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there is no report of personal injury or death to anyone, which is most important.

Q. Do you know how many people lost power?

A. According to BRMEMC, there were approximately 6,000 Union County customers without power at the height of the storm and about 500 of those were in Suches.

This is Thursday evening as this is being written and there are only about 100 Union County customers still out of power.

Q. How do we thank the Public Safety employees who worked in this storm?

A. Well, one way that I saw used often was Facebook.

Also, I have had calls thanking the different departments for their assistance.

While hopefully I will not leave anyone out, we all should give a special thanks to everyone's efforts during and after the storm. This will include the Union County Road Department, the Union County Fire Department, both paid firefighters and volun-

teers, the Union County Sheriff's Office and all deputies, the Blairsville Police Department, U.S. Forest Service personnel, and the Department of Natural Resources.

Thank you to the detail officers from Carlton Colwell Detention Center and the detainees. I had the pleasure of working alongside these crews in Suches, and I can tell you they work hard and are very respectful. We also had other county employees from the Recreation Department working on storm cleanup and we don't want to forget all the neighbors and communities who helped one another. A special thanks goes out to the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC crews who worked tirelessly, and the local telephone company guys for keeping our phones working. While losing some cell phone service, most land line service remained intact.

The three local water authorities, including the City of Blairsville, maintained public water. Thanks for all the prayers and messages of support from so many.

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give us hope? The eternal perspective is that one day, Faithful and True will put an end to this fallen world. The invitations will be issued to the great marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19). Then your suffering will either make sense or won't matter anymore.

The 19th C. poet George

Wade Robinson wrote, "Things that once were wild alarms cannot now disturb my rest, closed in everlasting arms, pillowed on the loving breast. Oh, to lie forever here, doubt and care and self resign while He whispers in my ear, I am His, and He is mine." By faith in the Lord Jesus, it is so.

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There will be vendors, workshops and a national speaker as well. The theme of this event is that For One Day, let's live and demonstrate "Kind is the New Cool." We are all a unique expression of God, so let's celebrate our differences with a free music festival where we can all sing, play and learn.

Bullying Uncensored, Unity of Blairsville and other partners are coming together to honor and inspire each person. For additional details about this event, visit the Chamber website at VisitBlairsvilleGa.com or you can contact Bates Reed directly at (706) 530-0114 or online at info@UnityofBlairsville.org.

In addition, I want to thank everyone for coming out to the Business After Hours at Crossing Creeks RV Resort & Spa. Thank you, Doc, Debbie, Susan and Jan, for hosting this hosting this great event.

As they like to say, "Welcome to the Extraordinary."

This magnificent venue has more than meets the eye with an amazing clubhouse, pool, outdoor games and gorgeous water feature if you want to enjoy taking a stroll outside.

Crossing Creeks RV Resort & Spa welcomes all types of RVs, including Class A, B and C motor homes, 5th wheels and travel trailers.

Each of their large RV sites is equipped with full utility hook-ups and a large concrete pad to accommodate recreational vehicles up to 45 feet long. They have premium Creekside lots with enlarged patios, so you can enjoy the sounds and beauty of this North Georgia Mountain Experience.

For a complete list of the features and amenities this unique resort has to offer visit their website at <http://www.crossingcreeksrvresort.com>.

You can stop in and visit them at 136 Mountain Creek Road in Blairsville or give them a call at (706) 835-1111.

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break and cause cracks leading down to the trunk. These cracks and openings can be susceptible to disease infection, especially fruit trees.

Clean up any jagged branches during your winter pruning by cutting the remaining wood off at the collar (swollen area where the branch attaches to the trunk). In spring, begin applying fungicides to make sure spores and bacteria do not have the opportunity to infect these wounds.

For more details, please contact your extension office.

Union and Towns County Extension will be holding a Pesticide Safety Course on Wednesday, Oct. 11th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Union County Extension Office.

Private applicators will receive 2 credit hours, and commercial applicators will receive 4 credits in any one category.

There will be a \$40 registration fee to cover costs of speakers. Please RSVP to the Union County Extension Office by 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9th to secure your spot.

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Drug addiction doesn't know race, gender, or socioeconomic status. It effects successful professionals as well as the poverty stricken. The fact is, you can't always recognize a drug addict by looking at him. You may not even be able to recognize addiction in yourself. Addiction is something that may happen quickly, but it can also happen gradually over time. This makes recognizing addiction in someone you love, or yourself, that much harder to grasp.

Signs that someone may be an addict include secretive behavior, social withdrawal, nausea and vomiting, frequently asking to borrow money, changes in behavior or mood swings. Other signs include loss of interest in activities unrelated to drug use, paranoia, unexplained injuries, red or watery eyes, and sleeping more than usual or a lack of need for sleep.

There is also a stigma surrounding drug abuse. Many people still falsely believe that drug addicts are selfish, weak willed, and lazy. Some do not understand the nature of addiction, so they believe that an addict can stop if they really want to. Loved ones may believe that if the addict loved them, they would quit using their drug of choice. But addiction doesn't work that way. Anyone can become addicted, and it has nothing to do with will or work ethic.

Because of the stigma

surrounding addiction, however, many addicts find themselves in denial of how serious their dependencies have become.

