

Paris ... continued from Page 4A

A. We still do not know how much litter along the highways comes from people intentionally throwing it out of their vehicle, versus it being inadvertently blown out of vehicles, especially pickup trucks. The county is not trying to be mean about this problem, but simply trying to save taxpayers money on a senseless problem that makes our county look ugly.

Q. Does the county have any information on the medical helicopter service membership that many of us are receiving flyers about in our mail?

A. There will be an article in *North Georgia News* next week where the county and Union General Hospital hope to have an exciting announcement to make regarding the emergency medical helicopter service. We should have full details available that will answer any questions you may have.

Q. Have you been surprised on the mild nature of our winter?

A. Absolutely! I do not recall a winter this mild in many years, if ever. The good side is that damage to county roads will be less because of the lack of extreme cold, snow and ice. Also, we are having a beautiful early Spring. The down side could be that we may have an increase of insects, gnats, mosquitoes, bees, etc because of the mild winter and this could be a bit of an aggravation.

Q. Could we still

have a large snow event this year?

A. Anything is possible, though not very likely. The snow of the century or the Blizzard of 1993 occurred on March 12, 1993. Many remember that terrible time when many people went without power for a couple of weeks. My neighbor called, who got stuck away from her home, and asked me to go feed her dogs. I remember walking a couple of hundred yards at night through the woods and over a fence, with snow well above my knees. The house was pitch dark and I only had a weak flashlight. As I was walking down the hall I felt something nudge me in the butt. When I turned around it was a full grown Doberman Pincher staring at me, and I just about panicked as a second one came at me in the other directions, both full grown and thankfully, both only missing their owner. I did not think to ask my neighbor what kind of dogs she had. Luckily, although they were hungry, they were willing to wait on dog food instead of eating me. Whew!

Many people have all kinds of stories about those times. Leon Davenport, our hospital administrator at the time, walked nearly three miles from his home to the hospital to work. I can promise you from experience, I do not know how he did it. Just walking to my neighbor's house was a very tiring experience.

Allison ... continued from Page 5A

much dedication and compassion for youth, for the elderly, and for those who simply need a helping hand. Furthermore, Blairsville and Union County are progressive while respecting the history and culture of its ancestors. This is my home. I simply cannot imagine living anywhere else."

To get a good feel for how she spends her time, I asked her to answer a few questions. Where was the last place you ate in Blairsville-Union County: "Copperhead Lodge. Michelle Evans offers up a mean Drunken Mushroom Burger with unexpected flavors that make it stand out." Where is the last place you shopped in Blairsville-Union County: "Sharon's Fashions. I could spend an entire day going through her scarves and jewelry." What do you do for fun: "I hike, camp, volunteer, and sing tenor in a ladies' barbershop quartet." What would you like to accomplish as a Chamber Board Member: "I understand

that not every business wishes to be a part of the chamber, but I would like the opportunity to demonstrate to them - the value of networking with and through this robust chamber organization. The Blairsville-Union Chamber membership is strong and connected. The gold lies in those community connections."

Renee is on the Board of Directors for the Towns/Union Habitat for Humanity organization, which is gearing up for its annual High Heels and Hard Hats GALA to be held on May 13, 2017 at North Georgia Technical College. She is also on the Board of Directors for the Scottish Festival and Highland Games - also in the planning stages for the 2017 event to be held June 10-11, 2017 at Meeks Park. If you would like to share your time, energy, and talents working with these events, or perhaps to discuss the advantages of chamber membership, give her a call at North Georgia Tech. She states, "We can get you 'connected'."

Cordier ... continued from Page 5A

(Information source: download the app Countable, and search for Draft Bill to Repeal and Replace Obamacare Leaked)

How will this effect us locally?

According to a report issued by Civitas (civitasonline.net), authored by Charles Gaba 2/17/17, the total number of people projected to lose coverage in Georgia, in the event of a full ACA Repeal, is 345,376 with 21,889 coming from the 9th Congressional District represented by Doug Collins. If lifetime limits, women's health care services, preventive care services, no discrimination based on preexisting conditions are repealed, all citizens, whether privately or government insured, will be negatively effected by this legislation.

Before reaching the age of Medicare eligibility, my husband and I, being self employed, purchased our own

health insurance. We poured thousands of dollars into a high deductible plan which assured us protection only in a catastrophic health emergency. We, fortunately, remained in good health and would have been wiser to have deposited that lost money into a bank account. It saddens me to think we may be returning to that unacceptable situation.

Health care should not be a partisan issue. Congress must work as one to repair our broken system and make access to good health care available to all citizens. The ACA is certainly not perfect, but it is a step in the right direction. Hold Congress accountable by urging our legislators to move forward, not backward on health care. Contact Senator Johnny Isakson: 202-224-3643, Senator David Perdue: 202-224-3521 and Representative Doug Collins: 202-225-9893.

