Opinions

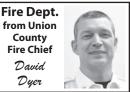
Everybody has one...

Smoke Alarms and Escape Plans

Smoke alarms save lives. You have probably heard us say it over and over, but it is true. However, they only save lives if they are in the home; working properly and the occupants know what to do when they sound. Having working smoke alarms and knowing how to escape are two major goals of our Smoke Alarm and Public Fire Education programs.

Home furnishings today are made up of synthetic materials that generate dark, toxic gases when burning, making it impossible to breathe or see within a few moments. A person can get disoriented and overcome by this smoke. Smoke alarms alert occupants of a fire and give them more time





Our Smoke Alarm Program offers free smoke alarms to residents of Union County who are in need. The ultimate goal of the program is to have smoke alarms in every home of Union County. Residents of Union County can call the fire department or complete an online request form. The fire department will schedule a time to visit the home and install the free smoke alarms. The resident's only obligation will be to answer a few simple survey questions. If you have smoke alarms in your home, there are a few

things that you should keep in mind. First, they must work. They should be wired to the home or be battery operated. Batteries should be changed every six months. People usually change batteries when the time changes. The batteries are used to power the sensors inside the detector or as battery back-up for wired alarms. If the smoke alarms are chirping, it needs a new battery. Now, let's say that you have smoke alarms and they are work-

ing properly. Do you know what to do when they sound? One major focus of our Public Fire Education program is teaching the home fire escape plan. This is a plan on how to escape the home when smoke alarms sound. The plan should include two ways to escape and a safe meeting place outside the home. The family should know the plan and it should be practiced

regularly. In a fire situation, when the smoke alarm sounds, a practiced home escape plan ensures that everyone knows how to use the precious minutes wisely.

Smoke alarms do save lives. Homeowners should ensure

See **Dyer**, page 5A

Suffering Cynicism

A friend and I stopped at a small, mom and pop restaurant. While waiting for our order, the proprietor sauntered over to our table to amuse us with a math challenge.

As he explained it, three men went to an inn and procured a room for \$30, which they split equally. Later the innkeeper gave the bellhop \$5 to return to the men. The bellhop decided to return \$1 to each man, meaning each man All Things

New

paid only \$9. So, \$9x3=\$27, the bellhop kept \$2, so that makes \$29. The final dollar disappeared, he said. It turns out that I had heard this

framing trick before, and my friend is a math teacher. So we laughed politely, and quickly unraveled the problem for him. To our astonishment, he became agitated and

insisted, "No, that's not right! Numbers lie, and you can't trust math!" We explained again, and he retorted that he'd told this story many times and we were the only ones that wouldn't admit the dollar was indeed lost in the mysteries of math. The proprietor derived a certain ironic pleasure from the

trick, which to him was not a trick at all. For him to believe the truth we presented plainly to him on the back of a napkin meant that he would have to admit error and abandon his arrogant conclusion that you can't trust math. I heard it said once that a skeptic doesn't believe what

is true and a cynic doesn't care what is true. Our restaurateur

clearly didn't care to consider the truth about the math because

that would have damaged his sense of superiority over math and affected his ability to impress customers with cleverness. He was Jesus made a blind man see. The man and his parents knew who did it. But under withering inquisition, the parents refused to admit the truth. To say anything good about Jesus would mean a fall in their standing in the community. Their son told everything

too high for them. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see" (John 9:39). Seeing and accepting the truth about Jesus has a cost, the loss of standing and respect

he knew, but his questioners would not accept it. To do so would

mean their standing would change as well. The cost of truth was

See Fowler, page 5A

Commissioner's Questions

Q. We have been receiving flyers in the mail to sign up for a helicopter service. Is this for the one that is based at **Union General Hospital?** A. No. Air Methods does not send out flyers to Union

County Residents because everyone is already a member based on the contract that Union County has with this helicopter service. Most citizens are receiving fly-Q & A ers for LifeForce, which is a different emergency helicopter service pro-County vider. This helicopter service is con-

tracted by Erlanger Medical Center

in Chattanooga. While it is based in

Blue Ridge, it is operated by Erlanger

Commissioner Paris

Medical Center in Chattanooga. Life-Force generally only picks up patients from Union County if the Air Methods Helicopter is either tied up with another emergency or is temporarily out of service for maintenance. The two helicopter companies work together and support each other as backup but a flight on the LifeForce helicopter is not covered under the membership that is paid for by Union County and Union General

Q. Is there a need for us to purchase a membership through LifeForce that is operated by Erlanger Medical Center?

A. The odds of needing the additional helicopter service are slim, but there is always the chance that two citizens could need to be air lifted at the same time. In the event this occurs, one would be transported on the Air Methods helicopter and one would be transported on the LifeForce helicopter. Since the membership is with Air Methods that person would not be charged, but the person transported with LifeForce would receive a bill from them. So, it is completely up to individuals on if they want to purchase the extra membership for added coverage or not. LifeForce is certainly a reputable company, but the decision is entirely up to the individual if they feel the membership could benefit them.

