

# Fire...from Page 1A

It is important that residents comply with the burn ban, however, as debris from a burning brush pile could easily be carried by the wind to start a disastrous wildfire inside the county.

Since the burn ban was implemented, the Union County Fire Department has responded to more than 60 fire/smoke or unauthorized burning calls.

Last year, from the first

of October to Nov. 10, Union County experienced five brush fires. This year during that same time period? At least 35.

“The drought really is a major cause of that,” said Fire Chief David Dyer.

As far as what people should report to the authorities, Chief Dyer said to pay extra attention to what may be burning, as a lot of the calls they’ve responded to have been smoke caused by perfectly acceptable indoor chimney fires.

“They really need to be



**Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris**

looking for a fire,” said Chief Dyer. “If they can’t designate that that is the woods on fire, then they need to really relax about calling on just seeing smoke, and do a little bit more investigating before they call and say, yes, this is a fire out of control or someone burning unauthorized.”

Also in the county meeting, the commissioner declared Thursday, Nov. 17, as World Pancreatic Cancer Day in Union County.



**Here, Josh Dyer fights the wildfire raging on Rock Mountain near Towns County. Josh is a Florida resident who offered his time to fight the fires burning up the North Georgia Mountains and beyond.**

“It’s a death sentence once you get it,” said Commissioner Paris. “I had a cousin that made it about three, four years, and that was kind of a record. And there hasn’t been a lot of progress made on

it, so that’s why we’re trying to bring awareness.”

Commissioner Paris also proclaimed Nov. 6, 2016, as Georgia Retired Educators Day in honor of the more than 118,000 retired educators in

the state of Georgia.

The regular county meeting scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 15, has been changed to Tuesday, Dec. 13, and will take place at 6 p.m.

# Gibson

...from Page 1A

were great family historians and caretakers and restorers of cemeteries. They always encouraged the family to take care of the land where our ancestors were laid to rest.

“I enjoy volunteering at the museum and meeting so many interesting people and helping them find a connection to their families. We are always very excited to get information from families that we can share with our many visitors.”

Of all the many people Gibson has seen walk through the doors of the courthouse, she says that James Earl Blair and Daniel Horsechief have been two of her absolute favorites.

A descendent of James Blair, the man who surveyed the Blair Line between Georgia and the Cherokee Nation in 1832, James Earl Blair visited the courthouse during the summer to reminisce on family history and the town that holds his family name.

Daniel Horsechief, the sculptor behind the We Are Still Here monument to be placed in Meeks Park, visited only a few short months ago, sharing the history of the Natives with Gibson and those at the museum.



**The historical society met on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at Monet’s Restaurant for a volunteer appreciation luncheon.**

Though Gibson is always more than willing to lend a hand when needed, and is enthusiastic about local history, she was still shocked and humbled to receive such recognition by the society.

“The honor of the Volunteer of the Year was a big surprise,” said Gibson. “I appreciate the society’s confidence in my work. We all need to know more of our country’s history. So visit our museum and share this interesting work.”

“Someone once said to me, if we the people of a country don’t know where we have been, how will we know where we are going? So keep studying your history.”

Prior to the luncheon, at the monthly meeting, the primary order of business was establishing the historical society’s 2017 officers, nominated and selected by the society’s Nominating Committee.

The committee selected the following to serve as officers for the upcoming year: President Libby Stevens, Vice President Bud Akins, Secretary Patricia Everett and Treasurer Teresa Moore.



**Libby Stevens is the current historical society president, and was nominated to retain that role in the coming year**

# Crash

...from Page 1A

Catholic Church in Hayesville. Interment will follow at a later date in the New Ulm Catholic Cemetery in New Ulm, Minnesota.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in memory of Joanne Guggisberg to Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Murphy, NC, or Good Shepherd Homecare & Hospice of Murphy.

Joanne, a grandmother of three, had been married to her husband Ronald for 52 years.

Services were held for Brittany Hunter on Sunday, Nov. 20, at Macedonia Baptist Church.

According to Hunter’s obituary, Hunter was a graduate of Towns County High School and worked as a caregiver.

“The princess of the family, Brittany enjoyed singing and spending time with her family and friends,” continued the remembrance in kindness. “She was a blessing to her family and friends and could always brighten up the room when she was around.

“She also enjoyed playing basketball, going camping and taking trips to the beach. She was a loving daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece, cousin and friend.

“She was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church where she spent her childhood practicing her bible drill skills. ‘Princess Britt Britt’ loved her cats and supporting her favorite sports team, Clemson.”

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to defer funeral expenses. All arrangements were made by Mountain View Funeral Home in Blairsville.