

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

community, this week, one thing became abundantly clear—Union County and the City of Blairsville should be thankful for our business owners who have been through so much and who continue to sacrifice to provide for residents and visitors. Our local leaders have also worked continually to insure we stay safe while keeping an eye on the future. Diligently working to get back to school, school administrators understand the importance of guarding our youth, providing for their future, and keeping everyone on schedule, a delicate balance not taken lightly.

In solidarity with that same leadership, your chamber of commerce remains committed to providing the most current information possible to facilitate the continued growth

of our community, updates regarding the PPP programs, and links to other funding that may become available. Keep an eye on the chamber website and social media for further developments.

We are excited to provide information for several new businesses that have joined the chamber, and we hope to start creatively rolling ribbon cuttings back into our schedule, beginning with those that were delayed. Union County has become a sanctuary, both for those who live here and who visit. We are grateful to live in such a picturesque place surrounded by so many wonderful people. Despite everything, together, we stand confident. Please continue to wash your hands, keep a safe distance, and wear a mask when needed.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

one to two times per week and then come home and eat what we caught. In the winter we spent a lot of time in the hollows around the farm chasing squirrels and raccoons.

I cared about our history as well. He took me many times over to the Coon Dog Cemetery on the Mississippi line and regaled me with stories about the dogs interred there. We also traveled over to the Civil War Battlefield called Shiloh just outside of Corinth, Mississippi. I can remember him being very sad as we walked through the solemn place. He would tell me about the sacrifices the men that died there made for their country.

Papa also always made time each Sunday for worship. We never missed Church, and he could always be found on the Deacon's Bench at Union Hill Congregational Methodist Church each Sunday. I think one of the most important things he gave to me were his stories. Many of the things of which I write first came to me as a result of his experiences and memories. I would like to have him back with me. I wish that you could meet him. But, he is in a better place, and as my great-grandfather Lon said all those years ago, "Let the boy sleep. He is feeling a good kind of tired." Papa lived a good life and deserves his reward.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

never used substances, while others suspected that their kids might be drinking or using other drugs.

Over the next several weeks, I will share highlights from the focus groups in hopes of starting a discussion in this community among parents about early prevention. This week highlights cover concerns about how to parent for prevention.

Parents who were certain that their kids had not engaged in any substance use shared these strategies related to prevention that they found useful:

Creating an open and ongoing dialogue where their kids can "tell them anything."

Actively having prevention discussions when it comes to substances, not waiting for the school, friends or social media to fill in the blanks.

Setting their own example as parents, like modeling ways to reduce stress or relax without turning to alcohol or

other substances.

Using techniques to monitor kids' behavior (such as making sure they had access to all passwords and social media, driving them places and listening to backseat conversations, meeting kids' friends, etc.).

Being willing to talk to other parents about which kids are reported to be using substances — including their own.

This last point about talking to other parents about their own child or their child's friend using alcohol or other drugs created quite a lively discussion. On the whole, parents said they would want to know if another parent found out that their child was using substances and would welcome a call. Several parents were conflicted about what to do if their child reported substance use on the part of a friend. They were concerned that other parents would resent a phone call or be angry, even if they themselves would welcome the information.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

gutters, decks, and fences, and cleaning up anything combustible around the house—the kind of steps science shows are most effective in reducing home wildfire losses.

Concerns over "canceling" wildfire preparedness this year are not just a public relations concern. This spring, fire departments and state governments observed not only the expected seasonal increase in wildfire conditions, but also worrisome human behaviors.

In Washington, stay-at-home orders also translated into "burn your debris piles," and in April the state's forestry agency reported an increase in wildfire starts. Colorado fire marshals reported that people unable to recreate in closed suburban parks were heading to more remote state and federal lands, where they risked

starting fires and clogging roads that wildland firefighters needed for access. Wildland fire agencies tried to figure out how to deploy enough people to keep fires small, yet make their crews ride separately and keep a distance from one another in the field. They know that if wildfire preparedness is skipped this season, there's a good chance of seeing home destruction due to lack of fuel reduction and potential delayed response.

The current crisis has not thwarted the dedication, creativity, and even humor of the people leading local efforts to reduce wildfire losses.

With more than 1,700 Firewise USA® sites and hundreds of locations in the US and Canada where people had planned Wildfire Community Preparedness Day events, we've seen creative and inspiring solutions emerge.

Examples from the Canadian Yukon to Texas to Florida include week-long Facebook Live video events, weekly e-newsletter tips covering safety steps, prizes for the best photos of families doing their prep work, group video screenings on virtual meeting platforms, and online town meetings.

