

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Baker left the two girls giggled all the way back to the house.

One day while playing in the front yard of the Baker house the two girls noticed the preacher walking up the road. You guessed it, the man was the one and only Tom Clark. Athel looked at Mom and said, "I have always heard that man is my Daddy. I have asked and asked and nobody will tell me the truth." So, the young 13 year old girl walked up to Tom Clark and point blank asked, "Preacher Tom are you my Daddy?" Tom Clark would not even look at Athel while he denied being her Daddy.

Everyone in the community knew that Athel didn't have an active Daddy. Some people took advantage of the fact. For example, the Enterprise School out close to Gray Rock was a 3 room school house. The teacher's name escapes my Mother. However, she described him as a short chubby fellow who was nearly bald.

One particular day some of the local boys did something wrong and this short, chubby teacher could not prove the boys did the deed. The old man became angry and he took his anger out on Athel, because he knew Athel did not have a Daddy to take up for her. So,

while the teacher was in a foul mood he gave Athel a whipping which left her bruised and bleeding.

Athel would never complain to Dad or Alvie. So, her cousin, my mother, went home and told her mother. MawMaw called her brother T. D. Baker. He was an imposing man. I remember him as being tall with long arms and really big hands. But, I also remember him as very caring about those he loved. He visited the teacher and for some reason the chubby little man left Enterprise never to teach in the local community again. Mom told me that the man was also very cruel to the Taylor boys who had also lost their Daddy at a young age. I always figured that a man which would take out his anger on children was not fit to work as a teacher anyway.

Twenty years later Athel left this world as a young mother. She too had young children. You might think Athel's life is a true tragedy. But, when her name is mentioned around our family everyone's eyes brighten and their memories reveal a young girl that was the apple of their eye. A hush falls around the room because everyone knows that none can live up to the life she led.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

ture and the risks of substance use to brain development.

Everyone agrees that substance use has an impact on behaviors, but little is discussed with respect to the impact on the brain. In the same way we've come to recognize the negative consequences that a mother's drinking or smoking can have on a developing fetus, research has progressed such that we now know there are distinct risks to teen brain development with substance use.

Consider the construction of a house as a metaphor for how the brain develops. First the foundation is poured, followed by framing, wiring and plumbing over the course of time. The brain develops in a similar way, with the foundation being laid in the early years before birth and into the early years of childhood. Adolescence is another time of rapid brain development where the brain's framing and wiring become more efficient and the brain develops skills to focus, prioritize and problem-solve. The brain is not fully developed until a person's mid-20's, making it more vulnerable to the impact of drinking and drug use.

Alcohol and other drugs can damage the brain's wiring, increasing the likelihood of learning difficulties and health problems in adulthood. Just as a house is still functional with a cracked foundation and faulty wiring, so is the human brain, but neither is optimal.

For some teens, this can show up as anxiety or depression later in life, a lower GPA than expected, taking longer to finish school or dropping out altogether in high school or college. Teens who are more

vulnerable to "faulty wiring," typically have certain risk factors which make them more likely to develop a substance use disorder. These risk factors include: Family history of problems related to substance use; Underlying mental health problems; Trauma; Bullying; and Impulse control problems.

So what can you do, especially in a culture where drinking and drug use is so common? Encourage your teen to delay, delay, delay when it comes drug and alcohol use. Assist your son or daughter in engaging in healthy activities and social circles. Teens are going to take risks, push boundaries and make mistakes. Help them find healthy ways to try new things, push limits and fail.

Many parents believe that using drugs and drinking is normal experimentation. Help your teen develop strong coping skills for life's stressors. Model healthy behaviors. After a stressful day, instead of reaching for a glass of wine or beer, try going for a walk, deep breathing or other healthy relaxation techniques. Acknowledge and positively reinforce decisions to not use drugs or alcohol.

If your child is "experimenting," it's time to start talking. Have a conversation about what he or she sees as the benefits of using alcohol or other drugs. Reasons for use often include thrill seeking, escaping boredom, social pressure to fit in, escape from problems or easing anxiety. Finding healthy alternatives that address her reasons and compete with substance use can move a teen in the direction of lowered use or abstinence.

Mitchell... continued from Page 4A

"Big Dan" Morgan's Virginians!)

Beginning on the morning of April 19, 1775, history reveals how attempted confiscation worked out for the British.

