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and especially the stock market (other than since January 1 of this year), people start to feel more confident in their personal financial condition and the future.

Q. Are there other reasons our economy and building permits are increasing?

A. Nineteen of the new home permits can be attributed to the Ridge at 1300/Northshore Subdivision development. In addition, Union County is just a great place to live, work and play in. We have continually improved

our infrastructure, our county facilities, our medical facilities and our school system continues to excel, which makes our quality of life one of the best of any rural county in Georgia. And finally, we have the second lowest property tax rate in the entire state of Georgia (county and school combined). All of this along with some of the most caring and friendly people anywhere, makes this a great place to live and make your home and a place people want to move to.

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We soon found ourselves in a Laurel Slick which we actually called by another name many times because we had to crawl through the slick on our hands and knees due to the low hanging branches. Somehow, Harold and I became separated from Tom. We could hear him, but, the vegetation was so thick we could not see him. So, Harold and I kept plodding along and soon had to climb up a rock face by pulling ourselves up by holding onto tree trunks. We topped on to a ledge and sat down to rest. We turned to look up the mountain and noticed a hole in the Mountain Laurel with a trail leading through the opening. The vegetation was really thick so, we had to follow the hole into the Laurel Tunnel. We walked into the tunnel and on the other side was a rock overhang. A bear was using the area as a den and we must've scared it because there was fresh droppings and tracks all around the area. Harold looked at me and asked, "Mickey, how

fast are you?"

On the same trip Harold told me he was a miracle worker. I asked for an explanation and he told the following story. "When I was a boy my dad was a deacon at Choestoe Church. He was in charge of communion and back in those days we used real wine during our communion service. Me and my cousin just happened to find where the communion wine was hidden. So, like any young curious boy we drank a little. Then we drank a little more and a little more. To my horror I soon realized we had consumed about ¼ of the bottle. So, with a little quick thinking we decided to add a little water back to the wine and no one was the wiser. And that is how we turned wine into water."

As you can see I enjoy walking around in the woods because of all the previously mentioned reasons. Getting to walk around with Harold Dyer is just a little more gravy on top of a nice day.

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also maintain a certain amount of hours of firefighter training each year.

So, if you are adventurous and like to do extraordinary things such as carry a hand held radio, listen for calls, respond in fire apparatus, put on turnout gear, help fight a fire, perform search and rescue, respond to medical calls, or just see things that nobody else

gets to see, then we welcome you to apply to Union County Fire Department. To apply, come to Station 1 located at 507 Shoe Factory Road and pick up an application. Next week, you will be provided information on your fire stations and the fire apparatus.

Union County Fire Department – Our Family Protecting Your Family.

Brooks ... continued from Page 4A

I am very confused. I thought all people were friendly and would help me find my family. Do people not see how well behaved I am? I wait for an invite to cross a threshold, I will never jump on people, and I never jump on furniture like my sister Sadie does, even when nobody is looking. I always stick with and look after my people while hiking, and I never get in the way of a fishing line, a trick my mom taught me. I can play soccer for a bit, but mom doesn't allow me to fetch a ball from her flowerbeds. I can also talk, make human-like noises when I sleep. And I am especially talkative with my dad. He thinks I'm funny and taught me to talk.

I don't see myself as beautiful, but everyone seems to think I am. I look exactly like all the dogs and puppies at Berner Haven Farms in IN. My parents are both from Hungary. Dogs like me are

very popular there. I am mostly black with a white muzzle and stripe up my face. I have a white chest, and white tips on my feet and tail. I also have some brown highlights on my face and legs.

I can appreciate that someone would want me, but nobody wants me more than MC. She loves me and knows just what I need. I made a big mistake when I ran farther than ever, but I was scared of the thunderstorms. I belong with my family, and I feel guilty I can't do my job of protecting them. If you know how to reunite me with my family, I'd be the happiest dog in the world. Just call the number on all the signs my mom put out or take me to a vet or shelter, it is the right thing to do.

Kona Brooks
Microchip Number
985112002525360
By Mary Catherine
(MC) Brooks

Combs... continued from Page 4A

being off duty 24/7. They are always on call, no matter what. They all need our support, our love and our encouragement when we see them. Let them know that they are doing a great job and how much we appreciate their service to God's people.

