

## Paris... continued from Page 4A

to Young Harris and ultimately flows through Blairsville and Meeks Park and into the Nottely River. Then where Nottely River borders Meeks Park, it flows downstream about a ½ mile before entering the larger part of the reservoir. So naturally, Union County wants to be sure that the water flowing out of the City of Blairsville Wastewater Treatment Plant is safe for those who have kids playing in Butternut Creek. As soon as I was notified of the leachate water being processed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, I immediately contacted those who I respect and trust regarding water quality and was assured that the water going into Butternut Creek from the Wastewater Treatment Plant was as clean, if not cleaner, than the water above the sewer plant.

**Q. Can you not make the City of Blairsville discontinue their process of being**

**paid to process this leachate water in the excess capacity of their sewer plant?**

A. My answer is no. I do not control the City of Blairsville or the Wastewater Treatment Plant. That is totally permitted and inspected by the Georgia EPD. While the water does enter Lake Nottely, which is located within the county and not the city, the Tennessee Valley Authority has full control of Lake Nottely.

**Q Do you hold any grudges against LNIA?**

A. Certainly not. Most of them live on or near Lake Nottely, and so they naturally want to protect the waters that they live near. But we all have to work together and make sure that material that is released to the public is factual and not misleading. We will continue to seek input from the public and especially from professionals on whose word we must respect.

## Chamber... continued from Page 4A

strate the importance of supporting the Georgia Safety Promise and “MaskUp” Initiative! The Governor’s office and the Georgia Department of Public Health remind us that if we continue to wear face coverings, wash our hands, sanitize surfaces, and encourage social distancing, we will be able to flatten the curve and help fully re-open our community. Call or stop by the Chamber of Commerce to receive your free sign showing your business’ support of the initiative. Join us and County; let’s “MaskUp.”

Thank you to Union County Schools for the care and

concern shown as they take steps to re-open school for our children.

It is essential that we do our part in navigating this particularly difficult season. The dedication of local professionals has been impressive. I cannot stress enough the importance of saying thank you to these community heroes—doctors, nurses, and first responders on the frontlines every day, working to keep our community safe and healthy. We live in a special community surrounded by the best of people proud to call Union County home.

## Moore... continued from Page 4A

sample over 1,000 CFU/100mL, it is not without historical precedent at any site in the watershed. Butternut Creek is on Georgia’s 303(d) list of Impaired Waters for bacteria, which I have reported for many years during my annual State of the Water address. The sources are leaking septic systems, livestock accessing waterways and other agricultural runoff, and concentrated wildlife.

Since we only sample E. coli during the recreation season and we got a late start this year due to COVID-19, we don’t have enough data points post-leachate treatment to be able to draw any conclusions related to that activity. To make up for lost time, we have resumed weekly sampling of these sites.

While we do not monitor levels of PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances), neither do state agencies unless there is (1) an industrial facility where PFAS are produced or used to manufacture other products, or (2) an oil refinery, airfield or other location at which PFAS were used for firefighting. As

you correctly reported, PFAS are everywhere in the environment. Very low levels were likely already being discharged to Butternut Creek before the city started treating landfill leachate. Since landfill leachate is routinely treated at municipal wastewater treatment plants, I was surprised that EPA conducted a study in the Lake Nottely watershed, but I read it with interest when it was published in February. The EPA study had no baseline for comparison, so we have no idea if the landfill leachate treatment is creating an increase in the levels of PFAS in the creek or lake, but regardless, the levels they found are extremely low.

The results of all of our sampling are reported on the Georgia EPD Adopt-A-Stream website: <https://adoptastream.georgia.gov/>. We will also be posting weekly reports of E.coli monitoring on the Mountain-True West Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mountaintruewest/>.

**Callie Moore,**  
Western Regional Director

## Gray... continued from Page 4A

another.

I am not a racist; believing that all lives matter, I applaud those who have risen from abject poverty or difficult life situations that required supreme grit and perseverance. And I especially support those people, whether they are Black, Hispanic or Asian, when they rise to positions through their persistence and unwillingness to give up. My first roommate was Mexican. I know ALL people have faced serious and difficult situations, but in the past, we were just expected to “pick yourself up, dust yourself

off, and keep on going.”

