

## Paris... continued from Page 4A

a very large network of professionals to take advisement from if necessary.

### Q. Is there any penalty for not cleaning up a property?

A. Yes, there is. There are fines and even jail time if the violation warrants a severe penalty. The county is not looking to cause anyone a problem or issue by unnecessarily issuing fines. Many people may not realize the state or condition of their property until it is brought to their attention. If a person or family cannot physically or financially clean up their

property, we will try and assist them any way we can, including working with local volunteers or groups. There are local church groups and civic organizations that will offer assistance in the event of hardship. It is the county's job to look after the health and welfare of the community, and an obligation I take very seriously.

I take great pride in our beautiful community and consider it an honor to look after. However, we are a rural community and we do not want to place undue regulations on everything we do.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

the underwear in his pocket and grabbed the first thing handy, which was a broom, and marched into her son's bedroom.

There stood Papa, trying to put on a clean pair of britches. Papa said, "All I heard was 'Columbus Cummings.'" I looked up and was struck across the top of my head with a broom handle." Papa tried to explain what happened to his mother. But, each time he opened his mouth he was struck with the broom again and again. Later that evening, Lon came into Coon's room to give him the Father and Son talk. Papa said, "Mom and Dad always believed I was guilty. But, this was one time I was innocent." Papa told me he had five to six knots on his head where his Momma had struck him with the broom.

Some years later, Papa met and courted one Glenna Mae Hyde. After a year or so, the couple married and set up housekeeping on the Cummings family farm. Shortly after their marriage, both Coon and Glenna were in the cotton patch chopping the weeds from their crop. Granny was standing in the back of a wagon when two young ladies walked up and began a conversation with her husband. Her curiosity got the best of her, and she walked toward the girls and Papa. She was within earshot when she heard one of the girls ask, "Coon, why did you take that old Hyde girl for a wife

when you could've had one of us?" That lit a fire in Granny. She raised the hoe and chased both of the Lauderdale girls from the cotton field.

Now, please look some 50 years into the future. My somewhat mischievous father who is a minister was preaching a sermon at Blue Springs Missionary Baptist Church. After the sermon, two elderly and yet very classy ladies came up to him and asked a question: "Preacher Cummings, are you related to a fellow by the name of Columbus Cummings?" Dad replied that the man was his father. The ladies introduced themselves, and their names reminded him of the story Papa had told many times about the swimming hole on Cummings Creek. The ladies wanted to know about the welfare of Papa. Dad explained that he was well and in good health. He further invited the pair of Lauderdale sisters to visit and offered to take them there. They asked Dad about his mother, and Dad explained she was well. To this, the ladies said, "I don't think that would be a good idea."

When Dad walked into his parents' home, he related the story about the two ladies to his parents. Immediately, the fire which had been smoldering in my grandmother's soul raged into life. She exclaimed to Papa that she would go over to Blue Springs Church and light into them Lauderdale women and settle this once and for all.

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

ter greater availability of drugs, drug use by older teens, and social activities where drugs are used.

A certain amount of risk-taking is a normal part of adolescent development. The desire to try new things and become more independent is healthy, but it may also increase teens' tendencies to experiment with drugs. The parts of the brain that control judgment and decision-making do not fully develop until people are in their early or mid-20s; this limits a teen's ability to accurately assess the risks of drug experimentation and makes young people more vulnerable to peer pressure.

Because the brain is still developing, using drugs at this age has more potential to disrupt brain function in areas

critical to motivation, memory, learning, judgment, and behavior control. So, it's not surprising that teens who use alcohol and other drugs often have family and social problems, poor academic performance, health-related problems (including mental health conditions), and involvement with the juvenile justice system.

A number of programs have been developed that positively alter the balance between risk and protective factors for drug use in families, schools and communities. Research based programs such as PRI 420 can significantly reduce the early use of THC or alcohol. While there are social factors that influence drug use trends, when teens and adolescents perceive drug use as harmful, the chance of use is reduced.

## Riley... continued from Page 4A

each community had a section in the bleachers in the gym. They would display canned goods, prize vegetables, flowers and homemade goods that the local folks made for use in their everyday lives.

This was a time when the Fair was a real local community affair that the people in each community in the county looked forward to all year. It

was a community gathering and celebration of where they lived and worked. There would be men walking in the Fair Parade with their real black powder guns, and there would be log trucks hauling giant logs harvested from the Forest Service lands in the county. After the parade there would be a target-shooting contest with the real black powder guns. These men used these guns to hunt with all during the year, so they were good shots with the primitive weapons, and the contest was hotly contested as to who was the best shot.

In 1950, Towns County held the first annual Georgia Mountain Fair, which was a three-day agricultural exposition in the local high school recreation field. With just 2,000 attendees for the first Fair alone, the event would soon exponentially grow, making the high school too small to host the event.

By the 1970s, the Georgia Mountain Fair had nearly 100,000 people attending each year, and Fair representatives decided that the event would need to be moved to a larger venue. With local support of the Towns County Lions Club, organizers purchased a large amount of land next to the picturesque Lake Chatuge in Hiawassee, Georgia, and in 1978, the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds hosted its first Georgia Mountain Fair.

