

9/11...from Page 1A

the lobby of the north tower, and once that plane hit, they all knew this was a whole totally different ballgame. He said everybody just kind of stopped, it was quiet for a minute, and people just started hugging each other and shaking hands. Like, I might not get to see this guy again.

“That really makes it real about, ‘OK, we’ve got a job to do, and we’re going to do everything we can to save these people, but we might not make it out of this one.’”

Added Dyer, “Nobody wants to die, and nobody wants to put themselves in harm or danger. But when (first responders) have a choice of, ‘I have to do something to help this person,’ they’re going to do

whatever it takes to help that person, and their safety kind of goes to the wayside.”

For Paris, Friday’s event will serve to remind everyone of the promise explicit in the compact America has with all her citizens.

“History is important,” Paris said. “We’ve seen a lot of degradation of history recently, and I as well as the public safety personnel feel that if we don’t remember history, as we’ve always heard, we’re destined to repeat it.”

“Nobody thought what happened was possible in the United States, and now that it’s happened, we know it’s possible – and it’s something that possibly could happen again. So, it’s critical that the

public remember what a big event it was, especially the younger people who may not remember.

“Everybody needs to remember that, and also remember how critical the public safety people were. And we need to remember those individuals in the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and in the plane crash in the hills of Pennsylvania.”

Chamber President Steve Rowe believes it is incumbent upon communities everywhere to collectively remember 9/11, because even though these attacks happened in specific places in the U.S., every American felt the deadly blows that September day.

“On 9/11, we were

attacked on our own soil,” Rowe said. “As a result, our entire nation came together, and there wasn’t a lot of division (at that time). One community can make a difference; it’s very important to remember that things like that can happen, that we are one nation and need to come together.”

“If you don’t do anything, then nothing will ever get done, so I just feel like it’s very important for the community to do that.”

There was no rain contingency for the remembrance at press time. People with questions regarding weather closer to the day of the event may call the chamber office at 706-745-5789.

Leachate...from Page 1A

contain unregulated manmade chemicals that have been shown to be harmful when ingested, and the Environmental Protection Agency is currently considering regulating some of these chemicals in drinking water specifically.

The Blairsville Wastewater Treatment Plant is located on Butternut Creek, into which the facility releases treated wastewater that flows first to the Nottely River, and then into Lake Nottely.

One of the many concerns of the Lake Nottely Improvement Association, or LNIA, has been these unregulated chemicals going into the lake, which serves as a major source for treated drinking water in Union County.

Aug. 14 was the last time the city received leachate for treatment. Conley said the city did not receive shipments after this date due to a decision by the Forsyth County landfill not to send any more, and there will be no more delivered moving forward.

Conley said one reason he wanted to stop accepting leachate was to avoid further negative attention surrounding the endeavor, as he didn’t want the issue to harm tourism and therefore businesses in the city and county.

He also said that, even though the council accepted

the leachate initially to make money to pay for sewer operations and improvement projects, he was sensitive to all the feedback from concerned residents countywide.

Councilman Buddy Moore said he initially voted yes in the summer of 2019 because he thought it would be good for the city, but after learning more about the process and unregulated chemicals involved, he decided the leachate treatment needed to end.

“More and more, people had concerns about it,” Moore said. “I’ve got a good friend who is a retired chemist, and he was concerned about it. He never came out to the public, but I’ve been talking to him over the past year.”

Added Moore, “I think (my friend and LNIA) had some points as far as the cumulative effect over time ... the last thing we want to do is pollute the lake, so if there’s any chance of that, I don’t think anybody on the council wants to do that.”

Doy Lively of the Lake Nottely Improvement

Association was one of the primary advocates speaking out against the leachate processing, and he said the association was thankful for the city and council’s reconsideration.

“It has been almost exactly one year since the first delivery of leachate made its way to the Blairsville Wastewater Treatment Plant,” Lively said, responding to the news. “While it may take only a few minutes to make a bad decision, it takes forethought and courage to correct a mistake.”

“It is with this in mind that Lake Nottely Improvement Association extends our sincere gratitude for the resolution passed at the Sept. 1 Blairsville City Council meeting to stop accepting and processing leachate.”

