

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## Vacation Fire Safety

Vacations are essential. Whether it be the beach, a mountain cabin or a trip, you want to relax and enjoy the time with family. Rarely do people think about fire safety when on vacation, but fire safety should be one of the first considerations. Union County Fire Department would like to remind everyone of some fire safety tips while on vacation to help provide an extra measure of safety.

One of the first things is a vehicle fire extinguisher. This is not only a good practice for long trips but also for everyday travel. You never know when you may have a car fire or if you come upon another driver with a car fire. The fire extinguisher should be automobile rated and secured in the proper place. In the event of a fire, it can be used to put out a small fire before it engulfs the entire vehicle.

Once you have safely reached your destination, take a few minutes to check the fire safety of the building, cabin or home. Modern hotels have sprinkler systems. Make sure the sprinklers are not blocked or covered. Know the locations of the fire extinguishers and check the room to ensure that there are smoke alarms. When at an unfamiliar place, have an escape plan and a meeting place in case there is an evacuation of the hotel or building. The family may get separated or may be in different areas of the building.

If you are staying in a cabin or vacation home, make sure everyone knows the locations of fire extinguishers. Test the smoke alarms and replace batteries if needed. As you would do in your own home, have an escape plan with two ways out. Create a meeting place outside in the event of a fire. Know the address and directions to your location so units know where to find you.

Vacation homes and cabins usually have cooking areas and heating that may operate differently from your home units. You should educate yourself on the operation of the stove and the heating units and/or fireplaces. Make sure that they are operating properly and that they are turned off when you leave. The same advice can be applied to outside grills.

Fire safety is always important. While on vacation, take a few minutes to review fire safety with everyone to ensure a happy and safe vacation. Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

**Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief**  
David Dyer



## Jastrow's Logic

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).

Or did he? Scientists in the 20th century assumed there must be another explanation for the origins of the universe. Many adopted the worldview of materialism, and believed it was their duty to relieve mankind of primitive notions about origins. That's why Edwin Hubble's discovery of the red shift set many scientists on edge. They knew it had theistic implications.

The red shift indicated that stars are moving outward, expanding the universe. As physicist Robert Jastrow put it, imagine filming this expansion, then running the film in reverse. Eventually all mass, energy, and space would be reduced to a finite singularity, i.e. a beginning called the big bang in popular parlance.

Jastrow founded NASA's Goddard Institute. He was agnostic about the existence of God. But he didn't mind pointing out the surprisingly theistic implications of the big bang. He calls it "an exceedingly strange development, unexpected by all but the theologians. For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

One of his contemporaries, Stephen Hawking, posited a mathematical explanation in the field of quantum cosmology as the cause of material world. Those who look for reasons to dismiss the God explanation put their faith in Hawking, who was no doubt a brilliant scientist. But Hawking himself identified the problem with his proofs. He asked, "What is it that breathes fire into the equations and makes a universe for them to describe?" In other words, equations do not create. He may have the right equation, and equations exist in minds. For quantum cosmology to have explanatory power, it needs a mind predating the material world. And that mind had to have the power to breathe fire into it, to make something (the big bang) happen!

Jastrow supposed Albert Einstein shared his thoughts about science pointing to God. He quoted Einstein, "the harmony of

**All Things New**  
Wayne Fowler



See Fowler, page 5A

## Commissioner's Questions

### Short-Term Rentals (STR) – Part 1

My office has received some inquiries about Short-Term Rentals (STR) in Union County. All counties across north Georgia appear to be seeing an increase in these units, and Union County has its fair share. Though we do not have a complete solution for all the issues associated with STR at this time, we have been studying and researching our options. The next two week's Q & A will discuss this topic through questions that have been posed to my office.

### Q. What is a Short-Term-Rental (STR)?

A. Every county defines STR differently. The current Union County Ordinance went into effect back in 2013, and it refers to a Lodging Accommodation. Article VI Sec. 74-161 of the Union County Ordinance defines Lodging Accommodation as any structure or any portion of a structure including any lodging house, studio, hotel, motel, motor hotel, auto court, inn, public club, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, rental cabin, or private club containing guest rooms and which is occupied, or is intended or designed for occupancy, by guests, whether rent is paid in money, goods, labor or otherwise.

