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is 5" off the floor, but that is a huge difference from sleeping on the floor. In fact, many of the inmates prefer this. The writer further stated that, "...no one deserves to be treated like an animal or an inferior human being regardless of their criminal behavior..."

All inmates are treated with respect in Union County. They are properly clothed, properly fed, have recreation opportunities and free healthcare provided by an outside medical service that does an excellent job.

All of this is at a tremendous cost to the taxpayers. Further, I think more than most, I do fully understand that all inmates are not true criminals. Many are in jail because they have an addiction which therefore causes them to get in trouble they otherwise would not be involved in.

I certainly have compassion for these folks. In fact, in this last week's NGN, the Sheriff's Office in a sting operation, arrested 37 people on drug charges. All were not addicts, but many were. Union County and the state of Georgia spends a tremendous amount of money and man power working through our Accountability Courts System to try to help rehabilitate these people that will

accept help. It is working. The state of Georgia pumps over half a million dollars into the accountability court system in our four-county circuit annually.

I attend most of the drug court graduations (a two-year process). These previous inmates in our jail are now on the road to complete recovery, joining their families and society once again. The county, under my direction, just recently completed and dedicated a new \$200,000 Drug Treatment Center as part of the Accountability Court system, to further assist those addicts trying to help themselves.

So, while I am sorry the "letter to the editor" author was so upset with me and the criminal justice system as a whole, maybe if he would take the time to find out what is really going on, he would understand that a lot of people, including our Governor, Legislature and Judges, are trying very hard to help those who have been unsuccessful helping themselves, but now want a fresh start. But simply using the fact that some of the inmates occasionally have to sleep on a mattress on (near) the floor of the jail as evidence of a lack of compassion by me or anyone else, is completely in error.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

provide a source of heat.

I went with Leman to launch the raft on the day he left. The raft was so big we hauled it on his big flatbed truck to the boat launch.

It took us all afternoon to unload the raft. But, around 4 p.m., we had the raft in the water. Before he launched, Leman realized that he needed to get me and his truck back home. I was only 14, but, I had been driving his old truck in the fields for quite some time. However, I never shifted the truck to any gear higher than second. Reluctantly, I agreed to drive Leman's truck back home.

We launched the raft into the water and since we didn't have any champagne we broke a bottle of Mountain Dew over the bow and Leman was on his

way.

I drove the 20 miles back home in second gear. The trip must have taken me two hours. It was well after supper when I walked into the house and heard Mom say, "He and his Dad will be there soon to pick you up."

Mom was upset with me and Leman. She was mad at Leman because his raft had broken up just as he hit the Tennessee River. He had not traveled one mile until his raft came apart and Leman had to swim 200 yards to the bank.

She was mad at me because I had driven all the way home (through downtown Russellville) to get home. My Mom always had a hard time understanding the dreams of old men and young boys.

## Mattee... continued from Page 4A

ect new plant tissue with fungicide sprays as recommended by your local extension office.

If your vines have a history of black rot, it is important to start protecting them early.

Sometimes, summer cover sprays are necessary during heavy periods of rain.

For more information about grape varieties or black rot management, contact your local extension office. Union and Towns County Extension

will be holding a Master Naturalist Class Wednesdays starting July 26th and ending Sept. 20th at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. This is an eight-week course that meets once a week and covers wildlife management, tree and insect ID, invasive species, Georgia natural history, and many other topics.

Registration fee is \$250 for the entire eight week course. Please register by July 19th!

## Allison ... continued from Page 5A

Amuck and Jim's Smokin' Que for your help and support for the Fireworks show this year. The back of each raffle ticket has a coupon on the back; buy one round of mini golf at Pigs Gone Amuck and get one free!

We are so grateful for all the support we receive from the community each year in raising money to pay for the show. We increased the size of the show again this year so every donation helps! Thank you to everyone who has supported us through the Preferred Parking Event, Banner Ad Packages, donating money for raffle tickets or giving us a few dollars

whether it was at the Spring Arts and Crafts Festival or at the Farmer's Market! We could not do this without you!

Thank you to the Chamber Staff, Chamber Board Members & Chamber Ambassadors for all your help and hard work to make the Fireworks Show and Preferred Parking Event possible. Thank you for all that you do for the Chamber and our community!

For more information about the Chamber and upcoming events in our area, go to our website at VisitBlairsvilleGA.com.

## Combs ... continued from Page 5A

It's largely owing to the appetite for freedom still spread by the ringing words of the Declaration of Independence.

Yet, the New World Order socialists would prefer that we write a new Declaration of Interdependence, and joyfully accept the chains of statist tyranny.

But that is why we must celebrate the Fourth of July - Independence Day - with all the fervor and joy that the American people can muster.

We do so to inform our would-be masters that we are not interested in the collectivist utopia based on atheistic Marxism they wish to impose on us.

And that is why we humbly thank the men who gave us our Declaration of Independence, which will remain for future generations of Americans the beacon of liberty, the upholder of our divine unalienable rights, the guardian of our independence.

Its words must be written in the hearts and minds of our citizens, so that we never forget the price paid for our freedom... and the reasons why freedom is worth paying the price.

We stand strong in our faith in God Almighty and serve only One Master, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen**  
**Frank F. Combs**

## Free Safe Boating class July 8

The next free Safe Boating Class will be held by the local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 2-3 and the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) on July 8th, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. in Towns County at The Ridges Marina. Call Shawn Nixon (678-492-1903) for more information

Flotilla 2-3 reminds boaters that there are several new laws in the state of Georgia. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1998 that operates any motorized vessel on the waters of the state must have completed a boat educa-

tion course approved by the DNR. An exception would be a non-resident who has proof that he/she has completed an approved boating course from another state.

Safe boating is the main goal of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and new boat owners are encouraged to take the class and seasoned boaters are encouraged to refresh your knowledge and be aware of Georgia laws. Last year several parents and their children enjoyed the classes together.

*FSO-PA Joan Crothers*

## Riley... continued from Page 4A

The Fire Adapted Communities national group that we are members of is all millennials except for me, the token Baby Boomer. They don't understand how we get things done over here without having a conference call to plan a national conference call or webinar to make plans to discuss what we want to do with everybody in the network and then they have to write a white paper and post it on social media to see how many "likes" they get. Makes my mind hurt and I'm glad I'm a baby boomer! We can do it! I will never understand them even though I raised a Millennial and a Gen X'er who both turned out to be responsible adults. It's all in the rain! I always told them that they needed to become responsible because I want a replacement when I become "un-responsible."

In spite of what we thought when our kids were growing up and doing things that we didn't understand (or pretended not to), most of them actually grew up and made us proud, as we did for our parents in spite of our misdoings along the way.

When I think back about things I did growing up it makes me cringe and to think of what my two boys probably did makes me not want to think about it. When they got older they would tell me things that I suspected, but didn't want to know. When my two sons were in high school in the 90s, we restored muscle cars from the 1960s and we had some of the fastest and most powerful classics such as: 1969 Chevelle SS396, 1968 HO350 Firebird, 1966 Chevy II SS, 1967 Chevy II SS, 1967 GTO, 1969 GTO Judge, and an original 1967 Camaro that was bought new by a little lady from south Georgia.

My boys also had my grandfather's 1958 Jeep pickup that I drove in high school so they never lacked for something cool to drive. They were supposed to drive the Jeep to school since my insurance agent would pass out if he knew that my 16 year olds were driving to school in a big block, 4 speed muscle car, but the Jeep never seemed to have gas so they just had to drive the Chevelle to get to school (the bus was never an option).

I heard in later years about drag races they had with my friend's son in his 1965 Oldsmobile 442. These car projects bonded us while they were growing up that still is strong today even though we are from 3 very different generations. There is an organization that influenced them as much as anything I did and

## Fowler...

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In love, God has communicated to you about origin and destiny. The ultimate destiny of creation, including you, is to worship the Creator. From John's vision, "Every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the seas, and all things in them, I heard saying 'To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever'", (Rev. 5:13). God created you to eternally occupy the place Jesus prepared for you. He said, "I am the Way" to that place. By faith in Him, your destiny is sure. That's good news!

## Coalition...

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Appointments are necessary and a parent must accompany the child being tested.

Instant drug screens are very accurate and look for the metabolite of a drug in body fluids. If you are trying to find out if your kids indulged in any of the more common street drugs within the last 3 days, you are 99.6 percent likely to get an accurate result. If the drug screen says negative, but you doubt the results, always follow your own good parental instincts. A negative test could mean that the kid is doing drugs that aren't on the test. Standard drug tests don't cover every possibility.

Most positive tests can be followed up with confirmation testing at a lab, especially if you haven't gotten the real truth out of the kid as to exactly which drug and how much that you are dealing with. We have found that many kids that are doing drugs recreationally will pretty much take anything they are given- and something will show up on a test. What we mean is, if they took LSD, they likely smoked some pot too. Instant drug screens are a great tool for parents to begin to get to the whole truth. They also help to start a dialog about drugs, as well as an opening to lay down rules about drugs.

leaders, Future Entrepreneurs and many others who are the hope for our future.

Many of us were FFA members and have fond memories of those times when we were searching for who we were going to be when we finally grew up, and the FFA gave the nudge that we needed to make us who we are today.

Many groups pull at young minds to try to turn them down a new road to try radical ideas or go off on some wild tangent, but the organization that is the best out there to influence kids is one that has been guiding young people into adulthood since 1928, is the FFA. "Future Farmers of America" was founded by a group of young farmers back in 1928. Their mission was to prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding a growing population. They taught us that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting, it's a science, it's a business and it's an art.

FFA continues to help each generation rise up to meet their challenges by helping its members develop their own unique talents and explore their interests in a broad range of career pathways no matter which generation they fit in. FFA guided the Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, Millennials, Gen X'er, and now Gen Y's who were taught how to get things done with guidance from this network of "doers". The letters "FFA" stand for Future Farmers of America; however, in 1988 the official name of the organization was changed from "Future Farmers of America" to "The National FFA Organization" to reflect the growing diversity of agriculture.

Today, they are not only the Future Farmers, but Future Biologists, Future Chemists, Future Veterinarians, Future Engineers, Future political

Support your local FFA chapter and FFA Alumni groups anytime you can because the millennial you help today might be your replacement tomorrow!

For more information on FFA and RC&D projects, contact Frank Riley, Executive Director, Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D Council at [www.frank.ccrd@gmail.com](mailto:www.frank.ccrd@gmail.com).