Opinions

Everybody has one...

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. Between the cancelled shows and the fact that some people may not want to go to a show this year due to the virus, there may be more people who are thinking of having their own fireworks show. Union Fire Dept.

from Union

County

Fire Chief

County Fire Department would like for everyone to keep several things in mind when enjoying the festivities and if they plan on having their own fireworks show.

As we have said many times, safety is always first. Fireworks are

fun and exciting, but they can also be very dangerous. The last thing that we want is to spend our holiday weekend in the emergency room or worse, in a burn center. Last year, there were nearly 5,000 injuries on the Fourth of July due to fireworks. People need to respect the hazards and dangers of all fireworks.

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. Use fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from flammable materials. Light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting. Never hold fireworks in your hand and please do not make your own fireworks. Please keep these tips in mind. They can help ensure that you and your family have a safe and enjoyable show.

Another consideration is the laws that apply to fireworks. There are too many elements of the law to be explained here. The laws and ordinances cover things such as the minimum age to purchase fireworks, the time of day to ignite fireworks, the location, and the distances from certain areas. It is a good practice to research the laws and to follow them. The laws and ordinances are designed for the safety and wellbeing of the people. They are also designed for the consideration of neighbors.

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. Have a great Independence

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

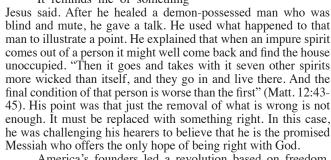
Free Indeed

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. Iraqis brought down Saddam Hussein in 2003. Ukrainians toppled Lenin in 2014. I understand those. But Columbus, Washington, All Things

Lee, Grant? Even Francis Scott Key and Teddy Roosevelt can no longer stand. This cleansing of the public square... maybe someone can translate the statement being made, if it's a coherent statement at all.

It reminds me of something



America's founders led a revolution based on freedom, however imperfectly. But the trajectory they set became opportunity for all to gain freedom, including the right of assembly, protest, and speech. Do those who seem to want a modern revolution realize that they are railing against the very culture that grants their freedom to speak against its flaws? Will they open the doors to a final condition far worse than the first?

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. The French, Russian and Chinese revolutions are cautionary examples of this truth. Far from ordering freedom, they spiraled down to demonic disorder and tyranny, often far worse than

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. One of the major responsibilities of emergency management is to ensure that the public is properly informed of emergen-

cies and incidents that may affect the

community. Union County Emergen-

cy Management Agency (UCEMA)

has utilized the Wireless Emergency

Q & A from Union County Paris

Notification System (WENS) for over ten years to provide emergency notifications to the public. The system has served us well; however, it is time for an upgrade. We have chosen to utilize this new system

called CodeRED. 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. However, we do request that everyone who is already signed up visit the CodeRED enrollment page at tinyurl.com/ucalerts and update their information. This will allow us to make sure we have the correct information and you can also customize which alerts you would like to receive and how you receive them.

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. There is no charge to register or use CodeRED, and your personal information will be kept confidential. County residents are strongly encouraged to go to the CodeRED website, tinyurl.com/ucalerts, and register. Once you register, you will be able to customize your alerts and how you receive them. You can also find the link to CodeRED on the Union County Government website at www.unioncountyga.gov or you can text UCALERTS to 99411.

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? The DRUG FREE MOUNTAIN

You may feel that you are the only one with questions and concerns and are reluctant to discuss this topic with othsurrounding alcohol

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.

and drug use. Here is the GOOD NEWS!! You are not the only parent with questions and concerns about how to manage your teen and the Partnership for Drug Free Kids recently

conducted eight focus groups across the country with a diverse set of parents of 11- to 16-yearolds and found that an overwhelming majority shared similar concerns and reservations about how to manage early prevention strategies with their teens. Some were certain that their kids had

See **Drug Free**, page 5A



"Sure, your book title is catchy, Mr. Paine, but common sense has no place in modern politics!"

Letters to the Editor

Horrible, Racist & Unjust?

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? Newcomers learn our language; assimilate into our culture; obey the laws; respect our history; learn skills and work (often many jobs), and thrive within this capitalist system of opportunity. And they don't seem to have the endless issues 13 percent of the American population have.

Could a culture that champions singleparent 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. The flag is given to service members, police officers and veterans' families upon their passing.

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 a make

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. You've sold your soul for a few brownie points. When you get to hell, I hope it hurts. You are the Speaker of the

House, but you don't speak for me. To my brothers and sisters: Oorah. Support your police.

Regards David W Gearheart

U.S. Army, Retired

North Georgia News Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

Kenneth West

Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com

Shawn Jarrard Publisher/Owner Website: www.nganews.com

Mailing: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514

Fireshed

An Expression of Gratitude

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. I hope that I've been safe and helped to keep them

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. Most recently, I observed them in action at the protest/vigil at the Union County Courthouse on June 14. They set out cones and tape, provided security, and enabled the event to proceed in a way that does credit to our country.