The State of Georgia has recently passed legislation that partially defines a Short-Term Rental (STR) as lodging for less than 30 days. In future Union County ordinances, the terminology will follow the state's terminology.

### Q. Do we have any STR or Lodging Accommodations in Union County?

A. According to our current licensing data, we have around 210 Lodging Accommodations in Union County. Here's what many people don't know: In 2013, we began requiring these Lodging Accommodations to register with the Union County Commissioner's Office by purchasing a business license in order to operate. This license does several things, but most importantly, it allows the Union County Government to monitor how many rental units are operating. It also allows the Union County Government to collect Hotel/Motel taxes on rental revenue. Why is this important? The taxes help to offset additional infrastructure costs that might be associated with having more visitors in our

**Q & A from Union County Commissioner**  
Lamar Paris



See Paris, page 5A

## Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a worldwide organization that is recognizable by most and at least a familiar concept for some. In these articles and on our Facebook page (Habitat for Humanity of Towns & Union Counties) we try our best to inform the public about what we stand for, and the kind of work and different projects we do throughout the year. With that said, there is still so much about Habitat that the common public may not know.

There are a lot of false statements, myths, regarding the legitimacy and mission of Habitat all over the internet. A lot of these myths I believed myself without knowing how the process of some of our programs work here at Habitat. However, without the experience of working here I wouldn't have known these statements are false. I believe there is still much to explain about Habitat and how we run things here to properly inform our community about the structure and goals of Habitat. So here are the top three most

See Habitat, page 5A

**Habitat Happenings**  
Madelyn Bailey



## Letters to the Editor

### Speaking Freely

Dear Editor,

People are good, but society leads them down paths that are bad. Society is a reflection of who we are. I have come to these opinions over time — 77 years, to be exact. They are neither right nor wrong, just one man's opinions.

I have observed that, through the progressive lens, individuals and their choices disappear, which is why progressives do not hesitate to impose their solutions on others by force, including the people they propose to "save." I do not need saving. I need to be able to speak and protect my family and my community without being suppressed.

Do you know that the national motto is "In God We Trust," established by an act of Congress in 1956 and replaced with "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of Many, One)? Civil government was established by social contract. No one asked me if the national motto could be changed. Were you asked?

This I know with a great degree of certainty: without courage, one can't defend and sustain other virtues. If individuals do not have freedom of conscience, if they are not free to articulate and defend what they believe, they will not be able to defend any of their freedoms. One man's opinion. God bless.

Oscar Ramer

### Age 21 Across the Board

Dear Editor,

You have to be a minimum of 21 years of age in the United States to purchase tobacco products and alcoholic beverages. The "defund the police" Democrats want to revoke the 2nd Amendment and prevent responsible, law-abiding citizens from owning guns for self-protection. It's time to raise the minimum age for firearm sales to 21, and only after the completion of a thorough background check; mental health evaluation; and certified firearms training.

Years of handing out participation trophies; applying "timeout" instead of actual punishment; and finding a "safe space" to avoid life's inevitable problems, have given us the weakest, most immature and unaccomplished generation of young people ever known. With their ever-present "devices" in hand needed to solve crucial dilemmas such as what gender to identify as or which tattoo design to get next, this divided country needs to be reclaimed. Upon high school graduation, two years of mandatory, non-combat service in the military, with no exemptions, for both sexes should be required. They'd have to interact and work together as a team with others from all races, cultures and socio-economic

See White, page 5A

## Letters to the Editor

### Gun Control

Dear Editor,

Once again our Legislative body is divided in its response to the public's outcry for legislation to develop a gun control bill to stop the large number of mass murders. A prevailing response from our legislatures was that it is a difficult problem with no easy solution and we must not violate the Second Amendment. This makes it clear that when people have entrenched beliefs, they do not respond to facts. When the Second Amendment was written, the States did not have a military organization for their defense and their advanced weapons were principally cannons, muskets, flintlock pistols and swords/knives. Over time, the National Reserves and the Coast Guard were established and a remarkable evolution of advanced firearms occurred. Because the Second Amendment is open-ended and unspecified with regards to "Arms," with no provision for exclusions, this makes the Second Amendment obsolete and dangerous.

