

# Opinions

## Everybody has one...

### Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are valuable tools that are essential for home safety. They are used to extinguish smaller fires before they get out of control. People should understand the different types of fire extinguishers and how to safely use them to put out a fire.

There are actually five types of fire extinguishers. Each type is based on the type of fuel (material) burning. Type A fuels are ordinary combustibles such as paper or wood. They are what we would consider normal burning materials. Type B fuels are flammable liquids such as gasoline or diesel. Type C fuels involve electrical equipment. Type D fuels are combustible metals such as magnesium or lithium. Type K fuels are combustible cooking fuels such as vegetable or animal oils.

Choosing the correct type of extinguisher for the type of burning fuel is very important. Some extinguishing agents used for one type of fire will not work on the others. Rarely do we encounter Type D fires and the type K extinguishers are usually used in commercial kitchens and restaurants. Most fires that we encounter are going to be types A, B, or C. For that reason, most fire extinguishers available today usually contain extinguishing agents that may be used on types A, B, and/or C.

Fire extinguishers must be labeled with the type. These labels will have the letter and a picture designating the type of extinguisher. If any part of the label has a line through it, that type of fire cannot be extinguished with that fire extinguisher. When encountered with a fire, look on the side of the extinguisher to determine if it is the correct type for the fuel that is burning. Most extinguishers also have instructions for use on the side.

The use of a fire extinguisher is simple. Most use the PASS method. From a safe distance: Pull the safety pin at the handle; Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire; Squeeze the handle to apply the extinguishing agent; Sweep the nozzle and agent across the base of the fire until the fire is extinguished.

Fighting fire, even small fires, can be dangerous. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind. Never attempt to put out a large fire with a fire extinguisher. Most extinguishers are portable and are limited on the amount of fire that can be extinguished. Never

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



### Hosanna!

"The sun rises and the sun sets, and hastening to its place it rises there again" (Ecc. 1:5). But sometimes the routine is interrupted by eternity breaking into the confines of time.

I once knew a farmer who was out early on a Sunday morning checking on livestock. Driving down the county road, he thought he noticed something. He turned around and found a car upside down below the bridge. He hurried down, and found the shocked driver sitting beside the car, repeating the words, "O God, O God." He knew the driver to be an atheist.

The events of 9/11 interrupted the rhythm of our nation. As we desperately rejected this monstrous evil, church attendance swelled. Philip Yancy in his book "Rumors" observed, "What Americans learned on that day, and are learning still, is that sophisticated moderns have not renounced transcendence but rather replaced it with weak substitutes. Unlike past generations, many are unsure about God and an invisible world. Even so, we feel the longings for something more."

History has revealed that invisible world we long for. The brother of two sisters passed away as a young man and they buried him in a tomb. Days later a friend came to them and visited the grave site. As a crowd of people watched, the friend wept, told them to open the tomb, then cried out loudly, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he did! A few weeks later when friend Jesus entered Jerusalem, it was no surprise that the people waved palm branches and shouted "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." It was such spontaneous worship that jealous critics groused that the whole world was following him. When they demanded Jesus stop it, He responded, "If these become silent, the stones will cry out!" We celebrate this event on Palm Sunday (John 11-12, Luke 19).

Interruptions good and evil, common and sublime draw you to the Divine, in whose image you are made. The 17th C. English poet John Milton wondered, "What if Earth be but the shadow of Heaven, and things therein each to other like, more than on Earth is thought?" Life on Earth has hints of heaven because He is near. Ravi Zacharias wrote, "No true worship of God

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**All Things New**  
*Wayne Fowler*



### Commissioner's Questions

**Q. Is the public survey for the Comprehensive Plan Update still available for citizens to complete?**

A. Yes, it is, but it will only be available until April 10th. You can find the link to the survey on the Chamber of Commerce's website at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGa.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGa.com), click on the Community tab at the top which will give you a drop-down menu with Comprehensive Plan listed at the bottom. Clicking on Comprehensive Plan will take you to the link for the survey. I encourage the citizens to take the survey which lets you give your input on the direction you think our community should be headed in the future. We would like to have as much input as possible

**Q. What is being constructed down at the Farmers Market?**

A. This is the reconstruction of the famous Hunter-England House, which is considered one of the oldest log cabins in Union County. It was located on the side of 19/129 South about 7 miles from Blairsville just before reaching Highway 180 that leads to Brasstown Bald. Around 2008 it was disassembled and placed in storage. The County decided it was time to reconstruct the home before the logs completely disintegrated.

**Q. How did the county decide where to rebuild the old home?**

A. Many locations were considered and we tried to weigh out the positives and negatives of each site. In the end, we felt the best place would be at the Farmers Market since it is one of the busiest facilities in the county. This will allow more people easier access to see and experience this part of the County's history.

**Q. When will the log home be completed?**

A. We think it will be completed by the end of April. We chose to locate it near the community garden area, where we hope to eventually reconstruct a small village of old homes and log structures that can be utilized by the public not only for viewing, but also for special events.

**Q. Why is this house so valuable to our community as a historic facility?**

See Paris, page 5A

**Q & A from Union County Commissioner**  
*Lamar Paris*



### Substance Abuse: 5 Tips for Parents of Teens

Substance abuse is a frightening thing for parents, thanks to the prevalence of both illicit and prescription drugs. While all young people are at some risk for substance abuse, some preteens and teenagers have a higher risk for developing a problem with drugs. When parents understand risk factors, they can focus their efforts on remaining connected with adolescents to help reduce the possibility of drug use. Even a child with a high risk for engaging in substance abuse does not need to have this destiny.

*The mission of the Union County Anti-Drug Coalition is to support an overall safe community by providing information, education and support services to children, families and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse. Visit and Like our Facebook page for additional articles and videos.*

Some of the best written advice about teens and substance abuse comes from treatment centers. Who would know better than

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"Honey, I'm still in Atlanta. I should be home by the time the baby graduates!"

### Special People

Many of you will remember Mrs. Cummings. She was my 2nd Grade Teacher at Trapptown School. Mrs. Cummings was married to my papa's first cousin.

**Around The Farm**  
*Mickey Cummings*



She taught at least 2 generations of people in our family. So, she was very familiar with my dad and I as well as our ways of doing things. I could always tell when I was in trouble with Mrs. Cummings because she would call me by both names, "Mickey Paul".

I never received a whisper from Mrs. Cummings. But, if you have ever seen my writing you would swear I have the worst penmanship of anyone you have seen. I owe it all to Mrs. Cummings. When I would get into trouble she would make me write sentences on the blackboard. I usually had to write 250 of these sentences. One day right before Christmas our latest assignment was due. We had to write a paper about the real meaning of Christmas.

Each student had to read their paper aloud in front of the class. It came time for me to read my paper so, I made my way to the front of the room.

My route to the front of the room took me by Kathy's desk. Kathy was the prettiest girl in class. But, who notices pretty girls in the 2nd grade. The only thing I knew about girls were that they interfered with fishing and baseball. Anyway, Kathy tried to slip me a note as I walked by her desk. To my horror Mrs. Cummings also noticed that Kathy was trying to hand me a note. Mrs. Cummings told me to bring her the note. I did and she threw it in the trash. I was really worried she would read the note in front of the class. So, when the note hit the trash can I was relieved. But, Stephen also noticed the note and he hollered out at the top of his lungs, "Kathy likes Mickey". Let me remind you that it is not a good thing for a 2nd Grader to get embarrassed.

Before I could think about what to do I realized there was a chalkboard eraser in my hand. The eraser was leaving my hand and it hit Stephen right between the eyes and he let out a howl that reverberated throughout the little school. Before I could feel the satisfaction of a job well done Mrs. Cummings had me writing, 250 times, the following sentence, "I will not throw erasers at Stephen Cummings".

As I was writing Mrs. Cummings explained to me that she had experienced many events in the education of the Cummings family. She remembered a time when my dad was made to clean his plate during lunch before he would be allowed to go outside during recess. The only problem was Dad hated English Peas and he was just stubborn enough to suffer no recess before he would eat the peas. Although Mrs. Cummings was not the teacher making my father eat those

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### Letters to the Editor...

#### Trump

Dear Editor,

Donald Trump has been in the White House now for 2 months and has done many outlandish and ridiculous things but some of the worst things involve the destruction of the environment. He has rolled back all the air and water quality rules that Obama put in place and has defunded the EPA. Trump's EPA (fossil fuel advocate) Administrator? Scott Pruitt made his name by suing the EPA in the name of oil and coal companies-even using words written by them.

As a result, we need to be aware that in time we will start having lots of hazardous air days again, rivers that catch fire, Love Canal type situations (Google that one), acid rain, harbors and beaches clogged with garbage, dangerous well water and much more. These were all things the EPA took care of-gone now. That's not to mention the billionaire nitwit he put over the department of education. Say goodbye to public schools.

Luther Elder

#### Where are our values?

Dear Editor,

It is time for us, as a country and as a civilization, to choose. Where are our values? What are the things that are really important to us? We can choose to exploit our earth and make as much profit as we can in the shortest period of time, or we can choose to protect our earth for future generations? Are my immediate financial gains more important than passing on a livable world for my children?

