

**Paris ... continued from Page 4B**

**Q. What makes you think that the river banks will stand up to future flooding better?**

A. This part of the Nottely River in Meeks Park II is the head water of Lake Nottely. When the lake is full, this area of the river backs up with water. Over the years, this standing water has killed all the vegetation along the riverbanks making them more susceptible to erosion. The banks had already washed some through the years and were bare and steep. So, when the flood came, the force of the water simply washed more of the bank away as there was no vegetation or rocks to protect most of the banks. Now we have large rocks and boulders covered by smaller rock and hopefully, it will withstand future flooding better.

**Q. What are some of the projects the county is considering for 2017?**

A. As with every year,

we will be doing paving with money we receive through State LMIG GDOT funds, which is the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant. We plan on starting and completing the Shotgun Range on Hwy 515 in 2017. It has been a long process with lots of site studies and permits that have delayed the project. We are also looking at constructing a new Recreation Department Gym with SPLOST Funds. We also hope to begin in 2017 or 2018 making improvements to the old Red Roof Gym, which was the original gym built in the 50s. The irrigation system at Butternut Creek Golf Course also must be upgraded and improved. We will try to keep you posted as decisions are made on other possible projects. Thank you for the support you have shown the county regarding the existing projects.

**Cummings... continued from Page 4B**

launched, Leman realized that he needed to get me and his truck back home. I was only 14, but, I had been driving his old truck in the fields for quite some time. However, I never shifted the truck to any gear higher than second. Reluctantly, I agreed to drive Leman's truck back home.

We launched the raft into the water and since we didn't have any champagne we broke a bottle of Mountain Dew over the bow and Leman was on his way. I drove the 20 miles back home in second gear. The trip must have taken me 2 hours. It was well after

supper when I walked into the house and heard Mom say, "He and his dad will be there soon to pick you up". Mom was upset with me and Leman. She was mad at Leman because his raft had broken up just as he hit the Tennessee River. He had not traveled 1 mile until his raft came apart and Leman had to swim 200 yards to the bank. She was mad at me because I had driven all the way home (through downtown) to get home.

My mom always had a hard time understanding the dreams of old men and young boys.

**Allison... continued from Page 4B**

for us and provide the prizes: University of North Georgia, Chick-fil-A, The Ladies Golf League, Windstream, Dixie Confexions, and Noontootla Creek Farms

We would like to say a special thank you to North Georgia Technical College for helping the children with the arts & crafts again this year and Sylvia Dyer for doing face painting for the children. We would also like to thank the Community Action Team of the FERST Foundation for volunteering to help with the event and read stories to the children. Thank you to Aspen Hearth and Home and Art Millican for letting us use displays for this event.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on the preparations to make this year's event a great one! Thank you to all of the volunteers working the day of the event! I would

especially like to thank Marcie Culpepper, Jacque Bentley, Kathryn Nelson, Ashleigh Stephens, the Chamber Team, Chamber Board Members and Ambassador Team.

For more information about Holly Jolly Christmas and all the events happening around town, you can give us a call at the Chamber office at 706-745-5789 or go to our

**Dyer ... continued from Page 4B**

tions and the status of the burn ban. In the meantime, keep informed by following our Facebook page or calling Station 1 for daily updates. You can also prepare your home and property by utilizing Firewise™ practices.

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

**Riley ... continued from Page 4B**

amounts of more rain this fire could happen again because logs, dead trees and stumps continue to hold heat and can reignite leaves at any point and all it will take is wind, a hot ember, and a dry place for it to land and there it goes again.

Last week, the Chimney Tops 2 fire blew up near Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge. With historically bone dry conditions, low humidity, and hurricane like winds, the folks in Gatlinburg didn't have a chance no matter what they had done to be Ready and Set so the only option they had was Go... If only they could Go along with everybody else in town and their nightmare only got worse with the traffic jams.

The fire threatened, damaged, or destroyed many of the resorts in and around Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, with 7 confirmed fatalities and over 700 confirmed structures lost (as of December 1).

The Chimney Tops 2 Fire started in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park near Gatlinburg with the wildfire burning in a remote location of the park in steep terrain with vertical cliffs and narrow rocky ridges making access to the wildfire area difficult for fire-fighting efforts.

On Monday, November 27th, continuous exceptional drought conditions and extreme winds (80 mph) caused the wildfire to grow rapidly, causing numerous new wildfire starts from embers carried miles away and downed powerlines in and adjacent to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. As of December 1, the burned area covered 17,108 acres, with minimal containment at that time.

The wildland incident resources were 9 crews, 20 engines, 7 helicopters, 4 dozers, 285 total personnel with more being mobilized from other fires to try to contain this very destructive wildfire. Structure protection was by local fire departments. Chimney Tops 2 and Rock Mountain fires are both determined to be human-caused and are currently under investigation.