Another prevailing thinking of our legislatures that are opposed to gun control is that it's not the guns that are the problems but a mental health issue. It was unanimously agreed that the gunmen of most of the mass shootings had mental health problems BUT the gunmen were held

See Tornabene, page 5A

### Biden's Inept Cabinet

Dear Editor,

Given Biden's cognitive challenges, one wonders who is overseeing what is now a current national catastrophe. One thing we can be sure of is the lunacy of Biden's cabinet appointments. For example, Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, has essentially ignored federal immigration laws. Over 2 million illegal aliens have crossed the southern border since Biden took office.

Another cabinet appointee, Attorney General Merrick Garland, directed the FBI and the Justice Department to "investigate threats" from parents against school board members.

We are in a historical fuel crisis that is having a significant impact on every American. Yet when Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, another Biden appointee, was questioned concerning the administration's plans to lower gas prices, she laughed off the idea as "hilarious." Apparently canceling the Keystone Pipeline, suspending new federal oil and gas leases, and stopping production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge all had nothing to do with high fuel prices. Another cabinet appointee, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, refused to explain why

See Groza, page 5A

## The Proposal

After graduation, Paul worked around his Dad's farm for a couple of months and then left to attend college at the University of Arkansas. He had been offered a scholarship to play baseball for the Razorbacks. Back in those days, student athletes were allowed to practice more than present-day athletes. So, the Arkansas baseball team held late summer baseball practices. Paul was exposed to some really good pitching that he was able to handle. The young man was left handed and was able to hit the best pitchers on the team.

However, there was a young man present who had recently left Arkansas because he had received an invitation to try out with the St. Louis Cardinals. This lefty pitcher had a wicked curve ball and slider. The fellow's fastball approached 100 mph, and trying as much as possible, Paul could not connect with this fellow's pitches. Just when he thought he'd catch up to a fastball, Paul would receive a curve ball. Then, even though he knew it was coming, the fellow's slider would always strike him out. He would say, "I knew the slider was coming and it was always in the dirt, but, I couldn't help it. I would always swing at the last pitch."

So, by the end of fall practice, he was really discouraged. He couldn't get a hit off this guy. On top of his batting problems, the young man was worried about his girlfriend back home. His fear was that an old nemesis was going to steal his gal. On top of everything else was the fact that he was bored. The young man was in a new town and didn't know anyone except his teammates. He had no idea about what he should study, so Paul was just taking core classes. In essence, the young man was discouraged, lonely and confused about his future. So, he left Arkansas and went home to North Alabama.

His father, Columbus, cried like a baby when his son came home from college. But, soon things got back to normal for the young man. He found a job at a textile mill where he worked during the week and played baseball on the mill's team on weekends. Paul also loved basketball and soon landed a job as a basketball referee for local high school games. This job quickly landed him in hot water. Paul's old High School team, Phil Campbell, was playing their arch rival, Hackleburgh, and his brother, Bud, played for Phil Campbell as well as many of his younger friends.

Paul said the game was generally nip and tuck, with first Hackleburgh being in front, and toward the end Phil Campbell was leading. Phil

See Cummings, page 5A

**Around The Farm**  
Mickey Cummings



## Letters to the Editor

### Speaking Freely

Dear Editor,

People are good, but society leads them down paths that are bad. Society is a reflection of who we are. I have come to these opinions over time — 77 years, to be exact. They are neither right nor wrong, just one man's opinions.

I have observed that, through the progressive lens, individuals and their choices disappear, which is why progressives do not hesitate to impose their solutions on others by force, including the people they propose to "save." I do not need saving. I need to be able to speak and protect my family and my community without being suppressed.

Do you know that the national motto is "In God We Trust," established by an act of Congress in 1956 and replaced with "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of Many, One)? Civil government was established by social contract. No one asked me if the national motto could be changed. Were you asked?

This I know with a great degree of certainty: without courage, one can't defend and sustain other virtues. If individuals do not have freedom of conscience, if they are not free to articulate and defend what they believe, they will not be able to defend any of their freedoms. One man's opinion. God bless.

