

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

down in Winston County. He would set his chin and say, "I'll meet that man someday and he will get his just reward." I had no doubt that T. O. would follow through with his promise if he ever got the chance.

One night we were all coon hunting together in a cove off of Newburg Mountain. The dogs had treed in the bottom of this cove and we had to cross a waist-deep creek. Upon arrival at the creek, we decided to ride the mules across. The mule on which I was riding slid down the bank into the water as it was supposed to. However, something then went wrong.

The mule fell on its left side. My foot on that side slid free of the stirrup. The mule was thrashing around in the water, unable to get up. I was trying to get my right foot free but could not. Immediately, without asking anything, T. O. came to the rescue. He jumped into the water and cut the belly strap on the saddle which freed the mule's foot, allowing it to stand up. Oh, and by the way, this move kept the mule from drowning me! Later in life I went to visit T. O. before his death. He was sick and feeble. As I walked into the room, his face lit up and he said, "There is ole Mick. The man which broke my saddle all them years ago!"

All these men were positive influences on my life. Some of them I knew and others were figures of which I read. But, there is one man that I greatly admire and yet I never met him. Nor have I ever read about him. But, he is the grandfather of my good friend Patrick Fix. Matthew Mathias Fix farmed and roamed the country around the Bluefield area of West Virginia. Just so you know, this country is still some of the wildest in North America. The Green-

brier and New Rivers are found in this country. The Hatfields and McCoys came from this neck of the woods. They say the woods are filled with both Ramps and Ginseng. I am sure this is a beautiful land.

Matthew lived to a ripe old age well into his 90s. Sometime in his mid-'80s, he went hunting somewhere close to Hinton, West Virginia. He was carrying his old 12-gauge double barreled shotgun, hoping to get a mess of squirrels to make some good dumplings. As he climbed up on top of a mountain, he came to the edge of a high cliff which ringed the side of the mountain. This 85-year-old man stepped to the cliff top to admire the view below him. That view must have been really something taking in the beautiful Greenbrier River and the captivating Blue Ridge. The view was really something, and it caused him to miscalculate his step, resulting in his foot slipping. He fell down the cliff, and if he were a lesser man, he would've died.

However, Fix was of a tougher breed and he survived. He was knocked unconscious for awhile, and even after awakening, he was added. He lost his gun and never found it. The man wandered around in the area for 21 days, surviving on roasted squirrel and wild chestnuts. He finally came to himself and wandered out of the woods to his home where he lived another 10 years. A year or two after his death, a hunter found an old shotgun at the bottom of a cliff. He remembered the story of Matthew Mathias Fix and brought the gun back to Hinton where it was identified and placed in a museum. The old gun honors one of the toughest men that ever lived in West Virginia.

Chamber... continued from Page A4

Blairsville, and there are many other festive events taking place throughout the month of December including the Holiday Stop and Shop on December 6 - 7, the Kris Kringle Market on December 7, and Christmas on the Square and the Christmas Parade on December 7, which will include a bake sale, fun activities for the kids, and more picture opportunities with Santa. There will also be a beautiful Christmas Tree Lighting at Vogel State Park on December 14. Please view our full calendar of events on our website,

visitblairsvillega.com, to learn more about these events.

Please continue to pray for the Spry Family, whose Dry Cleaning business was recently destroyed by a fire. They have supported our community for many years, and we know they will be back stronger than before.

We are blessed to live in a town with so many wonderful business owners that are here to support us year-round. As Christmas draws nearer, please don't forget to support our local merchants for your holiday shopping needs.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

This is a quick overview of facts that you need. Synthetic drugs are available at some local convenience stores, vape shops and tobacco shops. There are synthetic versions of marijuana, stimulants, opiates and hallucinogens. They are sold under many different names and can be ingested in many ways. These synthetics can be smoked, vaped, taken in pill form or eaten. These products are not regulated and have been proven to contain chemicals that are harmful and, in some cases, lethal.

The purchase of these products has the same age restriction as tobacco products. Legally a person must be 18 or older, however, this restriction has not proven to be effective

in keeping these products away from the adolescent and teen population.

If you suspect someone in your life is using drugs and you want to have a drug test to prove your suspicions, synthetics will not show positive on most over the counter drug screens. There are screens that are specifically made to detect synthetics and the most reliable results are drug screens that are sent to a toxicology lab.

The accessibility and difficulty identifying synthetic drugs creates a perfect storm for communities. Due to the lack of regulations on manufacturing these products, health risk associated with use are extremely high for anyone who chooses to experiment with them.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

home structure fires and civilian fire deaths reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. were higher for properties with smoke alarms that did not operate or with no smoke alarms than in fires in which smoke alarms operated.

Smoke alarms give us a sense of security, so we can sleep, but if they aren't maintained, that sense of security will be false and can lead to death by smoke. Most home smoke alarms use either ionization, photoelectric, or both sensing systems to detect a fire.

Ionization-type smoke alarms have a small amount of radioactive material between two electrically charged plates which ionize the air and cause current to flow between the plates. When smoke enters the chamber, it disrupts the flow of ions, reducing the flow of current and activating the alarm. Photoelectric-type alarms aim a light source into a sensing chamber at an angle away from the sensor. Smoke enters the chamber, scattering light onto the light sensor and triggering the alarm.