Let these fires be a very loud wakeup call for all of us. It DID happen here and WILL happen here again! So be Firewise and practice Ready-Set-Go.

For up to date information on all fires on US Forest

**Drugs ...**

**continued from Page 4B**

46,000 drug overdoses counted nationwide in 2015, about half could be traced to heroin and prescription drug abuse.

The 45-minute film, made in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration, also includes interviews with medical and law enforcement professionals. They talk about the effects of addiction and the unique aspects of the opiate epidemic in the United States.

"This epidemic does not discriminate. All across this country, it is taking good people from good homes and leading them down a trail that often ends in pain and sadness," said the FBI Director. "This film may be difficult to watch, but we hope it educates our students and young adults about the tragic consequences that come with abusing these drugs and that it will cause people to think twice before becoming its next victim."

The film can be downloaded for free at [www.fbi.gov/ChasingTheDragon](http://www.fbi.gov/ChasingTheDragon).

**Mattee...**

**continued from Page 4B**

three to five feet and because they form thick hedges, they are a great alternative to boxwoods. Many different cultivars are available: Helleri is compact and grows up to four feet, Convexa has dark green leaves and produces many berries, Hetzii is a dwarf form of Convexa, and Roundleaf is a small male bush that does not produce any berries.

For more information on additional holly varieties and how to care for them, contact your extension office.

**Brinkworth ...**

**continued from Page 4B**

down the throats of many that never wanted the agendas in the first place, the majority had finally had enough. They had an opportunity to finally vote for someone that thought like they did. They voted Donald Trump in and agendas that they never wanted, out!

**Bill Brinkworth**

**Abernathy ...**

**continued from Page 4B**

the driving force behind getting this facility, why were the current Agriculture teachers from the high school and the middle school left out of the proceedings?

Is there something going on behind the scenes that could cause problems with the facility being fully utilized for the education of our future agriculture/Agri-business students?

**Phillip Abernathy**

**Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild**

Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 6 p.m. Meetings are held at Calvary Alliance Chapel in the Chatuge Harbor shopping center in Hiwassee. Call Art-Works at 706-896-0932 for more information.

**Fowler... continued from Page 4B**

common: Persecution and sustained growth. History indicates that these go hand-in-hand. Jesus wanted his followers to be prepared for this. "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you" (Jn. 15:20). Peter wrote, "Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing" (1 Pet. 4:12).

With travel restrictions lifted, American Christians are moving quickly to support our

Cuban family. Franklin Graham has issued a call to purchase Bibles for distribution in Cuba. We can learn from those who "have been distressed by various trials so that the proof of your faith... may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:6,7). Now that he has met his Maker, perhaps Castro has learned something too, that his tyranny of the church has failed.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR		
<b>Every Monday:</b>		
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
<b>Every Tuesday:</b>		
Tri State Bus. Women	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
MMQG Tues. Strippers	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
<b>Every Wednesday:</b>		
BINGO	Civic Center	7 pm
<b>Every Thursday:</b>		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
<b>Second Monday of each month:</b>		
MMQG Sewcials	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 am-3 pm
Enotah Chapter #24	Masonic Lodge	7:30 pm
<b>Second Tuesday of each month:</b>		
FPL Retirees	Hole in Wall Rest.	9 am
Historical Society Bd.	Old Courthouse	9:30 am
Mtn Laurel Arts/Crafts	Union County Library	10 am
Active/Retired Fed Emp.	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer	Sr. Citizens Center	1:30-3:30 pm
Mountain Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
Blairsville PTO	UC Primary School	6 pm
Blue Ridge Mtn Jeepers	Steve's Steakhouse	6:00 pm
Beta Sigma Phi	Kappa Alpha Chapter	7 pm
Mtn. Reg. Arts/Crafts	Library - Young Harris	7 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
Band Boosters	UC Middle School	7:30 pm
(Aug through May, except Dec)		
<b>Second Wednesday of each month:</b>		
Parkinson's Sup. Grp.	Cabin Coffee Co.	3 pm
<b>Second Thursday of each month:</b>		
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Appalachian Shrine Club	Shrine Building	6:30 pm
Democratic Party	Unity Church of B'ville	6:30 pm
Trout Unlimited	UC Community Cntr - A	6:30 pm
Sons Confederate Vet.	UCB Community Rm	7 pm
Knights of Columbus	Marian Hall	7:30 pm
<b>Second Friday of each month:</b>		
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
<b>Second Saturday of each month:</b>		
His Victory Riders	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
<b>Second Sunday of each month:</b>		
PFLAG	Call 706-389-5269 for Info	