Oscar Ramer

### Age 21 Across the Board

Dear Editor,

You have to be a minimum of 21 years of age in the United States to purchase tobacco products and alcoholic beverages. The "defund the police" Democrats want to revoke the 2nd Amendment and prevent responsible, law-abiding citizens from owning guns for self-protection. It's time to raise the minimum age for firearm sales to 21, and only after the completion of a thorough background check; mental health evaluation; and certified firearms training.

Years of handing out participation trophies; applying "timeout" instead of actual punishment; and finding a "safe space" to avoid life's inevitable problems, have given us the weakest, most immature and unaccomplished generation of young people ever known. With their ever-present "devices" in hand needed to solve crucial dilemmas such as what gender to identify as or which tattoo design to get next, this divided country needs to be reclaimed. Upon high school graduation, two years of mandatory, non-combat service in the military, with no exemptions, for both sexes should be required. They'd have to interact and work together as a team with others from all races, cultures and socio-economic

See White, page 5A

## Chamber of Commerce

What a great week last week! We spent a wonderful evening on the shores of Lake Nottely. It goes without saying that Nottely Marina knows how to host a party with good food, music and a relaxing boat ride to close out the evening. Thanks to Nottely Marina for hosting this quarter's Business After Hours. And, congratulations to Missy Mashburn for being named Ambassador of the Quarter. Missy works for Mountain Home Healthcare and serves as this year's Chamber Ambassador Coordinator. Jim's Smokin' Que was named Business of the Quarter for all they do to help members of our community. Chris and Zach, since purchasing the business, continue to give back including serving our seniors and providing meals to first responders when needed. Jim's Smokin' Que is a favorite of the Chamber's travel writers and a destination on its own.

After an extended absence, the Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games is back.

See Chamber, page 5A

**Blairsville - Union County Chamber President**  
Steve Rowe



## Letters to the Editor

### Speaking Freely

Dear Editor,

People are good, but society leads them down paths that are bad. Society is a reflection of who we are. I have come to these opinions over time — 77 years, to be exact. They are neither right nor wrong, just one man's opinions.

I have observed that, through the progressive lens, individuals and their choices disappear, which is why progressives do not hesitate to impose their solutions on others by force, including the people they propose to "save." I do not need saving. I need to be able to speak and protect my family and my community without being suppressed.

Do you know that the national motto is "In God We Trust," established by an act of Congress in 1956 and replaced with "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of Many, One)? Civil government was established by social contract. No one asked me if the national motto could be changed. Were you asked?

This I know with a great degree of certainty: without courage, one can't defend and sustain other virtues. If individuals do not have freedom of conscience, if they are not free to articulate and defend what they believe, they will not be able to defend any of their freedoms. One man's opinion. God bless.

Oscar Ramer

### Age 21 Across the Board

Dear Editor,

You have to be a minimum of 21 years of age in the United States to purchase tobacco products and alcoholic beverages. The "defund the police" Democrats want to revoke the 2nd Amendment and prevent responsible, law-abiding citizens from owning guns for self-protection. It's time to raise the minimum age for firearm sales to 21, and only after the completion of a thorough background check; mental health evaluation; and certified firearms training.

Years of handing out participation trophies; applying "timeout" instead of actual punishment; and finding a "safe space" to avoid life's inevitable problems, have given us the weakest, most immature and unaccomplished generation of young people ever known. With their ever-present "devices" in hand needed to solve crucial dilemmas such as what gender to identify as or which tattoo design to get next, this divided country needs to be reclaimed. Upon high school graduation, two years of mandatory, non-combat service in the military, with no exemptions, for both sexes should be required. They'd have to interact and work together as a team with others from all races, cultures and socio-economic

See White, page 5A

## Leyland Cypress

Leyland cypress trees are a very common and popular landscaping plant. They are planted by people all over Georgia. However, there are a couple of issues that are commonly seen in Leyland cypress trees. Let's talk about Leyland cypress trees, what some of those issues are, and what steps you can take to reduce the chances of your Leyland cypresses getting diseased, because recently I have gotten a lot of calls from people with questions on their Leyland cypress trees.

The biggest issue that people have right now is that their trees are turning yellow and brown on the inside. This is due to the lack of rain that we had earlier in the year. With some of the big rains we've had it's easy to forget that we had a period from beginning of April to end of May with very little rain. The tree's natural response is to start to drop the needles that are closest to the trunk. These needles turn yellow and then brown before falling off. The best thing to do if you see this happening is to make sure that you are watering your trees during a dry spell. With the rain we've had lately, the trees should be able to recover and start to green back up. Leyland cypresses have a shallow root system, which makes them prone to drought stress.

Another thing to keep in mind is that these trees have an effective lifespan of 15-20 years. So, if your trees are that age and don't look healthy, they probably aren't going to improve significantly.

The two canker diseases that Leyland cypress trees get are Seiridium and Botryosphaeria canker. Seiridium canker is the most common and destructive of the two in Georgia. The symptoms from both diseases look very similar. You will see individual branches begin to die off. Sometimes you'll see resin in spots on the branches because of the cankers. These cankers are essentially suffocating the branch, leading to the branch turning brown. Once a tree has been infected the best treatment is to remove the dead branch and dispose of the branch.

Stressed trees are going to be more susceptible to cankers. During times of drought, trees that are already infected will spread the disease much more quickly. Ice damage and spring freezes can create wounds where infection is able to occur. Trees that are near buildings that reflect sunlight will also be more stressed. Unfortunately, with canker diseases there is not a fungicide that can be used to eliminate the pathogen.

Passalora needle blight has become more common as well. This is a disease that will cause the needles to drop off of the tree, working it's

See Williams, page 5A

**Watching and Working**  
Jacob Williams



## North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

**Kenneth West** Publisher/Owner **Shawn Jarrard** General Manager/Editor **Derek Richards** Advertising Director **Todd Forrest** Sports Editor **Lowell Nicholson** Photographer

Website: www.nganews.com • Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com • Mail: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514

The North Georgia News is an independent and nonpartisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

Publication No: 001505

Advertising, News deadlines Friday at 4 p.m. • Mail Service for all subscriptions except 30512, 30514 & 30572 - One Year \$45. In county, carrier delivered subscription is \$5. All subscriptions must be paid in advance. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is published weekly by NGN/TCH, Inc., 266 Cleveland Street, Blairsville, Georgia, 30512. Entered as Second Class Matter as of Dec. 24, 1988, at the Post Office in Blairsville. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

Phone: 706-745-6343 Fax: 706-745-1830 • P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514

## Paris... continued from Page 4A

county.

**Q. Is it possible that someone could have a local STR without reporting it to Union County?**

A. Yes, at this time it is possible. However, recent Georgia legislation requires all third-party organizations (VRBO, AirBnB, etc.) to collect state and local taxes and to remit those taxes to the appropriate governmental agency. In other words, for any rental property located in Union County that is advertised through VRBO, AirBnB, etc., the third-party agency collects Union County Hotel/Motel taxes and remits that money to the Union County Tax Commissioner's Office.

**Q. I have a vacation rental next door to me. I don't think they have applied for a business license. How can you identify some of the STRs that are slipping through the cracks?**

A. Union County has recently contracted with a company that is in business to do this exact thing. The company releases data crawlers (Internet searches), which locate and identify rental properties in Union County that are mentioned on the Internet. The company is in the process of building a Union County database based on the data collected. This information will provide

valuable contact information so that we can ensure that local vacation rentals are registered with the Union County Government.

**Q. I don't really understand the role that VRBO, AirBnB, Vacasa, and Home-way play in this situation. Can you clarify how it all works?**

A. Here's how it works: These companies market homes on their website – letting the public know about their availability. Vacationers want to know about property location, availability, bedrooms, bathrooms, amenities, restrictions, etc. These sites provide vacationers with this type of information so that educated choices can be made about where they might stay. Potential vacationers can also see photos of properties.

Vacation homes can then be reserved through the third-party website. Most third-party websites require payment by credit card, so the entire transaction is done online. Vacationer's show up during their scheduled week. That's a simple example of how these companies play a role helping people find available properties and helping owners to rent their properties.

You will learn more about Short-Term Rentals in next week's Q & A.

## Habitat... continued from Page 4A

believed but actually false statements made about Habitat. I'm about to set the record straight.

