

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## Firefighters, why do they do it?

This is a column that I wrote a few years ago but the message still rings true to this day. It asks the question, "Why do they do it; why do people become firefighters?" It is a good question and has been a mystery to many people, including some firefighters.

The answer to the question cannot be compressed into one magic statement that explains a person's desire to become a firefighter. The reason "why" is different for many people. Most people think that firefighters are a bunch of adrenaline junkies who like to run into a dangerous situation or burning building. Others may think that firefighters are trauma seekers who want to see devastating motor vehicle accidents.

Although fires and accidents are exciting, the desire to become a firefighter goes beyond such things.

For the most part, firefighters have three universal traits. Firefighters are problem solvers, knowledge seekers, and they always want to help. This is what makes them different. When they see an emergency, they see a problem that will be solved, and they jump into action.

Firefighters love to learn. They want to learn the latest information and skills to be able to handle just about any emergency. They train constantly to learn a skill in order to be prepared when minutes count. The fire service is a great environment for learning. Where else can you learn to put on turnout gear and SCBA; go into a burning building; extinguish a large fire; cut the door off a wrecked car; repel off a building; and the list goes on and on.

Firefighters love a mystery. We have stated many times how a firefighter must be a jack-of-all-trades because we have no idea what we will be called to next. Each scene can be different, and firefighters love the challenge of using the knowledge and skills they have learned to solve the problem with the best possible outcome.

At the end of the day, the best part of being a firefighter is knowing that you did something that day to help someone. Firefighters have the knowledge and skills to help on what may be the worst day of someone's life. There is no other feeling like knowing that you can make a positive difference.

Union County Fire Department is always in need of more

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

David Dyer



## Real Faith

I attended a conference once, where one of the speakers mentioned the name Mo Anderson. A wave of admiration swept the cavernous hall. I didn't know her.

The folks at Keller Williams Realty do. In 1972, the former music teacher earned her real estate license. Two years later she set up her first office. In 1995 at the age of 57, she became CEO of Keller Williams Realty.

In her book, "A Joy-Filled Life," she tells about a critical time in her faith journey. Her parents raised her in a Christian home, including church attendance, family devotions, and prayer. As a university student, a professor asked her class, "How many of you are Christians?" She raised her hand. "I'm here to challenge that," he said. After that, for five years she wandered in the wilderness of agnosticism, not sure if God exists or cares to be involved in her life.

When her son Rick was young, she and her husband took him to Sunday School. They attended an adult class she considered boring. But one Sunday a bolt of lightning struck her thoughts: "Either Jesus was who He said He was, or He was the biggest liar and imposter the world has ever known."

The next day, she saw an ad in the newspaper. The Lutheran church was advertising a basic class in Christianity, "Is Christ real?" That is basic, because if Jesus isn't God the Son, and if his death and bodily resurrection didn't happen, then it is religion but not Christianity. Anderson and her husband attended the class.

The first evening of the class, the pastor explained that the Bible is two books. "The first book, the Old Testament, is the history of a nation that gave birth to a man called Jesus. The second book, called the New Testament, is about this man's life and its meaning." Those words gave Anderson a framework for understanding salvation history, culminating in Jesus' death on the cross. She began to learn of the transcendent meaning of that event in terms of forgiveness of sin, new life in Christ, and the hope of eternity.

She had attended church for much of her life, but not until she was an adult did she place her faith in Christ Jesus as her Savior. She prayed, "I don't understand all of this, Lord, but

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**All Things New**

Wayne Fowler



## Commissioner's Questions

In an earlier newspaper response on communication with the Union County Government, I spoke of several different channels that we offer allowing the public to communicate with us. I mentioned the CodeRED program for public safety; I mentioned the newest webpage with direct links for emailing various departments; I mentioned the upcoming TextMyGov feature on the website; and I talked about the iWorQ application. Today I will answer questions about the iWorQ system and its benefits.

**Q. What is the iWorQ program? I've seen it mentioned on the website, but I do not understand exactly how it works.**

A. The iWorQ's citizen engagement software provides convenient methods for residents to notify county leadership about issues in the community. At this time, Union County residents can report road-related issues. Things such as fallen trees, broken pipes, potholes, and even kudos for a job well done can be reported using this system.

**Q. Where do I find the iWorQ program? How do I send a message?**

A. There are a few ways to locate the iWorQ program. First, you can go to: <https://talktomycity.com> Another way to access the page is to go to the Union County Government website. On the homepage under the "News and Events" section, you will see iWorQ instructions. Once you get to the iWorQ login page, designate your county by typing in the agency code: unicity. At that point, you can decide to link the program to your Facebook account, you can create a login/password, or you can simply use it as a guest. This can be accomplished using any internet-capable device. A mobile app is also available.

**Q. Where does iWorQ request go when I submit it?**

A. All road department requests go directly to road department personnel. This direct communication makes our response time more efficient so that the road department can more quickly assess the specific need.

**Q. What if I want to talk to someone about my problem? How can I provide additional details?**

A. The request form asks for basic information such as loca-

See Paris, page 5A

**Q & A from Union County Commissioner**

Lamar Paris



## Out of the Mouths of Babes

I missed you all last week as I was on a short vacation for family reunion. Twenty-five years ago, I put on a mock Olympics after the children attended the Atlanta Olympics, after which they came to retreat in the mountains. So, a couple of months ago, I sent out a group text to the children

(some of whom are married with children of their own) asking if anyone was up for a 25-year anniversary. With a resounding yes, the plans were on.

All that said, there was a special moment during the three-day event that touched me, and probably will reside in my heart till I take my last breath. Returning from a fishing trip in Blue Ridge, the family - great-grandson in tow - stopped at and toured the Veteran's Memorial in Blue Ridge, mostly because of the Huey helicopter and my service as a UH-1 crew chief. We toured the memorial and talked about the elements, ultimately stopping at a cutout of soldier kneeling in front of the "boots, rifle, steel pot"

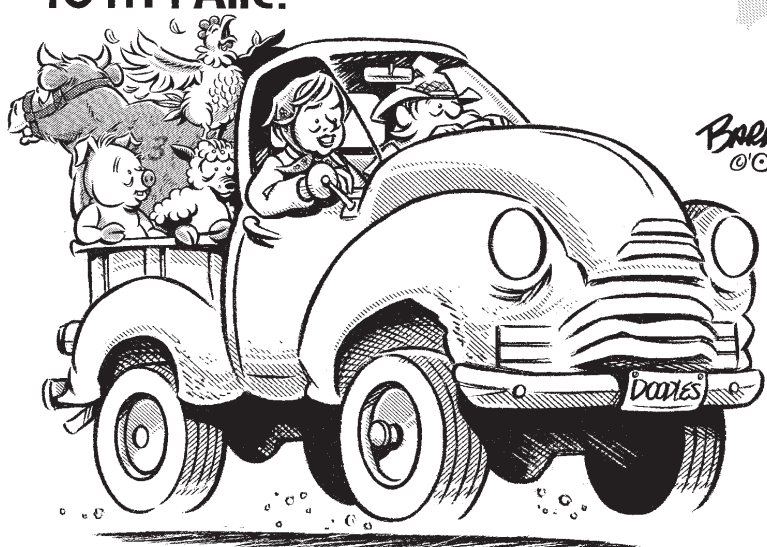
See Walters-Taylor, page 5A

**Military Musings**

Janice Walters-Taylor



**IF LIFE'S COMIN' AT YA FROM EVERY SIDE, AN' IT'S MORE THAN YOU CAN BEAR - DON'T BE FLUSTER'D, DON'T YA FRET, GET THEE TO TH' FAIR!**



## Chamber of Commerce

I would like to thank Brad Bohannon and Carrie Wilder from the Georgia Lottery for being our guest at last week's Power Lunch. It was great to hear all that Georgia Lottery has done for education in the State of Georgia, and being a parent of a college student, I am thankful for the assistance.