Somebody — anybody with any sense of History, anyone in possession of even a modicum of rationality — should inform today's Demofascists that the 2008 SCotUS Heller Decision ruled that the AR-15 and all similar rifles, including their "extended magazines," are "in common use" and, as such, fall under the aegis of the Second Amendment (c.f. Duncan v. Becerra).

Demofascists present the voters with a polished image — but they are dangerous to free people and idiots, to boot. But, I repeat myself.

Demofascists propose additional "reasonable gun violence" and "reasonable gun safety" laws, which, like all of the other of the estimated 20,000 "gun control" laws in effect, are unconstitutional as well. Isn't the unjustified killing of another human being al-

ready prohibited?

The first Ten Amendments to the Constitution all contain clear and definite proscriptions against government interference. The text employs the word "shall," as in: "...shall make no law..." "...shall not be infringed..." "No soldier shall be quartered..." "...shall not be violated..." "...the accused shall enjoy the right..." "...shall not be construed..."

Shall — not "may" or "might" or "could be" or "ought to be" or "perhaps" or "depending upon."

George A. Mitchell

Paris...

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enjoy throughout the year. I believe Bill and John Meeks would be so proud of what has been accomplished on their old farm, as we hope their family will be proud as well.

Q. Can someone advertise on this sign?

A. No, the sign is for the purpose of promoting functions and events held in the park and County information.

Q. I would like to say "Happy Anniversary" to my spouse; could I pay to use the sign for that?

A. The sign's purpose and use is to convey information about the park, and the county. We would like to have the sign be an informational point for anyone passing by. So, for those reasons we are mostly going to reserve the use of the sign for county purposes. If it is a slow period with no public information needed, the park may later consider some very short-term info for charge. This is still under consideration.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

animals of the pine woods are accustomed to frequent fires and depend on these fires for their survival. Fire is as natural as sunshine, rain and wind in many plant communities including upland pine, pine flatwoods, marshes and wet prairies. Fire also benefits many of the rare animal species in our state that are declining. Some of these declines are caused almost totally by fire exclusion. Frequent fires prevent the build-up of flammable fuels in the forest that set the stage for destructive wildfires when ignition does occur.

"Prescribed burning means the controlled application of fire to existing vegetative fuels under specific environmental conditions and following appropriate precautionary measures, which causes

Fowler...

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take them seriously.

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again?" (Matt. 5:13). Make no mistake. It's not just about a grain of salt. It takes many shakes of the shaker to bend the flavor curve, even as each grain does its part. Simply said, you are part of something far larger than yourself when you participate in what the Father is doing in the world. Jesus said He did only what the Father directed (John 5:19), and He's our example. God is glorified, and your life, family, and culture are more savory when your life of faith is lived so that people taste the salt.

Dyer...

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some research to know what it is and how to do it. For more information on how to prepare to shelter in place, visit www.ready.gov/shelter.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Chamber...

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camp, he renamed the new facilities Canal Lake Camp. Until his death, in 1956, McAfee and his wife, Mattie, ran the camp.

Visitors to the boat ramp will now see a sign honoring the McAfee family for their generosity and enduring commitment to Union County. Present for the dedication were the children of Arthur and Mattie: Melva Lynn Drake, Jim McAfee, and Lewis McAfee. Also in attendance were their spouses, children and grandchildren.

Another wonderful Chamber-sponsored event is just on the horizon. Please mark your calendars to attend the Buy Local Extravaganza at North Georgia Technical College on October 3rd. Each year, the Extravaganza showcases local businesses in Blairsville and Union County. Food samples, giveaways, and fun for everyone is guaranteed for all attending this event.

YOU ARE THE PTO

The Blairsville PTO would like to welcome everyone to their monthly meeting being held Monday, August 12, 2019 at 6 PM in the Union County Elementary School cafeteria. All are invited to attend this meeting to support our youth.

Please come out and be part of the Blairsville Parent Teacher Organization!

Sea-Bee Island X-3 Georgia

The Sea-Bee Island X-3 Georgia meets the second Friday of each month, 2 p.m., at the Veterans Center in Blairsville. For more information please call Keith Hunter at 904-733-8598.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



August 26, 2019
In memory of
Dr. William T. Meeks, Sr.
Birthday
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493

Morris...

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among murderous neo-Nazis that he's still not fooling most Americans into believing he's even slightly competent in his current post. Or that he possesses a scintilla of integrity. Better to have some vermin living in your neighborhood than to be one."

Regrettably, they failed to mention his passionate love affair with Kim Jong Un (my comment).

Jim Morris