

**Paris... continued from Page 4A**

public.  
**Q. Why is GDOT insisting on a concrete median along this commercial area of the Highway 515 expansion?**  
 A. Safety! GDOT is taking into consideration the accident problems they are experiencing in other similar areas, and as they build new sections of highway, they try to apply what they have experienced in other areas to increase safety. This may be frustrating for some businesses as they are used to vehicle patterns as they currently are, which contains a simple center turn lane that anyone can use. The issue we are dealing with in this area is that traffic will be entering this

commercial area with a 55-mph speed limit dropping to a 45-mph speed limit. As we all know, when you have a long stretch of 55-mph, many people travel at 65-mph and they will then have to drop their speed drastically as they enter the outskirts of Blairsville. With this being a new business district, which also has the Farmers Market and a future ball field complex the concrete median will help with safety by eliminating people crossing over. So, trying to balance business access with safety is a conflicting situation that GDOT has to deal with and as the county we are trying to help balance this as well.

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

collaborative burning across state lines.  
 A network of monitoring plots established by Forest Stewards enables partners to track the effectiveness of management actions. Consistent, long-term monitoring is essential, since it can take years—and multiple treatments—for the full impact of fire in hardwoods to become evident.  
 The second comprehensive assessment using these data has been completed and will be used to inform planning for future burns and other restoration work. SBR FLN partners include Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains, Great Smoky & Unaka Mountains Northern Escarpment, Central Blue Ridge Escarpment, Nantahala & Balsam Mountains, Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment, South Mountains, New River Headwaters, Network Partners Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists, Forest Stewards, Georgia Department of Natural Resources—State Parks; Wildlife Resources Division, Georgia Forest Watch, Greenville Water Land Trust for the Little Tennessee River, Mountain True National Park Service—Blue Ridge Parkway; Great Smoky Mountains, North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, North Carolina Forest Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, South Carolina Division of Natural Resources, South Carolina Forestry Commission, South Carolina State Parks, The Nature Conservancy, Towns County Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network,

USFS Chattahoochee-Oconee NF; Cherokee NF; Nantahala NF, Pisgah NF, USFS Region 8 Fire & Aviation, USFS—Southern Research Station, and ChestChatt RC&D.  
 Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities support the Fire Learning Network together with PERFACT, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service, and agencies of the Department of the Interior. This FLN has helped build the foundation of the Joint Fire Science Program’s Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists, and continues to play a key role in providing opportunities for networking among scientists, managers and practitioners. This accelerates transfer of knowledge and feedback that supports adaptive management.  
 Well-attended workshops, (they cut this year’s meeting attendance (for the second time) off at 100 with a waiting list) collaborative projects, and tools shared by online seminar and other means have helped the SBR FLN build strong working partnerships. These in turn support the steady growth of the network, most recently with the addition of the Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains landscape. This landscape brings a new dimension to the SBR FLN, as it includes Towns County, a member of the Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) Learning Network. For more information on SBR FLN go to: [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org) or contact Frank Riley – Executive Director, Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council – info.cccrd@gmail.com

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

drove down the gravel road they rounded a curve. Mabel’s door flew open and dumped her out of the truck onto the road.  
 Granny slammed on the brakes and rushed to Aunt Mabel’s side. Granny asked, “Mabel are you okay”? She looked up at Granny and began to rant and rave accusing Granny of slinging her out of the truck on purpose due to what had happened about the pocket knife, bell and watch. Granny said, “May Bell, get up from there I am taking you home”. And the feud continued for a couple more years.  
 Later on after the feud had subsided our little country church decided to build a new church. Aunt Mabel and Granny were right in the thick of things. Granny would cook lunch and supper for the workers. But, Aunt Mabel was helping the men build the church.

After the building was constructed Aunt Mabel took it upon herself to paint a mural on the wall above the baptismal pool. The mural portrayed the ascension of Jesus into heaven. It was beautiful.  
 Everyone was so pleased with the painting. Granny was especially proud of Mabel’s efforts.  
 She called us in Georgia and said, “You must come home and see Sirendy’s painting”. Granny called Mabel by different names depending on their relationship at the time. When she was angry she called her May Bell. When she felt sorry for her she called her Mabel. But, when she wanted to display her love for her she called her Sirendy. The two women had a unique relationship. They did not want others to know it. But, they loved one another deeply.

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

minor, the study did not find that marijuana was harmless to young people. Far from it.  
 In fact, the study -- a meta-analysis that looked at data from 69 previous studies, found that adolescents who are chronic marijuana users scored much lower on executive functions, including memory, learning and other cognitive tests than non-users did.  
 This issue is forefront for every state that considers legalizing weed for recreational use.  
 Theodore Petti, professor of psychiatry at Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, cautioned the research. While he acknowledged that it is possible that a 72-hour break from marijuana could lessen some of the short-term cognitive effects of marijuana, he said that wasn’t the point. The drug, he said, poses detrimental effects.  
 He said the simple reason is that young people’s brains are still developing (the brain doesn’t fully develop until age 25), and therefore, it remains vulnerable to marijuana.  
 “It increases dropping out in high school, decreases motivation and increases the likelihood on becoming dependent on marijuana,” Petti said.  
 A 2014 study also cautioned the use of marijuana at early ages, saying that it “might have lasting consequences on cognition,” increasing the risk

