

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Shelter in Place

The other day I was talking with some folks and they had a question along the lines of... "what do you do if there is an incident or disaster where you may need to evacuate but you can't?" My initial answer was to shelter in place. However, that answer led to questions like what is shelter in place; when would you do that; who would let us know; and how do you shelter in place?

When most people think of a shelter during a disaster, they think about a crowded building with army cots, a few blankets, and a very small place to sleep until the disaster is over. Learning what "taking shelter" is, when to do it, and how to do it is important to know before disaster strikes.

There are two types of sheltering: sheltering in a location away from the incident or shelter in place such as staying where you are with some preparations and supplies. According to Ready.gov, "Sheltering is appropriate when conditions require that you seek protection in your home, place of employment or other location when disaster strikes. Sheltering outside the hazard area could include staying with friends and relatives, seeking commercial lodging or staying in a mass care facility operated by disaster relief groups."

Sheltering in place will depend on the incident. There are some incidents that are rapidly developing and do not allow time to evacuate or avoid the incident. It would be more dangerous to evacuate than to stay put. Examples include hazardous materials incidents, tornados, severe weather, or potentially dangerous criminal activity in the area. Authorities should advise persons when to shelter in place during an incident. Usually this will be an alert through our wireless emergency notification system (WENS). To register for WENS, please visit www.tinyurl.com/ucwens and complete all the information.

Depending on the incident, local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. There are different procedures that a person should follow to properly shelter in place; too many to list here. Preparing to shelter in place should be part of general emergency preparedness including emergency kits, water and food storage.

Shelter in place can be a confusing term. People should do

See Dyer, page 5A

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



Taste the Salt

Journalist Mindy Belz spoke truth to power at the 2019 Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom sponsored by the U.S. State Department. She argued that a culture will miss the Christian community when it's gone.

Belz has a deep resume of reporting from war-torn areas while embedded with affected communities. She said, "In Iraq, Christians formed the backbone of the middle class. They were the shopkeepers and professionals. Without them, Iraq is poorer. The 'victims,' then, aren't only those who are targeted." A society that pushes Christians to the margins writes itself into a groundless, exploitative pulp fiction. It ignores the true stories of the past and present that tell of Christians seasoning cultures with compassion, dignity, and charity.

In ancient Rome, we rescued babies left to die, tended people sick with plagues, and fed the hungry including non-Christians. In the Middle Ages we founded universities and advanced science and medicine. Today we have organizations like these 2019 Hope Awards for Effective Compassion recipients: Scarlet Hope in Louisville, that rescues exploited women; Little Light Christian School in Oklahoma City that educates children of prisoners; 20schemes in Scotland that lifts people from poverty, crime, and addiction; Watered Gardens in Joplin, MO, that helps jobless and homeless men; and Purposeful Design in Indianapolis that provides woodworking jobs to former prisoners.

In his book, "Unimaginable," Jeremiah Johnston describes how Christians benefit humanity, and why. It's because believers past and present have seen by this light: "God is loving; human life (that is, all life - old, young, sick, healthy, disabled, afflicted) is sacred to God; and... believing the kingdom of God was coming and yet in their midst, they prepared by caring for the sick, marginalized, and hurting, immediately." Indeed, that is what Jesus taught in his Sermon on the Mount, considered a magnum opus of ethics for His followers (Matt. 5-7). And did He not elevate love of God and neighbor (Matt. 22:37-40) as the greatest commands? Even if an individual or culture does not accept Jesus' teachings, they will benefit from having people around who

See Fowler, page 5A

**All Things
New**
*Wayne
Fowler*



Commissioner's Questions

Q. I saw a new electronic sign at Meeks Park this week. It is awesome! Did the county pay for this?

A. No! The Sorghum Festival Group has voted and agreed to pay the entire cost of the new electronic sign at Meeks Park! The sign's final cost far exceeded what we initially budgeted for the sign, but the Sorghum Festival folks insisted that they wanted to pay the entire cost. We could not be more excited and appreciate it very much. This group is always making donations to different causes and needs in the county and they never take credit. The volunteer hours that it takes to put on the festival are enormous and the community and regional support is phenomenal.

Q. Who all assisted with the new electronic sign at Meeks Park?

A. The company that came up with the final design and construction is Sign Design and Fabrication of Dahlonega (706-864-3060) and the electronics were provided by Watchfire, a national chain. We were very pleased with both companies. It is the largest entrance sign that Sign Design and Fabrication of Dahlonega has ever built. However, we would not have gone to this level and expense without the financial support of the Sorghum Festival Group who organizes and operates our largest festival, the Sorghum Festival. High Country Artisans, volunteered to contribute to the sign, but since it will be paid for, we hope to use their donation to upgrade the area of the park utilized by the public during their festival. High Country Artisans is the regional organization responsible for the incredible Butternut Creek Arts Festival that just concluded last week (July 20th, 2019) with another very successful event.

