

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

in to her wishes. He really enjoyed the extra attention from her and came to view her as his mother. She would scrub out his ears and scrub his head and face. She would look into his ears and say, "William Shelnut, I believe there is enough dirt in there to grow a crop of cotton. Are you planning on becoming a farmer?" Those early days brought William and Paul together, resulting in a bond that lasted for the rest of their lives.

After graduation from high school, the boys went their separate ways. William settled in Florida, while Paul ended up back in Alabama. But, they kept in touch and visited on a regular basis. But, one day, William's wife called Dad with bad news. William had experienced a stroke. Dad made the trip to visit his old friend.

When he walked into the room, he was told his friend's voice had been adversely affected by the stroke and it would be difficult to understand William's words. Dad looked into his eyes, and William gave a note to his family, asking them to leave the room so the two friends could talk. After the family left, the two old men began to talk.

He asked Dad if he remembered the time they took old man Newell's wagon apart and put it up on his barn. The old man always tried to blame the boys each time something went wrong. For example, the boys got a whipping because Newell claimed they had dropped a bunch of nails in front of his old truck in the church parking lot. So, when they were older, the boys took apart the wagon and reassembled it on top of his barn. After laughing about this episode, another memory came to mind.

The boys decided to play a trick on old Tom May. Tom and some of his buddies were having a party in his old house. The old house had double chimneys at each end of the house.

The boys let all the men in the house get pretty well looped before they climbed up on the roof of the house with a coiled-up rope full of cherry bombs. They placed the rope into the chimney so it could be lowered into the house. After climbing off the roof, they lowered the rope down the chimney and hollered out "raid." The exploding fireworks sounded like gunshots, and pretty soon, men were running trying to get away. Uncle C.L. Cummings ran through the front window of the house and fell off the porch into a holly bush. Then he jumped up and ran into a barbed wire fence. The next day he was cut up pretty bad, but was down at Eb's Store bragging about getting away from the law the night before.

On another occasion, William's car got stuck in the woods while he was parking with a girl. He called his friend Paul at 11:30 on a Saturday night to come take him and the girl home. The girl's Daddy was known for being rough, and the boy was able to talk his way out of trouble. But, not before being told to never come back to the little farm in the Valley.

The stories lasted for two hours, and all at once, Dad remembered the words spoken by William's wife: "Paul, it will be difficult to understand him because the stroke affected his voice." But, the two men conversed for two hours with no trouble. He never could figure out what had happened. Some would say that was a miracle. I would suggest that the two friends had become so close that they could understand one another even though William had experienced a stroke. I guess it is just as Solomon said in Proverbs, that "there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

That proved to be true in the case of William Shelnut and Paul Cummings.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

worked for generations to build and recovery can take many more generations or probably not at all. Many just give up and move away rather than starting over.

My Mother's Grandmother's house is still in use on our farm down on the river. It was built in 1892 and if it were to be destroyed there is no way to recover it. Back in the '80s the main family house here that was built in the early 1800's as one of the Unicoi turnpike Inns, burned with all the original furnishings and that history is now only a memory and gone forever.

This happens more than most people think all around the country. A small fire can get out of control and destroys a year's worth of hay, fences (\$10,000/mile), livestock, equipment, barns, and other essential parts of a farm quickly. Imagine if your yearly salary was taken away suddenly along with your home, what would you do?

A Fire Adapted Community is a way of life that can encompass a county, subdivision or a family farm and is a situation where "the population understands the threat posed by wildfires and takes the personal actions necessary to help minimize the risk". The Fire Adapted Communities program is a grassroots approach that concentrates on plans and activities that reduce risk before a wildfire occurs and the FAC concept works by neighbors talking to neighbors to spread the word and achieve the results. There are many opportunities for a wildfire around farms that can be seen every day, but most don't think about what could happen with one spark in dry grass during on dry, windy day. Farmers are usually too busy to cut the grass around the barns and structures, and don't always clear a "defensible space" adjacent to the foundations to stop a small grass fire that

can quickly become a raging inferno in their hay barn with no way to put it out. Defensible space is an area (recommend 30 feet) around a structure where combustible materials are removed so a fire has nothing to burn and will stop before igniting a structure.

Most of our rural communities have volunteer fire departments and firefighters are not on duty 24/7 so when a call goes out to a farm fire, it takes some time for the firefighters to get to the station, get the trucks, and get to the fire and by that time it is usually too late. Defensible space can

Williams...

continued from Page 4A

can be used as a repellent, except for children under 3 years old. Products containing permethrin can be used on clothing to kill chiggers and ticks.

Chiggers are very aggravating to have, but hopefully this article has given you some options for how to deal with chigger bites and how to prevent them from getting on you. If you have questions about chiggers contact your county Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

On September 26 at 5:30 pm Union County Extension is hosting an education program on Radon in the Union County Civic Center. Please call 706-439-6030 to RSVP or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

Chick-fil-A Recruitment Event on September 4th from 4-7 PM at the Blairsville Chick-fil-A.

Several Chamber events that you do not want to miss are: Monthly Mingle on September 11th. Our speaker will be Chief David Dyer of the Union County Fire Department.

Also, our Extravaganza will be held at North Georgia Technical College on October 3rd. This is the perfect opportunity to showcase your business, organization, church or

event. Don't miss this great opportunity.

Mark your calendars: October 23rd Chris Clark of the Georgia Chamber will be speaking at our Power Lunch and on October 25th we will be hosting our 1st Annual Shooting for the Stars Golf Tournament with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit scholarships to be awarded at our annual Stars Event.

Have a safe and happy Labor Day!

Dyer...

continued from Page 4A

understand your policy and what it will and will not cover. Keep insurance company numbers with your protected documents and understand how to file a claim.

Disaster preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Saving for a disaster now will help you recover when the disaster happens. For more information on National Preparedness Month and how to be prepared, visit www.ready.gov/september.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Paris...

continued from Page 4A

for school taxes. Your tax bill includes the county tax and the school tax. If you live inside the city limits of Blairsville, you receive a separate bill for these taxes as the city collects their own property taxes.

Q. When will we receive our property tax bills?

A. The bills should be mailed out around September 16, 2019 and the property taxes will be due December 20, 2019.

Q. If we are absolutely unable to pay all of our property taxes at once, is there a payment process?

A. Unfortunately, the State of Georgia does not provide for payments on your tax bill, but if you are in dire straits and it is simply impossible to pay it all at one time, on a case by case basis the Tax Commissioner will see if some type of payment process can be developed to work with you.

Elliott...

continued from Page 4A

Churches, pastors, preachers: where are you? When I say church, I am talking about born-again believers in Jesus Christ. Jesus said we could not see the kingdom of God without a new birth, John 3:3. Church, have we become the Laodicean church? See Revelation 3:14-16. This is a cultural problem. We need to turn back to our roots. A nationwide revival is needed. God help us repent before it's too late. We are going the wrong way. Submitted in Christ's love,
Virgil Elliott

Historic Brick Walk at the old Courthouse

"Footsteps in History" - Purchase an engraved brick to honor or remember a loved one. The brick will be placed in the walk on the lawn at the old courthouse. Normally \$100, they can be purchased for \$50 through September 1st.

Stop by the Historical Society or call 706-745-5493 for more information. N(Aug28.Z1)CA

delay a fire and give firefighters time to arrive on the scene to control the situation or allow the landowner to put it out before it destroys what he or she has worked a lifetime to build. It is the little things that can make a bit difference.

We are sponsoring a Fire-on-the-Farm field day on Sep-

tember 21, at Jaemore Farms in Hall County, open to all.

For more information on Fire Adapted Communities, Firewise, or Fire risk reduction, contact Chestatee-Chat-tahoochee RC&D Council at info.ccrd@gmail.com or the local Georgia Forestry Commission office.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

the medication or the parent's lack of supervision. We blame the friend who offered the first hit and then we even blame the person who lost their life for making the choices that they made. It is human nature to need someone to blame. We spend so much energy blaming that very often, we miss the one thing that can really make a difference. Embracing the truth. Overdose happens and when it does, it impacts every level of our community. It hurts and, we are never quite the same.

While we will never eliminate drug related deaths, we can as a community approach substance use and abuse with a kinder, less judgmental

approach. We can remember those who are gone as more than the manner in which they died. We can advocate for the person struggling with addictions. We can support treatment and prevention programs in our schools and communities. We can open our hearts and love the person even if we do not agree with their choices. We can remember that all of us are more than the questionable choices we have made in this life. Not one of us... no, not even one of us is perfect. Our community is only as strong as our weakest population.

I challenge you on August 31, and every other day, to get involved. Change happens when we work together.

Combs...

continued from Page 4A

horizon and the last sunset disappears forever and the last chance for a soul to be won to the Lord, it will be worth it all.

A resounding yes brings new hope and a new heaven and a refurbished earth, void of all sin, and the redeemed in Christ will sing a new song, for they have endured the trials of this life and have been found worthy to inherit all of the joy of what God's amazing grace has in store for His beloved children.

Oh, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. Yes, my dear friend, it will be worth it all for eternity.

Frank F. Combs

Fowler...

continued from Page 4A

from happening; and, if you don't celebrate all facets of this cultural moment, you're a hater and your religion is evil.

So, you're in a race to the finish line of faith. The goal is to get there, not to be first. With all the encumbrances and entanglements around you, how do you endure? How do you make sure you don't become a "none" writing an awkward note to those who thought otherwise? By "fixing your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross" (Heb. 12:2). Believe, and endure.

S.A.F.E. Inc. Volunteer Training Workshop

S.A.F.E. Inc. will be holding a volunteer training workshop September 23rd & 24th from 1 - 5 PM and the 25th & 26th from 9 AM - 1 PM.

S.A.F.E. stands for Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, and is the Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Advocacy program serving Towns and Union counties since 1989.

There are several areas of need for volunteers: at our emergency shelter, our child advocacy center, and at both our thrift stores. If you would like to register for this training, or would like more information about volunteering with S.A.F.E., please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Vicki Franklin at 706-379-1901, or email her at vfranklin@safeservices.org.

