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538-2626 or www.gmrc.ga.gov.

Q. Does Union County government or you personally have any control over the future highway widening projects on the Murphy Highway or the Young Harris Highway?

A. NO. These are Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) projects they have determined that need to be constructed based on their own studies and their future planning. These are both a combination of state and federal highways with the county not having any direct input.

Q. If we keep our highway system small and narrow, will that prevent growth in a community?

A. No. Growth in any community is a double edge sword. You can decide to not build or improve any highways, hoping that will prevent growth. However, as GDOT has seen in Atlanta and other growing areas, if you do not deal with future planning and expansion of certain transporta-

tion corridors, you end up like Atlanta and other large metro areas where it is nearly impossible to handle the onslaught of traffic. We live in a beautiful area and people are not going to stop visiting here or moving here because of the highway system. To the state's credit, where they see a future need, they are trying to be proactive as much as possible. Any highway expansion causes problems for people in all kinds of different ways. However, this is what our state professionals have determined is necessary for our future safety and to deal with future growth.

Q. When will GDOT begin purchasing right of way for the Highway 19/129N (Murphy Highway) and for the Highway 515E (Young Harris Highway) widening projects?

A. The Murphy Highway project is way behind the Young Harris Highway project probably by two or three years, if not more.

However, the Young Harris Highway (515 E) proj-

ect may begin Right of Way purchasing within 60 days.

A meeting with property owners was held Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at the Pat Haralson Memorial Civic Center.

The purpose was to let property owners know a more exact location of Right of Way that will be purchased. This will allow property owners to begin planning what they will need to do in the future. Some property owners will have to replace their property and businesses, others will only lose a portion of their property and a few may not be impacted at all.

Q. How long will the property right of way acquisition phase on the Young Harris Highway (Highway 515E) last?

A. GDOT has scheduled three years to be able to make all purchases. Once that is complete, they estimate the construction will take another two or three years. So, based on what we know right now, that would mean construction would not begin prior to June 2020.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Wyatt's neighbor was a man known only as Uncle Billy. One day the Home Guard came to his house and told him he needed to enlist in the Confederate Army. Uncle Billy refused.

So, the Home Guard hung Uncle Billy and left him for dead. Soon Uncle Billy's son found him and cut him down. Somehow Uncle Billy lived through the ordeal. A few months later the Home Guard came back and found Uncle Billy still alive and still adamant about not joining the war. Uncle Billy was hung a second time and lived through the hanging again. After the second hanging Uncle Billy lived another 30 years although he always had a crook in his

neck.

Uncle Billy became the poster boy for resistance in Winston County. Although the Home Guard was in control most of the men of Winston County enlisted with the north.

Wyatt and his brother, Absolem, enlisted with the 2nd Tennessee Mounted Infantry in Savannah, Tennessee. Absolem never came home from the war. He died from dysentery. Wyatt came home to a community torn in half as a result of the war. The men who hung Uncle Billy were hunted down and killed (in horrid fashion). Other men who sided with the south were tracked all the way to Oklahoma and killed. Of course all these killings were without judge or jury.

Allison ...

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Join us on Thursday July 20th from 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. for the Business After Hours/ Business of the Quarter event. We would like to thank Young Harris Water Sports for hosting and sponsoring this event. Bring your business cards and get ready to network and have a great time! We look forward to seeing you there.

Fowler...

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then, as a stretch of grassy land was bubbling up, out came the animals great and small." Aslan said, "I give you the woods, the fruits, the rivers. I give you the stars and I give you myself."

Lewis' thoughts on art and beauty may well be summed in his words, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." Thanks Mr. McLean for the reminder that indeed, we are.

Coalition ...

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ly on, rather than hope that it just goes away. No one wants to deal with something this unpleasant, but these things usually only get worse when ignored. It is often human nature to try to get away with bad behavior if someone does not hold us accountable.

Do they have some new friends that you aren't comfortable having around? Has a disrespectful attitude come home with your child? Are there more excuses than valid reasons when it comes to falling grades and unmet responsibilities? Maybe it is nothing, maybe it is something. Most teenagers at least occasionally lie to their parents. Only a teenager will argue that fact.

When you suspect your teen of drug use, what do you do? Do you just ask them and take their word for it? Some parents will find drugs and believe "it belongs to a friend". Even when the parent has the positive drug test in front of them, many kids still won't confess until the specimen is being packaged for the lab for confirmation, and then it was "the first time."