Q. Will Union County and Union General Hospital be able to continue providing this emergency helicopter service to citizens in the future?

A. Both the County and Union General Hospital look at this each year and decide if they can cover the cost for the citizens or not. We have been able to continue each year due to good plan-

See Paris, page 5A

Drug Free Mountain Life

Synthetic Drugs

Prevention is about advancing knowledge and understanding of the risk associated with drug and alcohol use. The goal of prevention

programs is to deliver the facts and provide resources to people in hopes that they can avoid the pitfalls of substance use and abuse. Preprograms

The DRUG FREE MOUNTAIN providing information, education and support services to children, families, and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse

are not just for children, adolescents and teens. Every person in our community benefits from substance abuse education and resources.

Drugs are abuse are evolving and becoming more accessible and they are often purchase legally at the local convenience store.

Not all drugs use can be detected in over the counter drug screens that you can buy at the pharmacy or big box stores.

Synthetic drugs are just as addictive and dangerous as illicit street drugs purchased from the local drug dealer.

> See Drug Free, page 5A **Letters to the Editor**

Bipartisan on Climate Change?

mate change bill that another letter to the editor

contributor says has "bipartisan" support in the

House. Out of 68 cosponsors of this bill, only

one — that's right, I said one — is a Republican.

san? From the way he speaks about it, I thought

this bill would have at least 50% support on both

sides. That is not the case. If he is willing to mis-

lead people about this one simple fact, I wonder

says that "a CBS News poll last month found

two-thirds of Americans view climate change as

a crisis or serious problem, and a majority want

immediate action." I'm curious... Is this the

same type of CBS poll that said Hillary would

Commendation

you have provided on the Gowder/Heaton scan-

dal. Special thanks to Shawn & Linda. We have

carefully followed this extremely sorry episode

in local history and look forward to your future

The Great Deceiver

live in a world of misconception where Satan has

pulled the wool over millions of people's eyes

who have embraced Satan's lies and in essence

have sealed their own fate. People who have

stopped going to their house of worship where once they heard the gospel are now wide open to

the cults and "isms" of our day. That is why so

many of the cults go around on Sunday morning

knocking on doors. They know that these weak

people will not be in church on Sunday. What

better time to tell them that there is a better way than the cross, which is just a made-up story in

I am simply amazed at some intelligent

What is a lie? Anything that is not true. We

article detailing the sentencing. Good work!

Thank you for the outstanding coverage

what else he's conveniently hiding?

win the presidency in a landslide?

Dear NGN Editor and Staff,

Wm. Ronald Gibson

Dear Editor,

Claude Rains Jr.

Look it up!

I checked on H.R. 763. You know, the cli-

This is what the letter writer calls biparti-

Just one other thing. Also in his op-ed, he

Wildland Fire Strategy

Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy - This is a follow-up of the Cohesive Wildland Management Strategy workshop I attended a couple of weeks ago in Massachusetts. California is on fire as usual with no end in sight, but they chose not to take preventive measures such as prescribed

fire and defensible space ahead of time, so when a spark and a 100 mile an hour wind get together, lots of things burn, houses. vehicles, stores, and anything

RC&D Executive Director Frank Riley

else in the path of a roaring wildfire.

Cohesive Strategy is a national plan put in place to help better manage these fires. In the past two decades, a rapid escalation of extreme wildfire behavior, accompanied by significant increases in risk to responders and citizens, home and property losses, costs, and threats to communities and landscapes have been observed. In the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act of 2009 (FLAME Act), Congress mandated the development of a national cohesive wildland fire management strategy to comprehensively address wildland fire management across all lands in the United States. Shortly after enactment of the FLAME Act, a three-phased, intergovernmental planning and analysis process involving stakeholders and the public was initiated and is commonly referred to as the Cohesive Strategy effort. The culmination of three-phases of planning and analysis is this National Strategy and a companion National Action Plan.

The National Strategy is the result of a collaborative effort by Federal, state, local, and tribal governments and nongovernmental partners and public stakeholders, in conjunction with scientific data analysis. Achieving the national goals requires that the Nation address the broad challenges of managing vegetation and fuels; protecting homes, communities, and other values at risk; managing human-caused ignitions; and effectively and efficiently responding to wildfire

The National Strategy describes how the Nation can focus future efforts in making strategic investments to reduce the severe effects of wildfire on areas of high risk. Multiple opportunities are available to meet today's wildland fire challenges. No one-size-fits-all approach exists to address the challenges facing the Nation. Adopting any option involves spatial and temporal trade-offs. Reducing long-term risk requires prioritization of investment and use of resources, acceptance of increased short-term risk, and greater collective investment.

