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bags in a trailer, if they are not protected from the wild, that does violate the county ordinance and they must be covered when they are hauled.

Q. There is a home in my neighborhood that has junk all around it. What can be done?

A. What is junk to one person may be treasure to another. Part of living in a rural area is that everyone is not going to keep their property in the clean and neat condition that others will.

Fortunately, this is only in a few places.

Some will keep the grass and weeds cut and others will not.

Others will leave stuff in the yard we wish they would remove.

We try very hard to not place our values on everyone here but allow them the freedoms that come with home ownership.

However, at the same time, they should also respect others.

Again, if you feel it is unreasonable as opposed to just not the way you would

do it, you can call our office and we will have someone check it out.

Q. Did the county grandfather some junk yards under the ordinance?

A. Yes.

Our ordinance was first adopted back in 2006.

Prior to then, no previous commissioner or ordinary adopted any ordinances related to this issue.

Once a new junk yard ordinance was adopted, we had to grandfather in those who already had them located on their property.

Also, garages and body shops were exempted, so there are some places that sometimes junk cars that are completely legal to be there.

However, if they have been created since 2006, the date the ordinance was adopted, in most cases, they are not exempt from the new regulations.

Next Week - Commissioner's Q&A, Part II, continued.

To submit a question, call the Commissioner's Office, at (706) 439-6000.

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the folks on the team. Not only were his relatives playing and watching, but, his team mates of the prior year were on the team. One young man, Bobby Joe, was a player that my dad had worked with on his defensive skills and his foul shots.

The game was generally snip and tuck with first Hackelburgh being in front and toward the end Phil Campbell was leading. Phil Campbell was closing in on a victory with 4 seconds left in the game when Bobby Joe stole the ball and went to the basket for a lay-up.

The young man missed the shot turned toward his older friend Paul and cursed because of his missed shot. Paul the referee called a technical foul

because of the cursing. Hackelburgh made 2 foul shots and received the ball at half court with 3 seconds left in the game.

The arch rival of Phil Campbell won the game with a long jump shot from the top of the key. All of Paul's friends and family refused to talk to him for 2 weeks. He was even ostracized by his parents and brother.

So, once again the young man was down in the mouth about his circumstances.

However, he wasn't down for long. After all he still had his girlfriend. So, Paul didn't care what others thought as long as Shirley, who would become my mother 2 years later, thought well of him.

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raise the more uncomfortable issues you want to talk about with your teens – without raising the tension – making it easier for him or her to hear what's on your mind.

And by sharing your thoughts in writing, you will likely spark the in-person conversation you've been wanting to have, laying the foundation for a genuine, heart to heart.

Before you write, here are some ideas and tips to think about before crafting your letter: Consider the attention span you're dealing with - keep your letter to one page. Be conversational. Write as a parent, not as a friend. If appropriate, sprinkle in a little humor to help break the ice.

Avoid anger, scare tactics and shaming words which will likely make your child shut down. Instead, try to be curious, respectful and understanding. Try to avoid sounding angry or confrontational. If you're deeply upset, take a few deep breaths or go for a walk to calm down before you start writing.

Some words/phrases to consider using: Love – Remind your child that you love him or her and are always there to listen, help, comfort and offer guidance.

Trust – Trust is valued by your teen but it's something that must be earned. If you've filled in your teen on the rules (and consequences for breaking them), chances are she got the message. Communicate that you trust her, but she must keep up her end of the bargain.

I Noticed – Give concrete examples of your teen's behaviors – good or bad – that you've observed. A recent decision he made, an act of kindness, a project she worked extra hard on, something they've done that made you happy. Or – or made you cringe. Or perhaps it's something that didn't sit right with you. Paying close attention is one way to let your child know that you care.

I'm Concerned – You are writing this letter because you are worried and want to express it. It's important to come out and say it. Be sure to share any details of what you've seen, heard, smelled, found, read, etc. (Example: "You haven't been yourself lately").