History has taught us that proper decisions now about caring for our earth saves us many times what we pay for them. Damage done cannot be easily undone. What is the value of clean air, clean water, and protecting our world from

See Dixon, page 5A

#### Personal Safety Seminar

Dear Editor,

On Friday, March 24, 2017, I attended a Personal Safety Seminar led by Deputy Billy Purcell of the Union County Sheriff's Office. The Seminar was held at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. I want to say that the Seminar was very worthwhile and informative. Deputy Purcell did a wonderful job of informing us of the steps we should take to assure our safety, both at home and out and about. He also touched on our rights as gun owners at home and away from home.

It is my understanding that there will be another Seminar in the future and I encourage everyone that can, to attend it, especially if Deputy Purcell leads it. Thank you Deputy Purcell and our Sheriff, Mack Mason.

Jim Breece

#### Militia

Dear Editor,

I taught Constitutional History for many years.

When James Madison made reference, in the Second Amendment, to a "...well-regulated militia..." he was referring to British "Regulars" who were "regulated," i.e., well-trained — not controlled and limited by and through political legislation.

In fact, as it is directed, constituted, structured and trained per the Constitution, the Militia is mandatory in all States and for all males between the age of sixteen and sixty; it is not the National Guard.

The Militia was to be this Nation's guarantee against a Standing Army — which The Founders, through bitter experience, feared.

The Third Amendment is a direct prohibition against the enforced quartering of any soldier in civilian homes or, by extension, other privately-owned places. It was yet another guarantee against the conscripting of private property by Government.

For 1,500 years in England and on The Continent, only the king and his nobles owned property. Peasants were chattel to the nobles and were subject to the whims of the royalty.

In his tome, *Two Treatises of Government*, John Locke wrote, "All men possess three instincts: for life, liberty and property." Men create Government to protect those instincts.

(Mr. Jefferson freely borrowed from Locke.)

Free men own property. Slaves do not. Free men who own property control their own lives and their liberty. Once a person's property is taken, and that includes his or her money, no one can claim his life or his liberty.

Owning property is fundamental to freedom. Without the private ownership of property, "life" and "liberty" become meaningless.

The Militia was (is) the Founders' guarantee that private property would be held inviolable against the Government.

See Mitchell, page 5A

#### Widening Highway 129N

Dear Editor,

Regarding the need for 129N to be widened - this was approved and scheduled by DOT 7-10 years ago. It was delayed when the economy changed and budgets were cut. In the meantime, our population has grown, thus, more traffic. 129N has been a busy highway for many years due to population and travel to Murphy and/or Tennessee. Areas, such as the Pat Colwell Road intersection, are very congested in the morning and afternoon. The widening is very much needed and has been needed for many years. I look forward to some ease of the traffic congestion. I like the small town feel, but...

Iris Fox

### Winter Weeds

I've found that there are two main opinions on winter weeds: people either love to see the extra splash of color and happy bees in their yard, or they view the unwanted plants as nuisances that need to be dealt with. Either way, it's always good to be able to identify weeds and know what their presence indicates about the environment.

**From the Ground Up**  
*Melissa Mattee*



Overall, if your lawn has a lot of weeds, the soil conditions are not that great for your grass. If your grass does not have enough nutrients or the soil is too compacted, weeds can easily take control. While pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicides like pendimethalin and glyphosate can help prevent and kill weeds, you will likely continue to have weed problems year after year if you don't improve the soil enough for your grass to fill in.

Certain weeds can actually indicate specific conditions of your soil. Small hop clover is a small weed that has leaves grouped in threes and a small, globe-like yellow flower. If you have a lot of small hop clover in your yard, your soil is much too dry and does not have enough nitrogen. Annual bluegrass, which forms in clumps, usually indicates that there is too much nitrogen, water, and compaction. A lot of moss means there is too much shade, not enough drainage, and compacted soil.

A very common weed that is popping up everywhere right now is henbit. This plant has a dark, square stem with rounded leaves and tube-shaped, purple flowers. Overall, it can be considered a very attractive plant, but it spreads easily and can quickly take over a lawn. Dandelions are also blooming everywhere. These weeds start as bright yellow flowers but eventually turn into fuzzy white or gray globes with seeds in the middle. These seeds are then spread by air movement and begin to infest the rest of your lawns.

Henbit, dandelions and other weeds, though often viewed as pests, are actually the first source of nectar and pollen for bees. If you've ever rubbed your finger over a dandelion flower or perhaps sniffed it a little too closely, you'll notice that your skin is covered in yellow pollen. These ample food sources are very important to help bees recover from the harsh winter.

If you plan on improving your lawn's soil conditions but just can't wait to get those weeds out of your yard, give your lawn a good mow before treating with herbicides. Though there have not been any proven links between herbicide application and bee decline, it is always best to discourage pollinators from being present when chemicals are applied, especially if treating with a combination herbicide/insecticide. Mowing the weeds will also stress them, making them more susceptible to herbicide treatment.

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