

Fireworks Shows

Fourth of July has always been a great time of the year to get together with family and friends for the annual fireworks shows. Due to COVID-19 and our "new normal" there are fewer fireworks shows this year.



As we have said many times, safety is always first. Fireworks are fun and exciting, but they can also be very dangerous.

Here are a few tips when using fireworks. Never allow young children to handle fireworks and older children should only use fireworks under close adult supervision.

Another consideration is the laws that apply to fireworks. There are too many elements of the law to be explained here.

These are just a few things to keep in mind during the holiday weekend. Union County Fire Department wants everyone to have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Free Indeed

This is starting to look like a cultural revolution to some degree. Be careful what you ask for, America.

Cultural values are expressed in its monuments to the past. When time comes for change, what happens to those monuments is a declaration to the present.



It reminds me of something Jesus said. After he healed a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, he gave a talk.

America's founders led a revolution based on freedom, however imperfectly. But the trajectory they set became opportunity for all to gain freedom.

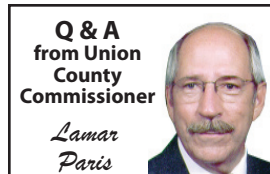
Os Guinness gives this much thought in his book, "A Free People's Suicide." He writes, "In pulling down what are seen as the oppressive structures and practices of the old regime, successful revolutions inevitably create a vacuum into which can flow a hundred forces lethal to the ideals for which the revolution was fought."

See Fowler, page 5A

Commissioner's Questions

Q. I keep hearing about CodeRED. What is that?

A. CodeRED is a web-based critical communication solution that enables public safety personnel to notify residents, businesses and visitors by phone, text, email, and social media of time-sensitive information, emergencies, or urgent notifications in a timely manner.



Q. I signed up for this service a few years back and have been receiving the notifications. Do I need to sign up again to continue receiving the emergency notifications?

A. The good news is that if you were registered with the previous system, you will continue to receive notifications through the new system. You do not have to sign up all over again.

Q. I didn't know we had an Emergency Alert System. How do I sign up to receive these alerts?

A. If you have not registered for notifications in the past, we strongly encourage you to register with CodeRED to receive weather and emergency notifications.

See Paris, page 5A

Drug Free Mountain Life

Parents and Early Prevention Series - Part 2

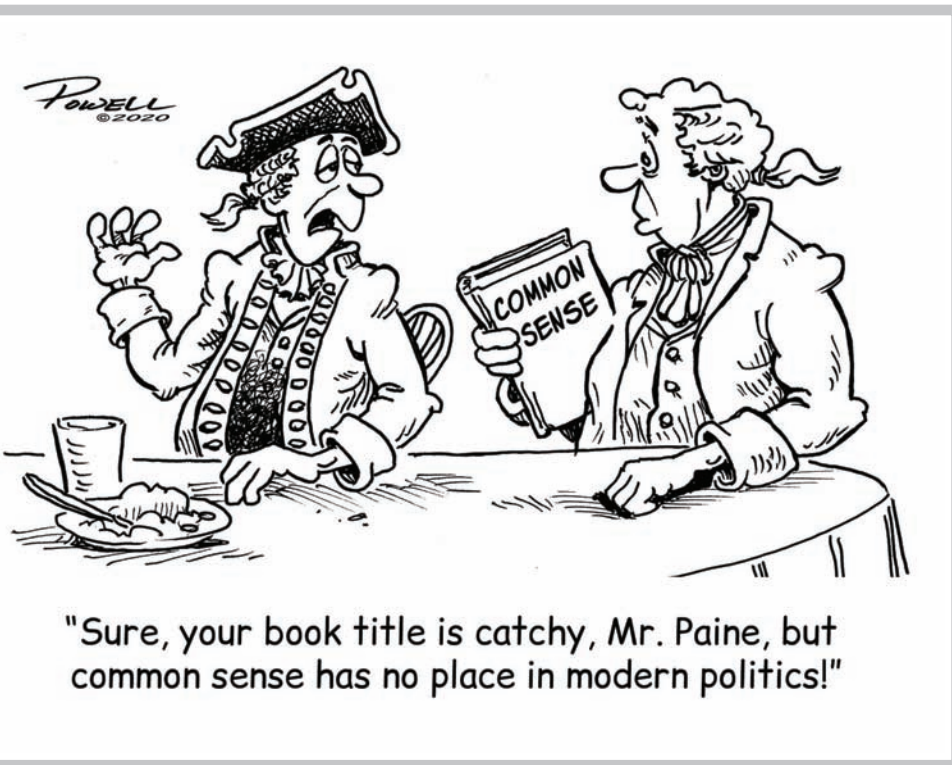
Have you ever wondered what struggles other parents or caregivers of teens encounter when dealing with drugs and alcohol today?

You may feel that you are the only one with questions and concerns and are reluctant to discuss this topic with others due to the stigma surrounding alcohol and drug use.

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.

