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you build a safe and sound structure, but to insure that if you sell the structure in the future, whoever purchases it knows that it was inspected and is built to current building standards.

Q. What type structure requires a building permit?

A. Any structure in excess of 150 square feet requires a permit, but any size structure containing electrical connections must have a permit and be inspected.

Q. Do you sometimes have people claim they are building the home themselves and then really have an unlicensed builder build it?

A. Not often, but it has happened and it violates the county ordinance and is against the law.

Q. How is the local economy looking in Union

County?

A. Overall the economy is looking up in Union County, which is very good for our residents. According to the Georgia Department of Labor, Workforce Statistics and Economic Research Division our unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in April, which is in the middle of our 13-county region, which ranges from a high of 6.9 percent in Rabun to 4.4 percent in Forsyth. New businesses are moving into the county and existing businesses are growing. Building permits have also been increasing steadily with the month of May being the best month overall since March 2009 having issued 15 residential and spec permits. They also issued 42 miscellaneous permits which consist of decks, garages, and other additions.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

will safely reduce the amount of fuel for fires. Fire teams can also decide to allow lightning caused fires to continue to burn in areas that will not affect the safety of people while reducing fuels.

In certain fire dependent ecosystems, periodic fire normally burns off ground litter (needles, leaves, dead wood) and maintains native plant species, many of which depend upon fire for their livelihood. View a fire dependent ecosystem with periodic fire.

Is Smokey wrong? - No. Remember Smokey's ABCs: Always Be Careful with fire.

Smokey wants people to be responsible when they use fire. Fire has many uses. Smokey wants you to be trained in the proper ways to use fire. It is still wrong and irresponsible to play with matches, leave fires unattended, throw lighted cigarettes away, or use equipment without proper spark arrestors.

For more information on fire, contact your local Georgia Forestry Commission office, local US Forest Service office or Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council frank.ccred@gmail.com *Article reprinted with permission from Smokey Bear!

Williams... continued from Page 4A

lect Tervis Tumblers – buy one get one half off, free pair of Cablz with a Costa Del Mar purchase, select Simply Southern t-shirts – buy one get one half off, free gift with Yeti cooler or Vera Bradley purchase, and select ladies wallets – buy one get one free.

Other participating businesses include: 7M Family Farms; Alpha Drug Testing; American Catch Seafood Exchange; American Cowboy Store; Aspen Hearth & Home; The Aviator Café; Azzarello Photography Studio; Blimpie Subs & Salads; Copperhead Lodge; Emily's Elves; Essence of Rose; From Me 2 U; Galaxy Bowling of Union County; Granddaddy Mimm's Distillery; Huddle House; Jer-

ae's Unity Alpacas; Junebug's Consignment Cottage; Mary Kay Cosmetics - Roberta L. Ford; Monet's Italian Grille & Pizzeria; Logan Turnpike Mill; Mountain Crossings; Natural Treatments for Brain & Body; Paradise Hills Resort, Winery & Spa; Pat's Hallmark Shop; Premier Designs Jewelry by Alysia Hargus; S.A.F.E. Thrift Store; Sign Makers of FL/GA; Simply Aroma – Lori Watson, Independent Consultant; Sundance Gallery; Tri-County Office Supply; The Vacuum Store; and Waffle House.

For more great deals running this weekend and throughout the year, check out the hot deals link on our Chamber website at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com.

Cummings ... continued from Page 4A

man next to my mother had completely consumed all the alcohol from the binoculars by this point in the game and it showed. He was completely inebriated. He really didn't know my mother. All the young man knew was that UGA just scored and he was happy. Do you remember the photograph of the sailor dipping and kissing the nurse at the end of WWII? I guess the young man had seen that photograph because he grabbed my mother dipped her and kissed her right in front of 85,000 screaming UGA fans on that Labor Day evening in

1986. I cannot understand why my mother refuses to go watch UGA play football at Sanford Stadium. I thought we all had a good time that day.

Do not forget the Union County Canning Plant will open on Thursdays only beginning on June 18th. So, we will open on June 18, 25, and July 2nd. Then we will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning on July 7th. We open at 6 a.m. and the processing costs are 35 cents for quarts and 25 cents for pints. See you at the Canning Plant.

Duncan... continued from Page 4A

already on top of them. The next step is to fix the sight distance problem. Commissioner Paris has offered to use county money to help offset the costs of the project.

It would take a little time and dedication to fix the problem. It's time and dedication that would be well spent.

It's high time that GDOT began to focus on that intersection and the problems that need to be corrected.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Dawn Rice, who lost her life at that intersection on Saturday. We lift her family up in prayer as

they mourn the loss of their loved one.

As for the problem at hand, we ask that you contact your District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch. Tell him that the dangerous intersection needs immediate attention from GDOT.

