Opinions

Everybody has one...

Bob Head

The name is synonymous with the city of Blairsville. Robert L. Head Jr. has quietly stood in the shadows as the community he grew up in, grew up around him. It didn't grow up

without the help of Bob Head.

Bob Head has been one of the most astute businessmen this community will ever know. It was with his help that Blairsville became one of the most prosperous communities in Northeast Bob Head has been a business

Straight Shooting

leader in the community for decades, and among his many activities around the city of Blairsville and Union County, he was a charter member of the Union County Lions Club in 1966, and more recently has served as a Blairsville Downtown Development Authority board

On Friday, recognition of what Bob Head means to this community came to fruition. It came in the manner which many great leaders are honored. The city of Blairsville dedicated "Bob Head

Bob Head Street is the new on/off ramp connecting Georgia 515 to Pat Haralson Memorial Drive.

The project grants motorists quick access to downtown parking, and eventually, to new vendors as they expand the downtown area using the land surrounding Bob Head Street.

The dedication, put together by Blairsville City Hall and the DDA, featured several prominent speakers from around the commu-

Mayor Conley acted as Master of Ceremonies for the event, and the Rev. Mark Burgess of First United Methodist Church led the

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris thanked Bob Head and his family for their many contributions to the community over the years. He also remarked that the occasion stood as an example of just how well the county and city worked together.

Andy Williams, president of United Community Bank, said he learned a lot working with Bob Head, the long-time bank chairman. "Bob, thank you for everything that you've done for our community," Williams said.

See **Duncan**, page 5A

Letters to the Editor... **Easter Sunday**

Dear Editor,

I would like to share some of my thoughts regarding the soon approaching day we call Easter Sunday. If you go into any store now, I'm sure you can see the main focus now is on Easter baskets, candy, and maybe ham.

But, to me, it is oh, so much more! It's good news! To me and many other Bible-believing, Christ-honoring Christians, I believe what we are celebrating on Easter Sunday is probably the most precious and awesome facts in our Christian life--the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from death and buried three days

It saddens me to read of the horrible events leading up to Jesus death--from His agonizing prayer in the garden, the false trial with all the hatred, mocking, spit upon, beaten, being forsaken and denied by closest friends, and then His agonizing death on the cross... but the most amazing fact is--He did it all for me and you and the entire human race. He, the perfect, sinless Son of God took the penalty for our sins and died in our place. This was His great plan of redemption from the beginning of creation. Each of us, as individuals, must choose to either believe and receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and receive His gift of eternal life or reject Him. To do nothing is rejecting Him. Because I care, I urge you to receive Him. Jesus paid it all but He said, "You must be born again".

See Elliott, page 5A

Thank You

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the entire Union County Board of Elections I give a hearty "thank you" to all our Poll Workers! What a thoroughly professional job you did at your respective precincts during the Presidentail primary. Working from before 7 a.m. to well past 7 p.m., you made sure that voters could exercise one of our most impor-

Because of your hard work and dedication, voters of Union County can be sure that their votes are accurately cast and counted with as little delay and bother as possible. Most voters spent less than 15 minutes from signing in to voting. And we all worked diligently to ensure that the election process was fair, honest, and accurate. Every step in the voting process is carefully checked and double checked for accuracy and integrity and you, the poll workers, play a

Our next election is the General Primary on May 24. I hope that we can count on you to join in again to provide the fine service to our citizens they have come to enjoy and expect.

Sincerely, Libby Stevens, Elections Supervisor

This is in response to the Commission-

Second of all, he goes on to say the property would have been unaffordable if it had not been in a flood plain. We paid \$317,811.14 for 10 acres and a total of \$460,700 for 20 acres, for a grand total of \$776,511.14 for this land. This does not appear to be much of a deal for the county, especially since we had better property for the project that we already owned. I am speaking of the property that Walmart was think-

son that was opposed to helping the US Forest Service with their road work. Paris said that the

Kenneth West

Owner/Publisher

Joe Collins

Advertising Director

See Cook, page 5A

Resurrection!

