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and board feel strongly that they did not knowingly do anything wrong.

Q. If any board member had prior knowledge, will you be removing them from the board?

A. I could only remove board members that I appoint and with cause. Board members became aware of this ONLY as a result of the investigations by law enforcement. No board member has been accused of doing anything wrong. This was mostly an operational mistake that the board would not be involved with. Remember, this issue was investigated from 2012 to 2016.

Q. Is Union County

Government responsible for any of the debts or fines of Union General Hospital, Inc.?

A. No. The county, other than appointing three of the Union General Hospital, Inc Board Members, does not have any operational control of the hospital, and more importantly, no financial liability for any of the facilities. The county appoints Hospital Authority Board Members who also serve on the Union General Hospital, Inc. Board. The Hospital Authority owns the hospital, but UGH, Inc. has had the lease for many years and has full and complete operational control managed by the Hospital CEO. *Part III, continued next week*

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

of Mountain Education Charter High School. Her selection for the Star Teacher that has positively impacted her life is Mrs. Kim Perren.

The Star student from Union County High School is Matthew Patrick. He selected Dr. Julie Hale, as his Star Teacher. Additionally, Matthew and Dr. Hale were selected as the system winners and will advance in the statewide competition.

The Chamber is grateful for the opportunity to support the strong education system in our County. Our children are our future and our school system is doing an amazing job of preparing them for many prospective opportunities. I'd like to express gratitude to the Union County School Board, Superintendent John Hill and his team, and all the principals, teachers, and staff that work with our students.

I would also like to thank everyone that made this event successful, not limited to but including, the Chamber staff, Jim Marchman of the Union County Community Center, and The View Grill. The following business showed their support of education by sponsoring this event: Joey Swanson with Woodmen Life, Cabin Coffee, United Community Bank,

Mortgage Financial Group, Union General Hospital, Chick-fil-A, M-Design, North Georgia Technical College, Butternut Creek Golf Course, the Downtown Development Authority, and Mountain Top Furniture.

Back by popular demand, the Spring Fling Fashion Show and Luncheon will be held on March 13th from 12 - 1 pm in the ballroom of the Union County Community Center. This year we have several wonderful stores that are participating including Alexander's, Blue Ridge Cotton Co., From Me 2 U, and Pat's Hallmark. This fun-filled event is open to all in the community! Lunch will be served for \$12 and includes a drink, tax, and tip. If you would like to register, please call the Chamber.

We have another exciting event returning in 2019 as well! Mark your calendars to join us for our Local Eggs & Issues Breakfast on March 26th. Both Mayor Conley and Commissioner Paris will be sharing their vision for our community, as well as, current events in the City and County. Anyone interested in attending can register at www.visitblairsvillega.com or may call the Chamber at 706-745-5789.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

below him. Finally, he found himself above the pothole. He noticed there was not any soil around this waterfall. His only footing was the wet, slick, 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 hoop 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 and just look at you. Sometimes I wonder if you could have possibly come from

my loins."

As many of you know I love to ramble around these mountains. I think it's a great day when I run across a waterfall which is unknown to me. The first time I observed the upper most of the Desota Falls on the south side of Blood Mountain at the Daniel Camp I was awe struck.

Someone had told me of a way into the falls, so, my 10 year old son, Will and I took off. We walked around the point of the mountain and there was the waterfall in all its glory. The place from which we observed the falls was a couple of hundred feet away and above the waterfall. As boys will do, my son picked up a large stick and threw it toward the fall and I was standing to close. The stick hit me just above my left ear. The impact brought me to my knees and I saw stars for a short second or two.

This scenario scared my son. He thought he'd killed me. But, we keep going. He is now 32 years old and we have enjoyed many adventures together over the years. And yes we still enjoy walking around in these and other mountains. We just do our best to be a little more careful these days.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

they can take to reduce those risks. There are now 23 official Firewise Communities in Towns County out of the total of 104 in all of Georgia.

Soon after the Firewise program started in Towns in 2009 there were three Firewise communities in the county, but things changed in 2013 when the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council received a Fire Adapted Communities grant to develop a pilot project here and since have added 20 communities for a total of 23 recognized Firewise USA communities with more to come.

During this time wildfire calls have dropped by 75 percent. Coincidence, I don't think so! Residents of these 21 communities have taken actions to reduce the fuel around their homes and are recognized for their efforts by NFPA's Firewise USA program, but most

important residents can rest knowing that their homes are safer from wildfires like we had in the Fall of 2016.

During that extreme dry spell a wildfire nearby burned 28,000 acres of National Forest land. Towns only had 1 wildfire during that time which is a credit to our citizens for their efforts to reduce risk. We don't claim that big fire even though it entered Towns County because it started in Rabun County and stayed on the Forest Service.