It serves as host to countless events, including art festivals, world-class bluegrass, country, gospel and rock 'n' roll performances, visiting conventions and dance shows, the Rhododendron Festival, followed by the Georgia Mountain Fair, Fall Festival, Super Star Concerts, and Georgia's Official State Fiddler's contest. The highlight of the weeklong affair is the Fair Parade on the first Saturday, where there are on display old cars, old tractors, floats, Shriners, fire trucks, forest fire trucks, horses and many other interesting things to entertain the folks lining the street to catch candy and view the passing show.

This year, Chest-Chatt RC&D and the Towns County Firewise Citizens Coalition will have two entries in the parade, with one being a float featuring a birthday cake celebrating our mascot Smokey Bear's 75th birthday on Aug. 9. Smokey himself will be there also, riding on a horse-drawn farm wagon with a real Forest Ranger as his handler. Come out and enjoy the parade that our committee has worked hard to put together to kick off the 69th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair, or enter a vehicle or float of your own. It's a fun way to spend a Saturday in July.

For more information on the Georgia Mountain Fair, go to [www.georgiamountainfairgrounds.com](http://www.georgiamountainfairgrounds.com).

## Chamber...

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You can place your order by calling the Chamber office at 877-745-5789. Be sure to stay tuned for information regarding the design contest for next year's T-shirt.

Finally, don't forget to mark your calendar for the Eggs & Issues Morning Mingle on Aug. 14 at the Union County Community Center. Mitch Griggs, head of the Union County Economic Development Authority, will be speaking about all the current and future plans regarding restaurants, retail spaces, and industrial growth in Union County. Space is limited and filling up fast, so register today at [www.visitblairsvillega.com](http://www.visitblairsvillega.com).

## Williams...

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always feasible, but removing wild roses will decrease the chances of the disease being able to spread to your roses.

If your roses are already showing symptoms, the best course of action is to remove them. Infected plants will spread the disease to other nearby roses. The disease infects all the way down to the roots, so removing the roots is necessary to remove the virus. Bag up and dispose of all the plant material that you pull out. It's not recommended to replant roses immediately into an area that's been infected.

If you have questions about rosette rose disease contact your county Extension Office or email me at the address below. On July 25, the Union County Extension is putting on a Well Water Program. It will be at 5:30 in the Union County Civic Center. If you would like to attend, please RSVP with Union County Extension Office at 706-439-6030 or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## Fowler...

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"God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him" (Rom. 8:28). The most sublime expression of patience is to wait for God's plan to unfold in His way, His time. It is a significant component of trusting God in this moment, and for life.

With patience you can overrule your brain, make better choices, and endure your circumstances. "Those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength" (Isa. 40:31). So I remind you, be patient.

## Dyer...

### continued from Page 4A

the 10-hour inspection and maintenance. The inspection involved testing various ladder operations and safety features. The maintenance involved cleaning the ladder, cables, beams, and rungs of all excess dirt and grease. Then each area had to have grease reapplied in order for the ladder to operate.

These are just a few of the daily and periodic inspections and maintenance that firefighters must perform between calls. Life-safety equipment is important, and we want it to work right the first time. Keeping our equipment serviced, inspected, tested and maintained helps to ensure that we will be ready. Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

### Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



**July 10, 2019**  
In memory of  
**Dr. William T. Meeks, Sr.**  
Anniversary  
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

**July 16, 2019**  
In Memory of  
**JoAnn Mayhew**  
Who passed away on  
July 3, 2019  
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

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

## UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Garden Tours	<b>Every Monday:</b> GMREC (May-Oct)	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 a.m.
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 p.m.
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 p.m.
	<b>Every Tuesday:</b>	
Tri State Bus. Women	Cabin Coffee	8 a.m.
Tuesday Strippers	Mtn Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 p.m.
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 p.m.
	<b>Every Wednesday:</b>	
Kiwanis Club	The Griddle	Noon
BINGO	Civic Center	7 p.m.
	<b>Every Thursday:</b>	
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 a.m.
Masonic Luncheon	Cook's Restaurant	11:30 a.m.
Rotary Club	NGTC	Noon
	<b>Fourth Monday of each month:</b>	
Blue Ridge Comm.	McCaysville Lodge	7:30 p.m.
	<b>Fourth Tuesday of each month:</b>	
Compassionate Friends	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Dead Theologians Soc.	Cabin Coffee	Noon
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville UMC	12:30 p.m.
VFW Post #7394	Veteran's Center	6:30 p.m.
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 p.m.
	<b>Fourth Wednesday of each month:</b>	
No activities listed		
	<b>Fourth Thursday of each month:</b>	
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 p.m.
UT Homebuilders	YH College	7 p.m.
	<b>Fourth Friday of each month</b>	
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 p.m.
	<b>Fourth Saturday of each month:</b>	
Youngcane Lodge #597	Lodge Hall	7:30 p.m.