

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## Back to School

School starts this week. Students and teachers will be returning to the classrooms and beginning a new school year. One of the major priorities of the school system is the safety of the students and staff members. Union County Fire Department (UCFD) partners with the school system to help maintain a high level of safety. Over the last year, we have been completed several activities along with the school system to be better prepared for another school year.

In May, UCFD was one of the many partners who worked with the school system to plan and execute an Active Shooter Exercise. The activity was considered a functional exercise that tested the school's response; the activation of enforcement agencies; and the ability of rescuers to evaluate victims. All members of the faculty and staff from each of the schools took active roles in the drill. The functional exercise was a great success and all objectives were met. As with all exercises, the lessons learned will be incorporated in future emergency plans as we partner with schools to ensure safety and security.

Another activity that the fire department conducts each year is school walkthroughs. The school walkthroughs are tours of each school building conducted by the fire department with maintenance and school emergency management personnel. Fire department personnel have an opportunity to review the main fire-related systems of each building to include fire alarms, fire extinguishers and sprinkler systems. These walkthroughs also help emergency personnel stay familiar with the layout of the school buildings.

Firefighters also review the evacuation plans of each school to determine the best areas to respond and stage fire engines during an emergency. They learn how and where to control utilities such as gas, electric and domestic water. These reviews are essential to the overall fire response to any school system building, allowing for a deeper layer of protection.

The school safety plan is also reviewed each year by county emergency management personnel. The plan covers almost any major emergency that may be faced by the school system. The review of the plan helps responding personnel understand the actions that the teachers, students and staff will take in any given emergency.

School safety is extremely important to us all. Exercises,

See Dyer, page 5A

**Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief**

David Dyer



## Accessible

Dorothy Sayers used her Oxford education in languages and literature to disrupt religion in the United Kingdom during World War II. When the dust settled, Jesus emerged as more human and more accessible to a threatened people in search of hope.

J. W. Welch with the BBC commissioned Sayers, in her 40s at the time, to write a series of plays on the life of Christ, originally intended for children. She agreed to the project if she could write the dialog in modern language.

After a press conference in preparation for the first broadcast of "The Man Born to Be King," the storm broke out. Fake news reports called the effort blasphemous and vulgar. Protests began. The House of Commons investigated. The BBC's Religious Advisory Committee convened. Welch later wrote, "This was, for me, an unforgettable meeting, and ought to go down in the annals of Christian cooperation." The plays were broadcast.

Her great "crime" was to expand the account of Jesus' life using modern dialogue. Here is a sample from Luke 24, a post-resurrection appearance.

Jesus: What are you afraid of?  
John: Oh, my dear! Forgive us for being so stupid! Is it really you?

Jesus: Feel me and see. Take my hand.

John: Your hands are warm and strong, and wounded.

Jesus: I should like something to eat. What have you in the house?

Matthew: Why, this is like old times!

After the broadcasts, the BBC received grateful notes such as, "People don't want Christ as somebody in a book, gentle, kind, and charming as Cinderella, but a real person who can give them strength and courage to love God." Perhaps a modern version of this idea is the 2002 film "Joshua," which portrays Jesus stepping into an American small town. When His humanity is evident, Jesus is more approachable and the human response is more spontaneous.

Jesus made himself accessible to people despite His fatigue and hunger. He grieved over the death of His friend Lazarus. He

See Fowler, page 5A

**All Things New**

Wayne Fowler



## Commissioner's Questions

This week's questions and answers focus on the Union County Fire Department and Union County Emergency Management Agency. Both of these departments operate hand in hand with Chief David Dyer as the head of the departments. These questions are some of the most common questions we receive, and the answers contain general information. If you have further questions, you can call the Union County Fire Department at 706-439-6091.

**Q. Is the fire department still doing the program where they will come and install a smoke detector in my home?**

A. Yes! This is a great program that is offered by the Union County Fire Department through various grants they applied for and received, allowing them to purchase large quantities of smoke detectors to have on hand for installation in private homes. You can go to [TinyURL.com/ucsmoke](http://TinyURL.com/ucsmoke), and this will take you straight to the Smoke Alarm Request Form. You complete the online form and then the fire department contacts you to schedule a time to come out and install smoke detectors in the correct locations within your home. The best part is there is no cost for this service.

**Q. What if I have smoke detectors already but the batteries need changing?**

A. You can also contact the fire department and they will schedule a time to come out and change the batteries for you. They will also test the smoke detector to make sure it is working properly and clean it. If the smoke detector is older than 10 years, they will go ahead and replace it at this point.

**Q. How do I find out my Insurance Protection Rating, more commonly known as ISO Rating?**

A. You can call the Fire Department at 706-439-6091 and talk to Jeannie Matheson. She will need the address to your home or the property in question. Then, based on the home's distance from a fire hydrant and a fire station, she can tell you what your ISO Rating will be. This rating is used by insurance companies in determining your premium.

**Q. Who do I contact if my green address marker is missing or damaged?**

A. You contact the 911 Mapping Office at 706-439-6056.

See Paris, page 5A

**Q & A from Union County Commissioner**

Lamar Paris



## Drug Free Mountain Life

### Brain Development and Drug Use

Most kids grow dramatically during the adolescent and teen years. Their young brains, particularly the prefrontal cortex that is used to make decisions, are growing and developing, until their mid-20s.

Long-term drug use causes brain changes that can set people up for addiction and other problems. Once a young person is addicted, his or her brain changes so that drugs are now the top priority. He or she will compulsively seek and use drugs even though doing so brings devastating consequences to his or her life, and for those who care about him.

Alcohol can also interfere with developmental processes occurring in the brain. For weeks or months after a teen stops drinking heavily, parts of the brain still struggle to work correctly. Drinking at a young age is also associated with long-term brain changes.

**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

### Congrats to Judge Parks

**To the Editor:**  
On behalf of the State Bar of Georgia, I would like to express congratulations to White County Magistrate Court Chief Judge Joy R. Parks on her recent reappointment by Gov. Nathan Deal to serve as a Superior Court judge for the Enotah Judicial Circuit, covering Lumpkin, Towns, Union and White counties.

Judge Parks will be well-served by her 25 years of experience in the legal profession, including her service as Magistrate Court judge and in the private practice of law. She is also a valued member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia.

With her acceptance of this appointment, Judge Parks demonstrates her ongoing commitment to the community.

See Hodges, page 5A

### Health Care in Union County

**Dear Editor,**  
I'm only reiterating what the good people of Union County already know: We have superior health care in our county. Starting with Union General Hospital and including the doctors, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and all the ancillary personnel associated with providing health care are all as good as it gets.

My wife and I have traveled all 48 contiguous states in the USA by RV or car, and at our advanced ages, we have had many varied experiences with hospitals and health care services. I'm writing to explain that last weekend (July 20 and 21) I received the best care that I have ever received in my 83 years.

On Friday, I woke up with pain in my abdomen, chills, and feeling nauseous. By late morning, I was feeling worse, and my wife asked if she should call our primary care doctor's office.

See Tutman, page 5A

### Happy now?

**Dear Editor,**  
Are you happy now? By which I mean you 82 percent of Union County voters who helped get the tyrant elected as our president. Or do you have to wait until you see our military parading in goose-step down Fifth Avenue?

Our president wants "my people" standing in attention when he speaks and obeying his every word, as they do for Kim Jong Un. If you haven't noticed, you have elected our first autocratic despot wannabe.

In 1963, as a sophomore at the University of Iowa, I delivered a speech in speech course in which I argued the idea that, eventually, American politicians (and advertisers) would see the beauty of the works of Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's

See Schilling, page 5A

## Letters to the Editor

### Political Litterbugs

**Dear Editor,**  
Union County has become the dumping ground for those wanting to become dwellers of the Georgia Swamp in Atlanta. All you have to do is look at the abandoned political signs. Start at the intersection of Georgia 515 and Murphy Highway. About 100 feet north of the intersection on the right side is a sign for John Barge who lost in the primary. Go on north a few miles and look on the left side for a large Hunter Hill sign; he also lost. A few hundred feet farther up on the right side is a local litterbug sign for the ESPLOST, and on we go to the intersection of Murphy Highway with Gumlog Road. In the gutter on the northeast corner is another Hunter Hill sign. On Pat Haralson drive between Deep South Farm Road and the new courthouse is a Clay Tippins sign. Now, the runoff is over, and I wonder how long we'll have to put up with more litter from the wannabe swamp dwellers. Every two years we have to put up with this type of mess, and I think there should be a way that the candidates can still have the signs but the county control the littering.

Bob Wildrick

### Eroding Foundations

**Dear Editor,**  
Can a nation continue if its foundation has been destroyed? Is it possible?

History gives us clues, but do we apply it to the times we are living in today?

What is the foundation of America? The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are the two documents that establish our form of government and are the result of those from many local area governments who ruled at the time and those who allowed them to rule. Both documents are the result of those men which history has shown to be subservient to a higher power. We have seen changes to our Constitution with amendments that reflect the "social mores" of society. Today, the changes come about by court edict rather than voted-upon amendments. These "court decisions" have created major conflicts in our society within America, and the political winds of today reflect a crumbling of the foundation of America.

Can we today say we are the same as our forefathers and yet at the same time are too timid to speak up for what is right and just? Do we allow political correctness to be our guide in all things we say and do?