Last week we lost Carlton Colwell who was an institution in our community and North Georgia. Carlton served for 30 years in the Georgia House of Representatives including serving on the Appropriation Committee. We have Representative Colwell to thank for many of the highways and bridges in our area and thanks to his work on ESPLOST we have some of the best schools anywhere. Carlton will be missed but his legacy lives on!

It is no secret that COVID-19 has reared its ugly head again and our community is not exempt from its effects. Many of our neighboring hospitals are not accepting patients which increases the burden on Union General. The em-

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**Blairsville - Union County Chamber President**

Steve Rowe



## Letters to the Editor

### Please Stop the Fearmongering

Dear Editor,

I felt it was worth responding to the continued fearmongering surrounding the "Delta Variant" and implications for our children, typical of the opinions shared by a letter writer in the Aug. 11 paper. While this writer is rightfully concerned about neighbors and loved ones, there is no context provided to characterize the risk that leads to her conclusion that resuming normal activities is "irresponsible and foolhardy."

Despite the issues with testing and at-

See Murauskas, page 5A

### Our Taxes Are Reasonable

Dear Editor,

There have been many letters to the editors lately expressing concerns about our property taxes based on the new assessments and many statements about what I will call "excessive" property taxation by the Commissioner. So I decided to go back and check my property taxes for the last 10 years.

From 2010 to 2020 my property taxes went up a total of \$106.57, or \$10.66 a year on average. Anyone who has lived here for any length of time knows that our property taxes have been extremely reasonable. In 2015, 2016, and 2017 our property taxes actually went down (unless you made improvements to your home that increased

See Fitzgerald, page 5A

### One National Anthem

Dear Editor,

The writer of a recent letter expressed his support for playing the "Black National Anthem" at all NFL games. He concluded by suggesting this would "bring us all together." At the risk of being called a racist, is he serious? This is utter nonsense. This will just deepen the divide.

I was born in 1930 and have never seen the country more divided. I remember the separation of the races and witnessed the efforts of

See White, page 5A

### Against Spraying Herbicides

Dear Editor,

I am writing in reference to the spraying of herbicides under the power lines along Pat Colwell Road and other parts of Union County.

Besides being an eyesore, for the past 50 years, we have been hearing about the dangers of herbicides and their negative effects on humans and animals. We also see on TV class action lawsuits against Roundup, Paraquat, etc.

My concern is that our beautiful county

See Langer, page 5A

## Your Business vs. Wildfire

Protecting Your Business from Wildfire - Wildfires are a risk throughout the U.S. and pose a significant threat to buildings and lives in wildfire-prone areas. As more and more businesses expand into the wildland-urban interface—or WUI, a term used to designate wildfire-prone areas where homes and businesses are also located—the wildfire risk to businesses will also grow. In this environment, business protection must take into account both the materials and design features of the building, as well as the selection, location and maintenance of landscape plants, including grasses, shrubs, bushes and trees.

This article by the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) provides an overview of wildfire hazards, mitigation strategies, and useful resources to help protect your business from the threat of wildfire. Most people associate wildfire damage with direct flame contact from the wildfire as it burns past the building. However, buildings also can be damaged or destroyed when they are exposed to burning embers and/or radiant heat. Building ignitions during wildfires occur when a component of a building is exposed to one or more of these three wildfire exposures.

1. Burning Embers - Burning embers and wind-blown burning embers in particular, are the most frequent cause of building ignitions. These embers are generated by the burning wildfire itself, as well as by combustible items the wildfire has previously ignited, such as landscape plants, which includes grasses, shrubs, bushes and trees. Importantly, burning embers can travel for long distances before landing on or near a building. Embers can ignite buildings in several ways: Embers can ignite combustible construction materials directly when accumulating on or immediately adjacent to them. Combustible construction materials are those that ignite and burn such as wood, plastic, and wood-plastic products used in decking and siding. Embers can enter a building through openings, such as an open window or attic vent, and ignite combustible items inside the building.

