

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## Flooding Dangers

In the month of May, we had seen a considerable amount of rain. The ground is so saturated that flooding was common with these large amounts of rain even from a pop-up thundershower. We have seen the power and the dangers of the water in many Georgia counties. A couple of weeks ago, White County experienced approximately seven inches of rain in three hours and Oconee County had two people drown in a flooded creek.

Luckily, we have had only a few minor incidents from the floods and rain. Flooding is the most common natural disaster in the United States and is the second leading cause of weather related death. People should be aware of the dangers of flooding and how to avoid them.

According to Ready.gov, basic safety tips for dealing with flooding or rising water are to follow the Turn Around, Don't Drive!® advice. Avoid walking through flood water. Moving water is powerful and it takes only six inches of moving water to knock you off your feet. There is also debris that can knock you down or injure you. Once you are off your feet, you are at the mercy of the moving water.

Walking through standing flood water can be just as dangerous. Most flood water is filled with debris and mud making it difficult to see the bottom. Persons do not know that they may be walking off a river bank or into a ditch that can be several feet deep. They also may not be aware that the deeper water could be moving.

Driving through flood water is extremely hazardous. It takes only two feet of water to sweep your vehicle away, even less for some smaller vehicles. Drivers cannot tell if the roadway covered in water is stable and safe. Roadways and culverts could be washed away or damaged. There could be large holes washed away in the road that can't be seen due to the water. It may appear safe and intact but the additional weight of a car can cause a collapse of the road and the car to enter the water. The best practice is to not drive through the flood water. Turn around and find another route.

Flood water is dangerous, and most people do not understand the power of flood water until it is too late. It is best to avoid flood water altogether and move to high ground. Stay safe and remember these tips if you ever encounter a flood situation. Union County Fire Department - Our Family Protecting Your Family~

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



## Father

My poll question for this Father's Day was, "Describe a time when your dad made you feel protected, provided for, or rescued." Here you go:

"As a young adult, I signed a lease that was a bad deal for me. I don't know what he said to the landlord, but he got me out of it."

"One night after an event in town, my friends played a horrible joke on my dad, calling to tell him I'd been kidnapped. He tore the town apart looking for me. He cried when he found I was safe all along."

"We were in the barn during a storm. I heard a loud noise and the next thing I knew, I was being snatched up from the floor. As I regained my senses from the lightning strike, my dad was holding me up. "Are you ok?"

"We knew an escaped prisoner was in our area. One evening my sister caught him peeping in the window. Daddy and a friend chased that man down and caught him."

No dad is perfect, but many of us thought he was when we were little. As we age, we recall the good times and can appreciate him despite his flaws. For those who had no loving father, all is not lost, for the best of fatherhood resides in One who is always there. Gene Edward Veith (Patrick Henry College) writes, "Earthly fathers have certain remote similarities to Him. The essence of fatherhood is found in God, not in human beings."

The Bible says, "You have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Rom. 8:15-18). Our heavenly Father knows we suffer in this fallen world. But in that suffering He reveals that the present time inevitably yields to the glory of eternity.

I saved the most poignant story for last. "My sister was killed in a car wreck caused by another teenager in our small town. Our father went before the grand jury to plead leniency.

See Fowler, page 5A

**All Things New**  
*Wayne Fowler*



## Commissioner's Questions

**Q. Have past county commissioners accepted and continued to maintain roads that were accepted into the county-maintained road system by a previous commissioner?**

A. Yes, they have, and I followed that tradition when I took office. There are some roads that I question whether they should have been accepted or not, but they were, so the County continues to maintain these roads because it had always been done that way.

**Q. Have you done anything to improve the designation of roads in the county?**

A. We certainly have. In fact, soon after I took office there was confusion from just about everyone as to what was and was not a county-maintained road. All road signs were green and some had an "X" on them to denote they were a county-maintained road. However, we noticed that some people through the years had simply put their own "X" on the sign so the county would maintain the road. I made the decision to begin the process of placing a green sign on county-maintained roads and placing a blue sign on public roads and private roads that were not the responsibility of the County to maintain. Real Estate agents, mostly unknowingly, were often telling purchasers that they were purchasing property on a county road when often the information was not accurate. This mostly solved the problem.

