Opinions

Everybody has one...

All Things

New

Finally Home

Nope, I'm not a native. I'm an Army "brat," daughter of a native from Blairsville. My family moved all over the world and back during my growing up. I lived everywhere from California to New York, to Florida, and all in between, staying about two years in most places before we pulled up camp and headed off to the next place the Army sent us. I hated it then, never keeping any friends, constantly having to adapt to the culture of our

Guest

Editorial

newest home, and mostly not having a place to tell people I was from. That "Where are you from?" question is still a doozy for me. It's a pretty common one that most folks ask during an initial polite conversation. And I guess it's obvious I haven't lived in the mountains

Bettina Moore long, because I get asked the same question by pretty much every little mom and pop place I visit up here. I suppose I definitely still have the "smell" of a flat-lander. I have a better answer for it now.

I'm from here; I'm back. During all our travels in my youth, I longed for a hometown. It was the one thing that all the exposure to the world around me couldn't provide. The one place that we kept coming back to was Blairsville, Georgia. My daddy had roots here, some family at the time, and at one time, (before they bulldozed it down) a little old house that my great-granddaddy built and my daddy grew up in. Every time we would drive up that winding mountain road towards Blairsville, I got excited. Sure, there was fresh air, beautiful views. changing leaves, mountains peeking over the horizon, the promise of a simpler life, blah, blah, blah... all the things that the tourists still flock in droves to try and experience every year. But it was more than that; it was, somehow, home, and I could always just feel it in

I spent half my 20s and most of my 30s raising my boy. As any mama worth her salt knows, that requires a sacrifice of self, and a "do what's best for him" state of mind. So, we stayed close to the family that had gradually migrated to the southern suburbs of Atlanta. Siblings, who after having been sprinkled across the USA because of marriage or careers, all eventually gravitated to a fairly central location. Dad retired, and him and mama settled in Jonesboro and, after years of temporary living, bought their forever home. After my son graduated from high school and chose his college, I finally found my-

See Moore, page 5A

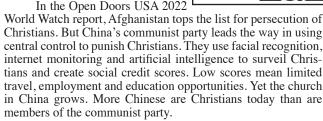
Christian Courage

Christianity is for the courageous, even if you don't live in North Korea. Fear, worry and despair common to the human existence call for the courage that is coincident with faith. Persecution is real in North Korea. I read about a woman

exiled to a life of hard labor because she is a Christian. She escaped to China. She collected food, medicine and Bibles, and stole her way back into North Korea

to meet the needs of fellow believers. Christian courage is evident in Afghanistan, too. There, church leaders changed their national identity cards to show they are Christians. Now the Taliban is hunting them down.

In the Open Doors USA 2022



Canadian authorities arrested and charged Pastor Artur Pawlowsky with multiple crimes for conducting church services in defiance of COVID restrictions. Californian John MacArthur did the same but wasn't arrested. Agree or not with their defiance, what they did took the courage of conviction.

It takes courage and sacrifice to be like Christ, to express the new life He has granted to you. Perhaps this is why the Father allows danger and trials to exist in the world. This is the proving ground of faith, the hardening of defenses against that adversary who "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Pet. 5:8).

Courage energizes other qualities that characterize the Christian life. "Courage is not simply one of the virtues," C.S. Lewis wrote, "but the form of every virtue at the testing point... at the point of highest reality." Love, honesty and humility shine the brightest, as does faith, when energized by courage. That's because they are such a contrast to the hate, deceit and pride around you. "Prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent,

See Fowler, page 5A

Commissioner's Questions

We have many pet lovers in Union County as evidenced by the use of our dog parks and by the number of animals we see in local businesses. This week's questions clarify expectations of pet owners and further define some various scenarios involving our pets. A link to the full ordinance can be found at www.unioncoun-

Q. Is there an animal ordinance in Union County?

A. The Animal ordinance was first adopted in September of 2001 and has since been amended several times, usually in response to changes in state law. We adopted this ordinance a few months after I took of-

from Union County Commissioner Paris

fice, and it was in response to a horrific dog attack on a child in Union County. With the help of a volunteer committee at the time. we were able to come up with a very good ordinance that has stood the test of time, with just a few adjustments.

