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weather warnings from the National Weather Service. You can sign up for this FREE service by mailing your name, address, and method you wished to be notified by, to 76 Hunt Martin Street, Suite D, Blairsville, GA 30512 or you can call (706) 439-6056. Before signing up be aware that these notifications come through when they are issued by the National Weather Service, so if the warning is given at 3 a.m. you will receive notification at this time by whatever method you provided. It is still a good method of emergency notification if you are interested.

Q. I need electrical and plumbing work done in my home. Do I have to hire a licensed contractor?

A. As a homeowner you can do any and all repairs yourself, but if you are hiring someone to do the work there are certain state guidelines that must be followed. Under state guidelines, all electrical work or repairs must be completed

by a Georgia Licensed electrician. The state does give a little more leniency in regard to plumbing repairs. As a rule of thumb, any plumbing conducted past the trap requires a licensed plumber. We are receiving some complaints about prospective builders who are telling homeowners they do not need a permit for certain, minor work, and they are practicing without either an electrical or a contractor's license. You should always check with the Building and Development Office at (706) 439-6039 to verify if a permit is needed and whether or not a certain person has the proper credentials to be doing the work on your house, garage or shop in the first place.

Q. Do I need a permit to construct a deck?

A. If you are constructing an open deck that exceeds 150 square feet then a permit is required. Any size deck that is going to have a roof requires a permit.

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education. These revenues are more sustainable and mirror current economic growth - as economic conditions have improved, so have revenues. The state's general fund revenue is less sustainable and more stagnant, meaning that one-time fixes or budget cuts are continually being created in an effort to reduce operations. Alabama also relied on borrowing from their Rainy Day Fund, something Gov. Deal and others are not keen to do again this year. In contrast, Georgia has been steadily adding to our Rainy Day Fund, which has increased by 643 percent since 2011 (no, that number isn't a typo!).

Alabama's current FY 2015 revenues, according to their Department of Revenue Monthly Abstract through April 2015, are at a healthy 4.96 percent fiscal year to date net above FY 2014. Their 12-month trailing growth rate, which helps better recognize overall economic momentum trends and comparisons, is around 4.3 percent. In comparison, Georgia's 12-month trail-

ing growth rate was 7.2 percent through April 2015. Other 12-month trailing growth rates in the Southeast through April 2015 include Tennessee at 5.9 percent, Texas at 5.1 percent, North Carolina at 2.4 percent and Louisiana at 0.3 percent. Other Southeastern states through March 2015 were Florida at 4.2 percent, South Carolina at 4.5 percent and Mississippi at 3.1 percent.

These numbers clearly show that Georgia continues to thrive and grow as other states are still recovering from the economic downturn.

This does not mean Georgia should take a break and rest on its laurels - it means we should continue to work to stay ahead of the pack. These are the types of numbers that make Georgia a great state for business and new investments, and we want to ensure those numbers remain high. Our continued economic success depends on our ability to keep Georgia fiscally healthy - which is done by making fiscally responsible decisions.

Cummings ... continued from Page 4A

this coffee sure is gritty". After she finished her coffee Mrs. Cummings' upper lip had a yellow circle of dust around it.

This event happened about 46 years ago and I now realize Mrs. Cummings could have been harsher in her dealings with me. I wish I could tell her that she was a truly remarkable teacher and person. Well, I can't tell Mrs. Cummings, but I can tell some other people. For example, the vendors at the Farmers Market are a great group of people. These vendors made the Union County Farmers Market a great place to be this past summer.

I have been visiting many of these vendors the past few weeks to inspect their farms concerning the produce they are selling at the market. For example, this week I have visited Roger Gerber, Michael Surlis, English Country Gardens, Harold Berry, Buds and Butterflies, Willy Kerr, Mighty Greens, the Frantz Family and Dean Smith. Next week you will see squash,

zucchini, tomatoes, sunflower sprouts, onions, kale, cucumbers and wildflower honey at the market.

Also, the Union County Canning Plant will conduct a Home Canning Class on June 16th. Elizabeth Andress from UGA Cooperative Extension will be with us to teach the class and we will also talk about "How the Canning Plant Operates". We will begin at 10 a.m. and finish at 2 p.m. We will demonstrate canning pickles and everyone will get to take home a jar after we finish that day. We will also provide a lite lunch for those participating that day. Please let us know that you are coming by calling 706-439-6030 by June 15th.

Finally, we will open the Canning Plant on Thursdays in June beginning June 18th. We will be open from 6 a.m. until noon on June 18th, June 25th, and July 2nd. We will begin our regular schedule of Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning on July 7th.

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When they partner to my morning bacon, make potato salad irresistible, and balance the tanginess of the blue cheese on my cobb salad, I'm a fan. But it's when they solo or lead that I find them most appealing.

Develed, scrambled, hard, soft, poached, baked or basted, featured in quiche, fritata, omelet, or a soufflé, I can't think of any way I won't eat an egg, but one way. Pickled. I just can't find a thing appetizing about a rubbery, vinegar based hot pink egg.

As a toddler, I'd wait at the door to greet our "Egg Man", Carl. He was a large man with a crooked back and an endearing smile. In the late 1950s, he delivered eggs, and only eggs, once a week, door to door. Eventually it became more convenient to purchase eggs in the grocery store, and I assumed that all eggs were created equal. That was until I had my first free range egg after having moved to Blairsville. The richness of the yolk is equal to the color depth of orange this egg brings. It's the difference between skim milk and cream. That is no exaggeration.