I'm Here – Be sure to tell your teen that you will always be there to talk and listen to what he or she has to say.

I Understand – Admit your own feelings and experiences (ex: "I remember when I was a teenager..."; "I'm not perfect but..."; "I feel that way sometimes too.")

To start, consider a friendly hello. A joke, perhaps. Or a meaningful quote.

Then simply state why you're writing this letter. Feel free to acknowledge that you understand this is type of com-

munication is unusual/retro/old-school. If your child is stressed or upset about something, come on out an acknowledge it

Now say a few kind words about your child – why you're proud of him or her or simply what you love about him or her. Or maybe explain what you love about your relationship. Something positive. Perhaps it's an example of a recent accomplishment or mention of a particular personality trait that you adore.

The middle is where you state your point or concern. Just come out and say it. For example, you can say: "I'm concerned about your marijuana use." Then give a couple examples (if you have them), referencing recent behavior you've noticed, to support your concern. A few details go a long way. For example, you can say: "You failed your history test, you've been having a hard time getting out of bed, and your teacher called and said you're not completing assignments."

Then explain that this concerns you – and why. For example, "This can't continue and I'm concerned about you." Try your best to sound calm and rational – being overly dramatic or angry might push your teen away.

Then you state what needs to happen next. "I'd love to talk to you about this more." Or "I feel far away from you and wish we could talk openly more often." Or "I'd like you to get a drug assessment."

Give specifics. For example, you can say: "Let's discuss this tomorrow night on the drive home from soccer practice."

Clearly state any new rules or strategies. For example, you can say: "Let's try to sit and talk for a few minutes every Tuesday after you finish your homework." or "Let's make a formal agreement that I'll be there to help you whenever you need me."

Tell your child that you love and care about him/her and want the best for him/her. Remind him or her that you are always there to listen, support and talk. (Get as gushy as you feel comfortable.) Thank him or her for listening.

Then sign your name. The formality of a letter can add a seriousness to the situation that can get your child's attention – and allow you to express how you really feel.

Sometimes we make the assumption that our kids know how we feel without our having to say it out loud (or in writing). But why take that chance? A letter can mean a lot to children of all ages. In fact, your child might save a note like this for a long time, reading it over again and again.

Stratton...

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that amount, coupled with the other legal entanglements that have come to light since then, really calls for an open outside audit of Union General's finances for the last several years - preferably with the oversight of the prosecutor's office.

Regardless of the motives involved, the apparent conflict of interest shows they need more openness and accountability to the community that they serve.

Mark Stratton

Chandler...

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to be bustling with customers. Even if your business doesn't fall into one of those three categories, please remember that as these businesses prosper, they will all be requiring your professional services.

Not to mention the increase of tourism dollars goes directly to offset the operation of the county government which keeps your property taxes low! There are going to be activities all over Blairsville-Union County to keep you and your family busy all weekend long.

Friday morning start your day at the Union County Farmers Market for Trash & Treasures and end your evening by enjoying the tunes of Butternut Creek and Friends playing at the Historic Courthouse on the Square.

The fun continues Saturday morning at the Farmers Market with the Honey Bee Jubilee from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday evening there is a Cruise-In on the Square and an outdoor Corner Concert on the Square featuring the Tom Floyd Band.

Also Saturday, the Blue Ridge Cotton Company-Blairsville is hosting a Back to School event and Nani's Cuban Restaurant is getting a jump start on the eclipse with specials like Lunar Burgers, Moonquitos, midnight sandwiches and more. Additionally, a new festival called "Get Off the Grid" will be at the Union County Saddle Club Friday – Sunday (August 18th – 20th).

The premise of the festival is all about sustainability and will feature education, live

Fowler...

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ation, fall, redemption, eternity. Our language, the calendar, and our ceremonies bear evidence of Christianity. Yet, as noticeable as this is, this is not the visible faith we are called to. Upon us is the imprint of the nail-scarred hands that are generous and gentle. Inside us is a new heart of compassion for the helpless and hurting. Within our mouths are the true words of grace to heal the sick soul.

What animates a visible faith is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal. 5:22), which you know as the fruit of the Spirit's presence. With this harvest of character, your faith will not be intangible. It will be visible. "Seeing their faith," it says.

Mattee...

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the hands and feet and spreads throughout the body. Lyme Disease is also caused by bacteria the tick transfers from host to host through its mouthparts. This disease sometimes causes a rash made up of several rings that looks like a target. Other symptoms include joint pain and flu like symptoms. Both RMSF and Lyme disease can be effectively managed using antibiotics.

The best way to prevent tick bites and tick-borne diseases is to avoid the places they live: tall, grassy areas with plenty of humidity.

However, if you need to enter these areas, make sure to tuck your pants into your socks and cover as much skin as possible. Also, spray yourself with DEET and your clothes with permethrin. Finally, check yourself for ticks as often as possible and remove any that have attached immediately, because the longer the tick stays attached, the greater the chance of disease transmission.

Ga. Boot Reunion

The annual Georgia Boot Reunion will be held Saturday, Aug. 19th, at the Senior Center Pavilion, Meeks Park in Blairsville, beginning at 11 a.m.

Please bring a covered dish. Meat, drinks and paper products will be furnished. For more details contact:

Lorella Giacomelli at (706) 745-6560, or Mirle Penland at (706) 896-1654.

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sidering joining those elite two. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says there is a 95 percent chance that climate change is real and human caused.

Considering the monumental risks involved if we do not act, that certainly would seem convincing evidence to act. But what if the chance of it being real was only 50 percent, or 25 percent, or even 10 percent? With the risk of badly damaging life on earth as we know it for countless billions

of people for many generations to come if we do not act, would even that 10 percent chance be enough to act?

Let's put it another way. Consider that you and your family were considering crossing a bridge with a 2,000 foot drop off below. Now consider that 93-99 percent of experts said that the bridge would break if you tried to cross it and you would be hurled downward, probably to your death. Would you cross? Would you cross if there were

music, and a variety of vendors.

On Sunday, August 20th a special Astronomy Night event will be held at the Union County Fine Arts Center at 3 p.m. featuring junior Astronomer David Hearn. Mr. Hearn will be providing a well-rounded scientific overview to educate and prepare you for everything you will experience on Monday during the Eclipse.

Admission is \$3 per person or \$1 with a Union County School ID. Tickets are available at the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.

On Monday, August 21st, eclipse parties will be taking place all over the county.

Enjoy the Totality Tailgate at the Fine Arts Center parking lot, Moon Over Meeks event at Meeks Park, and a Viewing Party at the Industrial Park.

Butternut Creek Golf Course and Crossing Creeks RV Resort are hosting viewing parties along with Mountain Crossings and The Sawmill Place.

There is an Eclipse Shindig at the Hillcrest shopping center and viewing on the lawn and deck of Copperhead Lodge. Armadillo Grill has specials like Dark Side of the Moon burgers and Total Eclipse of the BLT.

This is going to be a wonderful chance to enjoy a

only a 10 percent chance of this happening? It is a matter of risk assessment.

Now, considering the fact that we have clean energy alternatives available for almost the same price as fossil fuels, would it not be prudent to rapidly begin that conversion? Plans such as a carbon fee and dividend plan show us that we can actually grow the economy while curbing greenhouse gases. Why not act? How much risk are we willing to take? The fate of the world may depend on our choices.

Vernon Dixon, MD

once-in-a-lifetime experience with your friends and family.

We encourage you to stay positive, practice safe eclipse viewing, let your Southern hospitality shine and make the most out of this fascinating event.

The Blairsville Eclipse Experience is presented by North Georgia Technical College – Blairsville Campus in partnership with the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.

To learn more about the eclipse and to locate viewing parties, please go to www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com/solar-eclipse-1017 for up to date information.