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A. Any time the county considers building new facilities, all of these items are taken into consideration. In the case of the new gym, it has been a need that the Recreation Department along with the public, have been requesting for years. Union County's student population is growing and more importantly, the Union County recreation basketball program is our fastest growing sport. The need is there for them, plus for expanding our adult exercise programs.

Q. Why don't you use

the school gyms?

A. We have used the school's gyms for years and still are able to use a couple of them. However, with the new security concerns at the school, it is often difficult to use some of the gyms because of their proximity to the classrooms, and the resultant scheduling problems. Our new gym will be a tremendous asset to not only our younger recreational programs, but our adult programs as well. It will also be available to the public for an indoor walking track.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

could be retrieved. Corky was caught, and Lon administered mineral oil to the bird. Dad said they gave the bird mineral oil for three days. But, it didn't help. Eventually, after four or five days of having no meat, the family decided to perform surgery on the bird. Hunger can be a motivating factor in people's lives. Corky was sacrificed for the good of the family. Lon sat his young grandsons down on the back porch and explained that Corky's reputation of stealing shiny things and his action of swallowing the smokehouse key resulted in

the bird's death.

The bird was attracted to shiny things, and when it noticed the key, he took it. Not only was the key taken, but, it was swallowed so no one else could take it back. The key was important to the survival of the Cummings family. The lesson for the kids in the family was not to allow your reputation to lead you into trouble, and it was a good lesson for a pair of farm boys. Both my Dad and Uncle Bud learned from Corky's actions and told their kids about the importance of their own reputations.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

ments including the UCHS Star Student award, the Stellar Staff award, the Alumni Pacesetter award, and more! Don't wait to get your ticket as this event will sell out fast. We will be presenting a \$4,500 check to the UCS Foundation for Scholarships for Local Students during the event. Thank you to Woodmen Life for being our event sponsor, and to UCHS, Chick-fil-A, and Union General Hospital for being table sponsors. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor please call (706) 745-5789.

The \$4,500 we will be presenting to the UCS Foundation was raised during our first annual Shoot for the Stars Golf Tournament, and we are happy to announce that we already have a full field for the 2nd annual tournament which will take place this year on May 8. This is a wonderful event that goes to a great cause, and hole sponsorships are still available! If you would like to become a hole sponsor, please contact Jen Rushing at the Chamber by calling (706) 745-5789.

Did you miss the first monthly mingle of the year? Don't worry because the second mingle will be held on February 19 and will feature

John Cone, CPA. Tax season is upon us! Come to the mingle and be provided with expertise concerning professional tax and accounting services. Tax season can always be confusing with new changes, but John Cone will be speaking on varying tax updates and current issues. Sign up for the mingle on our website or call the Chamber to register today.

Finally, we have multiple ribbon cutting ceremonies coming up on the calendar and we hope you can come out and support our new local businesses by celebrating with them. Upcoming ceremonies include Dust till Gone on February 4, Triple R Services Septic, Pumping & Repair on February 6, and Beach2Beach on February 10.

Visit our online events calendar to learn more about these important opportunities to show our support to our new local businesses. Our goal remains to help grow member businesses as they stay informed on what is happening in our area.

Remember, our local merchants are here to support us year-round, so let's not forget to support them.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

scription opiates or heroin, it is important to know how to recognize the signs and symptoms of OVERDOSE.

The face is extremely pale and/or clammy to the touch. The body is limp. Fingernails or lips have a blue or purple cast. The person is vomiting or making gurgling noises. The person cannot be awakened from sleep or cannot speak. Breathing is very slow or stopped. The heartbeat is very slow or stopped.

If you recognize these symptoms, time is critical. Call

911 immediately. If you have Naloxone, which is medication that reverses an opioid overdose, administer as soon as you recognize signs of an overdose. For more information about what to do in the event of an overdose, SAMHSA.GOV has a complete guide for family members that gives simple and clear instructions as well as treatment options.

This is information that none of us want to know but knowing the facts can be a matter of life and death for the person abusing opiates.

Gray... continued from Page 4A

skeptic, a disbeliever, or a questioner, and those choices were considered one's personal and inalienable right. Now, having religious beliefs is considered a label to be scorned, particularly if one is a Christian. I recently read a book by David Horowitz, "Dark Agenda: The War to Destroy Christian America." It was an in-depth look at the incremental erosion of how our nation was founded, and a scary foreboding of what has occurred in the past many years -- and what we can expect to continue. I never ever thought I would be considered Public Enemy No. 1 because of my beliefs -- but I am!

In these days of such division in our country, when even families are conflicted -- and sometimes won't even have conversations with one another -- it is reassuring to read in the North Georgia News such uplifting stories about our neighbors, the people who may disagree with one another but (usually) do so in a civil manner.

The compassion in the recent Letters to the Editor about the tragic fire at the Spry Family Dry Cleaners, and how an old teddy bear that had been part of a woman's life -- and had been left at the dry cleaners for refurbishing -- was returned in perfect condition, was but one example of the community's gathering to offer solace to the Spry Family.

