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Union County Environmental Health?

A. You can always call them at 706-781-3824 or go by their office located at 46 Hughes St., Blairsville, across the road and up the hill from Haralson Memorial Civic Center. This office handles numerous different things, including Septic Permits, Hotel, Motel, and Cabin Rental Inspections, Public Pool Inspections, and Well Permits. They also inspect the Schools, Jail, Detention Center, Hospital, and the Nursing Home.

They work very hard to protect the health and safety of the public that use certain facil-

ities and eating establishments in the county.

Q: How can I check the restaurant Health Inspection score before eating there?

A. You can either check on the website <http://ga.healthinspections.us/stateofgeorgia/#search/0>, or when you walk into the restaurant their Health Inspection score should be displayed. This website can be used for restaurants all over the State of Georgia in different cities. This would be very useful if you were traveling outside of Union County, so you can make sure you are eating somewhere that has a good score.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

selected through an application process which considers their community involvement, desire to grow as a community leader, and interest in the overall wellbeing and growth of Union County. Throughout the twelve-week program, participants will learn extensively about local government, law enforcement, economic development, and local education. Leaders in the business community in Union County will teach on various topics including, Ethics, Conflict Management, Workplace Culture, and Goal Setting. The class participants will also develop and create a strategic initiative to positively effect our community. Past class projects include the "We Are Still Here" program which promoted awareness of Native American heritage and the continuing influence and impact in our area. Another project birthed out of Leadership Union provided graduates of Drug Court with necessities such as toiletries, socks, and hand towels to begin their new journeys.

Please allow me to

proudly present the selected participants for Leadership Union 2019. They are as follows: Holly Brothers with Chick-fil-A, Lesa Byrd with Bank OZK, Derek Carter with Nelson Tractor Supply, Wes Cook with Chick-fil-a, Jeff Davis with Jeff Davis State Farm Insurance, Josh Davis with Union County High School, Crystal Dockery with Mortgage Financial Group, Michael Gay with Union General Hospital, Al Haywood with SERVPRO, Rhonda Hood with The Mountain Life Team, Keller Williams Realty, Scotty Jarrard with Harmony Grove Baptist Church, Shawn Kight with The Sawmill Place, Jaime Levins with Young Harris College, Oleg Malyshv with Edward Jones, Kitty Mauzy with United Community Bank, Jeremy Nelms with Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Margie Porter with Amazing Grace Catering and Events, and Shawna Rich with Nelson Tractor Supply.

Anyone interested in participating in the 2020 Leadership Union Class, should contact Dawn at the Chamber.

As always, Shop Local!

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

tributed to reductions in the country's life expectancy over the last three years, a pattern unprecedented since World War II. Life expectancy at birth has fallen by nearly four months, and drug overdoses are the leading cause of death for adults under 55.

"The idea that a developed wealthy nation like ours has declining life expectancy just doesn't seem right," said Robert Anderson, the chief of mortality statistics at the CDC, who helped prepare the reports. "If you look at the other wealthy countries of the world, they're not seeing the same thing."

Recent federal public policy responses to the opioid epidemic have focused on opioid prescriptions. But several public health researchers say that the rise of fentanyl requires different tools. Opioid prescriptions have been falling, even as the death rates from overdoses are rising.

"Fentanyl deaths are up, a 45 percent increase; that is not a success," said Dr. Dan Ciccarone, a professor of family and community medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. "We have a heroin and synthetic opioid epidemic that is out of control and needs to be addressed."

Synthetic drugs tend to be more deadly than prescription pills and heroin for two main reasons. They are usually more potent, meaning small errors in measurement can lead to an overdose. The blends of synthetic drugs

also tend to change frequently, making it easy for drug users to underestimate the strength of the drug they are injecting. In some parts of the country, drugs sold as heroin are exclusively fentanyls now.

The trends in overdose deaths vary widely across the country. The epidemic has been strongest in Northeast, Midwest and Mid-Atlantic States. In the West, where heroin is much less likely to be mixed with fentanyls, overdose rates are far lower. Data from the CDC indicate that a state's overdose trend closely tracks the number of fentanyl-related deaths.

Despite the sharp recent increases in drug-related deaths, some early signs suggest that 2017 could be the peak of the overdose epidemic. Preliminary data show death rates leveling off nationally in the early months of this year, though there is still a lot of local variation. Several states and cities have embarked on ambitious public health programs to reduce the deadliness of drug use and connect more drug users with treatment.

