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three water providers within Union County are all independently operated. They have their own operating systems and their own lines and tanks. When the City was cleaning their tank, this only affected the customers they service. It is in no way connected to Notla Water or Coosa Water.

Q. What is a water authority?

A. It is a legal entity, set up by the Georgia Legislature, to provide safe public drinking water. The systems are similar to Blue Ridge Mountain EMC in that the users of the water are also members of the authority and a board is elected or appointed by the members. Notla and Coosa Water authorities as well as the City of Blairsville water system have legal boundaries set up by the state and in order

for one system to allow another to furnish water in their territory, they have to give them permission. The best example of this is Walmart. It is located in the Coosa Water Authority territory, but Coosa could not furnish the volume of water required by Walmart to operate their fire protection system. Therefore, Coosa gave the City of Blairsville the right to enter into their territory to furnish the water.

Q. Does the City of Blairsville Water Department have members like Coosa and Notla Water authorities?

A. No, they are totally owned and operated by the City of Blairsville. Any issues with the City of Blairsville Water Department is handled by city government, which would include the Mayor and City Council.

Coalition... continued from Page 4A

By itself, marijuana is thought to roughly double a driver's chances of being in a crash, and the combination of marijuana and even small amounts of alcohol is even more dangerous—more so than either substance alone.

Recent research has shown that people with persistent marijuana use disorder who began using marijuana heavily as teens permanently lost an average of 6 or up to 8 IQ points by mid-adulthood. Compared with their nonsmoking peers, students who use marijuana tend to get lower grades and are more likely to drop out of high school. People who use marijuana regularly for a long time report decreased overall life satisfaction, including poorer mental and physical

health, memory and relationship problems, lower salaries, and less career success.

Marijuana is linked to some mental illnesses. Although scientists don't yet fully understand how the use of marijuana may impact the development of mental illness, high doses can bring on an acute psychosis (thinking that is detached from reality, sometimes including hallucinations) or panic attack. In people who already have schizophrenia (a severe mental disorder with symptoms such as hallucinations, paranoia, and disorganized thinking), marijuana use can worsen these symptoms. Also, evidence suggests that early marijuana use may increase the risk of psychotic disorders among those at higher genetic risk for these disorders.

Combs... continued from Page 4A

Virgin birth of Christ.

Here's a fact to ponder: The only Jesus that we have any historical record of is the One who was virgin born. If you want to disprove this fact, where is your documentation? You will have to produce evidence, certainly more than reasoning of man. It is so easy to sit in a swivel chair in some theological seminary and write a thesis on the impossibility of the Virgin birth, but where is your proof? All one has is just reasoning from a worldly view, not spiritual. The Word of God carries authority and power over all things and nothing is too hard for God to do.

A few decades ago no one ever thought a man could be put on the moon, but it happened by God's grace.

So whether you believe in the Virgin birth of Jesus or not, the facts are all in and the verdict is unanimous in favor of all believers in Christ as we celebrate the reason for this Christmas season. Please give this article some thought, because it will depend on your answer where you will spend eternity. God so loved the world, that He gave us the Savior of the world, baby Jesus, in all of His glory. Amen

Frank F. Combs

Driskell... continued from Page 4A

To the person that "blew" the red light at HomeDepot/Post Office at 4:05 pm on Monday the 11th. I was in the Buick stopped in the right hand lane for the RED light, waiting for the traffic to clear coming from Home Depot. I don't know how you missed the Home Depot car, the car coming from the post office and the right hand lane car going to Home Depot. I witnessed a miracle; all three drivers were alert and saw you coming.

If any one of them had not stopped just in time, you would have T-boned them and it would probably have been an

accident with fatalities; and you might have been one of the fatalities. Is it really worth it? I wonder if you even saw the red light because I didn't see any brake lights as you flew by. Were you on your cell? Were you texting? I have to wonder if you've done this before? Do you get a thrill tempting death? What's next? Dodging the barrier at the train crossing and missing the train by seconds? If you are the person I saw; I hope I don't meet up with you again. I'd like to be around a little longer.
Jerry Driskell

To the Veterans of Union County

From the Commander and staff of Ira Weaver Post 121 of the American Legion, wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year are conveyed to you and yours. Thank you for your service to our great country. May God bless you and keep you and yours safe during the holidays.

The Commander and staff would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to join the American Legion in the upcoming year. Help us to provide for veterans and the community.

Visit our web site at legionpost121.org and check out the event calendar for upcoming meeting dates and events.

Allison... continued from Page 4A

ney all the way to the North Pole and there he was! They could see him coming, ready to hand out the first gift of Christmas. I couldn't help but think of the First Christmas. The Wise Men made the long journey, following a star, to meet Jesus. How excited they must have been after their long journey to see him right

before their very eyes.

Amid the preparations, parties, and activities surrounding this time of year, at the heart of it all, is the reason for the season. Celebrating the greatest gift of all, the birth of Jesus. My hope is that each one of us take time to celebrate the gifts of Christmas and the joy it brings! I encourage you to take

Mattee...

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ing more than the trunk. Less severe pruning can be done at any time throughout the year without affecting the number of blooms.

Though camellias do well for the most part, they are susceptible to some diseases such as flower blight, leaf gall, and canker. Flower blight is a fungus that causes the flowers to turn brown and infects in early spring. Leaf gall is also

caused by a fungus but affects the leaves, which turn a pale green or white and enlarge to fleshy masses.

The best way to prevent both of these diseases is to remove any infected tissue on or around the plant, and put down a fresh cover of mulch to suppress any mulch spores that have fallen to the soil. Canker is also caused by a fungus but can often kill entire branches. Having enough nutrients and well-drained acidic soil will help prevent canker infections.

Cummings ... continued from Page 4A

square on Thursday evening after the baseball game. We were told someone was going to streak through town. Every kid in school must have been in town that evening. It was about 5:30 when the baseball game ended and we all just walked over to the square. We hadn't been there long when this tall, lanky, young man came running down the street with nothing on but a paper bag over his head. Everyone in town was cheering and clapping their hands. None of us knew that the person under the bag was Bob. Well, most of us didn't know.

As Bob ran through town he ran by Crawfish Springs to pick up his clothing and made his way back home. Upon ar-

riving at his house Bob found the Chief of Police sitting in his driveway. By this time, Bob was fully clothed so he walked up to the car and asked, "Mr. Steele can I help you?" Mr. Steele looked up at Bob with a grin and said, "Bob, you are under arrest for indecent exposure." Bob asked the policeman, "How did you know it was me?" "Well Bob, you are the tallest kid in Chickamauga," replied the officer.

Fowler...

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did all that "for the joy set before Him" (Heb. 12:2). Joy to the world, indeed!

A Hebrew prophet 700 years before the Nativity wrote, "My servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities" (Isa. 53:11). That servant was the child born unto us called Mighty God (Isa. 9:6). Because of the cradle there would be a cross; because of the cross there is hope. Christmas morning was the dawn of hope, brought to you by the Eternal Father who loves you.

This was the plan all along, "invented" by God. So, yeah, enjoy what sounds like a good movie, but don't let the title fool you. Dickens was a gifted writer, but Christmas was invented far before he came along. Isn't that Merry?

Dyer ...

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www.ready.gov.
Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Duncan ...

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out power. A lot of folks lost power, myself included.

However, I knew that the EMC power crews were working night and day to resolve the issue of powerless homes.

There are a number of conspiracy theories out there about who got power and when.

I know for a fact that the power crews worked their hearts out to restore power. They were not cherry picking who got power first, second or third.

Bottom line, they were restoring power to affected communities, period.

I got my power back, I eventually got my satellite Dish TV back, and my internet access.

It was a horrible three days to say the least. We should have no hard feelings toward our fellow man for a winter storm that came unannounced and without warning.

One can shake a finger at Mother Nature. It was a natural disaster that caught us all off guard.

Some did not get to make the obligatory bread and milk run to the grocery store before it hit.

Many stores got caught off guard by not having their winter supplies fully stocked on their shelves.

However, through it all and with the aid of social media and a few generators, we survived.

We're still the tight-knit community we were before the storm.

Let's not toss blame at human beings where Mother Nature was at fault.

God Bless us all.

at least at moment to reflect on the blessings in your life and all the wonders of Christmas.

From our hearts to yours,

we wish you a Merry Christmas! Thank you for being part of our Chamber and this wonderful community.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Children's Story Time	Every Monday: Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
	Every Tuesday:	
Tri State Bus. Women	Cabin Coffee	8 am
Tuesday Strippers	Mtn Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
	Every Wednesday:	
BINGO	Civic Center	7 pm
	Every Thursday:	
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	NGTC	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
	Fourth Monday of each month:	
Blue Ridge Comm.	McCaysville Lodge	7:30 pm
	Fourth Tuesday of each month:	
Compassionate Friends	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Dead Theologians Soc.	Cabin Coffee	Noon
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville UMC	12:30 pm
VFW Post #7394	Veteran's Center	6:30 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
	Fourth Wednesday of each month:	
No activities listed		
	Fourth Thursday of each month:	
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 pm
UT Homebuilders	YH College	7 pm
	Fourth Friday of each month	
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
	Fourth Saturday of each month:	
Young Cane Lodge #597	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm