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A. You can definitely do this! Parties can be booked in the evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. depending on pool availability. No parties are booked on Mondays or Wednesdays. The cost is \$85 for two hours, plus \$15 per hour per lifeguard paid by renter. The fee covers use of facility and lifeguards only. The renter is responsible for cleaning up after the party. Keep in mind there is a mandatory two lifeguards per party, and if you have over 40 people, an additional lifeguard is required. You can call the Recreation Department at 706-439-6074 to make these reservations or with additional questions.

Q. Are dogs allowed in Meeks Park?

A. There are no dogs allowed in Meeks Park. The main reason for not allowing dogs in Meeks Park is that when you have dogs in a group situation with lots of children around (and there are a lot of kids in Meeks Park at all times), you never know how the children or the dogs are going to behave. Also, some people will not clean up after their dogs, and this can create a major problem and cause people to not want to use the park. Not allowing dogs inside of Meeks Park is safer and cleaner for everyone. Union County does have a very

nice Dog Park that is perfect for walking your dog with lots of trails, and it is right along the mouth of where Nottely River feeds into Lake Nottely.

Q. Where is the Dog Park located?

A. The Dog Park is located beside the Union County Senior Center and is accessed through the same entrance as North Georgia Technical College. While this area of Meeks Park is referred to as the Dog Park, you are welcome to use the walking trails even if you don't have a dog with you.

Q. Does my dog need to be on a leash in the Dog Park?

A. Yes! Dogs must be on a leash in the Dog Park at all times. Not only is this a common courtesy to others using this area, it is a safety precaution for everyone in the Dog Park. No one ever knows 100 percent how their dog or other dogs are going to act in a group situation. This reduces the risk of altercations between dogs and persons using this area. There are two off-leash areas that are large and fenced in. Dogs do not have to be on a leash in these areas, but the owners take responsibility for their own dog and their interaction with other dogs off leash in the same fenced-in area.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Papa was nearing home and feeling safer. However, he still had to go by the old homeplace where his Uncle Howard Cummings had been accidentally shot as a boy. There were some old graves close to the spot. As the young man walked by these old graves, he saw a scary sight. It looked like a haint. This ghost rose up from behind one of the gravestones and began to wail like a banshee. This time, Papa felt no anger; instead, it was pure fear, and he began to run. However, the ghost was following him, still wailing but also laughing.

Soon, the wailing stopped, and the laughter became hysterical. Once again, Papa's fear left him, and he turned around to find the ghost was actually his future brother-in-law, Hollis Wehunt. The two boys sat down by a spring and enjoyed a long cool drink of water.

All the characters in this story are long gone. He entrusted me with the memories of all of his friends and their stories. That is why I share them with you each week.

Papa is a connection I have with the past that will live in my memory as long as I walk this earth.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

val. Festival attendees will enjoy a wide display of mountain arts/crafts, music, living history activities, numerous demonstrations, and activities for children.

The activities will be centered around the restored 1861 Payne family log cabin, the Mauney family barn, the Duncan family cabin, and other historic structures from Union County's past.

Ticket sales have officially begun for Dancing with North Georgia Stars in Towns and Union County. Tickets to the live show are \$20 each and tickets to attend the show and

gala afterwards are \$35 each. Buy your tickets today to make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children in Union and Towns Counties. For more information or to purchase tickets, you can call Dawn at the Chamber at 706-745-5789.

This week, we met as a team to begin planning our Annual Holly Jolly Christmas event at the Union County Community Center.

We look forward to making this another wonderful event for our community this year. More details will be coming in the weeks ahead.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

or alcohol, and the majority of them have families that suffer from their loved ones' substance abuse. Children in these families need special care and attention. Children of substance abusers need reliable, dependable adults in their lives who can provide them with the nurturing protection they deserve.

There are often unusually high levels of stress, anger, and confusion in families struggling with drug and alcohol problems, which creates a risk factor for mental health issues and substance abuse. Children subjected to drug and alcohol

abuse in the home must have adults they can turn to for help and support.

Seventy percent of substance abusers are employed. This means that the majority of people who abuse drugs or alcohol have jobs and are (at least temporarily) productive members of society, which creates a false hope in the family that "it can't be that bad." But because addiction is a chronic, progressive disease of the brain that worsens over time, it can become especially damaging to both the family and the workplace.

Drug addicts and alcoholics cost U.S. companies an average of more than \$80 billion annually. This loss of revenue hurts employers, families, and the economy. Substance abusers cost companies money through increased healthcare costs, more workers compensation claims, greater legal liability, and increased theft in the workplace.

The psychological and stress-related effects of drug use or alcohol abuse by a family member can adversely impact a worker's job performance through decreases in productivity and excessive absenteeism, or tardiness from dealing with the substance abuser's problems. Family members of addicts often suffer from emotional and mental health problems, marital problems, dependent care concerns, and other personal problems that affect

the employee's work.

Caring, concerned business owners implement drug-free workplace programs designed to identify employees who are struggling with substance abuse problems and get them the help they need. Drug-free workplace programs help companies save money while providing much needed help for families and children.