The National Strategy includes a set of guidelines intended to provide basic direc-See Riley, page 5A

> **Todd Forrest Mark Smith** Staff Writer

> > Photographer



CASTING A LONG SHADOW

A Minister's Experience

My father was a minister in many small churches across north Georgia, southeastern Tennessee and northern Alabama. He had many entertaining experiences, some of which were sad, some funny and some rather scary. For example, back in the early 1970s, Dad had just made a

profession in faith and was baptized into Wallaceville Baptist Church in Chickamauga, Georgia. Our pastor was a man named Milo Knight. Right



away, Milo took Dad under his wing and began to train him in the ways of becoming a minister. He insisted that Dad drive him to visit people in the hospitals, and the old fellow wouldn't even accept speaking at funerals unless my Dad drove him. One day Dad was called to drive Milo to a funeral on top of Sand Mountain close to Henagar, Alabama. The pair of men had a drive of about 1.5 hours to get to where the funeral was to be held. Since they had the time, the two of them talked about life and the ways of people in relation to the Church and God. Milo told Dad he wanted to warn him about the people that would be at the funeral. My father was told to be ready because the relatives of the person being buried would probably like to show out today. The old man explained that he had conducted funerals for these folks in the past, and each time there were certain individuals that wished to make a public display of their love for the one which had died. Dad wasn't a preacher yet and didn't really understand what the old preacher was saying. To further explain Milo said, "When a person passes to the other side, some people feel guilty because they never came around to visit an older person while that person was still alive. Therefore, they make a big display trying to prove to everyone that they were real close to the one which died."

The pair of men pulled into the church vard and walked into the church to begin the funeral. Dad was sitting on the front row as the service began. Milo preached the sermon and songs were sang. After the service people began to file by the body of the deceased. The last to come by was the family and the very last was the youngest daughter of the woman being buried. When the woman viewed her deceased mother in the coffin she began a long and high-pitched wail. Soon she began to sob, and next she made a lunge to climb into the coffin with her mother. The stand on which the coffin was resting gave way and the coffin containing the dead woman and the daughter turned over tossing the body toward the congregation. Dad was horrified watching the spectacle. He told me the dead woman ended up laying on top of her daughter, causing her to pan-

See Cummings, page 5A

It's been said that one of the best things about living in North Georgia is that we have four seasons! The only problem with that is when we have all four in one week. While it was a little cold, it was nice to wake up and see the landscape in full Blairsville

Chamber of Commerce

color and to be able to enjoy that delicious cup of coffee while appreciating

Chamber Steve Rowe

remind everyone that the makeup date for the 'Shoot for the Stars" golf tournament is this Friday, November 8. Due to the time change we will tee-off at 12 p.m. Lunch will be provided. I would like to thank all of our sponsors and the full field of golfers helping us to provide funds for scholarships to Union County High School

While it was not a Chamber event, I would like to thank all who participated with Halloween on the Square and all the other Fall Festival events in Downtown. Events like these add our sense of community and help our children grow

See Chamber, page 5A

Ladybugs

Ladybugs are coming moving inside and invading people's homes. Let's talk about where they came from and what you can do to try and get rid of them.

Most of the time the ladybugs that move inside to hibernate through the winter are Asian

ladybugs. I often am asked if the govern-Asian ladybugs and that's why they are in their house. The government does not currently release



Williams Asian ladybugs. The US Department of Agriculture did release Asian ladybugs during the 1960s to the 1990s. Ladybugs are beneficial insects because they eat many soft-bodied insects that are pests. They were released so that apple and pecan growers would not need to use as many insecticides. Georgia is one of the states where they were released. However, now Asian ladybugs are found in states that did not have releases. Researchers believe that the ladybugs that find their

Asian Ladybugs look very similar to our native ladybugs. Females usually have several multiple spots, while the males have fewer spots. Their color can range from tan to orange to red. The best way to tell them about from our natives is that they have a dark M or W (depending on which side you look at them) on the back of their head. Asian ladybugs don't have very many natural predators in the US. That means they can spread very easily. It makes them good at controlling aphids on plants outdoors, but makes them a nuisance in the fall and early spring.

way into homes now are most likely not from

the intentional releases, but from a freighter that

accidentally brought them to New Orleans from

In the fall, many of them will try to make their way inside. Once a couple get in, it's hard to keep more out. Ladybugs will use pheromones to let other ladybugs know that they've found a good spot to overwinter. Therefore, you usually won't see just a couple, but dozens or even hundreds. They usually will congregate on the sunny side of a building. Buildings that have light and dark contrasting colors on the outside will be more attractive to them. Older buildings are more attractive too because they will leak more

Ladybugs don't injure people. They also don't reproduce indoors. They won't attack wood, food, or clothing. They can secrete a yellow substance when disturbed. The yellow secretion smells bad and can stain. They use the yellow stuff as a defense mechanism against predators

> So the big question is, how do you get See Williams, page 5A

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people who have heard the truth of God's Word yet reject it and turn to the wildest cult imaginable. They will follow someone who is absolutely a phony because it makes them feel better about themselves, for they cannot face the truth. Folks, the truth of God's Word has never been popular in any society that has existed on this

See Combs, page 5A

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Publisher/Owner

Website: www.nganews.com Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com Mailing: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514

Derek Richards Advertising Director

Sports Editor

Lowell Nicholson