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in this area and the amount of money they spend and circulate in our county.

**Q. Do we have a way to calculate the economic impact of the many restaurants in the county?**

A. We do not, but what we do know is that they contribute to our excellent quality of life in this county. Having and enjoying so many dining options is just one more feature that sets this county and city apart. Also it is typically

estimated that 30% to 40% of the restaurant sales tax money comes from out of town visitors. When people come here to eat from out of town, they often purchase gas, buy groceries, and shop in many of our neat shops and stores. So having many quality restaurants located here is a real benefit to everyone. The sales tax revenue distributes to the county, city, and school system and is a critical part in keeping the property taxes so low in Union County.

**Cummings ... continued from Page 4**

very dark. But, the pair managed to gather some rocks for further inspection and they finally decided to exit the mine shaft. They went back to the rope and realized it was too small in diameter to climb back out. So, they called back to the surface and their friends swung into action.

The group pulled a four wheeler to the entrance of the shaft. This four wheeler had a winch on the front and a cable was lowered down into the shaft. The smaller rope was used to make a harness and Patrick secured his friend onto the cable. Slowly but surely the young man was pulled from the shaft to the surface. However, at the surface the young man's hand was holding on the cable which at the last instant was cutting into the wall of the shaft. The young fellow's hand was

cut and mangled in this process. While one group took one man to the hospital the other worked on retrieving Patrick.

A pulley was rigged above the mine shaft which worked much like a bucket over a well. A rope was attached to the pulley and lowered to Patrick which he secured to himself. As he was being pulled up our hero felt totally dependent upon his friends. His feet were about 3-4 feet off the ground when he felt himself fall landing upright on his feet. Patrick said, "I wondered what in the world just happened? Then I looked up and much to my surprise I saw and felt a 5 pound pulley slam into my chest." I don't know how long Patrick was out but, he finally was retrieved from the mine after 7 hours. Now, is that an adventure or what?

**Riley ... continued from Page 4**

plain management, a community rating system could direct more assistance to communities that help themselves through some type of zoning (if the local government has zoning); transferable development rights programs, incentives for cluster development, open-space programs and other planning tools. In limited cases, it may be cheaper to buy the land instead of fighting successive years of wildfires. Public land managers also could be required to alert local governments about proposed new developments that would be plain management, a community rating system could direct more assistance to communities that help themselves through some type of zoning (if the local government has zoning); transferable development rights programs, incentives for cluster development, open-space programs and other planning tools. In limited cases, it may be cheaper to buy the land instead of fighting successive years of wildfires. Public land managers also could be required to alert local governments about proposed new developments that would be at high risk from wildfires. And we must map fire risk to alert would-be homebuyers of dangers before they commit to living in a tinderbox.

Building homes with the Forest Service as a backyard always will be dangerous. We can manage wildfire to an extent, but need to learn to better live with fire which means we must alter the pace, scale and pattern of future development. For this task, nothing works as well as giving people incentives – negative consequences for decisions that increase risk, and positive rewards for decisions that reduce risk. The good news is that most carrot-and-stick approaches can be applied today, without having to wait for Congress.

Those of you that think it won't happen here, check out what happened in White County, GA last week, a careless cigarette dropped in leaves around a "non-Firewise" house. It wasn't hundreds of homes lost, just one damaged and was "two minutes from disaster" according to the chief, but for those people who almost lost their home it could have been a tragedy just the same.

For more information on wildfire education programs such as Firewise, Ready-Set-Go or Fire Adapted Communities, contact Frank Riley, Executive Director, Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D council at frank.ccrd@gmail.com.

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ture – have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that (people) are without excuse" (Rom 1:20). Oxford mathematician John Lennox said, "God is not an alternative to science as an explanation. He is not to be understood merely as a God of the gaps. He is the ground of all explanation: it

is His existence which gives rise to the very possibility of explanation, scientific or otherwise."

We are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Ps. 139:14) and not meant to be lost in the chaos of a pitiless existence. We identify with our Maker through Jesus Christ, the best arrangement of all!