If you want a fresh farm

Williams ...

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love it. Not only do kids 12 and under get in free, but they also get to experience their own version of the Highland Games. On Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m., enter your child in the athletic competition and see if they take home a ribbon. No experience necessary. Throughout the festival, there will be educational activities, a bounce house, a mini golf course, and more!

Number 4. Kilts are optional. That's right gentlemen; no one is forcing you to wear a kilt. Ladies, I can assure you there will be plenty of handsome men in handsome kilts, even if your husband is not one of them. Come as you are. You do not have to be Scottish to enjoy this event. Now just to clarify, I said kilts are optional. Clothing is required.

Number 5. This may be the closest thing to Scotland you'll ever get. I always say this festival is unlike any other festival throughout the year. It truly is like a little taste of Scotland right here at home. The food, vendors, music, dancing, clans, and athletes are all reminiscent of Scotland past and Scotland present. If you are unsure if you'll ever get to experience Scotland firsthand, I assure you this will be a great chance to experience it in spirit.

So are you ready? The Scottish Festival will kick off with a Ceilidh Block Party on the Square this Friday, June 12. This is a free event to start the weekend. Outdoor dining and entertainment will be provided in the Season's Inn plaza from 6-9 p.m. The Friday night concert in the historic courthouse will feature Scottish entertainment at 7 p.m. Various downtown businesses will also be open for you to explore. The festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14 at Meeks Park from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. If you have any questions about the festival, please call the Chamber at 706-745-5789 or go to www.BlairsvilleScottishFestival.com. See you there!

Fowler ...

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the thoughts and affections on Christ; a complete surrender of the whole being to Him; a constant looking to Him for grace."

You know the words of the song Amazing Grace. You know God's grace means His unmerited favor toward you. But do you know the exchanged life that comes from abiding in the Vine? "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9).

You are invited to join me as I present a devotional thought from All Things New in the meeting room at Cabin Coffee Friday, June 19, 7 a.m.

Combs ...

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Is your faith and trust in God all it should be? When the rubber meets the road will your faith stand up to the test? II Timothy 1:7 says: For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Put on the whole armor of God and follow Him into the battle. Amen.

Just a note to Sara Elliot & Johnnie M. Robinson for your comments on the articles I pen to the paper. It's only by the leading of the Holy Spirit of God that He allows me to come up with these encouraging words in the last days we are living in. All praise and glory goes to the Lord, Jesus Christ. Thanks again for your support. Love your articles as well. Amen.

Frank F. Combs

stravaganza Day at the Market. A perfect day to celebrate this perfect food.

Remember that this Tuesday, and every Tuesday from 2-6 our vendors will be at the Market, with our new addition, John Thomas Auctions, holding a general merchandise auction from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Great food and treats are available all afternoon and evening from The Market Café. Spend more time at the Market this season. It's good on the body, the soul and the pocketbook!

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If you would like to learn some great new recipes for eggs, and you enjoy having a good time in the kitchen, join me between 10:30 and 12 p.m. as I will be demonstrating, along with my sous chef, Gloria Benjamin, several interesting egg recipes. And those of you who miss the bread pudding of last fall, you want to come and get the recipe and free samples, to boot. We'll be in the Canning Plant, and we'd like you to join us. And rumor has it, Chef Diana Darris, aka The Diva, will be making a guest appearance, too. This Saturday is Egg-

| UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| | Every Monday: | |
| Garden Tours | GMREC (May-Oct) | 9 am - 1 pm |
| 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: | |
| 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 Thursday: | |
| 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 |
| | Third Monday of each month: | |
| Shape Note Music | Old Courthouse | 6:30 pm |
| High Country Artisan | U.C.Bank Com Room | 6:30 pm |
| Exp Aviation Assoc #1211 | Blairsville Airport | 7 pm |
| | Third Tuesday of each month: | |
| UC Homemakers | Dooley Chapter | Noon |
| Am. Legion Post 121 | Veteran's Center | 6:30 pm |
| American Legion, Aux | Veteran's Center | 6:30 pm |
| Chatuge Gun Club | Senior Center, Hia. | 7 pm |
| Compassionate Friends | UCB Community Room | 7 pm |
| | Third Wednesday of each month: | |
| Blairsville Garden Club | Location not listed | 1 pm |
| Friends of the Library | Library Com Room | 2 pm |
| Beta Sigma Phi, Iota Iota | So. Bank & Trust | 7 pm |
| | Third Thursday of each month: | |
| Kinship Care | Civic Center | Noon |
| Commissioner's Meet. | County Courthouse | 6 pm |
| Good N'bers Auto | Steve's Steakhouse | 6:30 pm |
| UT Home Builders | Moschetto's | 6:30 pm |
| Cub Scouts Trp. #101 | United Methodist Ch. | 6:30 pm |
| Tip-off Club | UC High School | 7 pm |
| UC Saddle Club | Arena Clubhouse | 7 pm |
| Jaycees | Fort Sorghum | 7:30 pm |
| | Third Friday of each month: | |
| No activities listed | | |
| | Third Saturday of each month: | |
| UC Republican Party | Civic Center | 10 am |
| Goldwing Road Riders | Daniels Steak House | 11 am |