**Q. Was the process of placing new road signs on the different kinds of roads a problem?**

A. Yes, it was a big problem. This was a very difficult process and took about four years to finally get them all changed over. We now have a fairly comprehensive list of the roads that the County is responsible for maintaining. We also placed descriptive signs at many intersections, so the public would understand what the different color road signs mean. Since doing this, maintaining county roads and handling questions from the public regarding road maintenance has been much easier. It helps us keep up with what roads we maintain and what roads we don't while also providing potential homeowners an easier way to know if the road will be county maintained or not.

**Q. How do you respond to people that say, "I am a taxpayer and the County should be maintaining my road just like**

See Paris, page 5A

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



## Drug Free Mountain Life

### Opioid Addiction and Unemployment

Nearly 1 million people were not working because of opioid addiction in 2015, the latest research to show that drug use is having a profound effect on the U.S. economy.

Reliance on the addictive medication could have rendered more adults unable to work. A national survey of employers this year revealed that failed drug tests have soared to a 12-year high.

A study released by the American Action Forum found 919,400 people between the ages of 25 to 54 were absent from the workforce because they were dependent on opioid drugs, a number that grew each year between 1999 and 2015.

The loss of employees and their productivity during that period cost the U.S. economy \$702 billion, or just under \$44 billion per year, the study calculated.

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.**



- They follow your footsteps -  
**HAPPY FATHERS DAY!**

## Letters to the Editor

### Dear Editor, God is...

I was recently asked a very common question: "What happens to the Jews and other good, kindhearted people who either don't believe in Jesus or have never had the opportunity to learn about Him?"

To answer this question we must first set some parameters. Any answer we come up with must be consistent with the attributes of God that are revealed to us in Holy Scripture. God is good. God is loving. God is holy. God is just. God is almighty. God is all-knowing. God's character and nature never change. The world uses this question to challenge the goodness of God and the love of God. We must not allow ourselves to fall into the same trap.

Paul tells us in Romans 1:18-21, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So, they are without excuse." This passage tells us that the existence of God is known to everyone through nature, therefore, no one has an excuse for not believing in God.

What about having to believe in Jesus? Jesus said, "No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Peter said, "There is no other Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). So, somehow, some way, a person must accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, because only Jesus died for our sins.

What about people who have never had a chance to hear about Jesus in this life? We don't know. Some speculate that those who have not heard about Jesus in this life will have a chance to accept Jesus after they die. The Bible addresses this in only one Scripture verse that I know of - "It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). The context for this verse has nothing to do with the question we are asking, so we need to be careful in reading too much into this one verse. We do know that, at some point, the door to heaven is closed (Matthew 25:1-13).

What about the prophecy of Joel? God has poured out His Spirit upon all flesh (Acts 2:17) but read further - only "those who call on the Name of the Lord will be saved" (Acts 2:21). Jesus did die for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2), but the gift of eternal life must be received. God's grace requires a response.

What about "good people" who don't believe in Jesus? The Bible is very clear that "no

See O'Malley, page 5A

## Letters to the Editor

### Dear Editor, The Iron Lady

You may choose not to print this letter because I am writing it in anger. Please let me begin with the death of my dog, Little B. I have printed many letters and poems about him in this newspaper so readers may recognize his name. He had incurable cancer and he was given a humane death by Doctor Z from Union County Pet Hospital. He told us how to prepare our Little B for the procedure and he came to our home to perform the deed. Our most precious Little B died in his human mother's arms on his favorite couch in peace and with no pain. He was my darling wife's loyal and faithful companion all the 9 short loving years of his life.

My wife was diagnosed with ovarian cancer 4 years ago. She underwent two very complex and near death surgeries plus three more near death emergency room visits due to allergies related to the chemo therapy. Through it all she survived and lived to fight another day. Because of her strength, the will to live and the compassion, comfort and loyalty of our Little B at her side through it all. Because of her strength and will to fight as hard as she has, I nicknamed her the Iron Lady and many who read this will know her by that name. Now it is her time to die!