2. Direct Flame Contact - Direct flame contact refers to actual flames from the wildfire coming into contact with buildings or combustible items attached to or near the building. 3. Radiant Heat - Fire generates radiant heat and if it is high enough and the duration is long enough, radiant heat can ignite a combustible product or break the glass in a window. Additionally, exposures to lower levels of radiant heat can preheat materials, making them easier to ignite from a

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**RC&D Executive Director**

Frank Riley



## The Bee Bluff

Stories told to me about the place were fascinating. It was located down the creek from the Cummings Sawmill in a bluff about 30 feet above Cummings Creek. During the Civil War a swarm of bees had located themselves midway in the hollow of a rock face, which was a perfect refuge from predators.

The Bee Bluff had become a legend and people came from miles just to see this oddity. The quickest way to the bee bluff was through the property of Jack Landers. It was only a mile through his farm down to the Bluff. Actually, you could drive almost to the Bluff if you obtained Jack's permission to drive across his pastures. Jack Landers was a likeable fellow and never turned down anyone who asked his permission to visit the Bee Bluff.

Tragedy struck my grandfather's family in the early 1950s. Papa's youngest sister, Inez, lost her husband Ralph Abston in an automobile accident. They had one son, and after the funeral, she could find no work. So, she moved to Chicago where her brother Clay lived. Clay helped her find a job, and soon she met the man who would become my father's uncle. Of course, I didn't know Uncle John in those days, but I remember him as being the biggest man I have ever personally known, standing 6 feet and 5 inches tall and weighing more than 350 pounds. But, I can truthfully say that John Porcuro was the kindest and gentlest man I ever met. Soon John and Inez became engaged, and they decided the wedding would take place at the home of my great grandfather, Lon, in Alabama.

The whole family was to gather at Lon's house on the day of the marriage, and the wedding would take place at 3 p.m. on that May afternoon in 1954. Uncle John had spent the night with my father's family while Aunt Inez spent the night at Lon's house prior to the wedding. While sitting around watching Uncle John eat a half dozen eggs, sausage, gravy, biscuits, milk and copious amounts of coffee, the family learned that he was an aspiring artist. He enjoyed drawing nature scenes, and my father, Paul, and his brother, Bud, offered to take Uncle John to the Bee Bluff. Our family farm was located to the east of my Great Grandfather's farm and southeast of the Bee Bluff.

Daddy said, "We packed a couple of poke sacks with sausage biscuits and began walking the long circuitous route to the Bee Bluff. First, we began walking in a southerly direction down Turkey Creek toward its junction with Cummings Creek at the Mon Dye bottoms. When we reached the Mon Dye bottoms, we turned back

See Cummings, page 5A

**Around The Farm**

Mickey Cummings



## Fire Blight

Many folks have apple trees in their yard, and they are a great addition to any landscape. They have beautiful flowers in the spring, and then in the late summer you can pick the apples or let them feed wildlife. One of the biggest diseases that people have on apple trees is fire blight. This disease can spread rapidly through your apple trees. This year I have seen more of it around than normal. So let's talk about fire blight and what you can do to prevent it from taking over your trees.

Fire blight is a bacterial disease, which separates it from many of the other diseases that we see which are fungal. The scientific name of the bacteria that causes fire blight is *Erwinia amylovora*. You will see the effects of it on blossoms, leaves, shoots, branches, fruits, and roots. It can affect other plants in the rose family. This includes pears, plums, cherries, and spirea among others. These plants are not as common, so they don't get as much attention. A unique example is Bradford pears. They have some natural resistance, but they still can get fire blight.

Fire blight will normally enter the tree during bloom through the blossoms. Once it gets into the current season's growth, it will move into older growth. Some of the symptoms that you'll see are blighted twigs that have become water soaked. Young twigs, branches, and leaves will die at the end and look like they have been burned. The branches may bend at the end forming a shepherd's crook. The dead leaves remain on the branches.

