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grams and events.
Q. We noticed that some of the new bridges and trails in Meeks Park are dedicated to certain people. Can you tell us more about these people and their contributions to Union County and Meeks Park?

A. Dobson Bridge - The bridge nearest to the Sorghum Festival building is dedicated to James W. (Jim) Dobson, Jr. If any of you lived here when Jim was alive I'm sure he may have sold you a ticket to a pancake breakfast, BBQ or Masonic dinner or some other function! He could sell you ten tickets before you knew what happened. Jim was a native of South Carolina, but lived most of his life in Blairsville. He was a U.S. Army veteran of WWII and a member and deacon of the first Baptist Church of Blairsville. He was associate professor emeritus of agronomy and former superintendent of the University of Georgia Mountain Experiment Station (now called the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center). He retired from the station in 1991 after 38 years of service. Jim devoted his life to family and public service. He will always be remembered. Jim was a personal friend and this community will always miss him. Jim passed away in 2010 at the age of 86, still very active to the end.

B. Bruce Bridge - The bridge nearest to Pavilion #3 is dedicated to Evan Clyde "Cuz" Bruce. He was a native and lifelong resident of Union County and a member of Young Cane Lodge #597. After working for the Tennessee Copper Company until it closed, he then worked for the Union County Recreation Department for almost 12 years. Clyde was very proud of Meeks Park and kept the park in pristine condition. He was an active member of the Good Neighbors Car Club. Clyde lost his battle with cancer and passed away in 2010. His interest in Meeks Park was unwavering and he is really missed.

C. Colwell Property - The newest walking trails and property added to the park across Butternut Creek are dedicated to Ab and Grapelle Colwell who lived in Union County their entire lives. Union County bought the thirty acres (using SPLOST funds) where the trails are located from their children. They were devoted citizens who never travelled far beyond the county boundaries, with the exception of a tour of duty Ab served in France and

Luxembourg during World War I. Grapelle devoted her life to being a homemaker and full-time mother to A.C., Max, Jack, and Dottie. Their children and grandchildren believe that Ab and Grapelle would be very pleased that the property they purchased in their beloved Union County many years ago has been preserved as recreational "green space" for many people to enjoy as an extension of Meeks Park. Their house used to stand where Cadence Bank stands today. In fact, you can still see part of the steps and rock wall that was in front of their house.

We are so pleased to be able to honor these people who dedicated so much of their lives to Union County.

Q. What is the story behind all the lilacs that are planted at Meeks Park?

A. In 2007, Mrs. Arlene Gray (the Lilac Lady) came to me with a proposal. She had just attended a Lilac Festival in New York that drew a crowd of 100,000 people. She thought the lilacs would do well in this area and asked me if I would consider planting them at the park. I said yes and the rest is history. The next thing I know we have an 18 wheeler arriving from Canada with 200 lilac plants to be planted!

There are 30 varieties of lilacs and seven colors. The lilacs are ranged in three categories: early, mid, and late-blooming. We want to thank Arlene for her vision and her dedication to beautifying the park with lilacs. Next spring be sure and go to the park at lilac blooming time to enjoy them.

Q. What are some of the future plans for the park?

A. There is a lot we would like to do at the park but unfortunately we are sometimes limited by the amount of funding we have. Some of the things we have talked about and still may be able to do in the future are adding an amphitheater to the park. An old grist mill has been donated to us and we also have the old cabin that used to be just off 129 south that at some point we would like to restore and add to the park. We are always looking for adjacent or nearby property to expand recreation opportunities in the future. We are still optimistic that some day we will be able to acquire or lease some property from the US Forest Service near the park to expand our 8 and under sports and hopefully add a small water park for the tots.

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ing from the water victorious. Then there was a little girl who had watched her brother succeed and wanted so badly to be brave enough to take the journey. Her biggest fear was getting her pretty shirt wet. I threw a Green Bean Festival T-shirt over her, fibbing that it would keep her shirt underneath dry. She fell for it and she took her first dunk. And then her next, and then her next. Everyone had advice for her. She tried all the angles we shouted at her, all to no avail.