Q. Did Meeks Park need the new sign?

A. This new electronic sign is an outstanding asset for the county and Meeks Park. It will certainly benefit those who will host events there that can now be further publicized to the public. A special thanks to the staff at Meeks Park, led by Larry Conley, Recreation Director and Larry Garrett, County Manager. They always improve and maintain Meeks Park so beautifully and make it a place thousands of visitors and residents want to come and

See Paris, page 5A

**Q & A
from Union
County
Commissioner**
*Lamar
Paris*



Drug Free Mountain Life

The Risk Of Teen Substance Abuse

We immunize. We require seat belts in the car and helmets while biking. We insist on sunscreen. We do everything we can to prep our kids for high academic performance.

We do just about everything we can to ensure that our kids are healthy, safe and primed for success. So why when it comes to drinking alcohol or even smoking marijuana, are so many parents inclined to shrug it off as "a rite of passage" or "just experimenting?"

While parents are aware of the inherent risks of their child or teen using drugs or alcohol - that is, that it can result in negative consequences like car accidents, personal injury and in some cases may even lead to addiction - the hope is for their own kids to sail through the teen and young adult years unscathed. So, what's missing from this picture? Understanding brain architecture.

See Drug Free, page 5A

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.



Their safety starts behind your wheel.

Chamber of Commerce

What a wonderful turnout we had for the dedication and ribbon cutting of the Canal Lake Boat Ramp. County Commissioner, Lamar Paris, discussed the history of the Canal Lake area while highlighting the lasting contributions of the McAfee family. What originally began in 1925 as a dream to create a summer resort, by Arthur McAfee, became the first one of its kind in North Georgia. Upon completion, "Canal Camp," as named by McAfee, boasted twenty-two cottages, a swimming pool, a camping area, a miniature golf course, a clay tennis court, a dance pavilion, and a camp store. And not to be forgotten, is the swinging bridge that once crossed the river. Canal Camp became a popular tourist destination for vacationers and locals alike until 1940 when the TVA began construction of the Nottely Reservoir. At that time, McAfee sold Canal Camp and relocated his cottages to higher ground. When the reservoir was completed and the lake water consumed his old

See Chamber, page 5A

**Blairsville - Union
County
Chamber
President**
Steve Rowe



Letters to the Editor

Baltimore Sun

Dear Editor,
After Donald Trump's ranting tweet about the Baltimore Rep. Cummings, the Baltimore Sun published an editorial crucifying Trump. This is the final paragraph:

"Finally," concluded the editorial, "while we would not sink to name-calling in the Trumpian manner - or ruefully point out that he failed to spell the congressman's name correctly (it's Cummings, not Cumming) - we would tell the most dishonest man to ever occupy the Oval Office, the mocker of war heroes, the gleeful grabber of women's private parts, the serial bankrupt of businesses, the useful idiot of Vladimir Putin and the guy who insisted there are 'good people'

See Morris, page 5A

Demofascists on the Loose

Dear Editor,
Demofascists (aka Progressives, Liberals, Democrats, Democrat-Socialists) don't know - and wouldn't admit to knowing - that during the American War of Independence the British outlawed the Kentucky "long rifle" because, in effect, it was an "assault rifle" capable of killing British officers at ranges exceeding 300 yards.

It was, as the British Military opined, "exceedingly unsporting" and "ungentlemanly."

Any American Colonist who was apprehended in possession of such a firearm was subject to immediate arrest and summary execution. (Good luck trying to confiscate those rifles from

See Mitchell, page 5A

Kudos to Rep. Doug Collins

Dear Editor,
Hats off to Congressman Doug Collins of Georgia's 9th Congressional District for his grilling of Special Counsel Robert Mueller. He made the 9th District proud indeed. In one of the most dramatic exchanges, Mueller was asked by Collins if collusion and conspiracy were synonymous. In other words, to most people, they are essentially the same. Mueller stated "no." Yet, as Collins pointed out, in Mueller's 5/29 press conference, he said the exact opposite. Collins caught him off guard and Mueller finally gave up trying and told Collins that he would leave it up to his report - a weak answer indeed. Collins was key in raising questions with respect to Mueller actually knowing what was in his own report. Collins' ability to get Mueller to be so inconsistent at the beginning of the hearings caught Democrats off guard for the rest of the day. As a result, Mueller self-implored in the end. I see a big RED wave coming in 2020.