Once an apple tree is infected with fire blight, it will spread throughout the tree. It is spread from infected trees to healthy trees by rain, wind, or contaminated pruning tools. It can overwinter in the tree and cause an ooze out of cankers in the spring. That ooze will attract insects that carry the fire blight to other trees.

If left untreated fire blight will kill an apple tree. So what can you do about it? The first step is to prune out infected growth during the spring and summer. Cut the infected branches out 8 inches below where the damage is. Dip your pruning tools in a 10% bleach solution between each cut to avoid spreading the pathogen. It is also important to spray your apple trees every 7-10 days with either copper hydroxide or streptomycin when leaves begin to emerge through bloom. Copper hydroxide can start to burn leaves as they get larger. Sprays are not 100% effective especially if you have a warm wet spring. Avoiding heavy nitrogen fertilization will help reduce infection during the summer.

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**Watching and Working**

Jacob Williams



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## Paris... continued from Page 4A

tion, nearest intersection, description of issue or concern. Please give the information that is requested, but also add a statement that you would like to speak with someone personally. By doing this, someone from the road department is sure to call you for more information.

**Q. What is the benefit of using this program over simply calling the road dept?**

A. The iWorQ database au-

tomatically logs your request by the day and time of your submission. It also provides a mechanism where multiple county-wide personnel can see all requests submitted.

Finally, as the request is completed, the system documents the date and time the request is closed. This comes in handy should we ever need to refer back to a specific iWorQ request.

## Chamber... continued from Page 4A

employees are working overtime to meet the needs of our community. With that being said, wait times are longer than many would like and to tell you the truth that also includes the staff. But, due to events that are out of their control, they cannot shorten these times. Please be considerate and understanding that they are doing everything in their power to take care of the sick as quickly as possible. They are

spending long hours away from their families in a very stressful environment. If you are not vaccinated please consider getting one of the vaccines that are available. Talk to your medical professional to determine the best option for you. The Health Department is still offering shots everyday with no appointment. Get your shot today and make everything better in Blairsville!

## Riley... continued from Page 4A

direct flame contact exposure. Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) represent the wildfire hazard in a particular area based on an evaluation of the plants and landscaping, fire history, slope and other terrain features that may impact the growth and spread of fire. Building vulnerabilities are generally addressed on a component-by-component basis, and typically include the roof, exterior walls, windows, deck and other attachments, vents and gutters, as well as design features that can affect the vulnerability of a given component.

**Roofs** - Since the roof is a large, relatively horizontal surface covering the building, it is often considered the most vulnerable component, particularly from an ember exposure perspective. Fire ratings for roof coverings are either Class A, B or C. IBHS recommends a Class A covering. For low-slope roofs, a Class A-rated roof cover includes testing and rating of the entire roof system assembly, which includes the roof cover, insulation, vapor or air barriers, and the type of deck. Examples of roof systems considered to be Class A regardless of the deck type include built-up roofing and ballasted single-ply membranes. There are a number of Class A-rated steep-slope roof coverings, including asphalt composition shingles, clay tile and steel. Some Class A tile designs provide for an opening at the eave

end and ridge. These openings should be plugged with a noncombustible material to minimize entry of embers in the area under the roof covering.

**Windows** - Using dual-paned windows with tempered glass will reduce the vulnerability of windows. Operational windows should have screens covering those sections that can open. **Vents** - At a minimum, vents should be covered with 1/8-inch noncombustible mesh screening. This will minimize the size of embers that can enter into the attic or crawlspace area. Vents that are perpendicular to the flow of wind, such as a gable end vent or those in under-eave blocking, are more vulnerable to ember entry. Ridge vents that are rated to resist the entry of wind-driven rain or vents in boxed-in under-eave construction are better options. **Exterior Walls** - Non-combustible siding materials such as concrete and brick will provide the greatest fire protection from flames, embers, and radiant heat. The distance between the ground and the bottom of the siding on the exterior wall affects a building's vulnerability, particularly when walls are made of materials that can ignite. **Be Safe, be Aware and Be Firewise!** For more information on wildfires, contact Frank Riley, Executive Director, Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council at info.ccred@gmail.com.