Chuck Colson and other of President Nixon's men spent time in jail for Watergate crimes. In spite of their power and influence, the conspirators could only maintain the cover-up for only a few weeks until someone broke the sordid tale. One of the objections to the Resurrection of Jesus **All Things**

is that it, too, was a cover-up, a hoax advanced by early believers.

Historians do not doubt Jesus was a real person. Ample archeological evidence, including non-Biblical writings that refer to Jesus and his followers, proves it. Neither do histo-



BUT

THREE

DAYS

LATER ...

Happy Easter!

Springtime

time and if the question is asked about when

spring arrives you will receive many answers.

For example, Papa always said you could plant

corn when you heard the first call of the Whip-

of spring is the blooming of Red Maples and

Alder trees. Along with these flowers also come

runny noses and scratchy throats. However, I

think the Red Maples just want to get a jump

on all their neighboring trees. They are notori-

ous for blooming during the first warm spell and

then suffering when we get another taste of Jack

Time the gobble of an old Tom turkey. There is

nothing better than listening to and watching a

gobbler walk up a ridge on which you are sitting

on a warm spring morning. Another ritual I enjoy

is fishing for "Specks". Trying to place a fishing

line into an area the size of a bath tub which is

covered by rhododendron limbs can be a most

humbling experience. However, catching Geor-

gia's only native trout is a great feeling. Not to

mention the little fish are beautiful and wonder-

fully colored. Not the largest trout you can find,

a good one is only 7-8 inches, but, a wonderful

catch because there are so few of them. The good

thing about catching these fish is the work you

falls high in the watershed. Therefore, you must

hike a good way to get to them and usually there

is at least one waterfall you must climb to get to

them. And waterfalls are beautiful this time of

year. Less foliage this time of year means easier

viewing and photographing of the waterfalls.

And there are many waterfalls around the area. I

have never counted but, there must be at least 20

within 5 miles of Neel's Gap. An easy one to find

is located 1/4 mile east of Highway 180 and the

all kinds of wildflowers which will be blooming

guide to them on I-tunes called "Native Plants

of North Georgia". The guide is in an app for-

mat. It was developed from a book I wrote

while employed with UGA. The app is free on

I-tunes. The varied plants are listed by bloom

time. For example, usually you can find Blood

Root blooming in late March to early April. The

guide shows you a picture of Blood Root and de-

scribes where it can be found and other descrip-

tive characteristics and uses of the plant. For ex-

ample, Blood Root was used as a dye by Native

Americans. Also, the plant contains compounds

Associated with waterfalls are ferns and

If you enjoy wildflowers you can find a

junction of Coosa Backcountry Trail.

'Specks" are typically found above water-

must put into the experience.

I also enjoy and associate with Spring

poorwill. "That is a

good sign of spring,'

we will hear any of

these bird calls for

another month.

But, I doubt

Another sign

We all have many fond memories of spring

Around

The Farm

rians dispute his death by crucifixion nor the empty tomb.

Certainly the empty tomb is not enough to validate the Resurrection, so consider the disciples. Immediately after Jesus' death, they huddled behind locked doors, fearful that their fate would be the same as his. What a defeated band of men, obviously not motivated to propagate a hoax! How could such a group maintain a ruse, given the religious and political power-brokers who were determined to end Jesus' popularity by any means necessary? The disciples could have simply written down Jesus' inspiring teachings and avoided further controversy. At first it seems they would do even less than that. History records that they began to risk their lives to de-

clare, not that Jesus was just a good teacher, but that He is the living God. This preaching occurred not behind locked doors, but in public venues, and even at their own trials. They looked their accusers in the eyes and declared they would obey God rather than men. The only plausible explanation for this outburst of courage is that Jesus really did appear to them alive after a gruesome crucifixion and death. Chuck Colson observed, "Nothing less than a witness as awesome as the resurrected Christ could have caused those men to maintain to their dying whispers that Jesus is alive

