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short-term rental ordinance that will protect the rights of all property owners: Those who wish to own short-term rental properties and those who are impacted by short-term rental properties. The committee is made of short-term rental owners, neighbors of rentals, land developers, champions of tourism, and residents who are simply concerned about preserving Union County's rural

culture.

Q. This topic is very important to me. I moved here to enjoy all the wonderful assets found in Union County. I'm concerned about the future of our community. Will you keep us updated?

A. Absolutely! More information will be provided as a short-term rental ordinance is developed. This topic is certainly one that we will revisit.

Habitat... continued from Page 4A

Thanks to all of your generous donations to the ReStore throughout the year, we have accumulated an incredible supply of Christmas items. We have decided to host our first Christmas in July Sale! The news gets better, as we have decided to run the sale for a week! From July 11th – July 15th Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., we will be outdoors enjoying the summer sun while shopping Christmas items.

We are so excited for this event and hope to see a huge turnout from our community as we put our entire Christmas inventory on sale. Grab all your Christmas décor wants and needs before the crazy Christmas season. We will have tents outside of the ReStore filled with all things Christmas. If you are a regular shopper at the ReStore, you may remember seeing stacks of totes across the

back wall of our store; those are all Christmas items! We are going to pull those down, and we hope to sell all of it! You are in for a treat shopping yard décor, ornaments, gifts, mementos, lights and decorations of all kinds.

Save the date, because it is going to be an event you won't want to miss. As always, all proceeds go toward Helping Hands projects, Habitat operations, and the Habitat home builds that we have.

Be sure to follow us on "Facebook at Habitat for Humanity of Towns & Union Counties" for updates on the daily ReStore sales, new arrivals and events! Check every morning for the daily sales on our page and stay up to date on events like this one, the "Christmas in July Sale," when you add us on Facebook. You never know what you'll find at the Habitat ReStore.

Conley... continued from Page 4A

the years aren't squandered by ignoring the reality that our streets are at times too crowded and downright unfriendly to pedestrians.

There are currently five crosswalks serving the Town Square, and we've recently installed two more to encourage walkability of our downtown. One of the crosswalks is located along Haralson Street and connects our newly paved parking lot to not only the Town Square, but to local favorites such as Cook's Country Kitchen. Another of the crosswalks connects the parking lot at Blairsville's City Hall on Blue Ridge Street to the shops and restaurants at Merchants Walk.

These crosswalks are just one part of our effort to slow down motorists in our downtown. By providing a safe location for pedestrians to cross our streets and thus explore our downtown, our businesses benefit from the increased foot traffic.

In addition to the crosswalks, we're also adding and replacing sidewalks as the city's finances allow. Providing our community members and tourists with safe, well-lit places to walk helps reduce the number of vehicles on our roads. We will continue to seek ways to help alleviate the congestion in-and-around the Town

Riley... continued from Page 4A

are often solitary. It is common for members of a sounder to exhibit cooperative nursing, during which piglets from all the females will suckle from one sow while the others stand watch for predators. This group behavior can be considered a contributing factor to low mortality rates of the wild pig. Another trait that has made wild pigs so successful is the ability to utilize a variety of habitats.

These animals are highly adaptable and inhabit a variety of habitats, including mountainous areas, forests, salt and brackish swamps and marshes, old growth pinelands, semi-arid brush habitats, as well as many other habitat types. Since their introduction to North America, wild pigs have colonized more than forty of the fifty states. Wild pig populations are large and growing; their populations are present at uncontrollable densities in some areas, especially in the southeastern states.

In addition to other factors, the wide-ranging diet of wild pigs has helped make this species incredibly adaptable. Wild pigs are opportunistic omnivores. They will consume almost anything from agriculture crops and mast crops, such as acorns and fruit, to grub worms and dead animals, also known as carrion. Though not considered active predators, they will consume fawns, livestock, and the eggs of ground nesting birds in addition to vegetation, agricultural crops, and other food items. The roots of a vegetative food source will often be consumed when the leafy portion or fruits/nuts of the plant are no longer available. During most years, acorns, beach nuts, pecans, and soft fruit are consumed throughout the fall and winter. Earthworms make up approximately fifty to ninety

percent of the carnivorous portion of a wild pig's diet, depending on availability and the region inhabited. With their tough snouts and over-developed neck muscles, wild pigs can be considered "nature's bulldozers."

