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ment building. After several purchases of adjacent property around the Fire Station, we have now been able to not only build our new Fire Station and Emergency Operations Center, but we have an adjacent office/maintenance building that provides the center for our Detainee Crew from the Carlton Colwell Detention Center. We were also able to build a large equipment shed across the street from the station to keep equipment out of the weather and we have an additional storage building with acreage surrounding our facilities for future use.

A 5. The new 4-H Shotgun Trap Range would have been impossible without the purchase of additional property, which was done along Highway 515 West of Blairsville. The groundbreaking for this facility will be in October and will hopefully be completed by the Spring of 2017.

A 6. Before I took office in 2001, the jail construction had already begun and was under a contract. The architect and contractor were told that they only had \$2,000,000 to build the facility and cuts had

to be made in many areas. The jail was built too small and on a parcel of land that was too small for any future expansion. In addition the jail was built on the side of a mountain on property the county already owned. Because of this, the county does not have enough property to expand the current jail. In fact, when I took office, we had to spend nearly a half million dollars on grading, after construction on the new jail had already begun, just to maintain the integrity of the site. If we did not secure the building with addition fill and compaction, there was a real possibility, in the future, that part of the jail could literally have fallen off the site or had the mountain above the jail slide into the structure. These are just some of the reasons that planning ahead and purchasing adequate property is a huge responsibility and requirement of running a county.

I always have and always will be looking for property that is adjacent to current county property. It is vital that we continue to plan for the future growth of the county and to do less, is irresponsible management of Union County.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

sounding voice asked, "What's the problem here?" Everyone in the community knew that Looney always talked with a funny, high pitched voice when he got excited.

But, the man from Birmingham paid no attention to the high pitched, feminine voice of Deputy Looney and he took another swing at Skeeter with the knife while cursing the Deputy at the same time. Deputy Looney did not like being cursed, so, he pulled his revolver, cocked the hammer and spun the man around. Looney, placed the barrel on

the end of the man's nose and said, "I told you to put away that knife".

The man looked at the business end of a .38 revolver and realized that he was just a millisecond from eternity. That is when the strength in his knees left him. The man just passed out right there on 1st base. The boys from Traptown won that game 7 to 0 without any home cooking and the boy on first base learned a good lesson about blocking the bag. While his father learned a good lesson about respect for the law and the men in blue.

Chief... continued from Page 4A

Live fire training can provide valuable experience. It provides firefighters the opportunity to concentrate on how to control and extinguish a fire without having to be concerned with the many uncertainties that can be present at many structure fires. During

this live fire training, the firefighters, pump operators and support personnel all gained this valuable experience in order to help save lives and property.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family, Protecting Your Family~

McGuire ... continued from Page 4A

treat, mental illness as if it were some character defect.

Our son's bipolar condition "disease" was diagnosed a few years ago. As though riding shotgun, addiction quickly climbed aboard right there beside it, with sadly predictable results.

Between unsuccessful suicide attempts, our son was shuffled from one mental facility to another for "crisis stabilization." After "treatment" at each one, usually for about three days and nights, he was deemed "cured," no longer a threat to himself or others. Just like that!

Imagine the doctor tending to your aunt who has Alzheimer's telling her, "Now, you're only as forgetful as you make up your mind to be, so go on home and just pay attention."

Or an emergency room doctor telling a gunshot victim to pull himself up by his bootstraps and get back out there on the street.

But we can't leave all the blame lying outside any of those revolving doors. Our son spent a full two months in a Club Med-style treatment center in Southern California, where again he was declared "cured," given a prescription for yet another drug, and sent back out into a world expecting the mental equivalent of a broken bone to set itself, or a bleeding wound to bind and bandage itself.

And so it went, until we were left wondering why an illness every bit as real and insidious as any physical disease or injury is still shrouded in shame and secrecy, partially diagnosed, hastily treated, and dismissed.

Insurance companies and health-care providers continue to consider mental illness and addiction as separate illnesses, despite the evidence, despite the repeated examples, despite what by now should

be conventional wisdom. And so those who suffer these illnesses, who bear this double burden, are treated for one but not the other, and only rarely are they treated concurrently. This almost guarantees that the treatment will not be successful.

Together, the twin demons of mental illness and addiction sooner or later make their way into the lives of many families like mine ... and yours.

It is way past time for us to stop looking the other way, to rip away veils of secrecy, and to demand that our elected representatives make needed changes in our laws.