## Walters-Taylor... continued from Page 4A

icon associated with the death of a soldier. I briefly explained the meaning of the cutout, that one soldier was remembering the other for their ultimate sacrifice... and then we were on our way.

The morning that they were due to depart, I was talking with the little one about some of the things that we had done and seen. He brought up the place about the helicopter. And when I asked him about the cutout and what it meant, he said, "One soldier lost his friend, and he was

kneeling down and crying because he was sad."

So often we make so much out of things, over complicate the explanation, when out of the mouths of babes comes the most sincere and honest pared-down explanation. Sure, and right as rain, when we lose a soldier, we kneel and cry.

Blessings to all of the families and friends who have lost a loved one – we are all very sad.

Until we muse, and remember, again, I bid you, "At Ease!"

## White... continued from Page 4A

so many people to ensure everyone was treated equally. Legislation was enacted prohibiting discrimination, and over the years tremendous progress was made in achieving equality. We elected a black president, a black vice president, and blacks to every office in the land, yet we are called racists. And now we have anarchists in our streets carrying ANTIFA and BLM banners whose sole purpose is the destruction of the last bastion of freedom that exists on this planet.

There is no perfect society, and the Founders of this republic acknowledged as much in the first sentence of the Constitution: "We the People of the United States in Order to form a more perfect Union..." They knew the republic they created was not perfect yet provided a means for

correcting imperfections through the enactment of Constitutional Amendments. In fact, AMENDMENT XIII prohibited slavery, a condition that had existed for hundreds of years prior to the creation of this republic.

We are one nation with one flag. We are not two nations with two flags. Is every ethnic group also entitled to their own flag? My ancestors arrived on these shores as indentured servants. Maybe I should fly the Menorcan National Flag to honor their servitude.

Martin Luther King Jr. said it best; it's the content of our character, not the color of our skin, that should determine our relationship with each other. We don't need another National Anthem. We already have one.  
**Peter W. White**

## Murauskas... continued from Page 4A

tributing of most mortalities to COVID, the CDC reports 337 deaths between 0 and 17 years of age as of Aug. 11, 2021. Georgia Department of Public Health shows 12 youth losses statewide (0.001% of all cases). This level of infection fatality rates in children has been confirmed by the European Journal of Epidemiology (issue 35, pages 1123–1138) at 0.002% (1 in 50,000 cases)! These are terrible losses, but they pale in comparison to youth lost in car accidents, drownings, suicide, and homicide. Some of which – like suicide – have skyrocketed as the heavy hand of government has precluded children from attending schools, sport activities, churches, and participating in extracurricular activities.

Another overlooked aspect of the "Delta Variant" is death rates. They have increased to 1.65 deaths per million people in the USA (as of Aug. 10), though that rate is considerably lower than what we observed between April 2, 2020, and June 2, 2021, a period of 426 days. Cases are up in Union County and sadly there have been a few associated deaths. This is discouraging and saddening, but it's important to put these numbers in perspec-

tive for the sake of our children, whose risk from exposure is not statistically different from zero.

After 18 months of what started as "flatten the curve," it's morphed into "no new cases," lockdowns, travel restrictions, mask mandates, to the ridiculous notion that the government will knock on doors in desperation to make sure everyone over 12 years of age is inoculated. Yet we have no convincing evidence that masks or lockdowns work, and now it's clear that the jabs do not prevent infection or transmission. How has anyone stuck with this narrative?

