

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

wood. Doc was the resident Doctor in the little town of Phil Campbell, Alabama. Each Wednesday morning for the next 35 years, Doc would visit his old friend Clifford Hyde for a game of Dominoes. The old men would visit on the front porch during the spring, summer and fall.

During the winter the pair would sit by Clifford's old pot-bellied stove. Most of the time my Great Grandfather would win the game, and that was good, because he could not stand to lose.

But, when Doc won the game, Clifford would pout and say, "You must have cheated. Everyone knows you can't beat me at Dominoes. Get out of my house and don't come back." Then the old man would snatch the dominoes off the table and throw them in the fire. By all accounts, you would think the relationship between Doc and Clifford was over. However, early on the next Tuesday morning, you could find Clifford walking the quarter mile to the Nix Mercantile to buy a new set of dominoes.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

as populations rose and as the wave of industrial logging and mining spilled across the region in the late 19th century.

Logging would have facilitated traditional land uses, especially livestock herding, by opening the forest and promoting the growth of forage and berries. Therefore, many of the fires that coincided with industrial logging were probably ignited by local herdsman, not necessarily by the loggers or log trains. This burning continued after the wave of logging had passed. By inhibiting forest regeneration, the wildfires became a powerful motivator for fire prevention and suppression during the early 20th century. In the present we find that fire exclusion has been more successful than early foresters might have expected a century ago.

But this success has its drawbacks, as recognized by many researchers and resource managers. Forest density and canopy closure have increased to the point that fire-favored trees, especially oaks and pines, are failing to reproduce and are being replaced by less desirable or invasive species. The oaks and pines are important for wildlife habitat, timber, and aesthetics, and as the canopy dominants die and they are be-

ing replaced by species such as red maple that have colonized the shaded forest understory in the absence of fire.

Other desirable plants, such as blueberries, have also waned while thickets of mountain laurel and rhododendron have expanded. Such changes have prompted a considerable amount of recent research on fire ecology and fire history, and have motivated resource managers to implement prescribed burns to attempt to restore fire-dependent ecosystems forage and berries.

When you see a prescribed fire on the Forest Service or private lands, be glad that the professional foresters and fire managers are working to help restore our forests to their natural state and are reducing the risk of catastrophic, destructive wildfires in our mountains by reducing the many years of built-up fuel in the forest. Wildlife also have more tender plants to eat on the clean forest floor and water quality increases after natural fires and NO Bunnies and Bambi do not get burned up in a fire. It is the way Mother Nature intended it to be!

For more information on Fire in the Mountains, contact Frank Riley at info.ccrd@gmail.com.

Time to renew Friends of Union County Library memberships

Advocating for Libraries, Literacy, and Lifelong Learning

Happy New Year! The Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) will be sending out renewal letters for 2021 FOUCL membership this month. If you are a member, look for a letter from us arriving in your mailbox soon. If you would like to join as a new member, you can pick up a form at the library or download one from our website at foucl.org.

Your FOUCL dues and donations make it possible for us to continue supporting Union County Public Library in many ways. A few highlights from FOUCL contributions last year included: providing prizes for the online Children's Summer Reading Program, purchasing picture books for library families in February and December, giving money to the library to go towards the purchase of books and periodicals for the library's collection, and purchasing and providing free-of-charge BookPages to library patrons.

The first six months of 2021, FOUCL members are being encouraged to keep a collection jar. Of course, you don't have to be a member to participate. Anyone can collect and contribute to help FOUCL continue to advocate for libraries, literacy, and

lifelong learning. Begin this month and collect through June, then add up the money saved and send your check to FOUCL; P.O. Box 1546, Blairsville, GA 30514. Your jar can be filled with any loose change you have or with a donation placed in your jar each month using the guide below:

January: How many books/ebooks did you read/listen to this month? Donate \$.50 for each one.

February: How often did you Zoom or Facetime this month? Donate \$.50 for each connection.

March: How many movies did you watch this month? Donate \$.50 for each movie.

