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is located and you have an opportunity to vote on it.

**Q. Which way should I vote on the SPLOST referendum?**

A. I am not allowed to ask you to vote for the SPLOST. However, I can give you some information on it. I feel very strongly that we (county government) have spent so much time and effort in trying to provide you, the public, with the best SPLOST projects available. Whether it be the new Fire Department, the Library, the Horse Arena, the Farmers Market, the playgrounds at Meeks Park along with the improvements to the ballfields, Suches Community Center, the courthouse addition a few years ago, the new SPLASH Park at Meeks Park along with the Kayak and Canoe access and adult outdoor exercise area, miles of walking trails including the Dog Park, the Cannery, paving of many miles of roads, Road Department vehicles, equipment, and mowing tractors, and the list just goes on and on.

**Q. Are there any projects just for Public Safety paid for with SPLOST?**

Sheriff's Office vehicles, Ambulances, Fire Department vehicles including New Engine 1; New Rescue 1; New AEDs; New Thermal Imaging Cameras; New Turnout Gear for firefighters; New SCBAs; New Wildland gear; Swiftwater gear; used ladder truck; several used fire engines for volunteer fire stations; land for future Fire Station 13; new training facility.

**Q. Who pays the sales tax for the SPLOST projects?**

A. It is paid by all those who spend money in Union County. Whether it be those who rent or those who own a home, or whether it be from someone coming into our county to eat or shop, all those funds are part of the money collected by Union County to pay for our SPLOST projects. This prevents homeowners and property owners being required to pay all the property tax for these many projects. Everyone gets to contribute.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

closer. What he thought was a man turned out to be a burnt tree stump that was about 6 feet tall. Papa laughed to himself and started home.

Papa was nearing home and feeling safer. However, he still had to go by the old home place where his Uncle Howard Cummings had been accidentally shot as a boy. After being shot, the young man ran around the house in a panic and fell dead at the feet of his mother. There were also some old graves close to the spot. As the young man walked by these old graves, he saw what he thought was a ghost. This ghost rose up from behind one of the gravestones and began to wail like a banshee. This time, the boy felt no anger; instead, the feeling was pure fear. He began to run. However, the ghost was

following him, still wailing, and all he could think of was his Uncle Howard running around the old house. Soon the wailing stopped and laughter began coming from the haint. The laughter became hysterical.

Once again, Papa's fear left him, and he turned around to find the ghost was actually his future brother-in-law, Hollis Wehunt. The two boys sat down by a spring and enjoyed a long, cool drink of water. Over the years, these two boys became as close as brothers. Each time we got together as a family, the two old men would regale all of us kids with their stories.

All the characters in this story are long gone, including Papa. His stories are a connection I have with the past that will live in my memory as long as I walk this earth.

## Chamber... continued from Page 4A

bags, etc. All proceeds of this sale will benefit Union County Public Library. You get the idea - Everything Christmas!

The Chamber will be hosting our Business After Hours/Business of the Quarter at South State Bank from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on October 25. This event is a wonderful opportunity for networking while enjoying light refreshments. The current Business of the Quarter, as well as the Ambassador of the Quarter, will be announced on this night. This event is free for all Chamber members and their guests.

Or, if you are looking for a more haunting experience, then journey deep into the local history, legend, and evidence of paranormal events that have taken place in our area on this brand-new walking tour of the historic areas of Blairsville-Union County. Sponsored by the Union County Historical Society, this is not a "haunted house jump scare event," but a combined effort between several community entities to create an unforgettable experi-

ence for tour goers. The Union County Ghost Tour begins at 6 p.m. in downtown Blairsville and ends at 8 p.m. on Thursday the 25th and Saturday the 27th. Call 706-745-5493 to get your tickets for the last two tours.

Friday, October 26th, the Chamber will be having a Ribbon Cutting Celebration and One Year Anniversary for 'K & L Gyros & More' at 10:30 a.m. The address is 100 C Butternut Crossing, behind Mike's Seafood. Everyone is welcome!

Also Friday night, October 26th, the Ooky Spooky Light Show starts at 7 p.m. at the Young Harris College Planetarium.

Lastly, come celebrate autumn's arrival with Vogel's Fall Festival on Saturday, October 27. Events include Hayrides (free), a Cake Walk (\$1 per participant per round), the "Buck a Duck" race, (\$1 per duck), a Campsite Decoration Contest (free) and Professional Story Telling.

Get out and enjoy our beautiful county and support our local economy.

## Williams... continued from Page 4A

pile with a shovel about once a month, this will reduce the smell. A good functioning compost pile will heat up from the activity of the microbes decomposing organic matter, and the heat produced will kill off the odor-causing bacteria. If you add manure to your pile, there will be some initial odor, but as the pile matures, the smell will go away. A well maintained compost pile should not have a strong odor.