America became a nation built upon hope for a better life of those who came here. They brought their hopes and dreams, and also their personal baggage with them when they came. And so our nation was built, and eventually came about by men of religious background.

See Sims, page 5A

## A Family Tale

### The Smartest Son I Ever Raised

After the "War Between the States," Wyatt Cummings left his home in North Alabama and moved to West Tennessee. However, within less than 10 years, his eldest son, John, moved back to Franklin County to raise his young family. John established a sawmill and grist mill on Cummings Creek near Phil Campbell. To John and Martha, the following sons were born: Will, Riley, John, Lon and Howard. The boys grew up playing in the woods and swimming in the creeks. They also spent a lot of time working the farm and operating the mill down on the creek.

John was also a blacksmith and had business dealings in western Tennessee and in Corinth, Mississippi. So, as his sons grew, he became more dependent on their taking care of business in his absence. He began to notice the intelligence of his son, Lon. Lon had a way with the mill. He could discern a problem with the sawmill simply by listening to sounds it made during operation. John could stand on the hill above the mill and tell whether the blade was sharp by listening to the sound of the timber being sawed. He could also discern if the blade was warped simply by the sound of the blade cutting through a chestnut log.

One day, John's business dealings took him to Tishomingo County, Mississippi. He called for Lon at the mill. Before John left, he told Lon that the mill had some problems. He explained by telling his son that things were just not right with the mill. He explained to his crew by saying, "My boy is in charge while I am gone." With that statement, John left for Mississippi.

Many times I have wondered what this day must have been like for my great grandfather. He was only 18, and yet he was put in charge of a crew of middle-aged men. If Lon was intimidated, he didn't show it. He told the men to go on about their usual work, and he walked up to the top of the hill and listened to the mill running. After listening to the mill for 20 minutes, Lon came back to the mill and told the workers to come back in the morning.

Lon went to work. First, he took the blade off the mill. He heated the blade and then put it in a big vice and laid it over an anvil. He pounded on the blade with a hammer until he straightened the blade. Next, he worked on the carriage of the mill until it was working properly. The next morning, the crew was astonished at the efficiency of the sawmill. They began cutting lumber, and by the time John came home

See Cummings, page 5A

**Around The Farm**

Mickey Cummings



## Fall Webworms

Have you seen webs spreading throughout your hardwood trees? They can be unsightly and leave brown patches where the webs are. They are very common, so let's talk about these little guys that are surfing their web.

There are two types of caterpillars that make webs in trees. Eastern tent caterpillars will make webs in the spring. Fall webworms will make webs in the late summer or fall, hence their very original name. Webworms will have one to four generations each year. There are many different tree species that they will use to make their nests. Some of the most common host trees are oaks, persimmon and sweetgum. They generally prefer to make their nests on deciduous trees over evergreens.

Webworms grow into a moth that has a one-and-a-half inch wingspan. The wings are white and sometimes have black spots on them. The female moths will lay egg masses of up to 600 eggs. The egg masses are covered in hairs, which protects them from predators. When the caterpillars emerge from the eggs, they begin constructing nests on the ends of tree branches. The webworms will begin eating the new growth at the end of the branch. The webs that they construct protect them from predators and some insecticides. As the weather gets cooler, the caterpillars will burrow into the ground where they will pupate, the cocoon stage, and emerge as moths when the weather warms up again.

Webworms can heavily infest some trees. If a tree is heavily infested, the webworms can completely defoliate the tree. Complete defoliation is not a common occurrence, but it is a possibility. Completely defoliating a tree will leave the tree bare and less attractive. However, deciduous trees are able to handle losing their leaves because they will grow new ones back the next year.

In most situations, it isn't necessary to remove the webworms from trees. The damage that they do is largely aesthetic. If there are some webs on lower branches that are easy to prune, then physical removal of the branches is an option. If the branches are out of reach, it is possible to use a long pole or rake to knock the webs out of the tree. A pressure washer is also an option to remove webs from hard to reach places. Opening up webworm nests will expose them to the elements and enable predators such as birds, assassin bugs, and parasitic wasps to get inside and control the webworms, too.

It is possible to use insecticides to control webworms. If you decide to apply an insecticide, one containing Bacillus thuringiensis

See Williams, page 5A

**UGA extension**

Watching and Working

Jacob Williams



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Kenneth West  
Publisher/Owner

Shawn Jarrard  
Editor

Derek Richards  
Advertising Director

Todd Forrest  
Sports Editor

Mark Smith  
Staff Writer

Website: [www.nganews.com](http://www.nganews.com)

Email: [northgeorgianews@hotmail.com](mailto:northgeorgianews@hotmail.com)

Mailing: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514

Lowell Nicholson

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Phone: 706-745-6343 Fax: 706-745-1830 \* P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514