Photoelectric alarms respond slightly faster to smoldering fires; ionization alarms respond slightly faster to flaming fires. Ionization alarms are

less expensive and the most widely used. Smoke alarms are appliances, just like toasters, televisions, and furnaces. Unlike other appliances, these devices function quietly in the background, and its alarm, in response to a real smoke situation or to testing, is the only evidence that it works.

A television that will not play will not lead to tragedy, but a smoke alarm that fails to sound in a fire, could. Roughly half of the smoke alarms collected as inoperable and studied in the National Smoke Detector Project were more than 10 years old, hence older than the currently recommended replacement age. Alarms designed solely to detect smoke should be replaced every 10 years.

Buying, installing, testing, and maintaining home smoke alarms is essential protection from fire, but it is not enough. Many households have not developed the escape plans that would allow them to use the extra warning time smoke alarms provide effectively.

Escape plans identify any obstacles to secondary exits if the main door is blocked, a meeting place outside the

home for household members to gather and makes provisions for household members who need help.

We can "Firewise" the outside of our homes to lower the risk of destruction by a wildfire, but we also need to protect our families on the inside by installing, maintain-

ing, and regularly testing our smoke alarms that are our first-line of defense against fire and smoke while we sleep.

For more information on Smoke Alarms, contact your local Fire Rescue Department or Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D at info.ccrd@gmail.com.

Paris...

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available funding from the Federal Government?

A. Yes. Remember that the funds are your federal tax dollars and we don't want them going to another state just because everyone in Union County wasn't counted. So do your part to insure we get our fair share in Union County.

If you have any other questions you can contact our Complete Count Coordinator, Patrick Malone, at 706-835-1308 or via email at ptm4936@gmail.com.

Fowler...

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rizes their cause. "The more we get to know about our universe, the more the hypothesis that there is a Creator gains in credibility as the best explanation of why we are here." Whatever we come to know about our universe, some humbling questions from the Creator will always remain. "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Who has given understanding to the mind?" (Job 38:4, 36).

Phillip Johnson passed away in November 2019. His legacy is not just his own work, but that he helped spark a movement to answer questions about the origins of our complex universe. And to think, it happened because someone invited a little girl to VBS. What a simple thing.

Dyer...

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events. We prefer that people stay at home and only travel if absolutely necessary. If you must travel, have a ready kit in your car with supplies. Know your route and the road conditions prior to starting. Ensure that your vehicle is capable to operate safely in winter weather conditions.

It is never too soon to start preparing. Winter Weather Preparedness week is a good time to start. For more information on how to prepare visit www.ready.gov/winter-weather.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Williams...

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It's best to control annual weeds early on with a pre-emergent herbicide. A pre-emergent herbicide is put down before weeds begin popping up. Post-emergent herbicides are used once the plant is already present and growing. Post-emergent herbicides can be effective if used when problems are noticed early. They become less effective as weeds grow in size. Pre-emergent herbicides containing the active ingredient benefin will be effective on henbit, chickweed, and speedwell. Benefin can be applied on established fescue and zoysiagrass lawns. Post-emergent herbicides containing 2,4-D + MCPP + dicamba can be sprayed on established fescue and zoysiagrass lawns as well. Whenever you apply an herbicide, make sure to read and follow the label before making the application.

If you have questions about winter weeds and how to control them contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

	Every Monday:	
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 a.m.
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 p.m.
	Every Tuesday:	
Tri State Bus. Women	Cabin Coffee	8 a.m.
Tuesday Strippers	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30 p.m.
Exercise Class	UMC Lower level	5:30-6:30 p.m.
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 p.m.
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 p.m.
	Every Wednesday:	
Kiwanis Club	Skillet Cafe	Noon
BINGO	Civic Center	7 p.m.
	Every Thursday:	
Amateur Radio Club	Brkfst. at Blairsville Rest.	8 a.m.
Masonic Luncheon	Cook's Restaurant	11:30 a.m.
Rotary Club	NGTC	Noon
Exercise Class	UMC Lower level	5:30-6:30 p.m.
	Second Monday of each month:	
MMQG Sewcials	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Enotah Chapter #24	Masonic Lodge	7:30 p.m.
	Second Tuesday of each month:	
FPL Retirees	Hole in Wall Rest.	9 a.m.
Historical Society Bd.	Old Courthouse	10:30 a.m.
Mtn Laurel Arts/Crafts	Union County Library	10 a.m.
Active/Retired Fed Emp.	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer	Sr. Citizens Center	1-3 p.m.
Mountain Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 p.m.
Blairsville PTO	UC Primary School	6 p.m.
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 p.m.
	Second Thursday of each month:	
Lions Club	Cook's Restaurant	6 p.m.
Appalachian Shrine Club	Shrine Building	6:30 p.m.
Democratic Party	Unity Church of B'ville	6:30 p.m.
Trout Unlimited	UC Community Cntr - A	6:30 p.m.
Sons Confederate Vet.	UCB Community Rm	7 p.m.
Knights of Columbus	Marian Hall	7:30 p.m.
	Second Friday of each month:	
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 p.m.
Blue Ridge Mtn Jeepers	Blairsville Skillet Cafe	6:00 p.m.
	Second Saturday of each month:	
No activities listed		
	Second Sunday of each month:	
PFLAG	Call 706-389-5269 for Info	