Jennifer Cordier

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

move the man with the gun pointed it at him. At this point little brother rolled down his window and told the man with the gun, "My daddy is about to beat your butt". The fellow and the one chasing him took off running allowing my dad to get to the car to check on us.

A short time later we were visiting my Maw Maw Adams. She took us down to Motes Creek and introduced us to Baker Rock. This rock was strategically placed on the left side of a bend to the right in the creek. The water was 3-4 feet deep in the pool under the rock. We worked hard for 45 minutes placing small rocks across the creek to dam up the slow moving stream. We had improved this ancient family swimming hole and were enjoying its cool waters when one of my cousins said, "Let's climb up the rock and jump into the water". We all sat there wondering who would be first when we noticed Dink was not around. Someone hollered at us from atop the rock and there was my 6 year old brother. He had climbed up the rock and before anyone could stop him he jumped into the refreshing water of Motes Creek from the top of Baker Rock. He couldn't even swim. All the rest of us had to fetch

Mattee...

continued from Page 5A

below the surface in their tunnels. Because they mainly feed on earthworms, which we actually want in our soil, you can't easily remove their food source to get them to move on their own. For this reason, trapping and killing is unfortunately the most effective way to resolve the issue.

For other animals that cause damage to your property such as beavers, groundhogs, squirrels, etc, there are licensed trappers in the area that can help get rid of any infestation. For more information on trappers and how to get rid of nuisance wildlife, contact your extension office.

Fowler ...

continued from Page 4A

These two stanzas are not all of it. The hymn taken in its entirety expresses the burden of the soul, the marvel of God's plan, the identity and purpose of our Savior, and the blessed release of believing and receiving the hope of eternity. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us" (Eph. 1:7).

Yes, we have songs, and we are more than willing to share the lavish riches with our atheist friends. Everyone needs a song.

Dyer ...

continued from Page 5A

fighter's personal protective equipment or PPE. The cost for a full set of PPE for one firefighter can be approximately \$7000 to \$9000. It is standard for PPE to have an operational life of 10 years. PPE is inspected and tested annually for wear and effectiveness. Any PPE that fails inspection or testing can no longer be used by the firefighter.

Fires and accident scenes can present environments that are hazardous to firefighters. Utilizing the full set of PPE, consisting of the turnout and SCBA, the firefighter can safely work in these environments and rescue others during an emergency.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

McKechnie ...

continued from Page 5A

Health and Human Service's website, "by law, Title X funds may not be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning." Medicaid funding is restricted by the Hyde Amendment to only abortion cases involving rape, incest or endangerment to the life of the mother. Some states use their own funds under Medicaid to go beyond that. Seventeen states and, until recently, the District of Columbia pay for "medically necessary" abortions. The federal budget deal now bans Washington, D.C., from using its funds to pay for abortions.

Hope House

Hope House is a faith-based, non-profit benevolence center to help Union County residents and homeless in times of critical need. Hours of operation: Monday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & Thursday 1 p.m.-4 p.m., located at 178 Brackett's Way, Blairsville, (706)781-3090.

him from the water.

Later in the fall Dad found out about a boxing club for boys in Chickamauga. Dad took Dink and I to the club and we learned to box. I thought I was pretty good until I boxed against a boy who nearly knocked me out. I wasn't very enthusiastic about boxing after that fight. However, my younger brother loved it. He would win a fight and then lose a fight. He fought some folks his size and he fought some boys twice as big. But, he never backed down and I actually think he looked forward to boxing each person no matter their size.

One evening while we were eating supper our door bell rang and I was told to answer the door. When I opened the door this woman began screaming at me. It seems that I had been accused of bullying her 4th grade son. I had never seen the boy and tried to explain, however, she kept screaming. My dad came to the door to investigate and was followed by my 2nd grade brother. The boy who was nearly as tall as I came from behind his mother and pointed at Dink saying, "That's the one who beat me up Mom". The mother looked from me to my brother and grabbed her boy by the ear saying, "You let that little kid beat you up. Well, just wait until we get home. You are about to get another whipping."

I admired that in my brother. He was brave and courageous. He didn't care how big you were and I be-

lieve he would fight a bear at midnight with nothing but a hickory switch. Rest in peace Stacey "Dink" Cummings.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR		
	Every Monday:	
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
	Every Tuesday:	
Tri State Bus. Women	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
Tuesday Strippers	Mtn Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
	Every Wednesday:	
BINGO	Civic Center	7 pm
	Every Thursday:	
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
	Fourth Monday of each month:	
Blue Ridge Comm.	McCaysville Lodge	7:30 pm
	Fourth Tuesday of each month:	
Compassionate Friends	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Dead Theologians Soc.	Cabin Coffee	Noon
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville UMC	12:30 pm
VFW Post #7394	Veteran's Center	6:30 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
	Fourth Wednesday of each month:	
No activities listed		
	Fourth Thursday of each month:	
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 pm
UT Homebuilders	YH College	7 pm
	Fourth Friday of each month	
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
	Fourth Saturday of each month:	
Youngcane Lodge #597	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm