

## Paris... continued from Page 4A

now. We are also negotiating with GDOT Right of Way purchasers who will need part of our new county property for the widening of Highway 515.

### Q. Is the Highway 515 widening project from Blairsville to Young Harris really needed?

A. This project came down from GDOT in Atlanta and is not a part of the county decision making process. We are just trying to be assured that we get as good an access as possible to our property. However, with the continued

increase in traffic along this highway and the number of accidents, this should be a serious safety improvement. Any time a new road is being built it will certainly impact properties, homes and businesses along the highway. I am glad this is an issue that the county does not have to deal with and we appreciate GDOT constantly working to improve our roads and their safety all across the state. We are glad that someone has the vision and expertise to help look out for the transportation future of our area.

## Riley... continued from Page 4A

the FPAC agencies will ensure that landowners and producers within Sentinel Landscapes have access to the tools and resources they need to keep their land in agriculture and to support the next generation of farmers and private forest landowners. Offering several farm safety net programs, credit and voluntary conservation programs, FSA, NRCS and RMA programs address a variety of farming needs and related conservation issues. This new partnership in Georgia will help the federal and state government agencies involved to work closer together with the private organizations to meet the three primary goals of protecting natural resources, creating, or maintaining habitat for diverse species and enhancing military readiness. Through programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program, NRCS helps producers develop a conservation plan and funding to implement conservation practices.

Meanwhile, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program enables landowners to protect agricultural lands and wetlands for the long term, which offers an income source while helping them to improve the quality of their land. The Georgia Sentinel Landscape

partners seek to leverage broad goals and shared priorities to ensure the continued viability of important military installations and support the protection of habitat corridors for diverse important species such as the gopher tortoise, red-cockaded woodpecker, and eastern indigo snake. The partnership seeks to protect a core of at least 5,000 acres of important farmlands within the next five years. Another goal calls for the protection of more than 136,000 acres in the Savannah River watershed over the next 20 years. Partners also hope to protect more than 20 additional viable gopher tortoise populations over five years to make it unnecessary to list this species under the Endangered Species Act. Additional partnership goals include increasing public access to outdoor recreational opportunities, improving management practices on private lands, and expanding outreach activities to private landowners within the landscape.

Learn more about this partnership by visiting the Sentinel Landscapes website. For more information on conservation programs available through NRCS and FSA, contact your local USDA service center in Blairsville or Chest/Chatt RC&D at info.ccred@gmail.com

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

yard she bit into my blue jeans and carried me back to the porch. Everyone thought it was funny the first time. But, then it happened two more times. At this point my dad walked over to the area where I had been playing when the dog stopped me from going further. Dad found a big Rattlesnake laying where I would have stepped if she hadn't drug me across the yard.

Skip ahead 53 years and I was still romping through the woods. This time my old Black Lab was following me and I was on a ridge top off

Ivy Log Mountain. I dropped off the ridge into a clearing and walked right up on a sow bear with cubs. She sent her cubs up a tree and before I could leave she charged toward me. My old dog Jack charged the bear and unbelievably she turned and ran.

Jack only lived about 5 years after that and died at the age of 17. But, his last years on earth were spent in luxury. He slept in my house next to our fireplace hearth. He deserved this place of honor. Everyone deserves at least 1 great dog in their life.

## Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

Most parents work outside the home, and substance abusing children can cause considerable disruptions to their parents' work routine. Family problems impact the productivity of employees, and subsequently hurt a company's profitability. It is important for companies to provide information to their employees to help them keep their children drug free.

Treatment professionals recommend that when discussing substance abuse, kids need to hear from their parents starting at an early age that drug and alcohol use is not condoned in the family. They need to learn from parents about the consequences of substance use and abuse, and they need to be held accountable for their actions. Each parent must find his or her own right way to deliver this message, and sometimes simply saying, "I don't want you to use drugs or alcohol or be in a situation where they are being used," is enough.

It is also important to help kids know what constitutes a risky situation so that they can avoid potential problems. Parents should help their teen understand that being places without "safe adults" in the vicinity, getting into a vehicle with someone who is impaired, going to a party, or being alone with a non-relative adult could lead to problem situations. Some parents provide their kids with a code word or phrase that can be used if the child finds him or herself in a difficult situation and needs immediate transportation (like at a party or other gathering where drugs or alcohol are being used).

When communicating with your child about drug and alcohol use, certain boundaries must be clearly set. Knowing the limits of behavior ahead of time gives kids the "guardrails" they need to be successful in life. But rules are useless if they are not enforced and if there are no real consequences for breaking them.

Prevention is of course

the best cure, but if you find that your child is already engaged in substance abuse, it is time to seek professional help. There are experts available who can help facilitate communication and determine the best next step for your teen. Check with your health insurance provider or the company Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for information on how to access this assistance.

Other sources of help include school counselors, family doctors or pediatricians, faith leaders, community health centers, adolescent prevention and treatment professionals, local anti-drug coalitions, law enforcement agencies, and community resource officers.