Once the compost has a crumbly earth look and you can no longer recognize the plant material, it's ready to be added to the garden. If you add the organic material over time, the compost will become ready a little at a time. Compost can improve soil drainage, structure, and help hold water and nutrients. The nutrients in compost will not be enough to replace fertilizing, but it will

improve soil health.

If you have questions about creating/maintaining your compost pile, contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu. Happy composting!

## Allegheny Lodge Game Day BBQ

Allegheny Lodge will have a "Whole Smoked Chicken and Smoked Baby Back Ribs BBQ" just in time for the Florida verses Georgia game on Saturday, October 27, 2018. Let us do the work while you enjoy the game! Whole chicken for \$10 each and a full rack of ribs for \$15. Pick-up between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Lodge (behind Cabin Coffee) on Saturday.

To order, contact any Mason in Union County or call 706-400-2094.

## Riley... continued from Page 4A

cult. Many of our fire engines can pump 1,000 gallons per minute and only carry 1,500 gallons, so the water can be gone in 1.5 minutes.

In cities and towns across the United States, fire departments have had years of experience creating adequate water supplies for fighting structural fires. Networks of fire hydrants and water mains provide quick access to a plentiful supply of municipal water. But what happens if you remove the hydrants and water mains, spread the homes and businesses far apart, add county roads and terrain, and dot the land with other types of structures? This is a more realistic picture of rural areas and the wildland-urban interface, and it is in these areas that water supply and distribution present an urgent challenge. This is all-the-more reason to prepare our property before a fire approaches so it can resist a fire.

If you are in a situation where a wildfire is approaching and you decide to (or must) shelter-in-place and ride out the storm, there are steps that you can take to prepare to survive the fire. 1. Call for help. Use a cellphone if your electrical power has been interrupted. 2. Close all entrances, windows and other openings. This includes doors, garage doors, windows, vents and any other entrances to your residence or garage. Close shutters, heavy drapes, Venetian blinds or other win-

## Fowler...

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If this is the light you walk in, then that is evidence of God at work in you.

Spiritual transformation from darkness to light, death to life, is a mystery. But Jesus sent the Spirit of truth to guide you into all truth (John 16:13). Since the Spirit is like the wind, why don't you let out your sails and see what adventure awaits you, a Jesus Follower?

## Drug Free...

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The good news is that addiction is treatable. The treatment approach to substance abuse depends on several factors, including a child's temperament and willingness to change. It may take several attempts at treatment before a child remains drug-free. For those teens who are treated for addiction, there will be a life of recovery. For more information on addiction, go to the National Institute of Drug Abuse website at [www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov).

## Combs...

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religious liberty in the United States, but if Christians do not remain engaged, those gains could be brought to a screeching halt or even lost after next month's midterm elections. If progressives reclaim a majority in Congress, not to mention in state and local governments, believers will once again be open targets for punishment by left-wing activists bent on silencing those who wish to live out their faith in society."

We are in a spiritual battle over not only our freedoms, but for the future of our next generation to have the same freedoms that all American people who love our nation enjoy. This November election will decide whether we live under the umbrella of God's values and principles, like supporting Pro-Life, replacing Bibles back in schools and universities, giving businesses the right to choose not to bake a cake because of their religious beliefs, free speech for places of worship, and for people of faith to not be targeted or bullied, and the list is endless. I pray that both Republicans and Democrats will vote, not from their own thinking, but from the heart of what is right for our beloved nation. Votes matter. Let the voice of the American people once again ring out for freedom and the liberties that God has allowed us to enjoy over the past 200 years. God so loved the world that He gave His best. Can we do any less for our God and America in November? Amen.

**Frank Combs**

## Glenda Gooch House available

The Glenda Gooch House is now available for use by families, from the tri-state area, of patients in Union General Hospital as well as local nursing and assisted living homes. For more information, please contact Leslie Daniel at 706-745-2050, or log on to [glendagoochhouse.org](http://glendagoochhouse.org).

your home with the tools most homeowners have, so get out of the way and let the professionals get in and do their job without having to deal with you. Keep your eyes, nose and ears open for changing conditions, and if you suspect something's not right, call 911 and leave the area.

For more information

on the wildfire situation, contact the local Georgia Forestry Commission office or the U.S. Forest Service near you. Your local Firewise Citizens Coalition provides information and advice on how to prepare your home for the wildfire that will come to your neighborhood one day. Be prepared, Be Firewise!

## UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Garden Tours	<b>Every Monday:</b> GMREC (May-Oct)	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 a.m.
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 p.m.
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 p.m.
Tri State Bus. Women	<b>Every Tuesday:</b> Cabin Coffee	8 a.m.
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 p.m.
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 p.m.
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 p.m.
Kiwanis Club	<b>Every Wednesday:</b> The Griddle	Noon
BINGO	Civic Center	7 p.m.
Butternut Ladies Golf	<b>Every Thursday:</b> Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 a.m.
Masonic Luncheon	Cook's Restaurant	11:30 a.m.
Rotary Club	NGTC	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 p.m.