The No. 1 topmost common myth about Habitat is that a large majority of people "believe that we give houses away for free." This is false. The Habitat Homeownership program does not give out free housing. When a home is built for a local community member, they pay an affordable mortgage, with a requirement of sweat equity, which basically means they will help work on their home through the building process. Donations and help through community volunteers can help lower the cost of the home payments for a Habitat homeowner, and volunteers can put their working hours on building the home toward the Habitat homeowner's sweat equity requirements. We are team oriented here at Habitat and encourage the community to help as much as they can through this process.

No. 2 Myth about Habitat is that "Habitat homes are only available to certain groups of people." This statement is false. We get numerous phone calls here at Habitat asking if they are eligible for a home

even though they don't have children. Many people believe that you must have children to qualify, but this couldn't be further from the truth. Habitat for Humanity does not discriminate on family dynamics, marital status, sexual orientation, race, gender, etc. We strictly follow Equal Opportunity Lending and Fair Housing Laws. We strongly encourage anyone in a low-income bracket with a dream to own their own home to apply.

Lastly, the third myth of Habitat is "that we are a government organization." This is also false. Habitat for Humanity is a self-sustaining nonprofit organization. The only government involvement we have here at Habitat includes government funds such as grants, property, and charitable contributions through reaching out on our part to build affordable housing for neighborhoods. We are truly funded by the support of communities, grants and ReStore sales.

I hope this cleared up some of the common false ideas about Habitat. If you have any questions, please call us at 706-745-7101. We would be happy to talk with you about our programs.

## Groza... continued from Page 4A

her department is slow-walking federal oil and gas leases at a time when Americans are paying between \$5 and \$6 a gallon for gas.

And we all are suffering because of the supply chain disruptions that are paralyzing the economy. The Los Angeles Port has been a mess for over a year. Cargo ships have been backed up and thousands of trucks are gridlocked at the port. During this fiasco, another Biden cabinet appointee, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, was AWOL. Throughout this chaos, he took paternity leave to help out his husband. He is supposed to be responsible for

ensuring that needed supplies reach millions of Americans. In addition, this past winter, trains leaving Los Angeles were frequently ransacked without any intervention from Buttigieg's transportation agency.

So, what is the common denominator to these Biden appointees? The answer is absolute incompetence. These cabinet appointees are completely unresponsive to the current border, inflation and energy disasters. It is difficult to comprehend why such an incompetent cadre of appointees are overseeing the government, but they are here thanks to Joe Biden.

**Tim Groza**

## Tornabene... continued from Page 4A

ing AR-15s.

Semi and fully automatic firearms designed for warfare – mass killings with destruction of the human body – should not be in the hands of immature and untrained civilians. It cannot be overstated how dangerous this is. In addition, civilian owners of these guns have never given justifiable answers for needing assault rifles.

I agree with Officer Michael Fanone (<https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/05/opinions/guns-ar-15-uvalde-school-shooting-fanone/index.html>) that if our Legislature cannot

produce an effective gun control bill, an alternative would be to reclassify the assault weapons to a Class III/NFA item that would automatically require the purchaser to go through a background check, fingerprinting and review by an official from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Division.

This agency would certainly slow down the purchasing process, flag the owner of an assault rifle and create a basis for a possible mental health evaluation.

**Thomas G. Tornabene**

## Annual Plein-Aire Paint-Out rescheduled to Saturday, June 18th

4:30 PM.

\$500 in prize money has been donated by Robert and Angie Hice, Azalea Farm owners, to be awarded to the top 4 painters.

A complimentary breakfast and lunch will be served to the participants and Bacchus on the Lake will host a reception while jurying takes place.

There is a \$30 registration fee and the forms may be found on the guild website, [mountainartscrafts.org](http://mountainartscrafts.org). It's not too late to register, so see our website for details.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Campbell was closing in on a victory with 4 seconds left in the game when Bobby Joe stole the ball and went to the basket for a lay-up. The young man missed the shot, turned toward his friend Paul and cursed because of his missed shot. Paul the referee called a technical foul for the cursing. Hackleburgh made 2 foul shots and received the ball at half court with 3 seconds left in the game. The arch rival of Phil Campbell won the game with a long jump shot from the top of the key.

All of Paul's friends and family refused to talk to him for two weeks. He was even ostracized by his parents and brother. Later the next week he went to call a game in Hackleburgh. The fans of that team remembered his call the previous week. So, when he first ran on the court, those fans began throwing their change on the to the court. The young man picked up quarters, dimes and

## Fowler...

continued from Page 4A

natural law...reveals an intelligence," and commented, "The beauty and simplicity of those laws...suggest a design. A design suggests a designer. That was (Einstein's) back door approach to the question of belief in God."

Here is what theologians know: "In the beginning was the Word...All things came into being through Him...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1). Jesus, God the Son, is that Word. Those who looked into His face saw the One who spoke the universe into existence. Those who believe in Him will not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). And science keeps pointing us to that same Creator!

## Williams...

continued from Page 4A

way up to the top. I haven't seen this one here yet, but it is present in the rest of Georgia. The cold temperatures that we have in winter will keep it from becoming too destructive here.

Try to keep plants from becoming stressed by laying mulch around their base. This will increase the moisture retained by the soil, and suppress competitive weed growth. During dry, hot summer days, water the trees if the soil has become dry. If trees are extensively damaged by cankers or needle blight, then they will need to be removed. When planting Leyland cypress make sure to dig out an area 3-4 times larger than the diameter of the root ball. This will improve soil drainage, resulting in your trees being less stressed and less susceptible to root rot diseases. In addition, planting trees at least 15 feet apart will reduce disease incidence.

There are some alternatives to Leyland cypress trees that are better adapted to our environment. Green Giant arborvitae and Arizona cypresses are both trees that serve the same purpose in landscape and are more disease resistant. For anyone planting trees as a barrier or screen, I would encourage them to look into these alternatives.

If you have questions about Leyland cypress please contact your county Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## White...

continued from Page 4A

groups, and be subjected to physical activity and mental discipline while learning skills in the service of the country they've been conditioned to loathe, providing support roles to our military and humanitarian assistance to Americans in need and others around the world.

While we are at it, raise the voting age to 21 as well. Most 18-20 year olds haven't paid their first utility bill, but thanks to their socialist "educators" in high school and college they somehow know best how tax dollars earned by working Americans should be appropriated.

**Greg C. White**

## Veterans Thrift Store Volunteers

Veterans Thrift Store, a product of Club 66, 2641 Hwy. 66, Young Harris, GA is open from 10 AM to 4 PM, Wednesday thru Saturday, helping local veterans in our community. We are looking for volunteers to help with the thrift store.

We are accepting gently used items: furniture, appliances, toys, clothes, etc. For details call 706-379-3774.

the car driving down the road when he asked Pawpaw. He said, "I was sitting by the door and actually had my hand on the door handle. All of a sudden I just out and asked Bill

nickels. He later told me that he pocketed more money from those fans than he did from payment for calling the game. Anyway, he soon realized this was an insult.

So, once again, the young man was down in the mouth about his circumstances. However, he was not down for long. After all, he still had his girlfriend. So, Paul didn't care what others thought as long as Shirley, who would become my mother two years later, thought well of him.

Later the following spring he asked Bill Adams for his daughter's hand in marriage. Dad told me that he, Uncle Rayburn and Bill were in

## Chamber...

continued from Page 4A

The games returned to Meeks Park with the support of the community and a large group of hardworking volunteers. The Festival is always great fun for the entire family and an opportunity to learn a little about our Scottish Heritage.

We are less than a month away from the annual July 4th Fireworks display, so you want to be sure to purchase your raffle ticket today. With over \$4,500 worth of prizes, \$10 is a small price to pay for an opportunity to take home the entire package. Contact the Chamber office or a Chamber Ambassador to purchase your ticket. Check our website for a list of prizes and sponsors that help make the Fireworks possible. Drop by today before the tickets are gone!

Life is Better in Blairsville!



Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild has rescheduled its third annual Plein-Aire Paint-Out due to rain on the original date. It will take place on Saturday, June 18, 2022 at the Azalea Farm, 138 R Way, in Blairsville, GA. Time for the event is 8 AM to