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a total of 121 miscellaneous permits that can be anything from home additions, deck additions, or erecting a garage.

Q. Do you think building and the economy in general for Union County will continue to get better?

A. Despite some people thinking that you can control growth, it is difficult. If we can stay in the general range of construction we are now seeing, we feel comfortable our infrastructure will support the

new homes. However, with so many volatile issues going on in the United States and the world right now, we really never know when and if we will enter into another recession or how long the current expansion will last.

We have always been somewhat blessed in Union County and the other mountain counties to be somewhat protected from the extreme highs and lows of the national economy and hope that continues.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

feet tall with nothing but other sharp boulders below him. Finally, he found himself above the pothole. He noticed there was no soil around this waterfall only the wet blue granite. As he stepped onto the wet rock he remembered his dad's words "That blue granite is too slick for my liking".

As Patrick's foot touched the rock he slipped and fell launching his body into the pothole. It was only a 3 foot drop and he thought he would be able to catch himself before going into the chute. But, the water was too fast and immediately he found himself cascading down the long s-shaped chute into a rhododendron tunnel. At the end Patrick was launched over a 10 foot drop and into

the hole his dad was fishing. He let out a war whoop and hit the water with a huge splash. As he popped out of the water he noticed his dad looking at him while a "Winston" cigarette dangled from his lips. All was silent for a moment. Finally, Bill said, "Patrick Fix, I have had you in the woods since you were 3. I have trained you in all the ways I know about these mountains. You know how to track a deer. You can read the woods.

You know how to find your way into and out of these mountains. But, just look at you all soaked and wet. I was just about to land a good one when you ball hooted over that waterfall into my fishing hole. Sometimes I wonder about you son".

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

at their dinner table.

One important step we can all take to protect our children is to safely dispose of our old and unused prescription medications. An alarming 70 percent of patients reported that their prescription opioids were not stored in secured containers.

Whether it's those pain relievers in the medicine cabinet from last year's dental procedure or the forgotten bottle of sleeping pills in the night table, prescription drugs can be incredibly dangerous if they fall into the wrong hands.

It takes mere moments to safely store our prescription medications, but this precaution can have a lifelong impact.

More than 2,000 teenagers in the United States will misuse a prescription drug for the first time today. Help prevent your child from being one of them.

Now in its 8th year, National Prescription Drug Take

Back Day events continue to remove ever-higher amounts of opioids and other medicines from the nation's homes, where they could be stolen and abused by family members and visitors, including children and teens.

Helping people to dispose of potentially harmful prescription drugs is just one way that we can work to reduce the addiction and overdose deaths plaguing this country due to opioid medications.

On Saturday, April 28th, the Drug Free Mountain Life campaign will host a "Drug Take Back Day" at the Blairsville City Hall from 9 AM to 1 PM. The first 50 people who participate will be eligible for a free Locking Medicine Storage Box for their home. Donors will have a choice of a keyed-style locking box or a combination locking box to be available for pick-up approximately two weeks after "Drug Take Back Day".

Combs... continued from Page 4A

or is there another way to deal with my adversities.

Like the apostle Paul, even while in prison where he wrote many of the books in the New Testament, said in Philipians 4:11-12 from the New Living Translation Bible: I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little. I know how to live on almost nothing or with every-

thing, for through Christ I have learned to be thankful in whatsoever state I am.

Paul found the secret of living the abundant life, even in all of his sufferings and adversities, because he knew in his heart that Jesus Christ would always be with him, no matter what he faced in life and so it is with you and me; only if you have a personal relationship with the Savior of the world, Christ, Jesus. None of us will leave this world when we die without knowing great adversities and suffering, but we can rejoice in the fact that we have the Creator of all things that will be with us whatever comes down the road to comfort and bring us a contentment and a peace that only our Peacemaker, God, can deliver.

Do you know the God of all adversities? He is your answer you have been looking for, or are you content with worldly pleasures that are slowly fading away.

Remember God so loved the world. That's why He came to save it. Amen
Frank F. Combs

Riley... continued from Page 4A

in 1937 and guided the development of the Cooperative Extension Service throughout the state, and he retired in 1954 after his career of 37 years. He received numerous awards including Man of the Year in Agriculture in 1942 by the Progressive Farmer and was inducted into the UGA Agriculture Hall of Fame.

During the World War II years as he served as Extension Director, he wrote monthly letters to the County Agents who were serving as soldiers in the war overseas to keep them abreast of the activities on the home front. The letters he received in return from the soldiers provide a very interesting history of life at that time both at home front and overseas. This

collection has been contributed to the UGA Archives for a major exhibit featured during the 125 Centennial of the Cooperative Extension Service in 2014.