Members of the Firewise Coalition are available to talk to any group of homeowners who want to join this Firewise USA group and help keep their homes safer from a out of control wildfire. It doesn't have to be a big fire either, a fire in a small leaf pile with a puff of wind can escape and consume your house.

Firewise USA is free, easy, and the right thing to do for our county, our community, our homes and even our family's lives!

For additional fire prevention information please contact: Towns County Fire Rescue at 706-896-2090 or Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council at 706-894-1591; or visit our website at www.appcofac.org or www.firewise.org.

Williams...

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It's best to control Annual weeds in October with a pre-emergent herbicide. A pre-emergent herbicide is put down before weeds begin popping up. Post-emergent herbicides are used once the plant is already present and growing. Post-emergent herbicides can be effective if used when problems are noticed early. They become less effective as weeds grow in size. Pre-emergent herbicides containing the active ingredient benefin will be effective on henbit, chickweed, and speedwell. Benefin can be applied on established fescue and zoysiagrass lawns. Post-emergent herbicides containing 2,4-D + MCPP + dicamba can be sprayed on established fescue and zoysiagrass lawns as well. Whenever you apply an herbicide, make sure to read and follow the label before making the application.

If you have questions about winter weeds and how to control them contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler...

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created to sustain you. His love is so intense that He prepared a place for you to spend eternity with Him, and you know the Way (John 14:4). Yes, Jesus loves me. Simple, and sublime.

Dyer...

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contact Union County Mapping Department at 706-439-6056. You may also report missing road signs to the Mapping Department.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Huber...

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York that make it legal to murder the innocent after they're born. Murder is now a legal form of birth control.

To the government of New York, and America, how long until a Sodom and Gomorrah judgment befalls our once great country?

Ed Huber

Drug Free...

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Blairsville City Police sponsor Drug Take Back Day. The purpose of this event is to provide the public with an opportunity to safely dispose of expired or unused prescriptions in the home. Participants dispose of their prescriptions in a secure container and they are later destroyed. Prescription lock boxes are given to each person that brings in a prescription. These events are advertised in the paper and on social media and are held at convenient locations.

If you have prescriptions in your home that are expired or unused and do not want to wait for Drug Take Back Day, the Union County Sheriff's office has a secure receptacle for the disposal of prescription medications. This is a safe and responsible choice that eliminates the risk of others abusing the medication or someone taking it by mistake.

If you or someone you know is in crisis and in need of support services, the Georgia Crisis and Access Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including holidays. This service provides treatment and support for people with mental illness, developmental disabilities and addictive diseases. All calls are confidential, and every call is answered by a mental health professional. If you or someone you know is in crisis call 1-800-715-4225.

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: The Griddle	Noon
BINGO	Civic Center	7 p.m.
Masonic Luncheon	Every Thursday: Cook's Restaurant	11:30 a.m.
Rotary Club	NGTC	Noon
Lockheed-Martin Ret.	First Monday of each month: Blairsville Restaurant	9 a.m.
Volunteers/Handicap	First Baptist, H Bldg.	6 p.m.
CERT	St. Francis of Assisi	6:30 p.m.
Allegheny Masonic Lodge #114, Masonic Lodge	First Tuesday of each month: United Methodist Ch	6:30 p.m.
Brownie Scouts	City Hall	3-5 p.m.
Blairsville City Coun.	City Hall	6 p.m.
Amateur Radio Club	United Methodist Ch	7 p.m.
Gaddistown Hmakers	Woody Gap	7 p.m.
Knights/Colum. #2563	place TBA	7:30 p.m.
Enotah Ch. #24 RA.m.	Masonic Temple	7:30 p.m.
Exercise class	First Wednesday of each month: Senior Citizens Center	10:30 a.m.
Tri-Cty Wom. Lunch	Monet's Rest.	Noon
Better Breathers	UGH Classroom 2nd Fl.	1 p.m.
Quilts of Valor	First Thursday of each month: Coosa Methodist Ch	9:30am-2:30pm.
MMQG	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Awake America	City Hall	11:59 a.m.
NAMI Fam. Support	New Hope Counseling	12-1:30 p.m.
Blairsville Sorghum Fest.	Fort Sorghum	6:30 p.m.
Open Road ORV	Civic Center	8 p.m.
"Nailed" Book Club	First Friday of each month: Ingles Cafe	10:30 a.m.
UG Hospital Aux	UC Nursing Home	Noon
Feel Good Friday	Wellness Center	7 p.m.
Amateur Radio Exams	First Saturday of each month: UC Comm Cntr	9 a.m.