Opinions

Everybody has one...

All Things

New

Prescribed Burns

Some of you may have noticed the smoke around Union County last week. Most of this smoke came from several prescribed burns that were conducted in the Cooper's Creek area of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service performed the prescribed burns over several days last week and may have more as we move into spring. Many people had questions as to what was burning,

Fire Dept.

from Union

County

Fire Chief

was it a controlled fire, and why were

The prescribed burns are performed every year when the conditions are suitable. U.S. Forest Service places a great deal of planning and preparation with various federal,

state, and local agencies when conducting these controlled burns. They factor in many variables such as safety, location, terrain, fuel load, fuel characteristics, weather, smoke dispersion, resources needed to manage and contain the fire, and many more.

Weather plays a major role in decision making. The conditions must be dry enough to enable the fuel (leaves, downed vegetation, and debris) to burn but also wet enough to reduce the wildfire risk. Weather also plays a role in smoke management. There must be correct temperatures, atmospheric conditions, and solar radiation to enable the smoke to lift. There must also be enough wind to disperse the smoke effectively to reduce the risk of unhealthy air quality.

Fire managers and planners rely on up-to-date forecasts from the National Weather Service to ensure that they will meet their objectives and smoke management policies. They also communicate with the meteorologists throughout the day to adjust their tactics if the forecast changes.

There are many reasons for performing these prescribed burns. Most can be found in the U.S. Forest Service Goals and Objectives for Fire Management. According to the U.S. Forest Service, "Prescribed fire effectively and efficiently reduces the level of hazardous fuels thus reducing risks and costs. After many years of fire exclusion, an ecosystem that needs periodic fire becomes unhealthy. Trees are stressed by overcrowding; firedependent species disappear; and flammable fuels build up and become hazardous. However, the right fire at the right place at

See Dyer, page 7A

Your Label

Michael Shellenberger was a "Hero of the Environment" according to Time magazine in 2008. But he soon became disillusioned with the activism that earned him that label. In 2020, he published a book, "Apocalypse Never," explaining his new take on environmental issues. To explain his transformation he said, "I'm a liberal in my compassion for the vulnerable. I'm a libertarian in my love of freedom. And

I'm a conservative in that I believe you need civilization to protect both

It's the issue of labels that interests me here. The prevailing zeitgeist demands labels. Shellenberger said, "The big issue for me is who

am I? Everybody wants to know where you sit on left-right spectrum. I really hate the left-right spectrum. It's wrong on a lot of issues." Apparently, that's why Schellenberger felt compelled to use other labels to identify himself. Shellenberger's intuition was right - a label reflects your

identity. The danger with labels is shifting definitions. The 2022 film "What is a Woman?" illustrates that new hazard. There's also the danger of accepting real or perceived baggage that comes along with a label. Think about the baggage of political labels. Labels matter, and we all wear them. Some we choose and some are assigned to us. I'm a WASP (white Anglo-Saxon

protestant), which is a pejorative in some quarters I suppose. I hear we're to list our pronoun labels in email signatures now. The more traditional labels are related to your job ("I'm a teacher") or family role. If you hear someone stand up and announce, "I'm a Mom!" in a school board meeting, brace yourself. So, who are you, really? What label would you adopt that

supersedes and qualifies all others? Is there a label that expresses your most profound identity, which you are unafraid to adopt even if it disagrees with the cultural zeitgeist? We believers have such a label. It's a Person's name. Jesus

prayed, "Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given me" (John 17:11). Jesus and His many names define our identity and reality. The early church labeled themselves "The Way," which recalls how Jesus labeled himself. "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through

See **Fowler**, page 7A

#1, DONT

BELIEVE

EVERYTHING

#2, DON'T

EVERYTHING

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.unioncountyga.gov/government Q. Is there an animal ordi-

nance 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 office, and it was

from Union County Commissione Paris

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 they will respond to.

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?