Even the strongest of character would have thrown in the towel at this point. Not this little determined angel. It was when her grandfather, who had been capturing it all on camera, made his move that I found myself being moved to the next level of joyfulness. As nonchalantly as he could, without drawing her attention to his act, he slipped his hand under the apple she was diving at and held it just steady enough for her teeth to sink

into it. She never saw the gesture of love. She only felt the victory.

I witnessed it all. I truly live a charmed life.

You too, can be a part of this joy. There are so many opportunities at the Farmers Market to volunteer. All of the volunteers this year didn't just feel satisfied that they helped; they also found a level of bliss that comes with being a part of such a wonderful community event held each and every week. There are two more opportunities for you to get involved this year. We need volunteers, especially for the final week of the month (and the season), when we celebrate the Great Butternut Creek Pumpkin Party. It's going to be a whole lot of fun. Want to share in the joy? Call me (706-781-3306) or email me (UCFarmersMarket@gmail.com) and I'll be happy to share with you the golden brick road my heart journeys every week. See you soon.

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gone to bed and was asleep. As Dad and Mom were leaving Uncle Mack hollered from his bed room, "Paul, where did you get off to last night. You left us so early we were worried about you going down to the boot legger's house and getting into trouble. Shirley, we tried to stop him." Mom looked up at Dad and gave him that "Boy, you are in trouble look". Dad tried to explain and the words wouldn't come out right. So, Dad ran into Mack's room and pulled back his bed covers. There

lay Uncle Mack still wearing his muddy boots. He let out a laugh, "Haw, haw, haw. We got ya boy." Dad looked around and everyone in the room was laughing including my mother. Dad knew at that time he had been accepted into the family.

Remember, we will open the Canning Plant on Tuesdays from 6:30 a.m. until noon until Oct. 23rd. Then we will open on Nov. 12 and 13 for Meat Days at the Canning Plant.

For more details, please call (706) 439-6030.

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serve God and their fellow citizens. Their sole purpose is to honor the position and to give of themselves to bring about a better good.

We know also that there are pure "rotten eggs" in politics. They are known by their "stinking thinking." They have no respect for God, their nation, fellow man and are absolutely bankrupt in their morals and values.

We need more than egg-heads to lead us. We need to egg on and encourage good, solid and sane leadership. At the same time I would remind

all of us that neither man nor woman is capable to lead us without God's divine wisdom and direction. I exhort you to pray for our leaders and lift them up, but look higher than man. Look unto God for our help and strength. I don't know about you, but I refuse to put all my eggs in man's basket, I put them into the Jesus basket. I guarantee you that if you will put all of your eggs in the Jesus basket you will never have egg on your face but you will be a winner on earth and in eternity. I approve this message.

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gia newspapers and magazines, including in Lenox and Statesboro.

He now lives with his family in Watkinsville, and works in public relations with the state Department of Natural Resources, promoting conservation of rare wildlife, from bald eagles to big-eared

bats.

Flying Tigers: A Boy's Adventure is available at Amazon.com and other outlets. Rick also has another book in the works.

Mr. Lavender, I wish you the best. Your book is amazing. I didn't expect any less.

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Remember to shop local and save time and money. You travel less, saving your precious energy and your car's fuel. Consider a chamber member for your local

shopping needs by visiting www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com or call (706) 745-5789 for a directory. I can be reached any time at Chair@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Monday:		
Garden Tours	GMREC	9 am - 1 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Every Tuesday:		
Mtn. Woodcarvers	Senior Center	6 pm
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Every Thursday:		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Rotary Club	Cadence Bank	Noon
Fourth Monday of each month:		
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville	12:30-1 pm
Fourth Tuesday of each month:		
Cub Scouts Trp. #101	UC Elementary School	7 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
VFW Post #7394	Old Nursing Home	11:30 am
Compassionate Friends	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Fourth Wednesday of each month:		
No activities listed		
Fourth Thursday of each month:		
UT Homebuilders	YH College	7 pm
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 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