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. We'd be in much worse shape without them.

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

Lynnae Boudreau

Self-Righteous Judges

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. Many of those who eagerly point the accusing fingers are African Americans, but more than a few of them are sadly even Caucasian "Christians." It is evident that in their public writing and comments, people like me are guilty from the moment we are born simply because of the color of our skin. That sort of sounds like they may be making racist comments themselves. I stand accused of "violence" because of silence, participating in systemic or institutional racism (factually or not, knowing or un-knowingly), as well as unconsciously nurturing some ghost-like racist demon lurking inside my soul, even though they have never personally met me. If they have met me, they have never seen my life's resume or yours, and it does not seem to matter. Excuse me if I deem those fellow Americans' comments unfounded and very

See Braddy, page 5A

Derek Richards Advertising Director

Todd Forrest Sports Editor

Lowell Nicholson Photographer

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. A team of mules pulling a wagon laden with cot-

ton could make the trip from Trapptown to Phil Campbell in 3.5 to 4 hours. It's a 7-mile trip to town, and now it only takes 10-12 minutes, but, in the days



of my great-grandfather, mules and horses were the modes of transportation.

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. By the time they came to the gin at 4:45 a.m., there was a line of about 4-5 wagons waiting by the railroad tracks next to the cotton gin. Just before 6 a.m., there were 15 wagons behind Papa and his father, Lon. Also at 6, the train from Birmingham to Memphis made its stop in Phil Campbell.

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." Lon Cummings grabbed the reigns of the mules and told his son to get down from the wagon. After stepping down and walking to the side of his father, he said, "That one-eyed monster let out a shrill whistle and it started to move. Our mules and every other mule at the gin began to prance around." Lon held tight to the mules and his little boy until the thing had traveled down the tracks, and then he explained to his son that the monster was actually a train that carried people and supplies from Birmingham to Memphis.

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. These three worked with a crew which included a fellow by the name of "Prince Albert Column." The young men worked long and difficult hours and made \$1 a day. Sometimes they would go without being paid for weeks at a time, and their boss was a hard man who used profanity often. Prince Albert was goosey, meaning that if poked in the ribs he would punch whatever was directly in front of him, and he was big

See Cummings, 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. Thank you to our event sponsors: Lakewood Capital Group,

Blue Ridge Moun-**Blairsville** tain EMC, and Downtown Development Authority. Thank you to King Ford for providing a beautiful Mustang

Chambei Steve Rowe

for our hole-in-one prize, and thank you to Abide Coffee, Dixie Confexions, and Chick-fil-A for providing nourishment for our players! Thank you to Butternut Creek Golf Course, Ingles, Walmart and WoodmenLife. Also, a special thank you to all the businesses who elected to become hole sponsors for this great event. Last year we were able to provide eight students with scholarships and we hope to do even better this year!

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

See Chamber, 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. However, if things aren't growing as they should be you could have a nutrient deficiency. Let's talk about some of the common nutrient

deficiencies, what their symptoms are, and what you can do to fix them. Seventeen

nutrients are essen-

tial for plant growth

(give or take a cou-

@UGA Watching and Working

Williams

ple 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 yellowgreen 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. Nitrogen is also mobile in the soil, so it will leach out easily following a rainfall. Splitting up nitrogen applications over the course of the season is the best way to make sure it's not wasted. Phosphorus deficiency will turn the leaves to a reddish-purplish color. Typically if you use a fertilizer like 10-10-10, 13-13-13. or 17-17-17 you won't have issues with phosphorus deficiency, because you will most likely have applied more phosphorus than the plant needs. Potassium deficiency turns leaf edges brown and causes dead spots throughout the leaf. It can look similar to drought damage.

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. Magnesium deficiency is yellowing between the leaf veins on old leaves. These yellow areas can turn brown and die. Epsom salts are good for plants that lack magnesium.

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. Boron deficiency makes the youngest leaves turn light green and become distorted. It can also cause blackheart in vegetables. Not enough molybdenum makes narrow leaves with yellowing in between the veins. As the leaves expand, they are mottled. A manganese shortage shows up as yellow or white colored leaves with green veins. Zinc scarcity will be reddish colored spotting

See Williams, page 5A

Publication No: 001505

Advertising, News deadlines Friday at 4 p.m. • Mail Service for all subscriptions except 30512, 30514 & 30572 - One Year \$40. In county, carrier delivered subscription is \$5. All subscriptions must be paid in advance. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is published weekly by NGN/TCH, Inc., 266 Cleveland Street, Blairsville, Georgia, 30512. Entered as Second Class Matter as of Dec. 17, 1988, at the Post Office in Blairsville. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. **Phone**: 706-745-6343 **Fax**: 706-745-1830 * P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514