But the best time to find help for a drug abusing child is before the need arises. Be proactive in identifying key resources in your community before the crisis occurs. Community prevention coalitions often have many. Most communities have referral services for a variety of health and human services, including the county health department, hospital referral, free clinic, etc. Your physician or clergy can be great sources of information but are also good resources for referral.

It is important to know that there are many websites available, but not all websites provide factual information. Websites provided through U.S. government agencies are well-researched and always provide the most current information. Here are a few trusted resources: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)), National Institute on Drug Abuse ([www.nida.nih.gov](http://www.nida.nih.gov)), NIDA for Teens – The Science Behind Drug Abuse ([www.teens.drugabuse.gov](http://www.teens.drugabuse.gov)), Partnership for Drug Free Kids ([www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org)), Teens – Above the Influence ([www.abovetheinfluence.com](http://www.abovetheinfluence.com)) and Just Think Twice ([www.justthinktwice.com](http://www.justthinktwice.com)).

## Harper...

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day night at 7 PM. Come to town and enjoy the fun.

There will be a Ribbon Cutting for Sammies Sub Shop, next to the Huddle House on May 9th at 10 AM. Come and join the new owners, Glen and Patti Cousins, as they celebrate their newly remodeled sub shop. There will also be two scholarships awarded to local students at the event. Come and sample the food and the ice cream.

On May 10th from 6 PM to 8 PM the Paradise Hills Wine Club Reunion will be held. That night will be Italian night. Please RSVP for the event at [www.paradisehillsga.com/vineyard-winery/family-wine-club/](http://www.paradisehillsga.com/vineyard-winery/family-wine-club/)

The Hiawassee Antique Mall is currently collecting donations for the S.A.F.E Women's Shelter. When women come to the shelter they need the basics of personal care for themselves and sometimes their babies and the Mall is asking for help and support. On May 11 from 6 PM to 8 PM the Mall will sponsor a sale where a % of the proceeds will also go to the Shelter. Please come and we will show our support. [www.hiawasseeantiquemall.com](http://www.hiawasseeantiquemall.com)

On May 10th at 4:30 PM to 8 PM the Trout Unlimited Chapter 692 will meet at the Union County Community Center. Chapter 692 is open to new members who want to learn about fishing and conservation in north Georgia. Come and learn about fly tying. [www.ngatu692.com](http://www.ngatu692.com)

The Chamber sends out two newsletters per week. If you would like to get on the newsletter go to our website, [www.visitblairsvillega.com](http://www.visitblairsvillega.com), and click on "add me to the mailing list". Thank you for your support of your local Chamber.

## Dixon...

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be more expensive than solar and wind which would in turn fuel American ingenuity and investment in clean energy and rapidly convert us away from fossil fuels and into the use of solar and wind. Simple, fair, effective, market driven. Even if people do not believe in climate change, it would grow our economy, add millions of new American jobs, and put more money back into the average American's pocketbook, even after accounting for the increase in energy costs. So, what are we waiting for? It is time to act.

**Vernon Dixon, MD**

## Combs...

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mankind to men who are grasping for power and money and expect them to act righteously.

It does not matter what they promise, they are not going to care for the poor. Our only hope is in Jesus Christ. If there is any group of people who ought to be interested in the Lord Jesus Christ, it is the poor folks of this world, because God is going to give them the right kind of deal when He establishes His kingdom here upon earth. James 5:7 says: Be patient therefore, brethren unto the coming of the Lord who correct the wrongs of the world. We read this again and again in Scripture, even the prophets mention it, even Christ Himself made it clear in the Sermon of the Mount, which will be the law of His kingdom, that He intends to give the poor a square deal under his reign (Matthew 6:19-24) God always tells us the truth in His Word. The problem is are we listening with our heart, not just our head? Amen.

**Frank. F. Combs**

## Dyer...

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calls, texts, likes, tweets, and views can wait. Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

## Blanchard...

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"But our local schools rate very high on the state level". And they do, especially in Atlanta, but the ratings are created by the people charged with making the ratings. And in Atlanta the raters get incentive money for making high student ratings and some of those raters are still in jail for falsifying those ratings.

High quality education is achieved by local control of the education process by parents and teachers. Central government control of the education "system" has been a positively demonstrated abject failure.

**Zeb Blanchard**

## Waller...

**continued from Page 4A**

ting. Union County Primary School now houses the Pre-K program in addition to K-2. In order to properly serve this population, serving areas that are age appropriate in size are necessary.

I am very fortunate to work with a very capable staff. Updated equipment would enable our staff to feed our 2,800 student safely and more efficiently.

**Courtney Waller,**  
**MS Ed, R.D.**

*Union County School  
Nutrition Director*

## Fowler...

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Does a universe of impersonal matter beget such ethereal longings that it cannot know? Can unknowing atoms randomly order themselves into sentient beings? No, it's entirely reasonable that God created us to love and be loved by Him.

Your humanity hints at that when you enjoy or yearn for mother's love. In the midst of a discourse on love, the Bible says, "Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known" (1 Cor. 13:12). Mom, your love helps me know God better, but the best is yet to come.