A. As defined in the ordinance, a dangerous dog is any dog

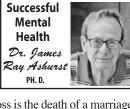
See Paris, page 7A

Causes of Loneliness I

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. -anonymous

There are several likely causes of loneliness. One cause can be the loss of a significant person in one's life. It can be a romantic partner, a parent, or a

close friend. The loss can leave us devastated and quite lonely. We miss the very presence of the person, and not hearing the voice ever again is overwhelming.



Similar to the loss is the death of a marriage. Divorce is a definite hardship no matter what the circumstances. Being alone can lead to loneliness. It's not easy. Divorce is an ending of what was perhaps blissful in the beginning of the relationship.

When a person experiences the loss of a loved one or a divorce, the individual can enter the depths of depression and even anxiety. The tendency is to withdraw from others, thus creating extreme loneliness. Thus, the person is suffering three-fold: loneliness, depression, and anxiety.

See Ashurst, page 7A

Letters to the Editor

Re: "Funding Ukraine"

Georgia News, a letter to the editor titled "Fund-

ing Ukraine" implied that if United States taxpay-

ers had funded Great Britain and France, World

War II would never have happened. There is no

evidence that the U.S. acting as the world police-

men would have stopped World War II. The U.S.

entered the war against Nazi (aka National Social-

ism Party) Germany and Italy on December 11,

1941, only after they declared war on the United

States. The president at the time was Democrat

concerns of Soviet Union and Communist China

expansion, made the U.S. taxpayers world police-

men by entering the Korean War (police action)

See Burch, page 7A

Re: Officer-Involved Shooting

spread in the Feb. 21, 2024, edition of the North

Georgia News regarding the GBI investigation

of an officer-involved shooting. The newspaper

labeled the event a "domestic dispute," which

was misleading. It indicates a connotation of

dents of Blairsville. They are committed church-

going, giving, community-supporting members

of this town and two of the kindest, sweetest

individuals you would ever want to meet. Like

many senior members of our community, Mr.

Cross suffered the ravages of Parkinson's, de-

mentia, hallucinations and multiple other is-

sues that can come with age. Unfortunately, this

See Gilbert, page 7A

Response to High Grocery Prices

tor about why our groceries are so high when the

mainstream media says inflation is now under

control. I believe the cost of groceries is a result

of inflation over the last three years. Slowing the

current rate of inflation has no effect in reversing

al cost of doing business; minimum wages have

gone from \$7 an hour to \$14 or \$15+ an hour. Let

us not forget that gasoline has little to do with the

cost of groceries. Diesel fuel has a direct effect

Big trucks run on diesel. Diesel fuel is still \$4

See Priven, page 7A

on groceries, NOT gas.

the impact of inflation from the recent past.

This is in response to the letter to the edi-

Big business is responding to the addition-

Everything you get comes by big truck.

I am writing in response to the front-page

Floy and Wendell Cross are longtime resi-

Democrat president Harry S. Truman, over

Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Dear Editor,

events that is incorrect.

In the Feb. 14, 2024, edition of the North

Letters to the Editor

Protect Lake Nottely

HELPFUL TIPS

IN THIS CONFUSING AGE OF

MISINFORMATION:

This is a Public Service Announcement to citizens of Union County. Our neighbors to the east around Lake Chatuge are dealing with a significant problem of an invasive, non-native, aquatic weed called Parrot's Feather (PF), named for its feathery appearance. This insidious weed spreads like wildfire through lakes and waterbodies and creates thick mats of rooted vegetation which prevent boats, swimmers, kayakers, paddle boarders from using the affected area. It can overwhelm native vegetation and disrupt natural habitat. Fragments of uprooted PF can produce new plant growth – it spreads so quickly and so densely; it has been referred to as kudzu in a lake." From the photos of it in Lake

Chatuge, it looks horrible. This is not just a problem for those who have lakefront homes. This could affect the surrounding counties all around the lake, both businesses and private citizens alike. If recreational tourism is adversely affected, revenue for commercial businesses and property values could also be negatively impacted.

