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1967. I was working that summer at the Georgia Mountain Experiment Station which is on the hill right above Arkaqua Creek and where it merges with the Nottely River. Highway 19/129 South at the Arkaqua Creek Bridge and up to the Experiment Station entrance, was under water during this rainfall and Highway 19/129 was closed in this area for two days.

Early Christmas Eve morning this year I received a call from someone saying the Arkaqua Creek was just about over the highway again. Since it is only a mile from my house, I hurried out to see as I knew this would really be a big problem because it was just before daylight. Fortunately, it was still about 4 feet below the highway level at the bridge. Another few hours of rain and this area would have certainly been covered along with the highway, and caused other dangerous flooding.

Q. What do you remember about that rain storm in 1967?

A. While my focus at the time was my summer work at the Experiment Station (I was 16), I remember being fascinated by all the red peppers covering the whole bottom along the

highway. Many people back in those days raised red and green pepper to take to the local packing companies, (Joseph Campbell Co. and Mancini Co). It was almost time to pick the peppers but the flood instead washed the peppers off the vines and the entire bottom looked so funny with thousands of red and green peppers flowing down the valley with the flood waters and across the highway and into the Nottely River.

To help my memory, I went to the Probate Judge's office to look at the old *North Georgia News*. The article gave the following rainfall results from the Experiment Station from that week. This information was in the August 23, 1967 issue. Monday .50 inches, Tuesday .78 inches, Wednesday 4.05 inches, Thursday 3.94 inches, Friday 1.63 inches, Saturday 1.72 inches for a 6 day total of 12.25 inches! Bud Akins, GDOT Resident Engineer at the time, remembers counting 75 culverts destroyed in the county and blocking off Highway 19/129 for two days. That was a big disaster to the county besides all the crops that were lost and back in those days farming was a much larger industry than it is today.

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As we stood there looking out across the deep hollow I noticed some carvings on the tree. There it was carved into that old Beech Tree, "CBC n GMC". Papa told me he had first carved his and Granny's initials during the late 1930s. He had found the place while hunting and had been coming back ever since. It was one of Papa's favorite places. That

old Beech Tree stood guard over the Cummings family for years. It watched while 5 generations of the Cummings family came and went. I carved my name on that tree sometime around 1970. I have visited the tree many times during my life and now, it also contains the initials of each member of my family. That old tree is a part of my family and our history.

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the past 3 years actually works, and it did beautifully.

We learned where the weaknesses in our departments are and what we could do to correct them so we will be ready when an actual wildfire threatens our communities. Lessons are easier to learn when you don't have flames licking over rooftops and ridges and can have a "do over" to correct problems. You are much safer

because of these trained emergency responders standing between you and the flames.

To learn more about how to be Firewise and how to develop a personal "Ready, Set, Go!" action plan contact Frank Riley, Executive Director, Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council at www.townsfireadapted@gmail.com or go to www.wildlandfireRSG.org or www.firewise.org

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dence was overwhelming that this was an act of terror. Short of having "Terrorist" tattooed on the shooter's foreheads the evidence could lead nowhere else, yet the once world wide premiere law enforcement agency took two days to reluctantly admit it. Have they been reduced to Obama lap dogs? Do they investigate a crime scene, or simply look for ways to spin the story to make their boss look good?

After listening to Obama explain the reasons behind all the carnage, and why we should admit thousands of flee-

ing refugees, and his plan to destroy ISIS, it finally hit me. "Slap-my-head..." "I got it." He's going to fly Air Force One, over the middle-east, dropping leaflets, informing the enemy about Global Warming. I can see it now. Armies of men throwing down their guns and running for cover before the storm hits.

Yes, Dorothy, men without brains, without hearts, without courage still exist, but they're no longer found in "OZ". The yellow brick road now leads to Washington DC. **Ed Huber**

BMTA January Hikes

January 14: Turtletown Falls (TN), easy 3.7 mile loop with two beautiful falls; short uphill on the return leg. Contact hike leader Ken Cissna at kcissna@usf.edu or 813-310-6084.

per Loop at Springer Mountain (GA), moderate 4.5 miles. Contact hike leaders Travis or Shirley Crouch at travis@hikenorthgeorgia.com or stop by North Georgia Mountain Outfitters just north of Ellijay on Highway 515.

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strument 57 Christmases ago. Santa brought me a toy ukulele and a cowboy outfit to match. Having been weaned on Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington, where Hank Williams-Patsy Cline figured in, is beyond me. We do have 8mm movies of me playing the uke down by my hips, shaking them like Elvis, until my pants fell off. Even as a preschooler, I loved entertaining the room.

Though I abhor (sorry folks, but I speak the truth here) country music, I have always been captivated by the Delta blues, that combination of haunting harmonica and guitar played with a slide, all with an extraordinary emphasis on rhythm. A hundred years ago, Hambone Willie Newbern was traveling the medicine shows throughout the Delta, using a polished hambone as his slide, where he would sing about dough rolling, the tune that would eventually be recorded as the "Roll and Tumble Blues" in Atlanta, circa 1929. Within a few years of that recording, that riff, became the staple of Mississippi Delta and Memphis Blues.

Though I've never been tempted to prime a hambone for a guitar slide, I have been known to collect hambones from friends after the holidays in order to cook me up some serious soup recipes. This holiday I was blessed with a heavenly ham, from the smoker of Jim and Bea Nishimuta, the coordinators of the inaugural Festival of Christian Unity. This Festival will be one of the first events of 2016 to be held at the Union County Farmers Market. On Saturday, April 16, a multi-denominational team will bring together a one day celebration of Christian fellowship featuring Christian music, arts, crafts, prayer tent, childrens activities, festival food and drink, and much more. More details to follow in the months ahead, but do save the date on your new 2016 calendars.

I'm still contemplating what I'm going to do with this year's hambone. Growing up, there was always conversation amongst the family as to whether the bone should be used for lentil or split pea soup. Seems to me that split pea won out at the new year, and the Lenten spring hambone went to the lentils. After nearly two decades here in Georgia, I've

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Him with it. "He who sits on the throne said, 'Behold I am making all things new'" (Rev. 21:5). So, with great anticipation and faith, let the New Year begin!

Williams ...

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I didn't realize it then, but that was a moment that would change my life forever. All of my past experiences and all of the talents that God had blessed me with were leading me to the Chamber profession. To my knowledge, no one ever grows up dreaming of being a Chamber executive, but to those fortunate enough to be given an opportunity to lead in this capacity, it is an experience that you treasure for a lifetime. Chamber work is more than ribbon cuttings and festivals. Chamber work is about rolling up your sleeves and working collaboratively with multiple partners to create a positive impact on the local community. Sometimes that means holding the hand of a new business owner and helping them make smart decisions for the future of their business. Sometimes that means developing future leaders who will carry the torch for years to come. Sometimes that means working with the local school system to provide the best possible future for our talented students. Sometimes that means being the voice of the community to share the message of why we are so great. And, yes, sometimes that means celebrating who we are and how far we have come.

Almost ten years later, after saying yes to the offer of a Chamber position, I sit in awe of a community that shines brightly in so many ways. There is something very special and almost magical about this town. Once you become part of it, you feel it inside you. That is what I will take with me as I depart from this Chamber and move on to the next. To each individual who has crossed my path for a moment, a season, or a lifetime, I assure you that you have blessed me abundantly. I will be forever grateful for the time that I spent in Union County and the people that I now call friends. Thank you for this opportunity to serve, and thank you for nine and a half incredibly rewarding years as your Chamber President.

sugar; to love more than hate; to the virtues of the gifted hambone; to the four Is and four Ss that comprise a nearby South-

ern state that we especially know little about; and to our friends who bring us joy each and every day.

come to appreciate many more recipes, using ham bone. There is nothing quite like beans and greens steeped in that husky flavoring of a well smoked pork hinny.

If you are a fan of Latino cuisine, then steep that meaty bone in a couple of cans of black beans, add a can of diced tomatoes with jalapeño, one medium chopped onion, two chopped cloves of garlic and a handful of fresh chopped cilantro. Simmer this for about two hours. Serve with hot sauce, sour cream and tostado chips for an easy, hearty and delicious winter's dinner.

It's a new year, so why not try something new in your diet, as well. Have you ever eaten congee, an Asian version of porridge? Take that bag of jasmine rice that has been in the pantry for a couple years and place it in a large pot, along with 9 cups of water and that hambone. Bring to a boil then lower the heat to simmer, tilt the lid and let it cook down to a porridge consistency. Serve like you would grits, only put a dash of Chinese five spice on top, along with a little chopped green onion.

Here's to our resolutions to drink more water and eat less

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Children's Story Time	Every Monday:	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club		Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
A Course in Miracles		298 School Circle	2 pm
Civil Air Patrol		Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Boy Scouts #101		United Methodist Ch	7 pm
	Every Tuesday:		
Tri State Bus. Women		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
Spiritual Living Group		UC Comm Cntr., Rm 101	6:30 pm
	Every Wednesday:		
BINGO		Civic Center	7 pm
	Every Thursday:		
Masonic Luncheon		Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club		So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit		First UMC	5:15 pm
	Second Monday of each month:		
MMQG Sewcials		Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 am-3 pm
Blairsville PTO		UC Elementary	6 pm
Disabled Am Veterans		Veterans Center	7 pm (Jan-Oct)
	Second Tuesday of each month:		
FPL Retirees		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	6:30 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
Band Boosters		UC Middle School	7:30 pm
	Second Wednesday of each month:		
GA Mtn Writers Club		So. Bank & Trust	10 am
Parkinson's Sup. Grp.		So. Bank & Trust	3 pm
	Second Thursday of each month:		
UC Interagency Grp.		Civic Cntr. Conf. Rm.	12 noon
Lions Club		Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Appalachian Shrine Club		Clubhouse, Industrial Blvd.	6:00 pm
Democratic Party		UC Senior Center	6:30 pm
Trout Unlimited		So. Bank & Trust	6:30 pm
Sons Confederate Vet.		UCB Community Rm	7 pm
Knights of Columbus		Marian Hall	7:30 pm
	Second Friday of each month:		
Eastern Star #471		Location not listed	7:30 pm
	Second Saturday of each month:		
His Victory Riders		Blairsville Restaurant	8 am