

Paris ... continued from Page 4A

Both fires ended up burning well over 200 acres, but they mostly burned underbrush and did not do a lot of damage. It did take a few days to put them out since there were several dead logs laying on the ground that continued to smolder.

Q. When will we have enough rain to make it safer from forest fires?

A. I can not say with certainty when we will be safer from forest fires. The ground is still very dry under the top layer of soil and all the dry leaves on the ground only makes the

danger of fire greater. When looking at UGA's statistics from the experiment station at www.weather.uga.edu we are still well below the amount of rainfall that would be considered normal. From July 1, 2016 to December 29, 2016 our area has only had 13.24 inches of rain. You can compare this to the same time frame in 2015 where we had 40.89 inches, 23.78 in 2014, and 33.16 in 2013. Only when our rainfall increases back to normal will the danger of forest fires be greatly decreased.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

knew it. Tommy had a reputation. A year or two later and we find the boys in the 8th Grade.

Their teacher was Milford Cohen and the boys have a new friend, Jerry Cohen, who happened to be the younger brother of their teacher. Also, in the class was a young lady named Geneva Abston. Geneva was a pretty and smart girl who liked being the center of attention. She enjoyed wearing pretty clothes while most of the kids wore clothing made from seed or fertilizer sacks and she was always the first to raise her hand when a teacher asked a question. She tried to become the "teacher's pet" in any class she attended. Anytime she felt she had the attention of those around her she would put on a show. Dad said, "She would sashay down the halls of the school" meaning she would priss around showing off.

One day Geneva wore a particularly pretty white dress with a pink sash tied into a bow on the back of the dress. The boys had a plan and worked it to perfection. Before class Dad walked to the front of the desk where Geneva was sitting and began talking with her and played to her ego. The discussion was about her dress, her pretty hair and her intelligence. While he had her attention William and Jerry untied the bow and wrapped the sash around the legs of the heavy wooden desk before tying it back. Afterward, Dad continued the conversation a few more minutes until the boys had time to make their way back to their seats. Mr. Cohen

came into the room about 5 minutes later and told the students to take out their readers.

During this time of retrieving her book Geneva's attention was taken away from Mr. Cohen. So, Bud tapped her on the shoulder and told her the teacher had asked her a question. Immediately she jumped to her feet ripping the back of the dress off and leaving it with the desk. You can imagine the reaction of a bunch of kids to that event. Mr. Cohen took immediate action. He grabbed his younger brother, Jerry, by the arm and drug him into the hallway. As he was being dragged across the room the younger brother squalled out, "Milford, if you whoop me for this I'll tell Momma and she'll beat you like a red headed stepchild".

Out in the hallway, Mr. Cohen, told his brother, "When this board hits the bottom of my shoe you best scream like you are going to die and when you go back inside there better be tears falling down your face. Finally, you keep your mouth shut about what happens out here". Jerry nodded his head and each time the paddle hit his brother's shoe the boy let out a scream.

Jerry went back into the room and each boy was taken out into the hallway. Each was told the same story with similar results. Finally, Mr. Cohen took Tommy into the hallway and actually paddled him with 12 strong licks of the board. Tommy never found out the other boys were just faking.

Allison...

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If you would like to nominate a Chamber Member for recognition as a future Business of the Quarter, call the Chamber office at 706-745-5789 or you can email me at President@blairsvillechamber.com.

Fowler...

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Christmas list, not for myself but for a world in need. No more lives torn apart, that wars would never start, and time would heal all hearts. Everyone would have a friend, and right would always win, and love would never end." May 2017 be happy for you!

Fiser ...

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ing a "new book" and even a snack area to bring a snack or hot chocolate. The Senior Center offers line dancing, art and craft classes, hot meals and welcome. At the post office, someone will hold the door open for you.

We truly live in "God's Country."

Catherine Fiser

Sullivan ...

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ened something like that could happen to her. Yes, she has a high deductible but if some devastating event happens to her, we can help with that. She still can get specialists, treatments and medications and her payments are affordable.