But there is still a very long way to go. "The concept of a plateau doesn't fill me with a lot of optimism, given how high the numbers are," said Joshua Sharfstein, a vice dean at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the former secretary of health and mental hygiene in Maryland, where overdoses continue to rise. "The numbers are so staggering."

Riley... continued from Page 4A

2016. During that extreme dry spell, a wildfire nearby burned 28,000 acres all on National Forest land. Towns only had one wildfire during that time, which is a credit to our citizens for their efforts to reduce risk. We don't claim that big fire even though it entered Towns County because it started in Rabun County and stayed in the Forest Service.

Members of the Fire-wise Coalition are available to

talk to any group of homeowners who want to join this elite group. Firewise is free and the right thing to do for our county, our community, our homes and even our family's lives!

For additional fire prevention information please contact the Chestatee/Chatahoochee RC&D Council at info.ccred@gmail.com, or visit our website at www.chestchat-trcd.org or www.firewise.org.

S.A.F.E. needs volunteers

S.A.F.E. (Support in Abusive Family Emergencies): we are in need of volunteers for our Thrift stores and our Shelter! We need help in every area. Thrift store, mentoring, newsletters, childcare, life coaching, transporting, crafting, shelter repair, computer lessons, whatever skills you may have!

(All volunteers must submit to a criminal background check and depending upon your area of interest, may be required to obtain fingerprinting at our cost.)

You can make a difference in your community. Our purpose is to help those who have been affected by abuse.

Any time, any skill can help us achieve our goals. If you can help in any way please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Robin O'Neill at 706-379-1901.

S.A.F.E. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides services to domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse in Towns, and Union counties. For information on available workshops or to volunteer for S.A.F.E. please contact (706) 379-1901. If you are a victim of Domestic Violence or sexual Assault or know someone who is, call S.A.F.E. for confidential assistance 24 hours a day, (706) 379-1901.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

After Boot Camp Bud Baker received a furlough from the Army and came home to north Alabama for a few days. It was a festive occasion and once again the entire family gathered at Ed's home to celebrate the homecoming. But, the celebration was short and filled with apprehension.

Within a few days Bud was to report to another assignment which would eventually lead to the war in Europe. Bud got up one morning and left his wife and young family crying. He began to the long walk to Phil Campbell to catch the train toward Mississippi. He had not been gone long when Dot heard her mother call her name. She walked into the kitchen and she heard, "Dot, your Daddy has forgot his tie and he will get into trouble if he isn't properly dressed. So, take this tie and run after your Daddy. When you catch up to him give him the tie".

Dot, ran a couple of hundred yards and then turned south on the road to Spruce Pine. The 5 year old girl caught up with her Daddy after about

Fowler...

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to his wife." "You formed my inward parts; you wove me in my mother's womb."

How do you sail your ship against these cultural headwinds? Well, first, know what you believe. If you're not sure, consider the evidence in nature of a Creator God. Next, trust who God has revealed Himself to be, and believe what He says about you in the Bible. Finally, say true words to and about God, from whom all blessings flow to all creatures here below. And pray for mercy.

Williams...

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rived in Georgia they also cut down many of the high quality black walnut trees leaving behind short and scraggly trees that aren't as good for timber, and we see the descendants of those trees today.

It's also possible to make syrup from black walnut trees. Black walnuts don't produce as much syrup as maple trees do, and the flavor is a little different. The flavor has butterscotch and nutty overtones. One thing to be aware of before you begin making your own syrup is that people with nut allergies can be affected by walnut syrup too. The ideal time to tap trees is when you have cold nights with day temperatures in the 40s.

If you have questions about Black walnuts or other trees please contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Dyer...

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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 @ 706-439-6091.

Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

Moore...

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mum border security force, a huge reduction in drugs and dealers, reduction in housing, food and medical costs, and last but definitely not least, keeping out those who have no respect, whatsoever, for the law and law officers.

L.A. Moore

Combs...

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one who prayed that all would come to know the saving grace of our Lord and Savior, Christ, Jesus? We all have a choice in this life to make a difference in people's lives, to lift up and to support those who are less fortunate and to leave a legacy that will prayerfully have a positive impact on those footsteps who come behind us.

Jesus gave His disciples a simple but profound command: Love one another as I have loved you, and love your neighbor as yourself.

It will be interesting to see how 2019 stacks up to my new resolutions I have challenged myself to. One never knows unless one truly puts his faith into action.

Though the Christmas season is over, may we experience the spirit of Christ all year long in our hearts, and may God bless you all in this New Year of 2019!

Frank F. Combs

of doubt that her Daddy loved her very much.

That memory of her

Daddy going to war will always be etched into the mind of Dot Gooch.