After retirement he was employed by Georgia Farm Bureau and Southern Railway as a consultant. As an example of his reputation in the field of agriculture, the Farm Bureau president stated, "We are indeed fortunate in obtaining the services of this outstanding leader with his vast reservoir of experience and knowledge."

After 48 years of service to agriculture, Walter S. Brown died on December 5, 1965. He was a true pioneer with the same spirit of adventure possessed by those who settled the lands of this country. His understanding

Harper... continued from Page 4A

ris and Jeff Davis, State Farm Insurance was announced as the Business of the Quarter. We also elected the Chamber Ambassador of the quarter, Deanna Meyers, Branch Office Administrator for the Edward Jones office of Oleg Malyshev. We thank all of our Chamber Ambassadors for their help and support! We could not function without them.

There will be a ribbon cutting at Smoothies and Supplements on April 19 at 11 AM. They are located at 38 Merchant's Walk Suite C in Blairsville. Come and meet the owner, Elizabeth Dyer and learn about healthy eating and supplements while enjoying a sample

smoothie.

The Grand Opening for The Flying Trout Restaurant is scheduled for 5 to 9 PM on April 20th. Come meet the staff and enjoy the delicious new menu offerings. Live music will be provided by Danny Rhea from 7 to 10. The restaurant is located at 171 Copperhead Parkway, Blairsville.

We thank our Members and Ambassadors for their support. Contact the Chamber at 706-745-5789 or www.visit-blairsvillega.com.

Mitchell...

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ly, obviously, and undeniably forbidden.

Anyone who says the right to read and write books is limited to registered voters is either lying or an idiot. Now take a look at the journalists, judges, politicians and academics pushing the demonstrably false notion that the Second Amendment limits the right to gun ownership to militias. They, like CNN's Jeffrey Toobin - a Magna Cum Laude graduate who claims on YouTube that the 2nd Amendment is "ungrammatical and mysterious" - are not idiots (at least not all of them). The people pushing the nonsense that firearms ownership depends on membership in a militia are smart, well-educated people. They can read English very well. They know what the Second Amendment means.

They have chosen to distort that meaning. To what end should be obvious and undeniable.
George A. Mitchell

Dyer...

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on the 29th, there were 2,530 structure fires reported. That is approximately five structure fires a minute.

The situation and the conditions were incredible. Next week in part 2, we will explore the other challenges of this fire and the lessons learned that may help prevent such a tragedy in our area.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Fowler...

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be a lover of truth, in the deepest sense of love, because only Christianity is an invitation to a personal loving relationship with the truth."

What are you really looking for, the American right to pursue happiness? It's a deception to believe that you can find true happiness in anything this world has to offer. Look for truth, and when you find Him, you'll have transcendent joy that no deceiver can spoil.

Dixon...

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then propel us to be the leader in the Green Energy revolution, which would assure America as being the leading economy in the world.

This plan is eminently fair, for companies responsible for the pollution should be held accountable for the damage they cause, which you and I now pay for. Most Americans would come out ahead due to the monthly dividend, it would grow our economy, and it would add millions of new American jobs. And even if climate change were not real, we would be left with a healthier, stronger, more prosperous America. Fair, simple, quick, effective, market driven, free from government regulations, and correcting the market distortions that do not take into account the damages caused by fossil fuels. I believe it is a plan we can all support.
Vernon Dixon, MD

of hardships, gained through his childhood in the mountains of Towns County enabled him to make significant contributions to the development of a richer, fuller life for the farm families and youth of Georgia.

My times with "Granddaddy Brown" in these mountains; fishing trips on Corbin creek, fox hunting on Owl creek, duck hunting, working in

his garden, and the lectures that I got about always being a gentleman still stick in my mind today. These memories have been an inspiration to me all thru my career, and I am proud to be his grandson.

Frank M. Riley Jr, is Executive Director Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council - www.frank.ccrd@gmail.com.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Children's Story Time	Every Monday: Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
	Every Tuesday:	
Tri State Bus. Women	Cabin Coffee	8 am
Tuesday Strippers	Mtn Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
	Every Wednesday:	
BINGO	Civic Center	7 pm
	Every Thursday:	
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	NGTC	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
	Fourth Monday of each month:	
Blue Ridge Comm.	McCaysville Lodge	7:30 pm
	Fourth Tuesday of each month:	
Compassionate Friends	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Dead Theologians Soc.	Cabin Coffee	Noon
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville UMC	12:30 pm
VFW Post #7394	Veteran's Center	6:30 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
	Fourth Wednesday of each month:	
No activities listed		
	Fourth Thursday of each month:	
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 pm
UT Homebuilders	YH College	7 pm
	Fourth Friday of each month	
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
	Fourth Saturday of each month:	
Youngcane Lodge #597	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm