

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

and the wall of the house. There I was, lodged between the bed and the wall. She picked me up and hugged me tight. She said she carried me outside and watched by the light of the full moon as my Daddy ran around the house in his long john underwear. All the while he was threatening the kidnappers with his shotgun. After the fourth trip around the house, he was losing his breath, so he stopped. Momma looked at Daddy and said, "I found my curly-haired baby."

Last summer, I was driving to the Union County Canning Plant at 4:30 a.m. while listening to the Bluegrass channel on satellite radio. They were playing a song out of the 1950's called, "My Curly-Haired Baby." That song was heard by my mother long before I was born. I can just see my mother's family sitting around a radio listening to the Grand Ole Opry hearing the words to the song, "My Curly-Haired Baby." Those words don't embarrass

me any longer. As a matter of fact, I am quite fond of them. And as my age increases, the more I enjoy them.

As you may deduce from this story, I am quite fond of Bluegrass and Country Music. Some of my favorite artists were my grandparents' favorites, and the songs they sang are important to me because they were important to them.

My Paw Paw Adams' favorite singer was Bill Monroe. A few years ago, I acquired an album of his greatest hits. Each time I listen to it I think of Bill Adams. But, also a tune he recorded comes to mind, which my grandmother used to sing while she worked called "In the Pines." But, another song sang to me by my Aunt Carolyn was recorded by Hank Williams. When I was a baby, she would sing, "Hey Good Looking." These songs reverberate through my very being, and each time I hear one, I think of people that I love and admire.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

causes people to avoid admitting they have a problem. Stigma can prevent people from seeking treatment for their destructive habits. This stigma is the reason that some parents avoid or deny their child has a drug problem and it even remains after a person loses their life due to overdose or other drug related causes.

Now consider what happens if we change how we look at others. What if you could see a person as someone's mother, or someone's child? What happens if you allowed yourself to look at another person and see their pain and their struggle rather than their shortcomings?

What if we held these people accountable for their actions but rather than passing judgement, we offered empathy? What if we adopted the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to recover their lives and what if as a community, we came together to help them receive the treatment necessary to do just that? Approaching addiction in this manner would cost the community less financially and emotionally. Support an acceptance increase the likelihood of positive treatment outcomes and everyone benefits when those in active addiction find recovery, but no one recovers alone.

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Hosts above has never left us or forsaken us through it all, for the Lord's promises are always spot on. All of the challenges and disappointments we face in life help us to rely and depend not on humanity, which will let us down at times; but the steady hand of our Redeemer and Lord Jesus, who helps heal us from the world's woes. Heartaches probably are at the top of the list for most of us, but through these trying times, we learn from our mistakes and we grow in our faith that God knows our heart and how to bring comfort and peace amid the storms of life.

Lastly, fond memories of our past -- things that we cherish and never forget linger long after the excitement and thrill of it all has vanished. But our minds store up those good times, and when we get down on ourselves, God reveals to us a moment in our past when things were at their best and we remember the joy, the laughter and the good times we had, and God's peace once again brings us back to reality that life is indeed worth the living, whatever we will face in this New Year of 2020. May God be your shining light of deliverance.

Frank F. Combs

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

to talk about fitness goals to start off your New Year! Expect motivating fitness advice and exercise demonstrations during this lunch! Register online or call the Chamber to learn more.

Join us for a wonderful evening of celebration on February 11 for An Evening with the STARS and recognition of Union County's Shining STARS! The Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program honors Georgia's highest achieving high school seniors and the teachers who have been most instrumental in their academic development. We are pleased to be announcing the STAR student and teacher for Union County High School at this event! To learn more about this event and sponsorship opportunities, please call the chamber at (706) 745-5789.

With the whole year ahead of us, be sure to check out our calendar online at blairsvillega.com to learn more about our upcoming events.

American Red Cross Volunteers

Make a difference in your community! As a volunteer with the American Red Cross, you can help families recover after a home fire, train individuals in first aid and CPR, support America's military families, or take on any number of other roles that make our communities safer, stronger and more resilient. Get started at <https://www.redcross.org/local/georgia/volunteer.html> or call your NWGA chapter office to ask about volunteer opportunities 844-536-6226.

Riley... continued from Page A4

Choosing the USGS Quad View will show you the contour lines that illustrate elevation levels, so you can see how water from a dam would flow downstream of the dam structure in the event of a dam failure.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Georgia have control of the 357 flood control dams that provide flood control, water quality, recreation, and water supply benefits to Georgia citizens. Many of the dams, which were originally built in the 1950s and 60s to protect agricultural land from flooding, now protect homes, roads, and office buildings where dam failure could result in the loss of human life.

In some cases, flood control dams have been reconfigured to be used as possible sources of water supply for local communities. As

these dams age, the risk for flooding increases.

The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission is working to collaborate with local community leaders to rehabilitate Georgia's flood control dams to protect citizens and natural resources in the flood zone downstream.

Georgia's 357 watershed dams across the state serve a common purpose—they hold back water to prevent flooding down-stream, but when these dams begin to age, the risk of a dam failure increases which could lead to catastrophic property damage and loss of life downstream.

The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission is working to collaborate with local community leaders to rehabilitate Georgia's flood control dams to protect citizens and natural resources. CCRCD has a cooperative agreement with GSWCC and NRCS to help with watershed dam inspections across north Georgia.