So now we have peace of mind but that is for 2017. Obamacare will be the first item to be repealed by the new Congress with no plan ready to replace it. We just encountered what happened to Obamacare and insurance for small businesses after it passed through the 2016 Congress. This happened two years after the initial Affordable Healthcare Act was passed in 2014. While the factory's health insurance carefully follows all the preventative requirements as required by the ACA, the intent of the law (to provide services for the ill) for small businesses was gutted by the 2016 Congress. If this is what we can expect from the 2017 Congress, my heart goes out to our families who will not be covered or will be covered poorly.

Politics aside, this is a life-threatening problem for millions of Americans. These small business employees are our community and work hard for a living. This is happening right now. I saw the employee insurance form - they were warned of the fine and offered pitiful insurance choices for a hefty percentage of their hard-earned salary. Sadly they are unaware of another option for 2017- Obamacare. So I am spreading the word to those who can benefit from this program while it still exists. I know we're grateful for it.

By the way, in Georgia, adults making less than \$11,000 a year are not eligible for Medicaid or Obamacare subsidies.

Pam Sullivan

Adams ...

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hearts and minds of the forgotten men and women in this great nation and the prayers and cries to heaven have been slowly growing and multiplying. I believe God heard the cries of the people and the churches wanting him back in their lives, their schools and their government. So it is my humble belief that God influenced the election.

It seems to already be having a positive effect on the people and businesses of our country. People seem more optimistic than they have been for years and I heard the words "Merry Christmas" more times this season than I have in past years.

God bless America again and as tiny Tim said, "God bless us everyone".

John Q. Adams III

AARP Smart Driver course at the Union County Senior Center

The AARP Smart Driver classroom course will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2017 at the Union County Senior Center, 95 Senior Center Drive, Blairsville, GA; handicapped accessible and opened to licensed drivers of all ages. Sign in time is 8:30 a.m. The classroom course starts promptly at 9 a.m. ending at 4 p.m. Course fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non members.

Registration is recommended to secure your place in the classroom. Telephone the instructor Rosemary Kerr at 706-745-7046, please speak clearly when leaving your

name and telephone number for call back confirmation. You will learn defensive driving techniques, proven safety strategies, new traffic laws, rules of the road and new vehicle technology innovations. No test to pass or writing required.

AARP is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all, as we age. At the end of the course you will receive your AARP Smart Driving Certificate. You may also qualify for a 3 year discount on your automobile insurance as well as a reduction of points on your drivers license. NT(JAN4,21)CA

Arts & Crafts Guild meeting

Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild meets monthly on the second Tuesday of every month at Calvary Alliance Chapel, 1390 US Hwy 76 East in Hiawassee, GA. Calvary Alliance Chapel is in the Chatuge Harbor Shopping Center across from the Towns County Schools. The Guild meeting begins at 6:30

p.m. Plan on arriving at 6 p.m. for networking with members.

Anyone interested in the Guild is invited to come to any monthly Guild meeting and are encouraged to bring a sample of your work. For more information, call ArtWorks at 706-896-0932.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Children's Story Time	Every Monday: 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
Tri State Bus. Women	Every Tuesday: 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
BINGO	Every Wednesday: Civic Center	7 pm
Masonic Luncheon	Every Thursday: Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
MMQG Sewcials	Second Monday of each month: Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 am-3 pm
Enotah Chapter #24	Masonic Lodge	7:30 pm
Disabled Am Veterans	Veterans Center	7 pm (Jan-Oct)
FPL Retirees	Second Tuesday of each month: 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
Club Boosters	UC Middle School	7:30 pm
	(Aug through May, except Dec)	
Parkinson's Sup. Grp.	Second Wednesday of each month: Cabin Coffee Co.	3 pm
Lions Club	Second Thursday of each month: 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
Eastern Star #471	Second Friday of each month: Location not listed	7:30 pm
His Victory Riders	Second Saturday of each month: Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
PFLAG	Second Sunday of each month: Call 706-389-5269 for Info	

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



January 2, 2017
In memory of
Virginia B. Meeks
Birthday
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

January 21, 2017
In memory of
Dollie Colwell Meeks
Anniversary
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493