

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

tet. I never had the opportunity to hear her sing with the shaped note quartet. However, I can still hear her alto voice singing those old songs during Sunday Morning worship services.

Soon, the babies started coming to the Adams couple. First, there was Rayburn, then my mother Shirley. Shortly after her came Ralph, then Carolyn, and finally Debra. Paw paw tried growing cotton, but, just wasn't cut out for farming. He was a school bus driver for a time. One winter in the late '40s convinced him to look for another job. Remember, there were no good communications in those days, and the forecasting abilities of meteorologists was unavailable.

A big snowstorm hit Northwestern Alabama during the middle of a school day. School was dismissed about noon, and he tried to drive the students home on red clay roads covered in 1 foot of snow. About halfway through the route, his bus became stuck in the road. He and about half the students made their way to an abandoned house to seek shelter. He soon had a fire going in the fireplace, and they were able to keep from freezing. He kept many of those kids from freezing to death. However, many parents were upset because their kids had not made it home and blamed Bill Adams.

So, Paw paw went looking and found employment as a truck driver for the Rockwood Limestone Company. This made life a little easier for the Adams Family, and they were soon able to purchase their own property on the banks of Little Bear Creek. But, Paw paw still liked having things his way. One evening, Maw maw cooked a fine meal of pork chops, collards, soup beans and mashed potatoes. He came home from work and sat down at the table. The meal was a few minutes later than normal due to the workload for the kids and their mother. He became angry because the meal was late, and when he noticed there was no fried chicken, he dumped the whole plate of food onto the clean floor. He said, "I am not eating this." So, his wife had to prepare his favorite meal,

just as his mother had done all those years prior.

One evening, a fellow came to the Adams House for a visit. It was one of Bill's good friends. Shirley was just a young teenager at the time, and she was having trouble with cramps, as many young women do. The pains she was experiencing were very hurtful, and she was crying. The friend asked my grandfather if his daughter was okay. He responded, "She is fine. Just putting on a little bit." Then, he told the girl to be quiet or she would get a whipping. Soon, she began crying again, and her father stood to walk toward her. Mom told me, "I just knew I was about to get a whipping." But, her 13-year-old brother stood up and walked in front of his Daddy and told him, "You are not going to lay a hand on Shirley."

Uncle Ralph protected my mother when she was vulnerable, even though it cost him. The young boy soon ran away from home and spent most of his teenage years in Chicago. He was afraid Paw paw would get even with him because of the way he stood up to his Dad. My Uncle, the quiet one, sacrificed his standing in the family and did the right thing to protect his sister. That is something we will never forget. He is our family's hero.

Another hero in this story is my grandmother. She endured Paw paw's impatience and selfishness to become a woman which went back to school to graduate and attend college. She could still do the Charleston at 70 years old. She worked like a dog all of her life. And she was an inspiration to her children and grandchildren.

Finally, Paw paw also matured and changed during his later years. It took his life experiences to force him to change. The snowstorm, the incident with Uncle Ralph and recognizing his harsh behavior toward his wife forced him to look at himself. He didn't like what he saw, and during his later years, a different man emerged. One that loved his children and grandchildren!

## Chamber... continued from Page 4A

have not survived this ordeal and will not reopen. Many others may not have survived without having received the PPP funding. The governor, CDC, OSHA and a number of professional licensing boards have provided guidelines for reopening. Some businesses have elected to further delay their openings until they feel it is safer for their workers and customers. We ask that you help support these businesses in whatever decision they make during this very difficult time.

Go to the chamber website or the commissioner's website to learn more about the recommended guidelines and safety precautions for our community members, business owners, consumers, and health care workers. We encourage you to wear a face covering when going out in public. There are several stores in town that are selling masks including Pat's Hallmark. If your business wants to purchase masks for their employees you can contact Coosa Creek Marketing Products to address those needs.

The governor's announcement allowing many previously closed businesses to reopen comes as a relief

to many, but it should also be stressed that it is not an invitation to disregard the severity of this ordeal and that business owners need only reopen should they feel it is safe for them to do so. Follow the example other businesses and take this time to carefully schedule your reopening and consider what safety precautions you plan on implementing. Acquire the recommended protective equipment to keep your employees and customers safe, clean and sanitize your business space before reopening and continue to do so often after. We all long to return to a sense of normalcy, but we must exercise patience and caution as we begin this process.

As always, we encourage you to support our local businesses the best way you see fit. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of those who have been affected by this. We are doing everything in our power to ensure we keep the residents and visitors of our community safe during this time, and we appreciate your help with these efforts. We are a strong community and we have no doubt we will come out of this even stronger.

## Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

Listen to their response without interrupting and allow the conversation to naturally flow. Provide facts about alcohol.

Although many kids believe that they already know everything about alcohol, myths and misinformation abound. Here are some important facts to share:

Alcohol is a powerful drug that slows down the body and mind. It impairs coordination; slows reaction time; and impairs vision, clear thinking, and judgment.