“LNIA fought the processing of leachate from a position that it was bad for all tributaries downstream and the citizens of Union County. Our determination of stopping leachate from being dumped into the wastewater treatment plant was never a personal attack on the mayor or the

Blairsville City Council.

“(The organization) was of the belief that not enough information was presented to inform everyone of the possible harm that this decision may cause. LNIA thought it was wrong and something that needed to be corrected from the very first delivery.”

“We are cautiously optimistic and hopeful that this will be a permanent decision. The current and future condition of Lake Nottely outweighs short-term monetary gains. Again, we extend our greatest appreciation to Blairsville’s Mayor Conley and the City Council members.”

To those concerned that the leachate, which was being delivered by a company co-owned by State Sen. Steve Gooch, might return after the election, both the mayor and Moore said not to worry, that the processing of leachate was finished in Blairsville.

The peaceful protest against leachate processing will continue as planned and is set to run from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Union County Courthouse on Saturday, Sept. 19.

Brinke...from Page 1A

choice for our co-op’s future leader.”

An 18-year employee of BRMEMC, Brinke was hired by the co-op to establish its first formal economic development department, and to support broadband deployment across the region.

More recently, he has served as Director of Administrative Services and External Relations, managing the co-op’s fleet, garage, facilities

and maintenance, information systems/IT, communications and economic development efforts.

“I feel blessed that the board has placed its confidence in me for this interim role,” Interim General Manager Brinke said. “My hope is that I lead the co-op well in its critically important work, while allowing the board the time needed to ensure a smooth and efficient transition to our next permanent

manager.”

A graduate of Murphy High School in North Carolina, Brinke holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is an NRECA Certified Key Account Executive, and serves his community on numerous boards and commissions.

He resides in Murphy with his wife, Paige, and their two children, Asher and Anna.

Fatal Shooting...from Page 1A

Attorney’s Office for review.

GBI Region 8 consists of 14 northeast Georgia counties, including Union, Towns, Cherokee, Dawson, Fannin, Forsyth, Gilmer, Habersham, Hall, Lumpkin, Pickens, Rabun, Stephens and White.

“The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is an independent,

statewide agency that supports the state’s criminal justice system in the areas of criminal investigations, forensic laboratory services and computerized criminal justice information,” according to gbi.georgia.gov.

Continuing, the website states, “The mission of the

GBI is to provide the highest quality investigative, scientific and information services and resources to the criminal justice community and others as authorized by law, for the purpose of maintaining law and order and protecting life and property.”

Law Enforcement Appreciation Ceremony on September 26th

Due to the CCP, the Towns County GOP has adjusted its meetings to accommodate the surrounding communities for the rest 2020. By featuring outside events, citizens are able to safely socialize.

On Saturday, September 26, 2020, TCGOP will host a Law Enforcement Appreciation Ceremony — Back the Blue — on the Global Day of Prayer at the TCGOP, sponsored by Casa Belle Restaurant in Patriot Plaza (corner of Hwy 76/69), Young Harris, GA. The program will begin at 10 a.m. with prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Clarence (Bud) Johnson, and the National Anthem sung by a Barber Shop Quartet. Cliff Bradshaw, Towns County’s Sole Commissioner, will be handing out Certificates of

Appreciation in recognition of outstanding service.

Upon completion, Back the Blue decorated vehicles will participate in a caravan from the TCGOP to Blairsville Square, then return to Hiwassee Square where the Hiwassee Police Department

will be having a Support Our Heroes event fundraiser for Shop with a Hero, starting at noon. Car show, live music, auction, food, and more!

For further information contact Betsy Young 904-382-1912 tcgopchair@gmail.com. NI Sep9 21 CA

UC Historical Society’s Brick Walk



To show our appreciation for the overwhelming community support for the Union County Historical Society’s Brick Walk, we are extending the current price of \$50 per brick. Please call the Historical Society at 706-745-5493 or come by the old courthouse to purchase one in memory or in honor of a loved one. NI Sep9 21 CA

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