A drinker may convince himself that he only drinks socially, or to relax on weekends. When an extra beer or glass of wine creeps in during the week, he may tell himself that it was a stressful day or that it's a one-time thing. He may legitimately not notice when things start getting out of hand until he's suffering from a full-blown addiction and is having trouble coping at work or having issues with loved ones.

Likewise, a loved one may not want to face the fact that his or her friend or family member has a drug or alcohol problem. He may ignore evidence when it first begins to appear, and even make excuses for the person to avoid facing the issue. Only when more severe issues come into play is the addiction acknowledged. Other times, the addict is good at hiding the evidence, and loved ones may not notice the subtle clues pointing toward a substance dependency.

Getting treatment for drug addiction and abuse is not always easy. Users often do not know they have a problem until they are deeply entrenched in drug use. Often, friends and family are the first to notice how far things have gotten. If you, or someone you love is suffering from addiction, help is available.

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darkened, Hubert began to get nervous and so he pulled out his pocket knife to whittle.

Then he tried to whittle. But, his mouth was so dry the whistling was more like a whisper.

Tommy knew it was time. He began to toss acorns and small pebbles in the dried leaves all around the camp. Hubert heard these acorns hitting the ground and he exclaimed, "Boys, they's

a painter out there and he's a huntin' us." William told Hubert it was his imagination.

Bud recollected that he'd heard that Old Man Landers over at Dime had seen a black "painter" last week. Paul told Hubert that if he thought something was in the woods he should go out there and "stob" it with his Case Knife. None of his friends' words helped to relieve Hubert of his anxiety.

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scene.

Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D is the Georgia Firewise Liaison and the administrator for the Appalachian RC&D FAC Coalition.

The Appalachian RC&D FAC Coalition project came about after the then U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester, Tony Tooke, visited to see our work and his comment was "this is exactly what Washington wants to see on the ground!"

"Can you take this program up the Appalachian Mountains into Virginia?"

I said "Yes," and we now have Towns type Firewise programs in the three state Appalachian Region administered by six RC&D Councils.

The following is a Press Release about two of Georgia's own: U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today administered the oath of office to Tony Tooke, who became the 18th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, in a ceremony at White Mountain National Forest.

Tooke has worked for the Forest Service since age 18 – with 37 total years of service – and until today was the Regional Forester for the Southern Region headquartered in Atlanta.

"Tony Tooke is truly a home-grown chief, having worked his entire adult life for the Forest Service, and he comes on board at a time of great opportunity to reform our approach to forest management," Perdue said. "He will oversee efforts to get our forests working again, to make them more productive, and to create more jobs.

"Additionally, wildfires have been aggressive this season, and it is frustrating to see that a greater and greater percentage – now 55 percent – of our Forest Service budget is spent on fire suppression. This diminishes our efforts to mitigate disasters in advance. I am committed to finding a permanent solution to this budget imbalance, and Tony's leadership will be key to accomplishing that goal."

"I am deeply humbled to have been asked to serve as Chief of the U.S. Forest Service," said Chief Tooke. "I have tremendous respect for our history and those who have served before me – their leadership has inspired my own. I admire our on-the-ground

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come, as did the Old Testament prophets, as did John, who recorded the end-time events of the Revelation. The converging signs have become blatant. They are happening before our very eyes and few want to talk about the significance of their meaning. It makes people uncomfortable. It frightens them.

When even godless newscasters use the words "apocalyptic" and "of Biblical proportions" to describe the hurricane weather systems, Midwest fire storms, and earthquakes that are convulsing our planet, it's time that we look at these events in light of Jesus' warnings of signs in the heavens and the earth. I think our recent total solar eclipse qualifies. Especially in light of the fact that almost immediately following we have had two catastrophic – yes, of apocalyptic proportions – hurricanes ravage the Southeast United States and the Caribbean Islands. Floods in India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and other Eastern nations have claimed more than 2,000 lives within the last week. There has been an 8.2 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Mexico with death and destruction. Add to that Hurricane Katia, which claimed lives and wreaked devastation there.

Are there not unprecedented wars and rumors of wars with nuclear, chemical and hydrogen mass annihilation capabilities. Terrorists warfare all over the planet? Men's hearts failing them for fear? But let's not talk about these things even against a backdrop of eternity.

For my part, I want to talk about these things and examine them as precursors to the fulfillment of a long anticipated prophetic event. Jesus told us that when we see these things converging all at once, "Look Up. Your redemption draws near." I hope this doesn't melt you dear snowflakes, but, I for one, am excited. I am expectant. I am looking up and I am proclaiming: **Even So, Come Lord Jesus! Anniece Buckman**

Finally, it was suggested that Hubert take the canteens over to the stream to refill them for their morning coffee. The stream was in view of the campfire, so, Hubert picked up the canteen and walked to the spring. Unknown to Hubert, Tommy was on top of the bluff directly above the spring and was climbing down a slick, tall poplar. He came noiselessly while Hubert was filling the canteen. The other boys knew what was about to happen. Paul, with an urgent voice said, "Hubert, I think I hear something to the other side of

us." Hubert looked away from the spring and toward the fire. Tommy, who was bigger and taller than Hubert, wrapped his arms around his friend's waist and let out a blood curdling yell. Hubert's feet went into hurry up mode. They were not touching the ground. But, they were running just like you would see in a cartoon.

When Hubert realized he was not moving any closer to the fire he cried out, "Hit's got a hold of me. Run boys and save yourselves. Whaaaaaagh". He also used other indiscernible words.