Q. Who is responsible for enforcing the Animal Ordi-

A. Enforcement of this ordinance is the responsibility of the Union County Sheriff's Office who has assigned two deputies (Animal Control Officers) to handle animal control duties. They both have experience in this area and do an excellent job. If you are on Facebook you can "like" them and get daily updates on their activities. They post updates on lost and found animals and make every effort to reunite pets with their owners. If you need to call them their number is 706-439-6052. As they are out in the field much of the time you may need to leave a message which

Q. Does Union County have a leash law?

A. No, our ordinance does not require sterilized animals be kept on a leash. However, it is the duty of every owner to exercise reasonable care and take all necessary steps and precautions to protect other people and property from injuries and damage which might result from an animal's behavior. Every animal must be restrained or controlled so as to prevent it from chasing vehicles or chasing, menacing, attacking or biting or injuring persons or other animals, or barking excessively.

Q. What is considered a "dangerous" dog?

See Paris, page 5A

Habitat for Humanity

2022 is well underway and New Year Resolutions are still going strong. Amidst the new year excitement and to-do lists, we did some calculating and configuring to determine the productivity of this past year and then set goals to

Our first goal here at Habitat for Humanity is to be community-focused on everything we do. To bring about positive change, we



we've started, and how far we've come. We ask for eager involvement in our mission of making sure everyone has a decent place to live, while also striving to build a better community.

Our volunteers are at the pulse of this mission statement. Without them, we wouldn't be able to raise funds efficiently or build homes effectively. Our volunteers are asked to log the hours that they volunteer with us, for home applicant qualifications, and for a checks and balance. This past year we averaged having over

See Habitat, page 5A

Bidenflation? NO!

ments here and elsewhere blaming President Joe

Biden for the continuing rise in gasoline prices.

We should look at the facts here regarding this

instead of knee-jerk reactions and just passing on

in order to increase their revenues. 2. U.S. oil

production has been dramatically lower due to

COVID-19. 3. The harsh winter has been tough

on refinery production. 4. Supply and demand

always rule pricing, not the proclamations and

such as gasbuddy.com, msn.com, AAA gas pric-

es, Reuters, Forbes, Wall Street Journal, the En-

ergy Information Administration, oilprice.com.

See **Grazis**, page 5A

Our Freedoms

"Dissension Stirrers," you obviously did not listen

carefully enough to the "Voices of Union County,

GA" YouTube channel videos. There has been no

profanity used by any of the citizens in the county

meetings, but there was profanity used by the

county commissioner when he called a woman in

ring up dissension"; we are standing up for our freedom to hold our public elected officials ac-

countable at a public county meeting for how they

spend our tax dollars. We are not "slandering"

anyone or attempting to "ruin anyone's reputa-

tion." It's called truth, honesty, integrity and trans-

parency. I would say that you have probably not

been to a meeting to see how the citizens of this

county are treated by our elected officials. We will

See Vandereedt, page 5A

Lamar Paris

Lamar Paris' decision to cancel the Jan. 18 com-

missioner's meeting as members of the audience

would not comply with the mandate to wear a

Superior Court Chief Judge Raymond George

terminated the courthouse masking/social dis-

tancing order on Jan. 26, citing a decline in "the

number of new cases of COVID ... from its re-

cord high count." Prior to being terminated last

week, the order was extended Jan. 20 to expire

I totally support County Commissioner

*Editor's Note: Enotah Judicial Circuit

We are not "complaining, whining or stir-

In response to the letter to the editor entitled

These facts are presented from sources

more Fox News lies.

posturing of politicians.

Dear Editor,

our county a "b----."

Dear Editor,

face covering.

Steve Psiaki

Feb. 28.

There have been a number of letters/com-

1. OPEC has been withholding supplies

Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

Re: "Re: Let's Go Jesus"

In a recent response to my original letter, I appreciate the writer's accounting of several incidents between 2013 and 2016 regarding the Military and Religion, specifically I was encouraged to research and discover more information about these accounts. Yet, it also was a reminder that too many desire some reliance upon the government and its agencies to carry out the work given by Jesus to His Church. In fact, the military has given a place for the matters of the faith to be shared through its Chap-

See Wesche, page 5A

Deny ESPLOST Renewal

With current levels of inflation at their highest in 40 years, I find the Union County School Board's intention of renewing the Education SPLOST is not in the best interest of Union County residents. The struggles of buying food, gas and maintaining a roof over our heads are at an all-time critical high point. The Board's insensitivity of these struggles is very disturbing.

Now is not the common-sense time to renew ESPLOST. There should be a two-year

See **Harper**, page 5A

It's Hard to Believe

Dear Editor,

Those "high-priced brains" at the Georgia Department of Transportation are obviously still intent on "destroying" our 515/325 intersection. That "RCUT" nonsense WILL, without question, cause an untold number of traffic jams, countless numbers of traffic accidents, and eventually a needless number of traffic deaths. How can anyone in their right mind justify spending our taxpayer dollars to make such a tragic - or should I say traffic — mistake?

I guess my old College Professor was See **Holzinger**, page 5A

Grateful to Be Here

Dear Editor,

In response to the letters from Linda King and Cynthia Rafter in your Jan. 12 edition, I completely agree. My husband and I are some of those people who have come to Union County from "off." We visited here several times in our camper and just loved the area and the people. Two years ago, we were blessed to be able to buy a small cabin in the Trackrock area, and every time we come back for the summer, we just think we are the luckiest people alive. The town

See McRae, page 5A

Rock Houses

When I was just a little lad, I became enamored by "Rock Houses." You may ask, "What is a Rock House?" It is nothing more than a rock overhang large enough for a person or persons to live under. The Rock House can provide protection from the wind, rain and the cold weath-

er. My Papa once told me of a Rock House in the Sipsey Wilderness under which a man named Garrison lived for a short time after he settled in the area.



My Mom's great-grandmother, Mandy, lived under another Rock House after the Indian Removal. It is said she still haunts the area to this day sitting on top of "Rock Bridge" in a rocking chair in the wee hours of the morning before the

I guess you could say I am still fascinated by such places and have been fortunate enough to know people which have shown me some Rock Houses in the Union County area. Jerry Dver took me to the first ones I ever visited in the area. One Sunday afternoon we took our sons to visit a place called the "War Cave." This Rock House is located not too far from Bald Mountain. It is said that the name of the place is due to people living under it while trying to avoid serving during the Civil War and World War I. We climbed up the switchbacks leading up the ridge and then crawled through laurel thickets to get to the War Cave.

This is not a cave, but, really it is a huge rock overhang with enough room underneath to sleep six to eight adults, and it had a big fire ring. The roof of the War Cave is covered in black smudge from all the fires, and there is other evidence of much use by campers over the years. David and Eddie Dyer told me their Dad used to take the family there on overnight camping trips. It is a great place to camp because it's quiet and peaceful. The smell of pine trees, hemlock and mountain laurel makes the steep climb worth the

Jerry also took me to a place called the Spruce Pine Rock House. This is another beautiful spot in our wonderful mountains. It is more remote than the War Cave. I have heard it was used by people in both wars and during the Depression. Both are beautiful places, but, getting to the Spruce Pine Rock House is a long and

There are many others in the area as well. For example, there is one up in Lemon Gap over in Towns County, and there is one I have seen close to Young Harris. Milton Bradley, Sheldon Henderson, Patrick Fix, Tom Starrett and I visited this one the other day. People have been us-

See Cummings, page 5A

Chamber of Commerce Anyone know what tomorrow is? It's

Ground Hog Day, and we are looking forward to having Chris Clark, President of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, give us his forecast for the upcoming year. Will it be another strong year for tourism, and are there any solutions to the workforce housing

issue? Chris will be covering a range of topics, and you don't want to miss out. I know I've

Blairsville - Union County Steve Rowe

said it before, but the Evening with the STARs banquet will be on Feb. 10. Union County Schools are still setting the pace, and based on their rankings, it is not going unnoticed. We will have an opportunity to recognize some of the "brightest" students. teachers and alumni, and you don't want to miss out. LongHorn's will be catering, and the Community Center will host the event, so make your plans to come. There are only a few seats left due to reduced capacity, so don't hesitate.

Guys! Don't forget that Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and there are plenty of

See Chamber, page 5A

Controlling Invasive Plants

Let's talk about some invasive species that are problematic in the mountains. I'll cover Nepalese browntop (Japanese stiltgrass), privet, kudzu and autumn olive.

Let's start with the Japanese stiltgrass. This is the only annual that I chose, so its con-

trol will be a bit different. Japanese stiltgrass looks like a miniature bamboo. It has alternate leaves. It can grow up to 2 feet tall. It likes to grow in



shaded areas, so it can grow in shaded lawns and in forests. Japanese stiltgrass will put on seedheads during the fall. The seeds are small, light colored, and sticky. Controlling it can be very challenging. In lawns, herbicides or hand pulling can be done. A pre-emergent herbicide that is also effective against crabgrass will prevent it from germinating. A product with the active ingredient prodiamine will work. Japanese stiltgrass germinates earlier than crabgrass, so the application would need to be done in early March. In forested areas there are no herbicides labeled for use. That means that you will have to either hand pull or cut it back in the fall before it goes to seed. Most likely, there is already seed stored in the soil; therefore, you will need to cut it back several years in a row to deplete the soil seed bank.

Chinese privet can be identified in the fall by the BB-sized fruits hanging on it. Chinese privet starts out as a bush that can grow to be over 20 feet tall if left unchecked. The leaves on it are glossy, oval-shaped, and a little bigger than

Most people know what kudzu looks like. It is a vine that is capable of covering entire trees. Kudzu leaves are trifoliate, which means they come in threes. They also have purple flowers but can be hard to find because they're hidden behind the leaves. As members of the legume family, they have hairy pods.

Autumn olive is a bush that can get up to about 15 feet high. Their leaves are a silvery white color on the bottom. They put on a red fruit that has gray specks on it. The fruit is edible and is spread by birds and other wildlife.

Tactics for controlling perennial plants are different from annuals. Cutting them back is an option, but these plants will keep growing back from their roots. It would take several years of cutting back regrowth to eliminate invasive perennials. Hand pulling can be done while the plants are still small, but you need to remove the

Herbicides are usually the most effective way of controlling perennial invasive plants.

See Williams, page 5A

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Paris... continued from Page 4A

A. As defined in the ordinance, a dangerous dog is any dog that: Causes a substantial

puncture of a person's skin by teeth without causing serious injury; provided, however, that a nip, scratch, or abrasion shall not be sufficient to classify a dog as dangerous under this paragraph.

Aggressively attacks in a manner that causes a person to reasonably believe that the dog posed an imminent threat of serious injury to a person although no such injury occurs; provided, however, that the acts of barking, growling, or showing of teeth by a dog shall not be sufficient to classify a dog as dangerous under

this paragraph. While off the owner's property, kills a pet animal; provided, however, that this subparagraph shall not apply where the death of such pet animal is caused by a dog that is working or training as a hunting dog, herding dog, or predator control dog.

Q. What is considered a "vicious" dog?

A. A vicious dog means a dog that inflicts serious injury or death on a person or causes serious injury to a person resulting from reasonable attempts to escape from the dog's attack or is owned, possessed, kept, harbored, trained, or maintained

for the purpose of fighting. Q. Who determines if a

dog is dangerous or vicious? A. The animal control officer will make such investigations and inquiries as may be necessary to identify and classify dangerous and vicious dogs. When a dangerous or vicious dog is classified as such by the animal control officer, the officer will notify the owner in writing within 72 hours of such classification. The notice will include a form to request a hearing. The owners of the

dogs classified as dangerous and vicious will be expected to be issued citations for nuisance and/or failure to exercise reasonable care.

The animal control offi-

pound the dog pending compliance with this chapter. Q. What about unster-

cer may also immediately im-

ilized animals. Are they al-

lowed to run loose? A. No, they are not. Every owner of an unsterilized dog, cat, or ferret, is required to confine the animal at all times. Any time an unsterilized animal is not confined, the animal must be on a secure and sturdy leash while being walked by a responsible person. Any unsterilized animal that is unconfined or not on a leash is subject to citation, confiscation, and impoundment, and, in addition to being subject to citation, the owner will be required to have the animal sterilized within 30 days. The burden is on the owner of a sterilized animal to have proof available that the

animal is sterilized. Q. Are there any exceptions to the ordinance pertain-

ing to unsterilized animals? A. Yes. Unsterilized working animals (including show dogs) are exempt from the above confinement requirements while working, but their owners are required to keep such animals under control. The burden is on the owners to prove the animal was working at the time of the citation.

Owners who negligently allow working animals to roam and run free at any time are subject to citation and sterilization under this ordinance. Working dog means and includes, but is not limited to, seeing eye dogs; certified guard dogs; working cattle dogs; dogs whose primary function is hunting; and dogs which compete in conformation, agility, or obedience

Habitat...continued from Page 4A

1,352 total hours logged among

our volunteers. Our volunteers have the choice of working with us in the Habitat ReStore or on Helping Hands projects as needs arise. Whether someone wants to volunteer three hours a week or three hours everyday, we are flexible and eager for the help and extra skills our volunteers bring to Habitat. We also offer community service for select candidates that are looking to fulfill their volunteer hours.

Diane Klinger volunteers at Habitat and worked an average of 359 hours here at Habitat for Humanity for this past year alone. Diane is so much fun to work with. She is eager to join in on new projects we have, and she loves searching the ReStore for hats: silly hats, conventional hats, ball caps, you name it. When asked what her favorite thing about volunteering at Habitat for Humanity was, she said, "Interacting with other volunteers, employees and customers makes volunteering so fun! I love knowing that the projects I work on ben-

efit Habitat, which then benefits

our community."

Carol Andrews also volunteers with us at Habitat. Carol is going on her second year volunteering here. Carol is always willing to come in whenever we need a helping hand. She is so much fun to be around and always has ideas to make the Re-Store better. When asked what made her decide to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity, she responded, "It was my desire to give back to the community, and Habitat was the perfect fit. The team camaraderie was what sealed the deal. It makes you feel good to be involved with a worthy cause.'

Their time means something to us, and we are so thankful for the hard work they put in, the dedication they have to our customers, and their smiling faces. We have truly built a family with our volunteers and employees as we all work towards the common goal of benefitting our community. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please stop by the ReStore and fill out an information form, then feel free to volunteer whenever you can!

Wesche...continued from Page 4A

laincy program. During my time at the Seminary (2002-2004), there were several occasions each year in which the Armed Forces Recruiters would visit to enlist men for the Chaplaincy Ministry. In this regard, upon researching one of the writer's examples, I found an article that explained the Pentagon's 2013 mandate as one not to prohibit evangelism of the faith to willing participants, but to limit the proselytization of a preferred religion from unwilling ears.

However, the witness of the truth of Jesus Christ (His death and resurrection) has been given solely to His Church and its people. Only the "Body of Christ," His Church, is founded on and grounded in the "Christian traditions" and teachings (the beliefs as expressed in

the full counsel of Scripture). This witness is dependent upon God's Word at work in the corporate gathering of His people and through the power of the Holy Spirit within each believer. Whenever a church's or believer's witness, whether expressed in a politician's actions or posted on certain signs/ bumper stickers, contradicts this Scripture based in Jesus, it creates confusion for those who truly need to hear God's Word and to be reconciled to Him through Jesus.

Therefore, if you are disturbed by how the government defines or mandates the expression of faith, then become a part of the local church... the gathering place where the Lord equips and sends His workers for the proclamation of His truth.

Dave Wesche

f McRae...continued from Page 4A

square with its shops, the Farmers Market, the concerts and events, the mountains and the lake, the golf courses, the quilt shops, the local restaurants, and the surrounding towns are all just wonderful. It is a joy to go places without traffic snarls and grumpy people.

Charleston, South Carolina. It used to be a lovely place to live until over-building and a huge influx of people ruined it and turned it into a traffic nightmare populated by rude people from elsewhere. I don't understand why people leave an area and then try to turn their new location into the place they left. I wish they had stayed where

they were also. I hope Union

County and the friendly, kind

people that live here stay just

Our winter home is near

been. And we will continue to be grateful to be here with you. Thank you for welcoming us to vour home. Mary McRae

the same as they have always

Vandereedt...

continued from Page 4A continue to stand for the safety of the citizens and the right to free speech. Even your freedom to say the things you did.

I encourage all the citizens of Union County to attend our county meetings and stand up for our freedoms. Please go to the "Voices of Union County, GA" YouTube channel and watch and listen to the clips for

Cindy Vandereedt Concerned Citizen

Moore...continued from Page 4A

self in a position to live wherever I wanted. I had no restrictions on school zones or a need for close by family babysittage. My husband and I both work from home, and in a conversation over a few too many wines one night, I said, "Let's move to the mountains!" So we did. Sold our home, packed a bunch of stuff and gave away a bunch more, and about a year ago, bought a home in the North Georgia Mountains. Now, I am a gypsy at heart... I've been rambling around far too long for that tendency to be quelled. But never, in all the places I've lived, have I ever felt like I was in the right spot, until now. I may move to a different city or county in the latter years of my life, who knows?! But it will definitely be somewhere in these mountains.

Since I've been here, right at a year now, I've noticed that it's not what I thought it would be. It's better. Yup, there are cute little towns and "country" shops and whatnot to explore. But there's just so much more to it. If I stop at a gas station, the clerk chats with me. I know my mailman's name, all about his dogs, and my dog looks forward to his visit every day. The locals stop in the middle of a road to talk to someone coming the other way (a friend maybe), and no one behind them seems to mind. "Rush hour" is five minutes longer at a four-way stop in a small downtown. Restaurants serve real food, cooked to order by someone who knows what they are doing. No one seems to be in a real big rush for anything, and

it's perfect. I've seen a few back-andforth letters to the editor in the past few weeks in the North Georgia News (which I immediately subscribed to when I got here) discussing newcomers and the complaints and attempt at change they bring with them. Rest assured that I don't want to bring with me what I fought so hard to escape. I have to travel through Atlanta and into the south-Atlanta suburbs from time to time for family visits now. And the difference in the

Fowler...

continued from Page 4A children of God above reproach

in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world" (Phil 2:15). Regardless of who or

what the opponent is, whether oppressive government, neighbor, co-worker, social media gadfly, or even your inner thoughts, God is not surprised and is equipping you for this moment. "Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...in no way alarmed by your opponents... For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Phil 1:27,28, 2:13). Join the fellowship of believers worldwide who live unalarmed, and with courage.

Harper... continued from Page 4A

moratorium until such time

the people of Union County can get a financial foothold on the Biden inflation. A grocery item that has doubled in price has also doubled the SPLOST and ESPLOST tax on that item. A revenue bonanza for Union County and the School Board, but a disaster for families.

Having been a former forensic corporate auditor, I guarantee I can locate at least 10% pork-barrel spending in the School Board budget. There is a big difference between wants and actual needs, and the School Board needs to reconsider their intentions of ESPLOST renewal at this time with so many people hurting. Check with the local churches and you will find out that tons of food are given out every week to Union County residents.

The residents of Union County should deny the ES-PLOST renewal for two years by voting "NO" on the ballot and sending ESPLOST on vacation with its sibling TSPLOST.

Robert Harper Grazis...

continued from Page 4A

Fox News and Facebook are not reliable sources of FACTS. They are sources of lies, misinformation and propaganda. I have not presented

these facts to defend Biden and the Democratic Party, as I am not a believer in either the Democratic nor Republican parties. I do believe in facts and reality. If these price increases were due to Biden, then why have prices in Europe more than doubled? Does Biden have control of prices in Europe? Investigate facts at multiple sources, people, not at Fox News and Facebook.

Jim Grazis

way of life there and here is night and day. I agree with those

who say "don't try to change it." I can't imagine why you would want to. We have enough cities and towns in this country that are filled with folks who have forgotten common courtesy. Who don't value a polite conversation with a total stranger. Who are always in a rush and rude because of their own poor time management. Who want big buildings and shopping malls on every corner. Who value convenience over charm and history. Who have forgotten why it's great to be in this country. And for those who like "that

I've lived in a lot of those cities in my lifetime, and now, I'm here, in God's country. And I'm not going to try and change a thing. I'm finally home.

kinda thing," you have tons of

options on places to live.

Williams...

continued from Page 4A

Even with herbicides, it will take a couple of seasons to get full control. For perennials, you should apply herbicides in the fall. During the fall, perennials are moving as many carbohydrates and energy down into their roots as possible. Therefore, if you apply a systemic herbicide the plant will also move the herbicide down into the roots, making the herbicide more effective. As always, whenever you use an herbicide, read and follow the label.

A lot of the invasive species that we have started out as ornamentals. Bradford pear is a good example of that. It's an ornamental that lots of people planted in their yards and on medians. However, it has started to spread into the wild.

If you have questions about identifying or controlling invasive weeds, contact your county Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@ uga.edu.

Holzinger... continued from Page 4A

right when he told us: "There's obviously no such thing as

"common sense"; if there was, everyone would have it!" I (we) can only hope and pray that "they" will put a stop to this sinful project BEFORE they have to spend more of our taxpayer dollars to tear out all

of that RCUT stuff (after death) and re-do the job right. All they should be doing is moving the 515 westbound turn lane further of the highway, like they did at the Walmart, and see if that improved visibility doesn't resolve the situation.

Jim Holzinger, Still (Seriously) Concerned Citizen

CummingS...continued from Page 4A

ing this one for many years. We found holes pounded into the stone floor where acorns were pounded into flour and other holes where hickory nuts were cracked open. People have used these for centuries for both shelter and pleasure.

I have heard of another

"Rock House" somewhere around Bald Mountain that was used by hobos during Depression times. There is supposed to be a soapstone table, soapstone chairs and a nice fireplace in this one. So, while sitting around talking about the location of this place, a bunch of us decided to attempt to find it. Harold Dyer, Fred Woodward and I tried the first time. We left the parking lot at Bald Mountain one morning around 8:30 and walked out to the Jack's Gap Trail. After a ways we turned west off the trail and began walking alongside the mountain. We soon found ourselves in an ivy thicket. We crawled on our hands and knees a ways. It felt like miles, however, I think it was only half a mile. We soon popped into the edge of a clearing and found the largest birch tree I have ever seen. One that I have never been able to find

Soon we made our way back to the trail and traveled until we found a lead going off the mountain. We followed the rocky lead off the mountain. Our group found some really large trees and some of the steepest ground I have ever walked upon. An old clear-cut soon forced us down off the ridge top, and we sat down underneath a tree at an old sawmill site. I leaned against the tree and felt a prick in my hip. I sat up and realized I was sitting on a chestnut burr. The old burr was from a hybrid chestnut set out in the 1980s. We were able to see some beautiful sites, but. did not find the Rock House with the soapstone furniture.

rett, Harold Dyer and I made

the same trip, but, we walked

Another time Tom Star-

off of another lead. Once again we traveled through ivy and laurel thickets. We found some really nice ledges of stone. But, couldn't find anything resembling a Rock House. We have made two to three other trips off the rocky lead looking for this place and have yet to find it. So, we keep looking. Who knows, we may find it yet. On one such trip, Harold and I became separated from Tom in yet another thicket. We came to a slick wildlife trail going almost straight up and followed it into an unknown Rock House. The vegetation was so thick you couldn't see

more than 10-15 feet, and all at once we found ourselves under this rock overhang. We looked down and noticed fresh bear scat all around our feet. Harold looked at me and said, "I once knew a lady hiker that asked me what should we do if we see a bear. I looked at the lady and asked if she could run fast. She told me no. So, I looked at her and replied, 'I can run faster than you, so, I do not have anything to worry about." So, Harold asked me, "How fast are you, Mickey?" I said, "Fast enough." He just grinned, and so we keep looking for our Rock House.

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opportunities to give that spe-

cial someone an evening they won't forget. Most of the restaurants, wineries and spas are filling up quick, so don't wait to make your reservations. Check out the Chamber's website or social media for all of the Valentine's specials.

Stay safe and healthy, and please continue to pray for those who are ill and our health care workers.

Life is better in Blairs-