The weekly column, Patriot Reflection, is something I always look forward to; and Wayne Fowler's column last week entitled, "Good Question," was presented gently but accurately in response to some

misinformation about Christianity in a Letter to the Editor.

The recent story about how Relay For Life has brought the community together for over 20 years (to the best of my personal recollection) is a testimony to how our residents join hands when help is needed.

I was surprised recently when someone called out to me to "keep up the good work," to which I responded, "Do I do good work??" The response was, "Your Letters to the Editor are right on target. Keep it up!"

And recently, a man I had not met before said he always reads the Letters to the Editor, and he thanked me for my occasional submissions. That tells me that people DO care about our community and our special way of life in Small Town America. I, for one, am always grateful for our little piece of heaven in the North Georgia mountains, and the friendliness of the residents.

Arlene M. Gray

"Food for Fines February" at the Library

Overdue fines may be paid with food during the month of February at Union County Public Library. Each canned or non-perishable food item with an unexpired "used-by" date donated will pay up to \$1 in overdue fines. Overdue fines must have accrued at Union County Public Library. The library cannot accept donations in payment for lost or damaged materials or for services such as copies or faxes. All donations will be given to Union County Food Pantry.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

in Georgia to a chain of Cooperative Extension educators, disability experts, rural living professionals and volunteers across the state and the country.

Anyone who works or wants to work in agriculture and has a physical, cognitive or illness-related disability is eligible. This includes many things like amputations, arthritis, cancer, heart problems, diabetes or mental illness. With loads of bureaucracy and red tape, finding help can be a drawn-out process for some and AgrAbility is geared to cut through the hassle to provide help.

Working through UGA Extension county offices, experts with AgrAbility identify clients or are contacted by them. The expert then visits the client and assesses the needs. The process includes explaining to the client all the resources that are available and will work for their needs. AgrAbility is not set up to give direct payments to help farmers. But it can hook them up with the right people who can.

The Georgia program is in its second year of four funded by a \$150,000 annual grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service. Some farmers are reluctant to ask for help and getting them open to the idea of

receiving it is a challenge, but this is paid for by their taxes. The program has handled many referrals in Georgia and It's directly helping six farmers, mostly in north Georgia, but the program is expanding which is why ChestChatt RC&D is joining in to help expand it to other areas.

A workshop called "Duct Tape, Velcro and Beyond: Quick Solutions for Farm Families" was recently held in four locations across southern Georgia. It drew those with special needs and those who wanted to be trained in ways to turn simple materials into assistive technology.

These programs are for any person with a disability who has been a farmer or wants to be. This program is not a give-away but a helping hand for those who want to keep working in the job they love, farming.

For more information on these and other programs offered, check out www.ChestChattrcd.org.

Dyer... continued from Page 4A

ment. The class slogan is, "Do it again". Practice is key to skill development and skills are repeated multiple times.

The recruits are dedicated to the service and are willing to complete the multitude of training to become a firefighter. We are proud of the recruits and their commitment to the service. If you would like to become a volunteer firefighter, please contact Headquarters/Station 1 at 706-439-6091.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

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solids scoop the pesticide into heavy duty trash bag and triple bag it before putting it in the garbage. With liquids place and absorbent material like kitty litter on the wet spot and then scoop up the kitty litter and triple bag it and place it in the trash. The label will also have information on how to dispose of excess pesticide or a used bottle.

Whenever you're working with pesticides always take the time to read what's written on the label first. Remember that the label is the law. If you have questions about pesticides please contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler... continued from Page 4A

sage you can hear is the truth of Christ that results in faith. Only then are you who God intends you to be, in relationship with your Creator, Savior, and Counselor.

In 2017, Chief Justice John Roberts delivered the commencement address at his son's graduation. His theme was that the trials of life are a tutor. He said, "I hope you'll be ignored so you know the importance of listening to others." No one likes to be ignored, particularly not your Creator who offers love, forgiveness, and eternity. To live well, listen well.

Combs... continued from Page 4A

universe? I'm glad you ask. In the final book of the bible, in Revelation 4:11, we find these words: Thou art worthy, Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for thou has created all things, for your pleasure they are and were created. Who can create man from the dust of the ground and take a rib from man and create a woman? Only God Almighty has the power to do it.

What does it take to believe in God, His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Faith is the only way in the world by which you can accept it. Through faith, we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God.

The only way that we can ever arrive at an answer is by faith in God, not by evolution or even the Big Bang theory, which the latter two are just speculations. But the word of God still remains the same: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and that is good enough for this old country boy.

Frank F. Combs

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



February 13, 2020

In memory of **John and Virginia B. Meeks** Wedding Anniversary February 13, 1933
By: Ginger & Terry Meeks

Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493

ChestChattrcd.org, or , [https://news.uga.edu/agrability-gearred-to-aid-farmers-with-](https://news.uga.edu/agrability-gearred-to-aid-farmers-with-disabilities/)

disabilities/or check us out on our Facebook page at ChestChattree Chattahoochee RC&D.