Ann Adams aka The Iron Lady has been my darling bride for over 52 years but it is time for her to leave me and rejoin our Little B in death. Will she go gently into that long good night? NO! She is in horrible pain of the body and the mind, but she is a fighter and will be to her last breath! She is suffering in ways we cannot understand. When she opens her eyes and tries to speak I can

See Adams, page 5A

### Taps

### Dear Editor,

Attending the Memorial Service held at the beautiful Memorial Park is a "must" for my husband and me. It is a strong reminder of why we observe this holiday and is always very well done. The bugler who played TAPS did an outstanding job and it occurred to me that many people do not know, and would appreciate knowing, the lyrics to TAPS. Here they are:

*Day is done. Gone the sun  
From the lakes, From the hills,  
From the sky. All is well,  
Safely rest. God is nigh.  
Fading light dims the sight.  
And a star Gems the sky  
Gleaming bright. From afar,  
Drawing nigh, Falls the night.*

*Thanks and praise for our days  
Neath the sun, Neath the stars, Neath the sky.  
As we go, this we know: God is nigh.*

Carol McKechnie

## Around The Farm

### Doc Underwood and Clifford

I have told you many times about my great grandfather, Clifford Hyde, who was from Dawson County, Georgia. His mother was a full blood Cherokee and both Clifford's father and grandfather had fought with a group of Georgia Volunteers during the "War of Northern Aggression" as he liked to call it. As a young man Clifford was working down around Cumming when he got into trouble.

Clifford was sewing some "wild oats" as many young people are prone to do. He loved the taste of moonshine and one evening he'd consumed too much. Moonshine can make you believe you are stronger than you actually are and on this night the moonshine made Clifford think he could whip anybody. He and another man were involved in a brawl. The other man was left on the floor bleeding and presumed dead. So, my great grandfather fled Atlanta and traveled to North Alabama. Later in life he found out the other man had lived, but, he had already married and was raising a family in the little town of Phil Campbell, Alabama.

His favorite hobby was Turkey hunting. Clifford used one of the wing bones to make a call and up into his 80s he was able to call up and shoot gobblers. Dad told me that he would drive him over to the James Place where the old man would wobble down to Turkey Creek.

Clifford would sit with his back against a rock bluff and pull out the wing bone caller. Usually within about an hour Dad would hear the note of the old "Long Tom" shotgun. Dad would walk to where the old man was sitting whereupon he would receive instructions to the location of the dead bird. Dad said, "Clifford never failed to get a bird until he could no longer make the walk to Turkey Creek".

Clifford was also a bee charmer. He would place a coca-cola cap containing honey on the ground and watch until a bee found it. The old man would watch the direction in which the bee flew after leaving the bottle cap and then he would walk in that direction for a couple of hundred yards. He would then sit down and place another honey filled bottle cap on the ground. He would repeat this process until the bee tree was located after which the tree was chopped down and robbed of its honey. It is astonishing that Clifford never wore any protective gear during the robbing process and he was never stung during the process.

Later in life after he had slowed down

See Cummings, page 5A

**Around The Farm**  
*Mickey Cummings*



## RC&D

### National Conservation Foundation - Envirothon

NCF-Envirothon is an annual environmentally themed academic competition for high school aged students organized by the NCF-Envirothon a program of the National Conservation Foundation. The competition is held by the United States and Canada on a regional, state, and bi-national level.

Envirothon combines in-class and hands-on environmental education in a competition setting which involves a problem-solving presentation as well as written field tests. The competition tests students on five core subjects- aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife- along with a fifth annually-changing subtopic which focuses on relevant environmental issues. Currently, roughly 500,000 students from forty-five U.S. states and nine Canadian provinces/territories participate in the competition.

States and provinces across the United States and Canada each have their own local competitions from which the winning high school team earns the privilege of representing their state/province at the NCF-Envirothon competition, held each summer in a different U.S. state or Canadian province. In areas with a considerable number of teams, subdivisions such as county, regional, or district competitions are also held. Teams must win these intermediary competitions to move on to the state/province levels.

The NCF-Envirothon is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. Coordinating the delivery of the North American competition, the organization also relies heavily on volunteers across North America to advise individual teams from each participating state and province. Governing the program is the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Executive, along with an NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee which is made up of representatives from participating states and provinces. Envirothon is sponsored by the National Conservation Foundation, the National Association of Conservation Districts, the United States Forest Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Individual teams are often sponsored by school clubs or classes, local businesses, and governments, or 4H and other such non-scholastic organizations. Competition participants are generally teams of five students with one to two team advisers. Home-schoolers can also take part as their own team.

At the North American Competition, teams that rank first through tenth receive prizes and scholarships of various values. Competition week at the NCF-Envirothon level includes various workshops, field trips, and seminars led by professionals and educators for both the students and their advisers. Most of these outings are linked to the current issue

See Riley, page 5A

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



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