The PF weed was first noticed in the south section of Lake Chatuge in 2022, and now has

See Combos, page 7A

The Problem w/Grocery Bills

The problem with our high grocery bills is the same as it is for our high fuel costs - the current administration.

Inflation is high for various artificial reasons but primarily as the result of printing currency not backed by gold or any other commod-

And fuel prices promote the high costs to transport produce and other goods from farm to processing to store shelves. Everything we buy gets to us by truck. Now diesel fuel is sky high. Shutting down oil exploration and well

drilling stateside has its INTENDED effects to destroy domestic fossil fuel production. We now buy oil shipped by tanker ships from our adversaries many thousands of miles past terrorist missiles to our country. That doesn't sound

Grocery store chains typically operate on very slim profit margins, sometimes as low as

Bill Gates is buying up farm land as are Chinese companies. Bill Gates is now the largest land owner in America besides our federal gov-

ernment. "Why?" you should ask.

When a farmer dies, his heirs can inherit and continue to work the land IF they pay a

See Tarter page 7A

My father is and has been a Baptist Preacher for many years. About the time I moved to Athens to attend the University of Georgia he was called to a church in Buena Vista, Georgia. There was a family in the church

which was faithful in their attendance and giv-

The Funeral

ing. However, the father was never in attendance. My father was told the father of the family had left the family

years earlier and



DON'T BELIEVE

EVERYTHING

YOU JUST HEARD

FROM ME!

moved to Florida with another woman. Many years later this man died and the family in Florida wanted to bring him back to his boyhood home to bury

My Dad was asked to preach this man's funeral. The day of the funeral my father went to the funeral home before visitation began to meet with the family and the funeral director. The door was locked so Dad rang the doorbell. The funeral director answered the doorbell. The man was dressed up like a butler and was wearing a split-tailed suit. He opened the door and asked if he could be of service. Dad explained that he was here to preach a funeral. The very professional, prim and proper butler invited my parents into the building and led him down the hall to a private waiting room. They were told to stay in the room until this man returned. As the funeral director left the room the doorbell rang once more. Quickly, the funeral director walked down the hall to answer the door. My father didn't know it, but, the other family of the dead man was at the

He waited in this room for 20-30 minutes all the while he couldn't help but hear a heated discussion going on down the hall. After another 20 minutes Dad walked out of the office and down to the parlor where the dead man's visitation was supposed to take place. Dad looked into room, and this man's other family was in the room. They were removing the man from his casket. Dad hurriedly walked back down the hall to find the funeral director going into the office. The fellow proceeded to scold my father for leaving the office to which he was assigned. Dad said, "Never mind me, you better get down the hall and check on those people who are taking a man out of his casket." At this point the funeral director let out a whimper of distress and ran down the hall to check on this incident.

Dad and Mom followed to watch. The funeral director approached the family which had by this point removed the man from the coffin and were in the process of removing his

See Cummings, page 7A

Chamber of Commerce Networking is often described as the cor-

nerstone of effective business development; it is critical to maintaining and expanding professional relationships. Our next Business After Hours is on March 5th, hosted by the Union County Rotary Club. Come join us at the Union County Community Center for a

wonderful opportunity that should not be missed. There will be a \$200 cash prize sponsored by The Mountain Life Team and the Kim and Curtis Jones Band will be playing, so be there



Blairsville

at 5 p.m. for all the fun and festivities. Whether you're an established professional or new to the industry, this event is sure to provide valuable in-

dar and bring your business cards and get ready for some awesome networking! Are you a fan of golf and ready to support our local students? Then call the Chamber now to register for our annual Shoot for the Stars Golf

sights into the network of businesses and services

available in our community. So, mark your calen-

See Chamber, page 7A

To Burn or Not to Burn

We are entering the time of year when prescribed burns are more and more common. I want to talk about why prescribed burns are important. I think that generally we understand that they are important, otherwise we wouldn't take the risk of doing them, but they are important in more ways than

many understand. To talk about the importance of prescribed burns we also have to talk