**Leone... continued from Page 4**

enon occurs. I really am not interested in how this infiltration takes place through seemingly airtight windows and screens. I'm particularly interested in how to obliterate these pests. Their winter rust hue is clashing with my living room décor. These wonderful friends of mine offer just one bit of advice. "Whatever you do, don't vacuum them up".

If this catastrophic affair was to occur today, I would just Google "how to eradicate ladybugs from home invasion". In 0.63 seconds I would have received 128,000 records addressing this question. The first three would have told me everything I needed to know.

First off, they are not rust color because their bright red, story book color has faded over the summer as I had assumed. These are actually a less colorful variety, an Asian Lady Beetle which likes to hibernate each winter inside a nice warm house. (Should I have turned off my heat?)

As it turns out, the ladybugs are attracted to light colors, including the color white. (Hence the ceiling location).

They're also attracted to warm, south-facing rooms. (Explains why they are in the living room and not the laundry room. I thought maybe they wanted to watch TV while they were taking up residence).

The ladybugs come in through small cracks around windows, door ways and under clap boards. (I soon found out that what was in the house was nothing compared to what was

between the walls). Ladybugs gather in groups when they hibernate, so if you see one, you can be sure more will follow.

Ok, now I know the how and why, I'm ready to get to the solutions to this unwanted invasion. Instead, much like my neighbors 15 years ago, every article wants to tell me what "not to do". Disturbing them will only cause them to stress out and leave yellow marks on the paint. Yes, I had found that out. I assumed it was excrement, a way of letting me know that they had squatter rights and for me to bug off. A decade and a half later, through the miracle of the internet I am feeling horribly guilty because it was actually their blood, which they release when they smell danger. I might not have made them bleed had I known.

After reading a dozen articles, the overwhelming wisdom for evacuation is the vacuum cleaner. With the new canister style vacuums, this is a much less costly method. If you have a bag collecting them, you must throw the bag out immediately. These bugs have a very foul odor once they are sucked into oblivion. It's their blood that stinks. (I know... TMI). When using the canister style, the cylinder can just be rinsed out; there is no need to call a HAZMAT cleanup crew.

Even without the benefit of the internet, fifteen years ago I did choose to eat the expense of the vacuum bag, and "relocated" the vagrants with my Hoover. It was unmerciful. It was quick, efficient and a solution I have used whenever I'm challenged with this winter occurrence.

These nasty winter home invaders are essential to our farmers in the spring and summer. They voraciously consume plant destroying aphids as well

**Malone ... continued from Page 4**

year term as a Director on the Chamber Board, I have the ability to be up to speed rapidly on the demands of this leadership role.

For those of you I don't know, Kathy and I have been married for 47 years. We had 5 children and our two surviving sons, Bryan and Sean, have blessed us with 5 grandchildren. We attend Shepherd of the Hills Church in Morganton and I serve as the Vice-President of the Church Council.

I am also the host of the weekend radio show This Week in Blairsville on 95.1 WJRB and serve as a mentor in the Union County High School. I was honored to serve on various committees as part of the re-branding process that Union County has undertaken in the last year. I am also the President of LMMA Inc., a non-profit focused on motorcycle awareness and safety.

The Chamber has an outstanding staff in Tobie Chandler, Linda Lawrence, Yvette Estevez-Hansen and Shelia Freeman and I am blessed to be working with them on behalf of our Chamber members and the entire Blairsville Union County community.

I am looking forward to the challenges that this interim position brings and to serving you and the greater community. I firmly believe that Blairsville Union County is a great place to grow a business and raise a family. #BelieveIt.

**Dyer ...**

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paper each week, think about the time, effort and commitment that goes into each call reported.

Union County Fire Department...Our Family Protecting Your Family.

**Hughes ...**

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I am not sure if we have more than four people who have applied that currently live in the county, but I know that of those four, three have lived here most of their lives and the other has been here for five years. I, myself, moved to Union County in 1985, and have found the school system to be one of the best in the state. I urge all parents of school age children to voice our feelings concerning our choices for our next superintendent. I know this is a big decision for our Board of Education, and many factors have to be considered, and I am sure there are some excellent applicants to choose from. However, I hope we get a superintendent that understands our community and will support the needs of our students and educators.

**Jim Hughes**

**NGTC Board Meeting**

North Georgia Technical College's Board of Directors will meet at 3 PM on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, via teleconference. Board Members may also be present in the Board Rooms on all three NGTC Campuses. For more information, contact 706-754-7702.

as scaly bugs like spider mites and mealybugs. So, lady bugs, let it be known that I welcome your cute little round bodies in

the summer, but I have a "no vacancy" sign hanging where you can see it during these winter months.

**UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

|                           |                                       |            |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
|                           | <b>Every Monday:</b>                  |            |
| Children's Story Time     | Union County Library                  | 11 am      |
| Kiwanis Club              | Steve's Steakhouse                    | Noon       |
| A Course in Miracles      | 298 School Circle                     | 2 pm       |
| Civil Air Patrol          | Blairsville Airport                   | 6 pm       |
| Boy Scouts #101           | United Methodist Ch                   | 7 pm       |
|                           | <b>Every Tuesday:</b>                 |            |
| Tri State Bus. Women      | Blairsville Restaurant                | 8 am       |
| Get Fit                   | First UMC                             | 5:15 pm    |
| Smoky Mtn. Melodies       | United Methodist Ch                   | 6:30 pm    |
| Hi Country Harmonizers    | Branan Lodge                          | 6:30 pm    |
| Spiritual Living Group    | UC Comm Cntr., Rm 101                 | 6:30 pm    |
|                           | <b>Every Wednesday:</b>               |            |
| BINGO                     | Civic Center                          | 7 pm       |
|                           | <b>Every Thursday:</b>                |            |
| Masonic Luncheon          | Cooks Restaurant                      | 11:30 am   |
| Rotary Club               | So. Bank & Trust                      | Noon       |
| Get Fit                   | First UMC                             | 5:15 pm    |
|                           | <b>Third Monday of each month:</b>    |            |
| Shape Note Music          | Old Courthouse                        | 6:30 pm    |
| High Country Artisan      | U.C.Bank Com Room                     | 6:30 pm    |
| Exp Aviation Assoc #1211  | Blairsville Airport                   | 7 pm       |
|                           | <b>Third Tuesday of each month:</b>   |            |
| UC Homemakers             | Dooley Chapter                        | Noon       |
| Healty Hearts Support     | UGH 2nd Floor Class                   | 2 pm       |
| Am. Legion Post 121       | Veteran's Center                      | 6:30 pm    |
| American Legion, Aux      | Veteran's Center                      | 6:30 pm    |
| Chatuge Gun Club          | Senior Center, Hia.                   | 7 pm       |
| Compassionate Friends     | UCB Community Room                    | 7 pm       |
|                           | <b>Third Wednesday of each month:</b> |            |
| Quilts of Valor           | Coose Methodist Ch                    | 9:30 am    |
| Blairsville Garden Club   | Location not listed                   | 1 pm       |
| Friends of the Library    | Library Com Room                      | 2 pm       |
| Beta Sigma Phi, Iota Iota | So. Bank & Trust                      | 7 pm       |
|                           | <b>Third Thursday of each month:</b>  |            |
| MMQG                      | Mtn. Presbyterian Ch                  | 10 am-3 pm |
| Kinship Care              | Civic Center                          | Noon       |
| Commissioner's Meet.      | County Courthouse                     | 6 pm       |
| Good N' bors Auto         | Rib Country, Murphy                   | 6:30 pm    |
| UT Home Builders          | Moschetto's                           | 6:30 pm    |
| Cub Scouts Trp. #101      | United Methodist Ch.                  | 6:30 pm    |
| Tip-off Club              | UC High School                        | 7 pm       |
| UC Saddle Club            | Arena Clubhouse                       | 7 pm       |
| Jaycees                   | Fort Sorghum                          | 7:30 pm    |
|                           | <b>Third Friday of each month:</b>    |            |
| No activities listed      |                                       |            |
|                           | <b>Third Saturday of each month:</b>  |            |
| UC Republican Party       | Civic Center                          | 10 am      |
| Goldwing Road Riders      | Daniels Steak House                   | 11 am      |