Our part of the project is to temporarily stop the water through the over-flow structure of the dams so NRCS can drive their remote-controlled robot with a camera up the pipe to examine the integrity of the inside of the pipes.

If potential problems are observed repairs can be made to preserve the integ-

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ken that you can restore? These questions are good for churches, volunteer organizations, and businesses as well.

Your response may be something you do alone, or with others. You might need the courage to do something counter-cultural, or the discipline to do something time-consuming. As you participate in God's work of renewal, your family and community will benefit. Even more, it fulfills the purposes for which God renewed you.

Weekly Patriot Reflection



Seek God While You Can
(2 Chronicles 7:14)

The second key theme of Joshua's Warriors is found in Second Chronicles Chapter 7, Verse 14, and powerfully proclaims a promise from God to those who will honor Him. "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land."

God was providing a promise to King Solomon, but there was an "IF." His promise hinged on what His people were willing to do. His people, those who proclaim and profess who He is, and label themselves as His believers. They needed to humble themselves and submit their lives before Him, and pray fervently for healing in their land. They needed to seek His vision and direction, repent of their sins and live righteous lives. Our Founding Forefathers understood this scripture and submitted themselves and the course of history for our nation before God. We know the outcome of that submission.

God is offering us an "IF" today in our nation. If we will submit completely to His will, then He will hear from heaven and will forgive our sins and heal our land. Readers, we need to acknowledge God, humble ourselves, and pray fervently.

This Patriot Reflection is presented weekly by www.joshuaswarriors.org.

ity of the dam. It's the dam's colonoscopy!

We will examine 15 dams in the next 2 years. When most of these dams were built there was only agricultural and forest land downstream but now most have subdivisions, community infrastructure, or commercial buildings in harm's way so dam safety is critical. I saw one with a public library in the flood

area. Our project will identify potential problems before disaster strikes and repairs can be made. Check upstream of where you live, there might just be millions of gallons of water held back by only by a 50-year old earthen dam just waiting for the 100-year rain-storm to happen! For more information on Georgia watershed dams check <https://gaswcc.georgia.gov>

Dyer... continued from Page 4A

lic education includes classes ranging from car seat installation to CPR classes to general fire safety. The public education program provided education and information to approximately 3,700 children and 1,600 adults during 2019. Many of these classes were conducted in our school system and at festivals.

This is a brief review of the calls and activities of the department in 2019. We are very fortunate to have the dedicated men and women, both career and volunteer, who make emergency response and fire safety their mission.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

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decays to radon can be found at higher levels. If you don't know if there is radon in your well water, have the water tested. The UGA Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratories in Athens tests water samples for the presence of radon. To get a water testing kit, contact your local Extension Office. Testing for radon in water costs \$40. For more information on radon, visit www.ugaradon.org. Radon can be a serious concern in our area. It's best to be tested to know if you have dangerous levels in your home.

If you have questions about radon contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu. We also host a Radon Awareness program each year, so be on the lookout for that.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Children's Story Time	Every Monday: Union County Library	11 a.m.
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 p.m.
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 p.m.
Tri State Bus. Women	Every Tuesday: Cabin Coffee	8 a.m.
Tuesday Strippers	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30 p.m.
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 p.m.
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 p.m.
Kiwanis Club	Every Wednesday: Skillet Cafe	Noon
BINGO	Civic Center	7 p.m.
Masonic Luncheon	Every Thursday: Cook's Restaurant	11:30 a.m.
Rotary Club	NGTC	Noon
Shape Note Music	Third Monday of each month: Old Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
High Country Artisan	U.C.Bank Com Room	6:30 p.m.
Allegheny Lodge #114	Masonic Lodge	6:30 p.m.
Exp Aviation Assoc #1211	Blairsville Airport	7 p.m.
UC Homemakers	Third Tuesday of each month: Dooley Chapter	Noon
Healthy Hearts Support	UGH 2nd Floor Class	2 p.m.
Am. Legion Post 121	Veteran's Center	6:30 p.m.
American Legion, Aux	Veteran's Center	6:30 p.m.
Chatuge Gun Club	Senior Center, Hia.	7 p.m.
Compassionate Friends	UCB Community Room	7 p.m.
Quilts of Valor	Third Wednesday of each month: Coosa Methodist Ch	9:30 a.m.
GA Mtn. Writers Club	Appalachian Reg. Library	10 a.m.
Blairsville Garden Club	Location not listed	1 p.m.
Beta Sigma Phi, Iota Iota	So. Bank & Trust	7 p.m.
Kinship Care	Third Thursday of each month: Civic Center	Noon
Commissioner's Meet.	County Courthouse	6 p.m.
Good N' bors Auto	Rib Country, Murphy	6:30 p.m.
Cub Scouts Trp. #101	United Methodist Ch.	6:30 p.m.
Beta Sigma Phi	Civic Center	7 p.m.
Tip-off Club	UC High School	7 p.m.
UC Saddle Club	Arena Clubhouse	7 p.m.
No activities listed	Third Friday of each month:	
Joshua's Warriors	Third Saturday of each month: The Skillet Café	8 a.m.
UC Republican Party	The Skillet Café	10 a.m.
Goldwing Road Riders	Daniels Steak House	11 a.m.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



January 2, 2020
In memory of
Virginia B. Meeks
Birthday

By: Ginger & Terry Meeks

January 21, 2020
In memory of
Dollie C. Meeks
Anniversary

By: Ginger & Terry Meeks

For Bell Ringing information please call 706-745-5493