Even in Jesus' day He could do no mighty works in His own country, because they dishonored Him as the Son Of God. If there was a perfect church out there, which there isn't, folks would always find fault with the pastor, maybe he preaches too long, or his sermons are not exciting enough

or the music was too loud. We all can find loopholes to excuse us from worshipping God. Remember when we go to our house of worship, we go to give thanks to God and to worship Him only, not to criticize the pastor, heaven knows he has enough to contend with just doing what God calls him to do. A faithful pastor is like good medicine to the soul. He brings comfort and hope to all who come as they are and leave a different person than before. Praise God for pastors with a servant's heart.. Amen

Frank F. Combs

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make pasta, he went to the thrift store and purchased a hand crank pasta machine. A week later he purchased slightly more modern version. He made pasta every single day. A few months later he had a commercial grade pasta machine that does everything but serve the pasta, in just 10 minutes. What it does with an egg, flour and water and a different attachment for different lengths and shapes, is remarkable.

The gadgets that Bob has in the kitchen are just the tip of the iceberg. He just finished an entire renovation on his chicken coop. From water heaters, to automatic water dispensers, automatic lighting and of course, cameras so he can see what they are up to. Bob has cameras every where. He will meet you for a cup of coffee and look down at his phone and chuckle, and then show you what his dogs and cat are up to in the bedroom while he's gone. If Bob walks in any room of his house, the lights come on, including the closets, and they turn off when he walks out. He controls the temperature for about everything in his house with his phone. Actually his phone can check his own temperature, as well as tell him exactly how many calories he's consumed that day, how well he slept, how many steps he's taken and when he's at Walmart it will tell him that he can buy those english muffins cheaper someplace else, and Wally World will match the price.

Bob has had more computers and phones than any one dozen people his age. He has been through more apps than any Y-generation person even knows are available-which brings me to the point of how I decided to tell you about Bob today. I was reading the latest addition of *AARP* magazine's "Ultimate Guide to Tech @ 50+- 32 gadgets and apps that make living in the digital age easier, cheaper, safer and fun". For Christmas, my friend Irene's children blessed her with one gadget on the list -an ECHO. This wireless cylinder, not much bigger than your coffee thermos, sits on your counter top, waiting for you to ask it a question. Irene walks by and says, "Where in Blairsville, GA can I buy wine?" and ECHO tells her. If she's cooking and wants to scale down a recipe, she just asks out loud. ECHO responds, "one tablespoon is equal to three teaspoons".

What ECHO can't tell her is where she has left her keys. But if she had a "tile" it would find them for her. The Tile Tracker is a little card that attaches to your keys or your wallet and an app is installed on your phone. When you

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Our Ex-Officio members are Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris; Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley; Downtown Development Authority Program Manager Darren Harper and Union County Development Authority Executive Director Mitch Griggs.

With gratitude, we thank these individuals for their service to our organization. Contact information for our Board Members can be found on our website at www.blairsville-chamber.com. If you are interested in being considered for a future member of our Board of Directors please email me at President@BlairsvilleChamber.com

Fowler ...

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The self-examined life asks, "Am I forgiven?" To affirm is to believe that "He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior" (Tit. 3:5-6). An unforgiven life regenerated yearns to display its new, forgiven identity in Christ. Actions reveal the heart.

So, if any of this is new to you, you can thank the presidential campaign that we had this chat. You can also join me in praying that our next President is a forgiven one.

Hummel ...

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these people ended. And as far as reckless spending goes, who is getting all of this money? How many of you have seen a benefit from it? And why is the democratic side of the Congress not overriding vetoes or executive actions which you are not in accord with? Do their votes reflect your expectations of them? (That question should be asked to both sides of the aisle.) It all seems completely ridiculous. And I guess this is the really big "why": why do we put up with it?

Just my opinion,
Christian Hummel

and you can purchase a wireless instant photo printer, smaller than your Ipad or tablet, and in seconds you can hand great Aunt Lillian pictures of this memorable weekend.

That's all for this week,

but our local library has the *AARP* magazine, and if you'd like help with the gadgets you already have, *AARP* has online workshops to assist. <http://www.aarp.org/home-family/personal-technology/tek/>

can't find them, you activate the phone app and the tile will continue beeping until you or somebody at the grocery store (where you left them) hears it. OK, so what if you can't find your phone? The tile app can make your phone beep, too.

Another dear friend and professional photographer was recently looking at my own photos, which I had taken to a local pharmacy to have printed out. He asked me incredulously, "you took these with your phone?". Yep, phone cameras are amazing. The problem is that we rarely print out the pictures to share. Wouldn't it be great when you went to your family reunion this summer if you could print out pics right there to hand out to everyone so they could take the memory with them? The last name in modern photo imaging you would expect to hear is Polaroid, but they are still on the innovative end of the industry,