Little skepticism exists for Tacitus or Aristotle, contemporaries of the time span of Biblical manuscripts, even though the earliest existing copies of their writings date a thousand or more years after their deaths. Yet we have thousands of ancient Christian documents, some of which date within one hundred

See Fowler, page 5A

Commissioner's Questions

Q. There seems to be a lot more litter on the roads lately. Is there any particular reason for this? A. Spring is the worst. During the winter, most folks are

at home and not looking in the ditches. As soon as the sun begins to shine, and the grass starts to turn green, all the paper food bags and cups Q & A start to shine. Understandably everyfrom Union one wants them picked up. We con-County Commissioner tinue to depend on private citizens who have committed to clean up portions of county roads and we supplement this with detainee crews. This year our detainee crews are being utilized to clean

up and make needed repairs to many county roads that were im-

pacted because of flood damage over the winter. In addition, we are short one crew and hope to have them in action soon. We do appreciate the Sheriff's Office inmates helping while we are short-

Q. Does Union County have anyone assisting us with our litter programs?

A. Yes we do. For years Union County has worked together with North Georgia Resource Management Authority to fight litter on the roads in Union County. While it is a never ending battle, we keep trying. Education has been and continues to be done in the school systems, garbage haulers have been educated on covering loads, and education has been done to the public. So far, our success has been limited. We are not alone in that this is a problem in just about every county.

Q. What else does North Georgia Resource Management Authority (NGRMA) do in Union County?

A. Union County is a member of this four county authority that runs the recycling centers, helps market our recyclables to help bring in the maximum proceeds, promotes litter reduction and recycling programs, educating the public on recycling and reducing waste and they organize the Great American Cleanup. They also organize the annual Electronics Recycling and Document Destruc-O. When is the next Electronics Recycling day?

A. It is scheduled for April 2nd from 10:00 to 12:00 (noon). It will be in the lower parking lot at the North Georgia Technical

See **Paris**, page 5A

Meet Katelin Margard

Recently one of the recognized leaders in Chamber social media recognized the Blairsville-Union County Chamber social media presence as among the best in class. While much of the credit falls to our Tourism Director, Tobie Chandler, she has recently been receiving help from our newest staff ad-Blairsville

So let me introduce you to our intern Katelyn Margard. A graduate of the Chamber's

Youth Leadership

County Regina

Union 2015, Katelyn started with us in February She is an 11th grade home-schooler with a current grade point average of 4.0. Katelyn enjoys photography, reading, act-

ing and sings in the Youth Choir at First Baptist. She was the Equestrian Circuit Champion at the Winter Equestrian Festival in 2015 and the Reserve Champion in 2014. She has received Honorable Mention in State Spelling Bees and State History Fairs. She has volunteered with animal rescue shelters, as a Teacher's Assistant for K & 1st grade students and as a member of the stage crew for the North Georgia Passion Play.

Katelyn is proficient with Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint in addition to the social media sites of Hootsuite, Facebook, Instagram

In addition to interning at the Chamber, she currently serves as an intern at Shad Bradley TV Productions and babysits on the weekend.

So the next time you visit the Chamber es make sure you give Katelyn Margard a warm Blairsville-Union County welcome.

Lawn Maintenance

With this beautiful weather, plants are popping up all over the place! For the most part this means beautiful tree blossoms, dazzling daffodils and lush, green grass. However, to the lawn-conscious ho-

meowner, it means one thing: weeds.