Partnership for Drug Free Kids recently conducted eight focus groups across the country with a diverse set of parents of 11- to 16-year-olds and found that an overwhelming majority shared similar concerns and reservations about how to manage early prevention strategies with their teens.

See Drug Free, page 5A



Chamber of Commerce

Last Friday, we held our 2nd Annual Shoot for the Stars Golf Tournament benefitting student scholarships at Butternut Creek Golf Course, and we wanted to take the time to thank the sponsors who helped make the event a success.



Watch the skies over Meeks Park light up with an explosion of color this Saturday! Come out and enjoy this beautiful experience.

See Chamber, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

Horrible, Racist & Unjust?

To the Editor,

In the June 24 edition of the North Georgia News, the subject of "Being Black in America" was addressed by a letter writer who said that "all Black Lives Matter is trying to do is bring everyone, regardless of skin color, to the same stature as the rest of the citizens in our country."

If the United States is such a horrible, racist, and unjust country, why do so many people from around the globe -- of all races, skin colors, religions, etc. -- continue to move here?

Could a culture that champions single-parent households; glorifies criminal behavior; denigrates women through hip-hop "music"; and teaches its children to fear law enforcement, be part of the problem?

If Martin Luther King Jr. were still living, I doubt he'd be wasting precious time targeting inanimate statues or cleansing references to iconic, long-dead Americans from the landscape.

Greg C. White

A Veteran Thing

To the Editor,

Quietly on June 10, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi gave a tri-folded burial flag to the family of George Floyd. What I've got to say has nothing to do with them; this is a veteran thing.

I'm a retired serviceman and 100 percent service connected. I bleed OD green. I think I rate a say in this. Does she think so little of our service to give this to a man who held a gun to a lady's stomach and tried to kill her -- a man who was a former convict and drug dealer -- to make a martyr of him?

Mrs. Pelosi, get out of your office and walk through Arlington National Cemetery and explain to my brothers and sisters who gave all that their service was for nothing. If you ever had to take a life in combat, you wouldn't treat my flag like a spare tablecloth.

To my brothers and sisters: Oorah. Support your police.

Regards, David W Gearheart

U.S. Army, Retired

Fireshed

An Expression of Gratitude

To the Editor,

I'd like to extend my thanks to several groups in Blairsville and Union County. I am grateful for their service and proud to be a member of the community.

First, I thank those who continue to work in grocery stores, pharmacies, hardware stores, and other retail establishments. I've relied on them for supplies and services regularly in the last three months, and I value their presence.

Second, I thank the police and sheriff departments. They put themselves in harm's way daily to protect members of their communities and I appreciate the sacrifice.

Third, I thank medical workers across the county, who also put themselves in harm's way to help others. They've led us in care, collected data, and determined safe ways to move forward in a COVID-19 world.

So many people to appreciate in this area... Thank you for the opportunity to express my gratitude.

Lynnae Boudreau

Self-Righteous Judges

To the Editor,

Some Americans declare that multiple millions of their fellow citizens are racists. Those same American citizens believe that it is their prerogative to be accuser, judge, jury and condemner just because those fellow citizens were born to "Caucasian" parents.

See Braddy, page 5A

The Cotton Gin

The old cotton gins of Phil Campbell, Alabama, are long gone, but, one of them influenced the lives of at least four generations of my family. One of the gins sat next to the railroad tracks of our hometown in Northwest Alabama.

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Papa was nearly 7 years old when he made his first trip to the gin. He rode on the wagon seat with his father. Papa said they left the house at about 1 a.m. His father wanted to get in line early because the gin opened at 6 a.m.

Papa was new to the ways of towns, and he'd never seen a train. He said, "The strange hissing sound and the black smoke coming from the front of this thing made me nervous. The big light on the front of the train reminded me of some kind of strange critter. So, I told my Papa that this thing was some kind of one-eyed monster."

As Papa made the transition from boyhood to manhood, he realized he needed to make money to help him purchase land for a farm. So, Papa and some of his friends, including Skeeter Trapp and Russell Hutcheson, all got themselves a job at the gin.

See Cummings, page 5A

Nutrient Deficiencies

With plants in full bloom and summer going full steam ahead, I hope all the plants in your gardens and fields are a vibrant green.



Seventeen nutrients are essential for plant growth (give or take a couple depending on who you ask). Carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen are all taken from the air or water. The remaining 14 are divided into macronutrients and micronutrients.

The big three of nutrients are Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium. Plants that don't have enough nitrogen will begin to turn yellow-green in the oldest leaves first. Because nitrogen is mobile in the plant, it will move nitrogen from the old leaves to new growth where it is needed.

Not enough calcium leads to young leaves being cupped and yellow. Lack of calcium also causes blossom end rot. Poor watering can lead to a calcium deficiency because calcium requires a lot of water to move through the plant.

Sulfur deficiency will turn the entire plant a lime green color and cause the plant to be stunted. Lack of iron leads to leaves turning yellow, but the veins remain dark green. Some plants are sensitive to excessive iron or iron deficiency, which is controlled by the soil pH.

See Williams, page 5A