Programs are available through some schools that provide educational support groups for kids living with drug abusing or alcoholic parents. For children 11 and older, pro-

grams like Alateen can provide connections with others, in a group setting, who are dealing with the same kinds of issues.

Many churches and faith-based organizations offer activities that help kids cope with drug addiction in the family. The following is a list of resources for those dealing with an addicted family member: Al-Anon Family Groups, www.alanon.org; Alateen, al-anon.org/newcomers/teen-corner-alateen/; Alcoholics Anonymous, www.aa.org; Adult Children of Alcoholics, www.adultchildren.org.

Williams...

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gest challenge will be from the temperature. As the temperature drops rapidly, selecting varieties of crops that can stand the cold will be important. It can be extremely rewarding to see green growing around your house after everything else has turned brown.

If you have any questions about growing your fall garden, contact your local Extension Office. I'd be happy to answer questions regarding crops, soil, fertilizer recommendations, or other questions about your fall garden. If you have any questions in Union County, call 706-439-6030; Towns County, call 706-896-2024. No matter where you are you can send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu. Happy gardening!

Fowler...

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When the world hurls its worst at you, take comfort that God knows and provides the only way to escape: by grace through faith. When your story has conflict, you can play the victim or be the protagonist that finds strength and hope in God. If having more than you can bear makes you see that, it is eternally a good thing.

Combs...

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in our lives. Yes, we will be looked down upon from those who don't share our faith, and we will at times be criticized, perhaps persecuted, even killed for our faith in God. Man can kill the body, but the soul belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is that precious soul that goes to be with Christ at death, not this old sinful body; it goes back to the ground. Let's act daily as Christ-like believers, whatever comes our way, with the knowledge that this life here on earth is not the end, but only the beginning of something that is out of this world, literally. 'Tis the joy of the Lord that will reign in our lives forevermore, and all of God's people will sing: Hallelujah, Amen.

Frank F. Combs

Lowery...

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about it, nor do his "chosen people," the Jews. In the Hebrew language of the OT, the word "Sheol" is a reference to what happens after death, but it isn't what most Christians understand by "hell."

So, where in the heck did hell come from? Frankly, I agree with Mark Twain's argument that Jesus invented it. If so, this is the greatest contradiction not just in "God's Word," but in religion as a whole: believing in a God of love, of forgiveness, but also believing that if His followers don't have "faith" in him but are "lost" in sin, they will be subject to one of the cruelest inventions of the human mind.

In fact, the hell idea can be a form of child abuse. I know this because of my own and others' experiences. Several Christians have told me that because of what evangelists described as hell when they were children - the burning, the screaming - they endured serious emotional traumas.

Point is, hell doesn't exist, it's a myth, so I am asking the writer of the letter and Christians in general not to lay it on anyone, especially kids.

Just teach them to love and forgive on their own.

Skip Lowery

Glenda Gooch House available

The Glenda Gooch House is now available for use by families, from the tri-state area, of patients in Union General Hospital as well as local nursing and assisted living homes. For more information please contact Leslie Daniel at 706-745-2050, or log on to glendagoochhouse.org.

Union County Primary and Elementary School Open House Schedules

Kindergarten	August 14th @ 6:00
1st Grade	August 13th @ 6:00
2nd Grade	August 13th @ 5:00
3rd Grade	August 21st @ 5:30
4th Grade	August 16th @ 5:30
5th Grade	August 28th @ 5:30

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Garden Tours	Every Monday: GMREC (May-Oct)	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 a.m.
Kiwanis Club	Sammie's Sub Shop	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 p.m.
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 p.m.
Tri State Bus. Women	Every Tuesday: Cabin Coffee	8 a.m.
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 p.m.
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 p.m.
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 p.m.
BINGO	Every Wednesday: Civic Center	7 p.m.
Butternut Ladies Golf	Every Thursday: Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 a.m.
Masonic Luncheon	Cook's Restaurant	11:30 a.m.
Rotary Club	NGTC	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 p.m.

Enotah CASA Open House event

Everyone is welcome to come for light refreshments and to learn how you can help abused and neglected children in Towns and Union Counties. Enotah CASA's staff and board members invite you to the meet and greet reception and discussion on the roles of a CASA advocate and an Ambassador. The event will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at First United Methodist Church of Union County, in the Fellowship Hall, located at 938 GA 515 in Blairsville from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Enotah CASA is a nonprofit with a goal of ensuring every abused or neglected child from our community gets a safe and permanent home as soon as possible. We are seeking advocates to build a trusting, caring relationship with a

foster child, and to represent their best interests. In addition to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs,) we need Ambassadors to take our message to the public, help raise support for our cause, and/or assist with events.

Last year, Enotah CASAs advocated for 324 children in the Enotah Judicial Circuit. The CASA program not only works for children, it also saved Towns County nearly \$42,000 and Union County over \$151,500 with the volunteer services they provided last year.

If you are interested in learning about volunteering for CASA, please stop by this open house, and to make a donation, please call 706-864-0300, or visit www.enotahcasa.org.