The most common form of damage caused by pigs is ground disruption because of hunting for food. Destruction of crops, yards of homeowners, and natural habitat is of concern and damage of a great magnitude can be created overnight. Wild hogs live all around us on higher elevations as well as in the valleys.

A couple of years ago on my farm, wild hogs destroyed the last acre of corn that the bears had left for later and while they were at it, they destroyed the church cemetery all in one weekend. Wild hogs are not just wreaking havoc in farmer's fields, but also in home-owner's yards in some of the communities right here in the mountains, so nothing is safe from these ravaging gangs of nature's bulldozers.

ChestChatt RC&D and the Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation District now have feral hog traps for landowners to have set up on their property. For more information contact Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D at info.ccrd@gmail.com or on Facebook, Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D.

DAV Van transport to VAMC Atlanta

The DAV Van, sponsored by DAV Chapter 28, Blue Ridge, started one day a week transportation to the VAMC Atlanta every Tuesday. If you need a ride call John at 706-851-5204 to make a reservation. The van meets each Tuesday at the Veterans Conference Center in Blue Ridge.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

another hammer and threw it at the boy. It missed and struck a pole the boy had been leaning against. When the boy turned to look back at his grandfather, everybody noticed that he had lost all the color in his face. He was visibly shaken. John Cummings looked at his grandson and said, "My sons never sassed me, and I will not stand by and let my grandsons sass me either." The old man then turned and went back to working as if nothing had ever happened. Papa never knew whether his grandfather missed his cousin on purpose. But, none of them ever talked back to their grandfather again.

One day back in March, I called on Bobby Jackson to ask him about his grandfather's old shop in town. I found that Marion Jackson operated his Blacksmith Shop across the street from where the Circle K is located on US Highway 129 South and behind the veterinarian's office. I also found that there is an old mine shaft that was located close to this shop where some people used to hide from Yankee Soldiers during the War of Northern Aggression. I have been told the old mine shaft went very close to the Old Courthouse and that another shaft crossed under 129 close to the previously mentioned Circle K. Over the years it caved in under a couple of roads and repairs were made

to the roads by filling in the sunken areas with concrete.

Bobby has the old ledger of his grandfather, Marion Jackson, and I found the following:

1) April 14, 1894, he sharpened three plow points, charging 15 cents; (2) June 28, 1896, he repaired a wagon for \$9; (3) In June of 1901, he charged Peter Burnett \$10 to work on a wagon; (4) In 1907, Dave Nichols paid him \$15 for some work. By 1915, he had increased his pricing to a dime per foot to shoe horses, and he shod four feet on one horse for an Elbert or Gilbert Akins. Then one Tom Rodgers' account showed that Marion Jackson had charged him about \$8.60 to do blacksmithing work for him over a six-month period of time.

Chamber...

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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!

Fowler...

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and purpose. Christ is "the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:24). You "are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Eph. 2:10). You are valued, and not here by accident. He has determined your time and location, "that they would seek God...and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us." (Acts 17:27).

The killing of children shouts a culture's failures. Reject the noise and insanity. Believe in and walk with your Savior who loves you. Join your fellow travelers who know the Way.

Williams...

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ent groups of fungi that cause it depending on the plant. Common symptoms include an unhealthy-looking plant, combined with gummy, black roots, and a stem that is easily broken from the ground at the base.

The reason the infection begins is usually due to excess moisture in the soil, or inadequate drainage of the soil. For the vegetable garden, the most effective way to control it is to prevent it.

If you planted something there last year that got it, plant that thing in a drier area of the garden next year. If you use mulch, while it has many benefits, it may be holding too much moisture in the soil.

When you water plants, remember to water deeply and less frequently, and let the soil surface become dry for a day or two before watering again.

If you suspect any of these ailments to be troubling your garden, or have any other questions or concerns related to agriculture, landscape or natural resources, please feel free to contact your County Extension office or email Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Rains...

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NRA has ever been accused of a mass killing. Weird, huh? But according to liberals, the NRA is the problem!

In conclusion, I only have this to say. Dear Op/Ed writers: if you are going to write about current events that have anything to do with history, you had better do your homework and know your history, because I read the paper every week. God Bless
Claude Rains Jr.

American Red Cross Volunteers

Make a difference in your community! As a volunteer with the American Red Cross, you can help families recover after a home fire, train individuals in first aid and CPR, support America's military families, or take on any number of other roles that make our communities safer, stronger and more resilient.

Get started at <https://www.redcross.org/local/georgia/volunteer.html> or call your NWGA chapter office to ask about volunteer opportunities 844-536-6226.