Tell him it is time to end the sea of red tape regarding the correction of sight distance problems at that intersection.

Sen. Gooch may be reached at (404) 656-9221 or via email at steve.gooch@senate.ga.gov

No one else deserves to die at that intersection.

Leone... continued from Page 4A

We'd watch as the seedlings emerged from the cracked land, we held hoses till our arms ached, we pulled weeds (after we learned the difference between a young sprout and a weed), we threw some nutrients on the plants and we watered some more. Those first several weeks were tough on us. There wasn't much to show for all the effort. We waited patiently for that evening when Dad would say "we should be able to pick beans tonight". Even if it was only a handful of slender, velvety green beans, it was reason to celebrate.

Within a week or two, it wasn't just a handful of beans. The back of the station wagon now carted bushel baskets, and the labor was intensive. I was pretty young when I learned how to test to see if the cantaloupe was ripe and just how to twist it off its stem. I was so young, that lifting the fruit actually took strength. Then there were five different varieties of squash, several more varieties of beans and tomato plants galore. The lessons in the garden were endless. We learned colors, stages of growth and development, the facts of life of the plant world. Our parents then would teach us how to apply these lessons to our everyday world.

"How many peppers do you have there, JoAnne?" my dad would ask." One, two, three... eighteen," I'd yell to him. "A dozen and a half, huh. That's good", he'd say. Then he'd explain the concept of a dozen, then what a fraction of one half a dozen meant, and why it was important to know that. While we were picking we'd play games. Each summer the lessons got more advanced. "How many slices of cantaloupe are in one cantaloupe? How many in three cantaloupes? How many people can we feed if we have four cantaloupes and each person gets two slices?"

Even though the summer evenings were long, we'd stay out there working till dark, where we'd then go to sit out with the cousins, eating ice cream and catching fireflies. I don't ever remember being awake on the two mile ride back home.

Unlike my friends who lament about yesterday, I know that the world hasn't changed that much. I had the awesome experience several years ago of standing in the fields of Freddie and Julie Collins. Freddie is a third generation family farmer and he and his family have been an anchor at our Farmers Mar-

ket since its inception. You see Freddie and Julie with their two sons, and usually his brother Harold and his boy every week on the corner of building one, in booths 28 and 30.

When I first met them out on their land, Dakota was about nine years old. He was working as hard as his daddy that evening. When I asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, he looked at me incredulously, as if the only reasonable answer was a farmer. Now he's a young man, taller than his dad, hands toughened by the land and a savvy that most young adults don't have. He also knows how to make change without the cash register telling him what he should hand you.

Family commitment doesn't wane with the generations. The Collins family is an example of how strong those ties that bind can be. Someday, four decades from now, Dakota will be writing these same stories that Mickey Cumming and I write each week. They will be his memories of a lucky life. You can be a part of it this week by visiting them and all our amazing vendors each Tuesday (2 p.m. - 6 p.m.) and Saturday (7 a.m. - 1 p.m.) at the Union County Farmers Market, 148 Old Smokey Rd., Blairsville, GA.

Fowler ...

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women are interchangeable. The National Fatherhood Initiative contradicts that idea with published studies that identify pathologies resulting from homes without fathers. Children experience more behavioral problems, are more likely to be poor, and are less likely to excel in school. Teen pregnancy, delinquency, incarceration, and drug use are more likely. Men, you are needed!

Now on behalf of dads, here are some Biblical thoughts for sons and daughters. "A wise son makes a father glad" (Prov. 10:1). "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and your mother" (Eph. 6:1-2). On this Father's Day, honor him by telling him what you appreciate about him. If he's gone, honor him by remembering his life and legacy with your family.

You are invited to join me as I present a devotional thought from All Things New in the meeting room at Cabin Coffee Friday, June 19, 7 a.m.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Garden Tours	Every Monday: GMREC (May-Oct)	9 am - 1 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Get Fit	Every Tuesday: First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
Butternut Ladies Golf	Every Thursday: Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Compassionate Friends	Fourth Tuesday of each month: Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville UMC	12:30 pm
VFW Post #7394	Veteran's Center	6:30 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
No activities listed	Fourth Wednesday of each month:	
Lions Club	Fourth Thursday of each month: Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 pm
UT Homebuilders	YH College	7 pm
Eastern Star #471	Fourth Friday of each month: Location not listed	7:30 pm
Youngcane Lodge #597	Fourth Saturday of each month: Lodge Hall	7:30 pm

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



June 17th
in loving memory of
Lori Michelle Nuce
by Mom, Dad, Bette Lou,
and Maryann
Forever in our hearts
and memories

June 15th
in memory of
**Paula Paris Johnson's
Birthday**
by Ginger & Terry Meeks

June 19th
in memory of
Bill Meeks Anniversary
by Ginger & Terry Meeks
**Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493**