It has only been a few weeks but I've already seen dandelions, henbit and other weeds



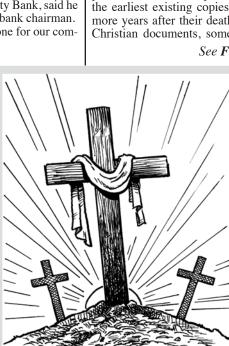
everywhere. Though the appearance of plants such as these means it's a little too late for a

pre-emergent herbicide that will halt broadleaf weed development, there is still a small chance to head off crabgrass by spreading a granular weed grass pre-emergent, such as pendimethalin. If you apply pendimethalin or another preemergent to your lawn, it's important to not apply any seed for six months. Homeowners in South Georgia and Florida can get away with seeding soon after weeding because of their tolerant warm season grasses such as zoysia and St. Augustine, but the cool season grass mix so many of us have here in the mountains is very susceptible to many preventative herbicides. Established lawns can handle this treatment, but new seeds will not be able to sprout. To deal with established broadleaf weeds,

it is best to use a post-emergent (herbicide that kills weeds that have already sprouted) throughout the spring and summer as needed. One suggested post-emergent is a formula that contains Quinclorac, 2,4-D, and Diacamba. These are all effective herbicides and the combination of all three provides a powerful treatment that targets both unwanted grasses such as crabgrass and broadleaf weeds, while leaving your lawn unharmed. You can find this and pendimethalin wherever lawn care products are sold.

While it's important to kill the weeds in your lawn, it's also important to feed the grass that you actually want to grow. Spring and fall are prime times to fertilize cool season grasses. but remember: get your soil tested! It's recommended that you take lawn soil samples once every two to three years, so if you haven't sub-

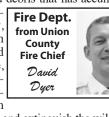
See Mattee, page 5A



Wildland Fire Season

The fire department has seasons much like other organizations do. One season that is coming up is the wildfire season. This is the time of year where people want to get outside and burn the brush, leaves and debris that has accumulated

over the fall and winter. Unfortunately, these debris fires can get out of control and start a wildfire. We, along with the Georsion (GFC), are then



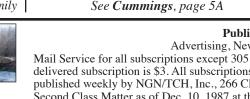
called to help control and extinguish the wildfire. Wildfires damage forests and can endanger homes. According to the GFC, debris burning is Georgia's number one cause of wildfires. Union County Fire Department and Georgia Forestry Commission want people to burn safely and to understand the responsibilities when burning debris. The following is some information provided by GFC on safe burning practices and information needed for burning debris.

When burning debris, you first must obtain a burning permit from the Georgia Forestry Commission. It is illegal to burn without a permit. The burning permit is easy to obtain by calling 1-877-OK2-Burn or by going on line at GaTrees. org. You provide them with some basic information and they will issue a burning permit number if burning is allowed that day. There may be times where burning is not allowed and in those cases, permits will not be issued. Outdoor burning permits are for the burning of natural vegetative materials. It is also unlawful to burn man made materials such as tires, shingles, plastics, lumber, household garbage, etc. Permits are also only good for the day they were issued.

Once you have a permit, it is time to prepare for safety and burn the debris pile. Check the weather to know conditions. Make sure that you have enough time to commit to burning the debris pile. Advise your neighbors that you will be burning. Prepare tools that may be needed to help control the fire such as shovels, rakes and a water hose. Wear the proper clothing including long pants, long sleeves, boots, gloves and safety goggles. When preparing the debris pile, make small piles and clear 25 feet or more around the pile. You should never use any flammable liquids to start the fire. Remain with the fire until all debris is burned. If small embers remain, extinguish them with the water hose before leaving

Land owners who burn debris are responsible for fire safety, what they burn, the smoke, and maintaining the fire on their property. Always remember to get a permit and practice all safety tips. Knowing your responsibilities and using sound safety practices can keep you safe and may prevent wildland fires. For more information on burning safety or on the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest resources please visit www.GATrees.org.

Union County Fire Department, - Our Family Protecting Your Family



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Farmer's Market

Dear Editor,

ers comment about the Farmers Market and the flood plain in your newspaper on March 9, 2016. Let me first say, I don't know what difference it makes whether or not I have been to the market. I have actually been to the market and bought their produce. I did not see Lamar Paris there. I do believe the Farmers Market was a good thing. I believe I was the first person to bring the idea of a Farmers Market up in this county.

ing about buying from us.

I also would like to agree with the per-

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