If you don't necessarily want to "catch" them, but want to deter them from future use, then give them a 10-day forewarning before you do the first test. You must actually do the test though, not just threaten, and it must be on an on-going basis. Let them know that you are aware of the pressures and that staying away from drugs is hard. Tell them that you plan to "reward" all negative tests. This check-up could be more important than that dental cleaning.

If a teenager really has nothing to hide, they will understand your reasons for protecting them. Point out to them that the most stoned kid in their school has oblivious parents at home. Most teens appreciate the sincere care that their parents show them.

Career Coach at UC Library

The WorkSource Georgia Mountains Career Coach will visit the Union County Library on Tuesday, July 25th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The library is located at 303 Hunt Martin Street in Blairsville, GA.

We will help local residents search & apply for jobs, write resumes & cover letters, and discern their career interests. We will also provide information about WIOA funded training opportunities.

Mattee... continued from Page 4A

large percentage of property is affected, chemical control with insecticides may be required. Planting ornamentals that are unappealing to Japanese beetles can also help prevent large populations from establishing. However, never place beetle traps because they can actually end up attracting even more beetles to your property!

If you are interested in the various treatment options for Japanese beetle infestations, or would like a list of beetle-resistant ornamental varieties, contact the extension office for

a publication.

Union and Towns County Extension will be holding a Master Naturalist Class Wednesdays starting July 26th and ending September 20th at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. This is an eight week course that meets once a week and covers wildlife management, tree and insect ID, invasive species, Georgia natural history, and many other topics. Registration fee is \$250 for the entire eight week course. Please register by July 19th!

Riley ... continued from Page 4A

foothills. It includes portions of Dawson, Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Murray, Rabun, and White counties. You can learn much, much more at <http://tinyurl.com/FoothillsLandscapeCollaborate>. This website covers all information on the Foothills Landscape project, past meetings and future ones and plans from the input from these public meetings plus how you can get involved with the future of the National Forest.

The purpose of this project is to create, restore and maintain ecosystems that are more resilient to natural disturbances, such as wind, water, and fire. Specifically, the Forest Service is seeking to enhance and provide quality habitat for rare and declining species, as well as desired game and non-game species; to reduce hazardous fuel loading across the landscape to diminish damaging wildfires (prescribed burning); to improve soil and water quality; to provide sustainable recreation and access opportunities; and to awaken and strengthen a connection to these lands for all people. They need your knowledge and insights right from the start to plan the right work in the right places for the right reasons.

You can share what you learn about the Foothills Landscape with others through this collaboration. You can comment on what you care about and tell your community why, and use the map to show them where it all is located. You

can describe what you want and need from this landscape and what you can and do give. You can learn from the knowledge that others share here, and consider the many diverse perspectives revealed to all through this collaboration. You can add your thoughts, ideas and knowledge to the map or see what your neighbors have said by clicking the comments log to the right or the map.

The map includes basic information about the Foothills Landscape on the Chattahoochee National Forest, including recreation areas, roads, trails, and management prescriptions. You can learn more about each by clicking directly on the icon or path, and you can also turn these map details on and off as needed by checking the boxes in the map legend.

The area within the purple boundary on the map is the Foothills Landscape. The darkest green areas within that are National Forest lands. At the website you can also find out how to attend a collaborative workshop near you and subscribe to email updates. We all need to get involved with our National Forests and the Foothills Landscape project is the best way to do that and give our input to management of our most important neighbor, the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest.

For more information contact Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D: www.info.ccrd@gmail.com.

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fourth inning with a final score of 14-3.

Those Lady Panthers include Kaylee Helton, Lexi Sisum, Allie Brey, Caley Davis, Adaley Burnette, Caroline Karnes, Jessica Lara-Noyola, Rebekah Chambers, Sierra Burnette, Tori Tracy, Aubrie Banton, and Jaycee Seabolt.

Union County was coached by George Burnette, Robert Burnette, Holly Chambers and Tim Tracy.

The next step: The 2017 Dizzy Dean Softball

World Series at Green Brook Park in Southaven, Mississippi.

For now, these young ladies can enjoy their performance at State but they'll soon find themselves preparing for the World Series, which begins on July 13.

The Lady Panthers would like to thank Larry Conley and Terry Plott and the entire Union County Recreation Department for their support throughout the year.