of mental disorders.  
 Petti also noted that the study merely looked at previous studies of the effects of heavy marijuana use rather than a live study with actual study participants.  
**Combs... continued from Page 4A**  
 together and bring harmony and a sense of peace when trials and temptations arise in the family, averting disaster at any cost, because she loves her role as a mom, a wife and mom to her kids. Moms are smarter and have better wisdom and discernment when it comes to the affairs of the family. Moms are not given enough credit for keeping the family together when special occasions arise, like birthdays, anniversaries, school activities and special outings with the family. Moms are priceless to the American families, like God is priceless to the souls of humanity. God knew what He was doing when He created woman to be a help mate to her husband and to society as well. Hats off to all moms. Thanks for your unconditional love. Our lives are enriched and fulfilled with joy and the love that you express daily to your families, friends and even strangers do not go unnoticed. Thanks again for being a great mom. Amen  
**Frank F. Combs**

**Dyer... continued from Page 4A**

ing job. They have gained the knowledge and skills to be able to confidently respond to a fire emergency. I am very proud of the volunteer firefighters who put forth the effort and sacrifice to become firefighters and to serve their community.  
 Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

**Mitchell... continued from Page 4A**

a Tea Party meeting in Ellijay where Isakson and Chambliss put on their dog and pony show. (It seemed that one would finish the other’s sentence.)  
 As for Collins, we went to two town hall meetings where he said that he would not vote for John Boehner for Speaker. Of course, he did vote for him.  
 Perdue, I hoped would be better, but, alas, he is a disappointment.  
**George A. Mitchell**

**Harper... continued from Page 4A**

Anyone interested in helping out can contact Liz Henley at 706 745-5789 or email Liz at [events@blairsvillechamber.com](mailto:events@blairsvillechamber.com)  
 I would like to notify our community that Practitioner James DeYoe, who performs Acupuncture, Acupuncture Laser Therapy, Massage Therapy and many other treatments has recently opened a practice in our area. DeYoe, certified by the VA, can treat veterans and has had success in successfully helping vets with pain management. The DeYoe Wellness Center can be contacted at 678 982-7714 or go online at [www.deyoewellness.com](http://www.deyoewellness.com)  
 Everyone is invited to join us on Thursday, May 17th at 5:30 PM for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at The Flying Trout Restaurant. They are located at 171 Copperhead Parkway.  
 There is another Ribbon Cutting on 5/21 at 11 AM for the Grahl Gallery and Maggie’s Touch. They are located at 1309 Hwy 76 East in Hiawassee.  
 Also remember that there is an Armed Forces Day ceremony on the Square in Blairsville on 5/19. The ceremony will begin at 11 AM.  
 I welcome any and all suggestions and input on how the Chamber is doing so you can contact me at [president@blairsvillechamber.com](mailto:president@blairsvillechamber.com)  
 The Chamber sends out two newsletters per week. If you would like to receive the newsletter go to our website, [www.visitblairvillega.com](http://www.visitblairvillega.com), and click on “add me to the mailing list”. Thank you for your support of your local Chamber.


**Fowler... continued from Page 4A**

*CAN ICON.*  
 When life on this earth becomes uncertain, what matters most becomes crystal clear. But lest such an experience cause you to have regrets, reflect on the reference Billy Graham wrote in the Bible he gave McQueen. “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6). No matter what stage of life you participate in the gospel of Christ, God will finish what he started in you. That was good news to Steve McQueen.

**Spring Title 1 Event**

The Union County Elementary Spring Title 1 Event will be held as follows: 3rd Grade held at Vogel State Park May 16th or 17th at 12:15; 4th Grade held at Meeks Park 1st Pavilion May 15th at 12 noon; and 5th Grade held at Meek Park 1st Pavilion May 23rd at 12 noon. N(May16,21)CA

**Bell Ringing Union  
County Old Courthouse**



**May 13, 2018**  
 In loving memory of  
**Tammy Allen Birthday**  
 and in honor of  
**Children’s Ministry of  
 First Baptist Church**  
 by Sarah, Terry, Channy,  
 Sierra, Cody, Aaron, Cole,  
 Maggie, Tim and Angie

**Bell ringing information  
at 706-745-5493**

**Burch... continued from Page 4A**

would require 877 acres of land costing app. 439 billion dollars to install plus land cost. Solar panels require sunlight so all energy would have to be used during daylight hours.  
 These areas where solar panels are placed are called solar farms for a reason, they are placed on farm land. Taking 877 acres of farm land out of food production will result in less food for human consumption. To keep land in food production, the solar panels must be placed somewhere else.  
 Since the Chattahoochee National Forest which makes up app. 50% of Union County and is not being managed to produce any products the so-

lution should be clear. Cut the 877 acres (.9% of the forest) and place the solar panels in these areas. These solar forests will allow the farm land to remain productive while providing the acres need for the desired solar panels.  
 As the cost of solar panels goes down and the en-

ergy needs go up, we can look forward to having more solar forests all over the mountains. Since the panels are only productive for twenty to twenty-five years and will have to be replaced, it will still take a long time to cover the mountains.  
 Problem solved.  
**George Burch**