That’s a very different scenario than what our coddled college students who have “Sensitivity Classes” are provided in “crying rooms.”

Politics in former days didn’t mean you were subjected to hatred which divided families into war camps. Did we not retain any of those old-fashioned behaviors to be civil anymore? Please do not tell me it’s not possible -- I just couldn’t bear it!

Respectfully submitted, with hope,  
**Arlene M. Gray**

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

a bluff, floated a bathtub down this creek, and he was not going to be buffaloed by this girl. But, she was no ordinary person. She was the eldest and in charge. Soon the fear of losing to her began to show in my cousin’s eyes.

So, she plunged his head into the cool waters of Little Bear Creek again and again. This happened four times until he popped out of the water and screamed, “UNCLE, UNCLE, UNCLE.” He sat there for a moment to catch his breath. Soon he got up and walked over to our dam and began piling rocks. Then we all went swim-

ming and nothing else was ever said about the big fight.

But, I pondered what had happened that day for a long time. My running partner and cousin had been embarrassed by the whole thing. His pride had gotten the best of him. We decided that one day we would set things right. The next summer we were once again at Maw Maw Adams’ house. All of us boys were playing outside around an old hollow tree when we happened to find a bottle of whiskey hidden inside the hollow of the tree. Dewayne, Danny, Tony and I finished off what was left (about a tablespoon each) of that bottle. Then Robin came from inside the house and began to boss us around as was usual.

She noticed the old whiskey bottle and threatened to tell on us for stealing and drinking Paw Paw’s whiskey. She had her back turned to me and pulled herself up into a Dogwood Tree. She bent double over the limb and was positioned with her rear end high in the air while her feet and head were low toward the ground. This was a perfect set-up and I couldn’t resist. I grabbed her feet and flung them upward with all my might. This action turned her a complete flip. She landed on her rear with a thud.

My bossy cousin raised up from the ground crying and went to tell on us about the whiskey and my turning her a flip. Dewayne looked at me and never cracked a smile. He almost looked like Clint Eastwood. Then he said, “Us boys need to stick together.” And we did even if it meant a spanking. The best part of which was that none of us were ever buffaloed by Robin again. She would try to boss us around, but, we just laughed and refused to listen.

## Fire...

**continued from Page 4A**

contact with.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

## Fowler...

**continued from Page 4A**

The professors write, “We need the honesty and courage not to compromise our beliefs or go silent on them out of a desire to be accepted, or out of fear of being ostracized, excluded, or canceled.” The authorities who crucified Jesus threw Peter in prison for teaching about Him. During questioning, Peter assured them that he “must obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5). Refusal to compromise requires honesty and courage.

In fact, those are the theme words for the professors’ article, which is a rare and public search for common ground. Honesty and courage can bridge the chasm that divides America. Christians have the means to lead the way.

## Williams...

**continued from Page 4A**

Sourwood trees have finished blooming for the year, but you can still see some of the leftover seed capsules, where blooms were. The flowers look like small white bells that hang in a line. Sourwoods are found from Pennsylvania to Florida, but southern Appalachia is where they are most common. Sourwoods leaves also turn to a deep red during the fall.

If you have questions about wildflowers contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## Free GED Classes

Ready for school!?  
Come earn your GED credential with COVID-19 accommodations. NGTC’s Union County Adult Ed department will offer registration on Monday, August 10th & 24th for free GED daytime and evening classes Monday through Thursday. We also offer GED practice tests, prep classes, and ACCUPLACER remedial help.

Call (706) 439-6342 or email [victoria.caldwell@northgatech.edu](mailto:victoria.caldwell@northgatech.edu) for an appointment or drop in at Shirley Miller building (next to the Union County Library) at 38 Blalock Street, Blairsville, GA.

### Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



August 26, 2020

In memory of

**Dr. William T. Meeks, Sr.**  
on the occasion of his birthday  
By: Terry & Ginger Meeks

**Bell ringing information**  
at 706-745-5493

The rock next to our beloved swimming hole has been used by members of our family for at least five generations. I am not sure why, but, that is comforting to me.