Tim Groza

Prescribed Fire Council

In September each year since 2007, the Georgia Prescribed Fire Council has held its annual meeting in Tifton, where 300 or so foresters, landowners, consultants, and others who use prescribed fire to manage their forests gather to share experiences and learn about new techniques for managing fire in their woodlands. Fire is a natural phenomenon that has occurred in our forests since the beginning of time and maintains a natural balance in the environment.

Some of our well-intentioned ancestors decided that they knew better how to maintain the environment than mother nature, so they created programs to extinguish all fires in the forest. Smokey Bear was the main culprit and used to say, "Only YOU can prevent Forest Fires!" and our firefighters worked hard to extinguish all fires in the forest which has led to build up of fuels that contributes to the out of control wildfires that we have today. Only recently has Smokey Bear changed his motto to "Only YOU can prevent Wildfires!" and now promotes the use of intentionally set fire to get the forests back the way nature intended it to be.

In some areas such as parts of California changing the message is too late and now with the build-up of years of fuels, they are experiencing the largest, hottest, longest, and most expensive wildfires in history. The Georgia Prescribed Fire Council members promote the wise use of planned and controlled fire to get our forests back in line with the way nature intended it to be. The mission of the Georgia Prescribed Fire Council is: To protect the right, to encourage the use of, and to promote public understanding of prescribed fire. Prescribed fires are used by such a variety of individuals, agencies, and organizations throughout the state that the Southwest Georgia Prescribed Fire Council was established in 2002 in a regional effort to encourage the exchange of information, techniques, and experience among practitioners.

In January of 2007, the steering committee, working with all partners, decided to expand and become the Georgia Prescribed Fire Council. This platform allows the council to be engaged in prescribed fire advocacy across the state. Forest lands constitute significant economic, biological and aesthetic resources of statewide importance. Frequent fires, set by lightning strikes and Native Americans, have shaped Georgia's ecosystems for thousands of years.

Our forest ecosystems evolved with fire and continue to need the strategic application of fire that mimics this natural cycle. The plants and

See Riley, page 5A

**RC&D
Executive
Director**
*Frank
Riley*



Athel

Athel was a first cousin to my MawMaw Adams, and she was my mother's best friend. Athel was the type of person that made something positive out of a tragedy filled life. She was the most positive and kind person my mother ever knew. Her mother was Malvie Motes who was a younger sister of my great-grandmother Alvie.

As a young girl Malvie fell in love with a fellow who would become a preacher. Everyone thought that Malvie and Tom made quite the couple. Young Tom was an aspiring preacher and Malvie was a person that trusted everyone. After a few months of marriage young Tom was soon tempted by another woman and left a young and expecting Malvie. Soon Malvie gave birth to a beautiful little girl she named Athel. Even from a young age Athel was a hit with the family. She was beautiful, caring and mature for her age.

People would tell Malvie that her estranged husband was seeing other women. But, she always said, "Tom loves me and someday he'll come home." A few years passed and Malvie became deathly sick. While she was lying on her death bed Tom came to see her. Tom explained that he had some papers she needed to sign. He further explained that the papers would allow him to sell their present house and then "we could get a bigger one." Malvie just knew that Tom Clark had come to his senses and was going to take care of Athel. So, Malvie signed the papers which turned out to be divorce documents. So, upon her mother's death Athel was left without a mother and her father never did anything to support his daughter.

Athel was taken in by her Aunt Alvie and Uncle Charlie Baker. These were the grandparents to my mother. Mom said, "I always enjoyed visiting my grandparents because Athel was living with them. Athel was always the person who would take me for walks. I can remember we would walk by Dad Baker's (Charlie) apple tree. Dad always told his grandkids to stay away from his apples."

So, one day the young girls were walking by the tree and Mom decided she wanted an apple. Athel knew she wasn't supposed to steal one of Dad's apples, but, she disregarded his rule and took the apple and gave it to her younger cousin. Mom bit into the apple and was thoroughly enjoying it when her grandfather, Dad Baker walked up. Imagine a little girl looking up at her bigger than life Grandfather all the while trying to hide a mouth full of forbidden apple. Mom never received any punishment, however, Athel, was told to stay away from the tree. When Dad

See Cummings, page 5A

**Around
The Farm**
*Mickey
Cummings*



Guess Who's Back

Have you seen webs spreading throughout your trees? They can be unsightly and leave brown patches where the webs are. Those are webworms. They are very common so let's talk about these little guys that are spreading from tree to tree.

We have two types of caterpillars that make webs in trees in North Georgia. 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 nest. 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 leaves 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, but I usually don't recommend them because webworms rarely cause significant dam-

See Williams, page 5A

**Watching
and Working**
*Jacob
Williams*

