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feet above sea level. Full pool, or when we consider the lake completely full, has traditionally been at 1777', and at 1780' the lake goes over the gates at the dam, unless additional gates are added. The flowage easement, which is the area that is generally not flooded but could be if necessary is 1785'. However, generally the public is satisfied with the current level during the summer. From September thru mid-March the lake level usually drops to the 1760' range. This year was an exception as the lake got up to full pool after the December

rainstorms, but quickly receded back to near 1760 feet in mid-February.

While some people are frustrated with the lake level going up and down, those of us who have always lived here, remember when the lake level dropped another 15 feet in the winter and are thankful that the lake is as full as it is during the summer. We all wish it would stay up a little longer, but flood control is one of the primary reasons TVA operates all the lakes in their valley and this is why the lakes are lowered in the fall and winter.

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

would let him get halfway through a story and then make a smart aleck remark about his exaggerating or even telling a downright lie. Hootie's face would redden as he quit his story and he would just get up and leave the store.

William was in the store the day of this incident and overheard Old John's scathing words. William said, "John, you ought not be so hard on Hootie. What's the harm in listening to his stories? We all need a little laughter."

Once again Old John told everyone Hootie was just full of hot air. "I bet he has never even killed a big deer." "Maybe he has and maybe he hasn't, but, that old man is a good old man and you shouldn't be so hard on him," replied William.

Not long afterward William's son, Dumplin', (he loved chicken and dumplings) killed the biggest deer many people around these parts had ever seen. The old Buck had massive beams and registered 9 full points and a broken tine. The young man killed the deer in a place he called "no man's land," which can be found on the east side of the Duncan Ridge Trail. The young man carried and drug the massive deer some 3 miles back to his

home and was about to hoist the buck up by a winch when Hootie drove up.

He got out of his truck and began to laugh. He walked up to Dumplin' and patted his back. He wished to make sure the boy received his due congratulations. Hootie said, "This old buck reminds me of the time I killed that 8- or was it a 10-pointer when I was 16. Then the old man fell silent. A look of deep thought fell across his face. He looked at Dumplin' and then his dad.

For a moment all was silent. Then Hootie said, "You fellows know how Old John is always ragging me? He always says I could never kill a buck bigger than what he has killed. I wonder if you boys would let me borrow this deer for an hour. William looked at his son, Dumplin' and grinned.

Both of them told Hootie to take the deer for a spell.

They helped the old man load the deer into the back of his old 1963 Chevy Truck. He then drove down to the store where he related to all that would hear about how he'd taken this old moss back buck.

Yes, Old John was there and heard it all. Old John went to his grave thinking that Hootie had bested him in 1973.

**Allison ...**

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with a wide variety of items for sale. The festival will be an all day affair running from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the many vendors, there will be musicians performing both inside and outside the Courthouse. One of this year's festival participants is the *We Are Still Here* group. They are asking for help from the community to spread the word about the project and for donations. Their goal is for the statue to be erected in Meeks Park in 2017. This marks the 200th anniversary of the Native Americans leaving this area. There will be volunteers at the festival to answer any questions as well as special guests to share information about Native American culture and perform traditional dances.

After enjoying your time at the festival, stop by the Farmers Market to participate in Relay For Life. The event will be held from 4 p.m. - 10 p.m. this year. Thank you to all of the volunteers and those who have contributed in any way to

**Chief ...**

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Union County Fire Department responds to motor vehicle accidents often and firefighters must be very familiar with the tools and techniques on how to extricate victims from the crashed vehicles. We attend the Crash Victim Extrication class every two years to get updates on vehicles and latest techniques. Citizens of Union County should be proud to know that they have dedicated firefighters, career and volunteer, who will respond to these vehicle accidents and have the knowledge to safely remove the victims.

Union County Fire Department ~ *Our Family Protecting Your Family* ~

**Mattee...**

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Leaf galls appear exclusively on new, tender growth, which makes them a little easier to deal with than many fungal diseases. The best option for controlling this disease is to prune out any and all galls that you can find, preferably before they turn white and form spores. The spores disperse so easily that by the time you find a white gall, they have probably spread to another branch or plant. You can also prevent major leaf gall infections by inspecting azaleas and camellias before you purchase and plant them, as well as by leaving adequate spacing between bushes so leaves can dry well after watering and bouts of rain.

The best course of action is to monitor your plants for these symptoms and remove any abnormal growth as soon as it appears. In some cases, you can apply a protective fungicide such as chlorothalonil, mancozeb, or myclobutanil. If you take this approach, always make sure to read the label and use the fungicide appropriately, or contact the extension office if you have any questions. Keep in mind that once the galls are formed, the only way to truly get rid of them is to prune them out. Applying fungicides will not shrink the galls or heal the plant, but it can protect it from the Exobasidium fungus the following year. In the meantime, keep an eye on your azaleas, rhododendrons, and camellias and cut out any galls you find!

If you'd like more information on leaf galls, stop by your extension office for a brochure.

this event. Cancer is a terrible disease that has impacted so many lives in our community. Thank you for doing your part

to help find a cure.

There are many other events taking place over the weekend. Please visit our web-

site [visitblairsvillega.com](http://visitblairsvillega.com) or contact the Chamber office at (706) 745-5789 for more information. Have a great weekend!

**UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

	<b>Every Monday:</b>	
Garden Tours	GMREC (May-Oct)	9 am - 1 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
A Course in Miracles	298 School Circle	2 pm
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
	<b>Every Tuesday:</b>	
Tri State Bus. Women	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
Tuesday Strippers	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
	<b>Every Wednesday:</b>	
BINGO	Civic Center	7 pm
	<b>Every Thursday:</b>	
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
	<b>First Monday of each month:</b>	
Lockheed-Martin Ret.	Blairsville Restaurant	9 am
Volunteers/Handicap	First Baptist, H Bldg.	6 pm
CERT	St. Francis of Assisi	6:30 pm
Allegheny Masonic Lodge #114,	Masonic Lodge	6:30 pm
	<b>First Tuesday of each month:</b>	
Brownie Scouts	United Methodist Ch	3-5 pm
Blairsville City Coun.	City Hall	6 pm
Amateur Radio Club	Branan Lodge	7 pm
Gaddistown Hmakers	Woody Gap	7 pm
Knights/Colum. #2563	place TBA	7:30 pm
Enotah Ch. #24 RAM	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
	<b>First Wednesday of each month:</b>	
Exercise class	Senior Citizens Center	10:30 am
Tri-Cty Wom. Lunch	Monet's Rest.	Noon
Better Breathers	UGH Classroom 2nd Fl.	1 pm
	<b>First Thursday of each month:</b>	
Quilts of Valor	Coosa Methodist Ch	9:30 am-2:30 pm
MMQG	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 am-3 pm
Awake America	City Hall	11:59 am
NAMI Fam. Support	New Hope Counseling	12-1:30 pm
Blairsville Sorghum Fest.	Fort Sorghum	6:30 pm
Open Road ORV	Civic Center	8 pm
	<b>First Friday of each month:</b>	
"Nailed" Book Club	G-N-G Bakery	10 am
UG Hospital Aux	UC Nursing Home	Noon
Cruisers Block Party	Farmer's Market	5 pm (Apr-Oct)
Feel Good Friday	Wellness Center	7 pm
	<b>First Saturday of each month:</b>	
Cruise-In	On the Square	4 pm (Apr-Oct)