What will it take for our citizens to realize that the government, media, and big pharma have not provided clear leadership on this issue? With over 80% of Union County residents with vaccination or immunity from previous exposure, it is becoming harder to justify social distancing, masking, lockdowns, or other government-mandated actions that are causing significant issues with our children. Take five minutes to verify these statements and you may be surprised. Our children have been shouldering the burden of your fear, and I'm begging you to stop.  
**Josh Murauskas**

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

to the north and went up Cummings Creek. The whole route was about 8 miles."

The threesome climbed over big boulders and killed snakes. They walked through poison ivy and briars all while Uncle John was walking in a pair of flat bottomed wing tips. Every now and then he would ask, "How much further?" One of the boys would say "about a mile or so." When one of the boys got hungry he would let the other and Uncle John pass so the big man could not see them eating their stashed sausage biscuit. When the other boy got hungry he would use the same technique. By the time they arrived at the Bee Bluff, Uncle John was tired and hungry. But, he never complained. He sat down on a big rock and sketched the rock face on a big piece of paper.

About 2 p.m. Dad heard a horn blowing. Uncle Bud let out a war hoop and the boys scrambled up the face of the rock to find their Daddy and his old truck right up on top of the bluff. When Uncle John finally made it to the top, he looked at Papa and asked him, "How did you get here?" Papa said that he had driven, and he asked, "How did you'ns get here?" Dad explained they had walked around the creeks. Uncle John's eyes widened when he learned he'd walked 8 miles through

## Williams...

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Finally, plant apple varieties that have natural resistance to fire blight to ease the challenge. A couple of varieties that have natural resistance are Arkansas Black, Golden Delicious, Liberty, Yates, and Winesap. A few varieties that are highly susceptible to fire blight are Fuji, Gala, Granny Smith, Pink Lady, and Empire.

If you have questions about fire blight contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

## Dyer...

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volunteers. We need people who are willing to learn new skills; who are problem solvers; and who are wanting to help their community by responding during someone's hour of need. For more information on how to become a volunteer, contact Headquarters Station at 706-439-6091.

Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

## Fowler...

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I'm going to give you my life. I'm going to do my best, based on my understanding, to give you my commitment and my loyalty from this day forward." From that moment, her life has had purpose, direction, peace, and hope.

At that conference I mentioned, I had the opportunity to meet Mo. (She insisted I call her that!) I found her to be warm and engaging, and a woman of real faith. Is yours a story of real faith?

## Fitzgerald...

continued from Page 4A

your property value). I suspect most of the current uproar is from the influx of newbies.

You can check your property tax history just like I did by going online to the Tax Commissioner's Office and searching your property tax records. Anybody who thinks an average yearly increase of \$10.66 is "excessive," I feel sorry for you. The Commissioner has done an outstanding job of making this county a very desirable place to live while keeping taxes so low. My property taxes prove that he has not only kept the budget under tight control but advanced the quality of life for all of us.

To all of our new, unhappy residents, I wonder what made this county so attractive to you as a place to relocate or retire? Recognize the forward thinking that has made this county so desirable to you (and all of us), and enjoy it. Our taxes are very reasonable.  
**Jim Fitzgerald**

## Langer...

continued from Page 4A

and lake are being affected by these chemicals. They eventually run into the water system and can therefore affect all living things.

I am wondering why this brush can't just be cut with a brush hog on an arm extension instead. I am hoping there is some way we can avoid using these dangerous chemicals again in the future.  
**Joseph H. Langer III**

declined. First of all, he was too sore to walk, and secondly, he told the boys he would never

allow himself to be guided by a pair of mischievous Cummings boys again.

the woods when he could've driven most of the way. With a sheepish grin, Dad said, "In all the excitement I guess we forgot about the shortcut."

Uncle John got back to the house and fell asleep in the wash tub. It took Dad, Bud, Papa and two of Papa's brothers to get him out of the tub. During the wedding, Uncle John fell asleep three times and had to be awakened to say his vows. Aunt Inez told the family that he'd slept through their honeymoon night as well. The next day, the two Cummings boys offered to take Uncle John to the Rock Bridge. He