A resident of a Firewise community in Colorado, commented on the Firewise Facebook page that she was busy "social distancing trees" growing along her neighborhood's access road. She is among the many people determined to make sure that wildfire remains top of mind as a safety issue we cannot ignore—even in a time of pandemic.

For more information on things you can do to become Firewise even during the pandemic, check out www.firewise.org or www.chestchat-trcd.org.

Paris... continued from Page 4A

businesses again will decrease greatly. While COVID-19 can be life threatening to some, the threat of having to shut down businesses and shelter in place again would be detrimental to all Georgians.

Fire... continued from Page 4A

reaction time and increases the likelihood of more severe injuries if involved in an accident. Everyone should consider the dangers associated with driving a vehicle and accept the responsibility for the safety of their passengers, themselves and other drivers.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Williams... continued from Page 4A

sects, grubs, or worms that are in its path. It could also strip away the outer layer of any roots that it meets.

There are not many biological controls for fire ants in the United States because they are an invasive species. Fire ants are native to South America and have many natural enemies there. Researchers have to be very careful about introducing a natural predator, because the effects of that introduced species are unknown on our ecosystem.

If you have any questions about fire ants and fire ant control, contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler... continued from Page 4A

just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you" (Eph. 4:32-5:2).

An "elegy" is a serious reflection on something of importance. Vance reflected on "what it feels like to nearly give up on yourself and why you might do it." You can reflect on this: To imitate God is to love someone by sacrificing something. That kind of affirmation must elevate truth over choice. May that love elegy move you to love like Jesus.

Claypool... continued from Page 4A

recalling Mr. Floyd's past actions as part of his argument. Mr. Floyd, no matter what his past history told, was simply a defenseless non-resisting man at the hands of a person of authority who displayed a complete lack of regard for his humanity... for whatever reason. The country -- black, brown and white -- never wants to see that incident again. I believe Americans are united in that respect. So why all the turmoil and divisiveness? We need to think about how this incident changed from a united recognition of injustice to a war zone. Elizabeth Claypool

Senart... continued from Page 4A

finer that total \$30,100? Does that even cover coffee?

2. The number of pills consumed, if not distributed as they testified, brings us to another question. How did these men function as competent doctors on any level taking this many pills? I am not a math major, an addict, nor in law enforcement, but number of pills, prescriptions, plus drug task force equals distribution in my feeble mind.

3. Did they distribute? If so, have them sit with a parent whose child committed suicide or listen to grandparents stumbling through an explanation to their grandchildren of why they cannot go home or be with their mother. Have these men stand in line at a food pantry, do without butane for their mobile home, or have their wrecked car sit in the driveway because they can no longer get insurance.

4. Did they lose "everything" as their supporters testified?

I believe it is self-evident, you don't sit on the board with Andy Williams, former president of United Community Bank, without money flowing into it by various means. Wise money management, even if your business is not illegal, would prompt you to distribute the wealth into various holdings under the names of family members, trusts and other tax shelters advised by your advisors. In this way, money is protected in the event of personal legal claims, and seldom is "everything" lost.

5. What is the rate of return to this type crime? Reportedly Heaton was investigated twice before and warned but continued on. Would any of them continue on if their licenses were reinstated?

6. If these three men had been residents from Florida, New York, or even Atlanta, would Judge Story's sentencing been any different? If these had been men of color, would they have had five years of delayed hearings, etc., etc.?

Judge, my appeal for your resignation would probably fall on deaf ears. I am nobody ex-

cept a faithful grandmother, a retired counselor and an active listener. I would applaud, however, if somehow you and your conscience recognize it is your time to retire.

While my words are harsh, I hope they clearly picture what drugs can steal from a human being, young or old. In the time they have now, let these men do their utmost to correct and compensate all they have harmed.

Jeanette Senart

Dixon... continued from Page 4A

with respect and dignity. We all want what is best for America, and I believe we are all basically good people.

We share common values of believing in human dignity, the value of hard work, the need to care for all our people, fairness, and wanting a better life for our children.

I hope we share the Christian values of loving our neighbor, and we are all neighbors. We ask you, our representatives, to talk, listen, compromise, and begin the process of healing.

Vernon Dixon, MD

Mishrell... continued from Page 4A


to understand why everyone does not put something over their mouth and nose when going out in an enclosed space.

The evidence is clear: wearing a face mask and practicing social distancing can slow the spread of coronavirus and save lives. Wearing a face mask says you care about others.

Please think of others as you venture out; wear a face mask and practice social distancing. Together, we as one community and one nation can protect each other.

It may be the difference between life and death for your neighbors.
Ed Mishrell

**Bell Ringing Union
County Old Courthouse**



July 10, 2020
In Memory of
Dr. William T. Meeks, Sr.
on the anniversary
of his death
By: Terry & Ginger Meeks

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