about natural for-

est succession. For-

Watching and Working Jacob Williams

@UGA

est succession can look different depending on where you live. For us, it can start with meadow lands. Meadows would have plants like asters, queen Anne's lace, and broom sedge. After about 5 years, the meadows will start to grow up some more and brush like sumac and blackberry will start to take over. At year 20, we would see a young pine forest start to emerge. This pine forest would start to mature and at about year 70, we would see an understory of hardwoods begin to emerge in the mature pine stand. From year 70 on, the forest begins to transition to a hardwood forest. At 100 years, we've reached the forest climax which is a mature oak-hickory forest. If there is no intervention, either natural or manmade, our forests will remain at the mature oakhickory forest stage.

So, what's wrong with allowing our forests to stay at the mature oak-hickory stage? And if it is wrong then what can be done about it? To answer the first question when all or a majority of our habitat is in the mature oak-hickory stage we have less diversity of habitat. Diversity of habitat is necessary to be able to support a diversity of wildlife, plants, fungi, and everything else that creeps, crawls, and grows in the woods. Deer need a diverse habitat to thrive. They need brush cover to protect fawns. Mature forests have very little cover and leave fawns exposed to roaming coyotes and bears. The deer also need mature forest for the mast crop (acorns and other nuts) that those trees provide every year. Our deer population is in decline, which is not due to overhunting as there are fewer and fewer hunters each year. Turkey populations are also in decline, in part because there is not sufficient brush cover for poults (baby turkeys). Bobwhite quail have become very rare in Georgia, because they need brush for their habitat. Grouse have also become rare because they make their home in the transition area between habitat types. These are just a few examples of species that we have seen a decline or significant decline in population. Controlled burns reset the natural forest

succession process, allowing a diverse array of habitats that support a diverse array of wildlife.

See Williams, page 7A

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Paris... continued from Page 6A

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 vi-

cious will be expected to be issued citations for nuisance and/or failure to exercise reasonable care. The animal control officer may also immediately impound the dog pending compliance with this chapter.

Q. What about unsterilized animals. Are they allowed 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 pertaining 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 competitions.

Ashurst... continued from Page 6A

Young people, and of course adults, experience lone-liness when moving away from home becomes an issue. The individual, so to speak, has to start all over again. The familiar then becomes unfamiliar and new. What a big task on the shoulders of the lonely person. This can create daytime "nightmares" for certain.

Related to moving away is the awful possibility of living physically isolated from friendly relationships. Just existing in physical isolation from any surrounding known civilization can be mind-boggling. Familiarity is gone by the wayside. The lonely person can feel involuntary

separation from others and even abandonment by busy, occupied people. What a miserable, lonely set of feelings and thoughts.

Extroverted individuals have it even worse because their very nature seeks out multiple social connections. They long for relationships because they offer comfort and satisfaction in life. A multiplicity of friendships becomes somewhat impossible because of the dilemma of possible loneliness.

Sometimes you need to take a break from everyone and spend time alone

to experience, appreciate, and love yourself. -Robert Tew

${f Burch}$... continued from Page 6A

June 27, 1950. Thinking was that if we didn't stop them there, they would be on the California coast soon. What difference did the loss of all those lives and money make? Well, the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) are still at a cease fire, and U.S. taxpayers are still paying for troops to be stationed there. What did the U.S. gain by acting as the world policeman?

The next time the U.S.

taxpayers funded a police action was to stop Communist China from expanding into South Vietnam. The official start of this police action in South Vietnam was with military advisors in 1954. On March 8, 1965, 3,500 Marines entered South Vietnam to help repell the enemy. Democrat presidents Kennedy and Johnson, following the "domino theory," increased the U.S. involvement, thereby losing thousands of troops and billions of taxpayers' money. March 29, 1973, the last U.S. soldiers left South Vietnam, and the "domino theory" fell apart with no invasion of California. What did the U.S. citizens gain from all those lives and tax dollars lost?

Republican president George W. Bush entered the "Global War on Terrorism" following the 9/11 attack on U.S. soil. This action occurred between Sept. 14, 2001, and Aug. 30, 2021, with the last of this long war against terrorism being the death of 13 U.S. service personnel withdrawing from Afghanistan. What were the results of this police action that cost thousands of U.S. service members' lives and billions of taxpayer dollars? Iranian-sponsored terrorist groups are still a

world threat.
So, as the U.S. taxpayers provide funds to be the world policeman, what are the results? Some will say we have not been invaded. What evidence do they have that this would have hap-

So I must ask, why do we keep funding wars whose only purpose seems to be to help munitions manufacturers profit while we the taxpayers loose? George Burch

Gilbert... continued from Page 6A

scenario is becoming more common in this area as more seniors make this their home. Living with these issues does not come with a manual, and the predictability of daily living is not corrected with a prescription you can pick up at the pharmacy.

Mr. Cross' family did not

at this point even think he was capable of getting out of his hospital bed much less retrieving a gun and discharging it. Mrs. Cross called first responders for help never dreaming it would result in the death of her husband. It is a tragic loss to all those who knew the kind and gentle soul he was. The "domestic dispute" moniker is misleading and hurtful not only for them but for those of us who knew and loved them.

Everyone here has a gun. I'm an American. I'm for guns. I'm for first responders. Their job is a hard one and they don't get the kudos they deserve. There are a lot of us seniors up here. All of us will eventually succumb to something and along the way we may endure the ravages of some of these illnesses. Let us pray our names

aren't carelessly smeared across the front page in like manner and first responders are better equipped to handle our crisis situation without having to pull the trigger. **Deidra Gilbert**

Chamber... continued from Page 6A

Tournament. This year's tournament will be on Friday, May 10th, at Butternut Creek Golf Course. Not a golfer? Be a hole sponsor and promote your business while helping us provide scholarships to Union County students. With only 24 teams, it's crucial to register before it's too late. Not only will you enjoy a day of friendly competition but join us for the "Toss for Cash" for an opportunity to win \$500; or bid on that special gift to keep the experience going. We can't wait to see you on the green! Can't make it? You can call the Chamber and speak with Terri about all the sponsorship opportunities at 706-745-

Let's make life better in Blairsville!

Cummings... continued from Page 6A

rector approached the young

The young man pulled out the

gun and the funeral director

said, "Yes, you can." Daddy

said that he had never seen a

red pick-up truck lead a fu-

neral procession while haul-

ing six men and a casket. The

family from north Florida said

their Daddy "always wanted

his body to be hauled to the

graveyard in the back of a red

truck while a boom box played

a duet by George Jones and

Tammy Wynette, and no high-

acting funeral director was go-

Florida family came to Dad

to ask him about the obitu-

ary he'd read. He explained

that it was his custom to read

the obituary provided to him

by the funeral director. The

family started toward "Mr.

Fancy Pants" when the origi-

nal family met them. Heated

words were exchanged and

soon fists were flying. Dad and

Mom made it to their car and

watched as the Sheriff arrived.

was the only funeral he'd ever

attended where people were

arrested. I think they and that

Funeral Director were just

happy to get away unscathed.

He later told me that it

After the service the

ing to stop them."

men and said, "You can't...

clothing. The funeral director asked them why they were removing the dead man's clothing? One of the man's sons said, "Daddy never liked wearing his socks or underwear wrong side out. So, we are checking to make sure you put them on right." The funeral director said, "But, you can't..." to which he was interrupted by the son pulling a .44 magnum from under his coat, and after pointing the gun at the funeral director, the young man said, "Yes I can."

During the funeral my father read the obituary which listed his original family. But the second family was omitted and of course everyone was confused. This was especially true when his first wife was mentioned. But the second wife was listed as his very good friend.

After the funeral my

father walked down the aisle leading the family and casket to the front of the church. Daddy opened the door of the hearse and waited for the casket to be placed inside. At this point, the six sons of the deceased man's second family took the casket away from the pall bearers and placed the coffin in the back of a red pick-up truck. The funeral di-

Williams...

continued from Page 6A

Historically, in the southern US, wildfires would burn parts of the landscape every 1 to 3 years. Now in the southeast it's estimated that 4% of lands that could be burned are in a burn rotation. With the development that we have now it's a good thing that we don't have wildfires raging through the southeast every 1 to 3 years. Controlled burns are able to keep the fuel load in the forest down to prevent that from happening. But if we don't have enough controlled burns or responsible timber harvest from public lands then we won't see the rejuvenation of the forest necessary for it to sustain a diverse group of species for generation after generation.

If you have questions about controlled burns you can contact the Georgia Forestry Commission, the US Forest Service, or email me at Jacob. Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler...

continued from Page 6A

Me" (Jn. 14:6). His name is attractive because, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe" (Prov. 18:10).

Shellenberger changed his label to "Christian" while writing his book. Would you change your label to express your most profound identity? "Who am I?" is one of the most profound questions a human can ponder. So, what is your

Priven... continued from Page 6A

to \$5 and up to \$7 a gallon depending on the state where you buy it. So, you want to know why groceries are high? Three years ago, diesel was low, and

the minimum wage was \$7.50.

Oh, let's not forget the unbelievable amount of government spending emanating from the White House without Congressional approval. The history of inflation over the past three years under blunder Biden is the cause of the current high grocery prices.

Tarter... continued from Page 6A

Mike Priven

federal tax on the value of the land IF IT WAS SOLD TO-DAY. Farm families don't typically have that kind of money to throw away hence all the developing of former farms around North Georgia

around North Georgia.

All of these problems could be corrected or at least mitigated if a majority of the U.S. Congress chose to do so.

Your 401K portfolio is probably part owner of villainous "corporations."

Blaming grocery stores for our problems is a red herring dragged across the trail left by dishonest and irresponsible elected and unelected government doobies, truth be told.

In case no one noticed, the U.S. might not worry about fiat money printing, but the "BRICS" nations do. Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates (and possibly our fair-weather buddies, France) are planning on using another currency backed by gold rather than the fluctuating U.S. Dollar. This will mean catastrophic results for our economy.

economy.

J. Murray Tarter

Combos... continued from Page 6A

spread to over 275 square acres of the lake. The TVA was made aware of this and is doing a "study," that would be completed later this year. They also said they would only treat public areas, such as boat ramps and beaches. But the concerned citizens of the surrounding counties of Lake Chatuge are compelled to act more quickly, since the PF weed continues to invade new areas of the lake. Please visit SaveLakeChatuge. org for FAQ's and more information.

The main reason for this message is to promote awareness! The most apparent cause of the PF invasion was from a boater going from Lake Burton or Lake Raybun over to Lake Chatuge and inadvertently bringing the PF weed with them on a prop/bilge, etc. Lake Burton and Lake Raybun have had a PF problem for several years and have been working to control it.

All it takes is one small piece of PF on a prop, in the bilge or on a boat, trailer or gear to "infect" another lake. Therefore, if you are an angler, boater, or a company that leases boats/PWC's, PLEASE wash your trailer/boat/PWC thoroughly with water and

soap when you remove it from ANY lake, dry it (or leave out for five days), drain water from boat/bilge/live well/etc., and inspect the entire watercraft and your gear to ensure you are not bringing any unwanted plants into Lake Nottely. The best defense is a good offense. Please get the word out. LET'S BE VIGILANT TO PROTECT LAKE NOTTELY!

Jeanne Combos

Dyer...

continued from Page 6A the right time helps maintain

healthy forests, communities

and watersheds."

Prescribed burning has many benefits to the ecosystems of the forest and to the safety of the community. Union County Fire Department is thankful that these burns are performed each year in order to reduce the fuel loads and the fire danger in our area.

For more information on prescribed burning or burns in our area, visit www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/conf/alertsnotices/?aid=62790.
Union County Fire De-

partment ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~