Insurance companies are betting that we, in our sorrow and shame, will remain anonymous, so that they may continue to decline coverage of proper care.

Well, I won't! Even in my anger, I am hopefully betting that they will lose, that families like mine will not stay silent.

I suspect that the author of that book I mentioned had one of those five stages of grief "Acceptance" in the right order. It's listed last. For every "what," there is a "why." And I have accepted the what: Our son is gone. Though gone from our sight, our touch, he is now forever at peace. But I cannot, will not, accept the why, and I hope you cannot, and will not, either.

As you've probably guessed, the reason I haven't been able to take that walk down to the lake is that it was the very last walk our son took; but someday, I'll take it again.

Until then, if you feel moved to help us hope that our loss will not have been in vain, I ask that you make a donation to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, either your local chapter or the national organization. Go to NAMI.org for more information.
Dawn McGuire

Angelo ... continued from Page 4A

hummingbird. It thought the red handle was a flower which should provide him with nectar. However, the hummingbird could not see any clear route from the garage because it could not see the sky.

Going forward with this new knowledge, I removed the cord, the handle, several red gas cans and coolers from the garage. Next, I hung the red hummingbird

feeder on the outside edge of the garage door which provided a single source of red attraction.

Once the little guy saw his familiar hummingbird feeder, he went straight to it, drank his fill, and flew away to freedom and his next meal. I pray this story might save the next trapped hummingbird.
Praise the Lord!
Bob Angelo

Allison ... continued from Page 4A

to also stop by the Fall Festival at First United Methodist Church which will be held on Friday October 7th and Saturday the 8th.

Saturday, October 8th will also mark the Grand Opening of Granddaddy Mimm's Distillery located at 161 Pappy's Plaza. Stop by from 4 PM-10 PM to enjoy some great food and a free concert featuring Tommy Townsend with Waymore's Outlaws and Shooter Jennings. There is a \$10 parking fee for the event.

Be sure to join us at the Union County Community

Center this Thursday evening October 6th from 5:30 PM-7 PM for the Business After Hours/Business of the Quarter! We are thrilled to be presenting the Business of the Quarter award to Comfort Inn of Blairsville. This is going to be a huge event that you will not want to

miss; complete with a 40" Flat Screen TV to give away courtesy of our Sears Hometown Store! We would like to thank WJUL 95.1 and Hughes Accounting for sponsoring the event and for our Sears Hometown Store for donating the TV to give away. You won't want to miss the chance to win the 40" RCA TV or the free one-

night stay at the Comfort Inn of Blairsville. Be sure to go the Chamber website and register to attend and win. We look forward to seeing you there!

For information about upcoming events and activities in the community, just give us a call at 706-745-5789, or visit us online at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com.

Fowler...

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The Christian faith offers a reason to live, and paradoxically requires choosing to die. Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mk. 8:35). Paul understood it this way: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20). Let your will to live be enriched with the joy, hope, and peace of sharing in the life of Christ.

Mattee...

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early Spanish settlements in the South. Black oaks and black-jack oaks are also members of the red oak group and common to our area.

Many of us will have to deal with dying oaks at some point on our property. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to determine what may be killing oak trees because it could have been a drought that happened years before, or a fungal disease that kills instantly. One of the most common reasons for oak death however is root compaction caused by vehicles parking over the roots or construction equipment weighing down the soil while building a house.

For more information on local oak trees and diseases, contact the extension office.

Combs...

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will and purpose and plan for our nation and our world as well. Oh the power of prayer when a child of God realizes that there is nothing impossible when God is in the midst of our prayers.

Frank F. Combs


Wehunt ...

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Botanist), but what will be the long term affect on the trees. I suspect they will eventually die. We don't need another amusement park, but it seems that is exactly what is about to happen.

The Guide to Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites states the following about Amicalola Falls State Park: "Spectacular scenery and hiking trails make this one of Georgia's most popular state parks. At 729 feet, Amicalola Falls is the tallest cascading waterfall in the Southeast. Visitors have choices on how to best view the tumbling waters, ranging from an accessible pathway to a challenging trail with staircases." Can you imagine looking up and seeing someone on a zip line go screaming across? I may be the only one who feels this way, but I think it is crazy!
Judy Wehunt

**Bell Ringing Union
County Old Courthouse**



October 1, 2016
In memory of
Bill Meeks Birthday
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

October 15, 2016
in memory of
Peter Vergari Birthday
by family

October 22, 2016
In memory of
John J. Meeks Birthday
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

**Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493**