Beer and wine are not "safer" than distilled spirits (gin, rum, tequila, vodka, whiskey, etc.). A 12-ounce can of beer (about 5 percent alcohol), a 5-ounce glass of wine (about 12 percent alcohol), and 1.5 ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits (40 percent alcohol) all contain the same amount of alcohol and have the same effects on the body and mind.

On average, it takes 2 to 3 hours for a single drink to leave a person's system. Nothing can speed up this process, including drinking coffee, taking a cold shower, or "walking it off."

People tend to be very bad at judging how seriously alcohol has affected them. That means many individuals who drive after drinking think they

can control a car—but actually cannot.

Anyone can develop a serious alcohol problem, including a teenager.

Allow the conversation to naturally flow. Make sure to close the conversation with a positive comment about your child's willingness to share their feelings and thoughts with you. Remember this is the first of many discussions, so encourage your child to come to you with any questions or concerns they may have.

## Meier...

**continued from Page 4A**

do something about climate change." What does he propose? Does he really believe mankind is capable of changing the earth's orbit or altering the shifting of plate tectonics to produce the climate in which he feels most comfortable?

**Gary Meier**

## Fire...

**continued from Page 4A**

all have a part to play, and it is very important that people take this seriously and do their part.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

## Riley... continued from Page 4A

ters and paying attention to maintaining the home ignition zone. Getting out your measuring tape and seeing how close wood piles are located to the home.

If they are closer than 30 feet, relocate them to at least 30 feet away from structures. Sweeping porches and decks, clearing them of leaves and pine needles. Raking under decks, porches, sheds, and play structures. Mowing grasses to a height of 4 inches or less. Removing items stored under decks and porches and relocating them to a storage shed, garage, or basement. Gasoline cans and portable propane tanks should never be stored indoors and should be located away from the home.

Challenge your friends, your family, relatives, or youth organization to develop a project and join others throughout the nation in making big changes for community safety. Your efforts will help raise wildfire awareness, promote collaboration, and bring neighbors together (when we can) to work on projects that can help protect homes, neighborhoods, and entire communities from future wildfire risk.

As old Smokey has said for 75 years, "Only You can prevent Wildfires!" Since most wildfires are human caused, he is right, and we can make a difference with a little effort to reduce the risks that we take for granted all around us every day. Let the kids be a part (they probably need a project by now!) because if we can train

our youth about wildfire, then when they become adults, they will already know what to do to reduce wildfire risk where they live, and they will not have to train them again.

Fire Adapted Communities is what this is all about, training citizens, fire departments, state and federal wildfire agencies and our children how to reduce the risk of wildfire in our communities by changing our habits to reduce our chances of losing all our stuff to a fire.

Help the Towns County Firewise Citizen's Coalition help you become Firewise. It is something different you can do while sheltering and it can make a difference in your lives.

For more information on Firewise or wildfire education programs and wildfire preparedness day, check National Fire Protection Association [www.NFPA.org](http://www.NFPA.org) Georgia Forestry Commission, US Forest Service, or The Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council [www.chestchattcrd.org](http://www.chestchattcrd.org) or [www.appcofac.org](http://www.appcofac.org)

## Paris...

**continued from Page 4A**

County would be to continue to adhere to the Shelter in Place Order that is still in effect.

**Q. Why don't you as County Commissioner pass a local temporary declaration tightening the regulations on local businesses - encouraging local residents to continue to shelter in place?**

A. Unfortunately, the Governor's order is very specific that cities and counties cannot enforce any local ordinance or order that is more or less restrictive than the April 20th Order.

## Williams...

**continued from Page 4A**

plants well watered, and having enough calcium in the soil will prevent blossom end rot. Foliar sprays to give calcium are only short-term fixes. Healthy soil and good water practices will eliminate this problem.

Tomatoes are best if they fully ripen on the vine. However, if you pick them before they are fully ripe you can set them out in a room that's around 70 degrees. I like to use the kitchen windowsill.

If you have questions about growing tomatoes contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## Fowler...

**continued from Page 4A**

This has a real impact on how you face life and death. On his deathbed John Newton ("Amazing Grace") said, "I am still in the land of the dying, but soon, I shall be in the land of the living!" Dietrich Bonhoeffer's final words were, "This is the end - for me the beginning of life." These men understood that "our citizenship is in heaven" (Phil. 3:20) and it is real. Do you?

## Combs...

**continued from Page 4A**

Lord comes back.

So in the meantime, what can we learn from this tragic event that has befallen our world and made everything stand still for a moment? That we are an imperfect society that needs to understand that God gave us free will, not to choose our own way, but to recognize who is really in charge of all things so that we would follow His perfect way. We must learn that the time God gives to us should not be wasted on foolish desires, while being reminded that God wants us to desire what He desires for us, and that is a personal relationship with Christ. When we get to the point where we can say, "God I surrender all over to you. Help me to seek your purpose and will for my life and guide me daily to be pleasing in your sight," then the things that come our way, whether they be good, bad or ugly, won't really mean a hill of beans when we know that God is in full control and we can trust in Him in all things, because of His great love for His creation.

**Frank F. Combs**