to get you through the hay feeding months. If you think you have some good quality hay let me know, and we can submit a sample to the Southeastern Hay Contest.

If you have questions about hay testing contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Chavis... continued from Page 4A

inequality. Instead of taking a knee, The Black Panthers took a stand... to protect their communities, their families, and to demand a better way of life. I asked in an earlier article: "If the entire government refuses to provide 'liberty and justice for all' by 'systemically' turning a blind eye to hatred and racism... who will provide it?" I'm asking the same question again.

4. On May 1, 2017, congress established the 400 Years of African American History Commission to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in the English

Paris...

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Q. Do you know the name of the new road yet?

A. A final decision has yet to be made on the road name. It will depend on the traffic flow but to begin with, it may be a right in/right out access to Highway 515, but at some point, will hopefully have its own traffic signal. That will depend on the new highway traffic counts.

Fowler...

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trays the hope of change by God's grace. In the ballad a man neglected his family, cheated on his wife, and gambled his money away. But this: "They baptized Jesse Taylor in Cedar Creek last Sunday. Jesus gained a soul and Satan lost a good right arm. They all cried hallelujah when Jesse's head went under, 'cause this time he went under for the Lord." Then the evidence: His wife is proud of him, little Jim has a daddy, and "Franklin County's got a lot more man!"

Jesse Taylor is fictional but this fact remains for both Roger Stone and you: With God, all things are possible.

Fire...

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ings beyond five road miles of a fire station are classified as class 10.

ISO expects to survey Union County's fire suppression efforts every 3-4 years or sooner if there have been any major changes to the dispatch center, fire department or water systems. Union County Fire Department works continuously to maintain and improve Union County's ISO PPC™ class and considers it one of the primary missions of the department.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Brownhill...

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side local waste at the Blairsville Wastewater Treatment Plant before being released into the water system as treated wastewater.

Union County student awarded OSU scholarship

Stillwater, OK – Blairsville, GA student Bailey Rayfield, an Agribusiness major, was recently honored by the Oklahoma State University Ferguson College of Agriculture with a Ferguson College of Agriculture Scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The scholarship is a part of the more than \$1.7 million that students will receive from the college and its academic departments. Students from all majors are considered for university scholarships, which can be combined with college and departmental opportunities.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



July 10, 2020
In Memory of
Dr. William T. Meeks, Sr.
on the anniversary
of his death
By: Terry & Ginger Meeks

July 19, 2020
In Memory of
Sybil Harkins Tyre
on her birthday
By: Exola and Leola

Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493

or United Colonies... Either way, it was still America, and Africans were definitely here... in America!

Again, please... If you're interested, do your own research so that you don't fall prey to BS, ignorance, or people with their own racial or political agendas. This country, the one I fought for, for 23

years, is not "mine" or "yours," it's OURS! Right now, we should be standing "united" in the push for social justice and an end to racism. It's time... enough is enough. I think it was Edmund Burke who said, "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men [and women] to do nothing."

Jan Chavis