April: How many times did you go to the library this month? Donate \$1.00 for each visit.

May: How many times did you shop online this month? Donate \$.50 for each computer shopping trip.

June: How many magazines did you read this month? Donate \$.50 for each magazine.

Our next meeting – open to all members – will be online on Wednesday, January 20, beginning at 2 PM. An email will be sent with instructions on how to join us. Members, please consider attending as we begin finalizing plans for 2021.

Coin Club hosts annual Trivia Bee

The Mountain Coin Club will be hosting its second annual trivia contest on January 12th at 6 p.m. at the North Georgia Technical College in Blairsville. Guests are welcome to watch or participate along with regular members. Masks are required.

Dr. Nancy White Kelly, founder and President Emeritus of the club, will moderate an exciting challenge round consisting of 20 written, coin-related questions. This will be followed by a second round which will include the top first round winners. More difficult numismatic questions will then be given orally in spelling-bee style. The top-winner will receive an engraved silver cup acknowledging the new 2021 champion.

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Chamber... continued from Page 4A

of a wedding destination location. Many of our local venues are booked well into 2021, and some even into 2022. This means great things for our bakeries, caterers, restaurants, lodging and accommodations, wineries, local shops, and more. There will be all kinds of giveaways at this event from overnight stays to photography shoots to wedding cakes making it an absolute must-do for prospective brides and grooms. If you or someone you know would benefit from being a vendor or from attending this event, visit our website www.visitblairsvillega.com for all the details.

We'll be celebrating our

Paris...

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patients, October – 8 inpatients, November – 6 inpatients and December 30, 25 inpatients. Please be safe and follow all guidelines.

Fowler...

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straints.

If the Lord carries, your name and a brief description of your life could appear in a publication. People may read and learn a little about you. Your loved ones will remember you. Will they know that you enjoyed walking with Jesus even as the evening time approaches? Did you travel this sod with God-given purpose? When the day is over and you no longer journey in the land of the dying, by faith in the Lord Jesus you will stay with him in the land of the living where time is no more.

Williams...

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help you and your new year's resolution contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu. There is no charge for consultations by phone, email, or in person. If we do some kind of testing there is a fee, from the lab. If you are interested in testing contact me and I will let you know how much it costs.

Combs...

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sickness or death that will be able to enter Heaven.

I don't know about you, my friend, but that sounds like a good deal, and all you have to do is to accept Christ into your heart by accepting His free gift of salvation. Please don't die without Christ in your life. Look what you will be missing if you choose hell instead of Heaven. What a waste of a soul it would solely be.
Frank F. Combs

Dyer...

continued from Page 4A

good idea to shut the generator down before refueling to reduce the fire hazard. Fuel should be stored outside, away from the generator and other heat sources. Portable generators powered by gasoline or other types of fuel produce harmful carbon monoxide gas when operating. These generators should NEVER be used inside the home, basement or garage. Portable generators should be operated outside in a dry area that is well ventilated and away from any air intakes to the home.

Electrical shock is also a danger. Make sure the generator is properly grounded. The owner's manual should be able to provide instructions on proper grounding. Operators should utilize appropriate extension cords and those cords should be plugged directly into the receptacle outlet of the generator. Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) as per the manufacturer's instructions. Never run extension cords under carpets or rugs. Owners should also know the limitations of the generator in order not to overload it beyond capacity.

A major concern is homeowners who attempt to connect a portable electric generator to the home's existing wiring. This is very dangerous. The reverse flow of electricity through the house to the power lines can electrocute utility or public safety workers who may be working on or around those lines. Homeowners who have a generator that provides power to their home must have a properly installed transfer switch to prevent reverse flow.

Power outages can be frustrating and inconvenient. Having an electric generator can be a temporary solution but it must be used properly and safely.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Originally Published Jan. 15, 2020

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



January 2, 2021
In memory of
Virginia B. Meeks
on her birthday
By: Terry & Ginger Meeks

Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493