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Church.

"He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and friend," his obituary reads. "He loved spending time with his family, camping, hunting, fishing, gunsmithing and watching Atlanta Braves Baseball."

David is survived by his wife and best friend of 51 years, Mary Burnette of Blairsville; sons Robert, Marc and Andrew

Burnette, all of Blairsville; daughter Christal Chastain of Cherry Log; 15 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and many other loved ones.

Private family services were held for Burnette on Monday, Nov. 23, at Philadelphia Baptist Church, with Revs. Marc Burnette and Mark Chastain officiating. Union County Fire Ladder 1 was stationed at Skeenah Gap Road

and Blue Ridge Highway that day in honor of Burnette.

Mountain View Funeral Home had charge of his arrangements. People may sign the family guest book and send condolences online at www.mountainviewfuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made in David's memory to Union County Fire Station 2 at P.O. Box 1488, Blairsville, GA 30514.

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cardiac arrests die, the American Heart Association says, but CPR, especially if performed immediately, "can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival."

And considering that about 70% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the home, having a dispatcher available to talk people through performing potentially life-saving chest compressions on their loved one will assuredly mean the difference between life and death some of the time.

"There are two parts to this," Dyer said. "No. 1 is recognizing that a person may possibly be in cardiac arrest, and No. 2 is providing emergency callers with instructions on how to do CPR once they have identified cardiac arrest."

Generally speaking, the American Heart Association says people should call 911 if they see a teen or adult collapse, then "push hard and fast in the center of the chest to the beat of a familiar song that has 100 to 120 beats per minute."

One such song recommendation is, fittingly, "Stayin' Alive" by the Bee Gees, which is exactly what Dyer wants people to do – stay alive.

"Statistics show that for every minute you're in cardiac arrest without compressions, your chance of survival drops

by 10%," Dyer said. "We've been asked, will performing CPR hurt a person who is not really in cardiac arrest?"

"Well, if they're in cardiac arrest, it's not going to make anything worse. If they're not exactly in cardiac arrest but they're still unconscious and not breathing correctly, you're going to provide something that's not really going to harm them and is probably going to help them.

"And help is always on the way – the other dispatcher is sending medical units while the primary dispatcher is giving CPR instructions."

Lt. Millie Baxter oversees the day-to-day operations of the E-911 Center, and she said all her dispatchers are ready to go with Telephone CPR and excited to be providing yet another service for the public.

The new Telephone CPR public service comes by way of a partnership between Union County E-911, Union General Health System and the American Heart Association, which promotes the Hands-Only CPR method.

For several years now, the hospital and E-911 Center have been talking about the possibility of bringing Telephone CPR to the county.

Union General is currently in the process of reaccreditation as a Chest Pain Center through the American

College of Cardiology, and part of that process has been steadily moving toward gaining Telephone Triage capabilities with the local 911 Center.

Everyone was hoping to install the service sooner, but COVID-19 caused delays in the process. Fortunately, things began coming together again recently, with Dyer settling on a CPR protocol that Hospital Emergency Room Director Dr. James Robertson then approved.

Plans are in play, too, to expand the E-911 Center's capabilities with Emergency Medical Dispatch certification to enable dispatchers to deliver over-the-phone instructions related to other emergencies, though that is a much more extensive process with a longer timeline.

For now, Union General Chief Nursing Officer Julia Barnett said Telephone CPR is a great first step in that direction.

"Hopefully, we'll save lives by having folks do Hands-Only CPR while they're waiting on help to arrive," Barnett said. "Any time we can work together to coordinate care for our community, that benefits everybody."

For more information on Hands-Only CPR, visit <https://cpr.heart.org>.

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Department for more pricey equipment or vehicles."

Typically, Hawkins will fill out a purchase order when a department needs to buy an item that costs more than \$5,000 or when a vendor requires one. The county's accounting system then ties each purchase order into the requesting department's budget when the invoice arrives.

"Department heads and elected officials also know that if something is going to cost more than \$25,000, quotes are required," Hawkins said.

Purchasing isn't just limited to equipment needs, however; building upgrades also need to be taken care of, as well as capital projects like the brand-new Sports Center that opened earlier this month, which the county built for local recreation opportunities using SPLOST money.

To provide for larger purchases like capital projects, Hawkins applies state guidelines to evaluate suppliers, negotiate contracts and conduct quality reviews, all while trying to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars. But cost is far from being the only deciding factor.

In addition to price, many factors play a role in purchasing decisions, including quality, reliability, availability, technical support and more.

An efficient way to incorporate these multiple factors is the "request for proposal," or RFP, which is a major tool in a purchasing agent's toolkit.

According to Investopedia, an RFP is "a business document that

announces and provides details about a project, as well as solicits bids from contractors who will help complete the project."

And an RFP is different from a straight bidding process in that the county can be more selective in the vendor it chooses to provide a good or service instead of having to go with the lowest bidder.

"We would do an RFP when a project or item is going to be over \$100,000," Hawkins said. "Major upgrades to county facilities, like the jail roof, falls under our current SPLOST program in a particular line item.

"So, that allows us to use SPLOST money for that rather than taking a huge hit out of our General Fund with the jail budget."

State law enumerates the requirements for the use of voter-backed SPLOST money, so every time a SPLOST referendum is introduced, the county words prospective "projects" as generally as possible to expand the scope of goods and services that can utilize this money.

"That way we can legally use SPLOST money on things like firetrucks, Road Department equipment and vehicles, some Sheriff's Office vehicles, upgrades to county facilities, etc.," Hawkins said. "This prevents us from having to use the General Fund budget for larger, more costly items whenever possible, which in turn keeps property taxes lower."

Currently, the county has five RFP opportunities

for potential contractors, including:

Roof Replacement for the Union County Jail and Sheriff's Office Building at 378 Beasley Street, which qualifies as a SPLOST project due to the undertaking being a major upgrade.

Renovation of the Union County Community Center to expand seating at the View Grill, also a SPLOST project.

The Helton Creek Falls Trail Rehabilitation Project to repair the trail that has degraded with time to improve overall safety. This project will be paid using General Fund monies.

There are also two RFPs for "standby contracts" requested by the Union County Emergency Management Agency, one for Debris Monitoring Services and another for Debris Removal.

These particular proposals are to secure contracts with companies to assist the county following natural or manmade disasters. Effectively, whichever companies earn these contracts will be on standby to provide future services in the event of local disasters.

Next steps include the submission of proposals by contractors for consideration by the county. For more information on the Purchasing Department and details on these projects, including RFP timelines, visit <http://www.unioncountyga.gov/government/commissioners-office/purchasing/>.

Union County Historical Society 2021 Calendars and hand painted Christmas Ornaments for sale now



The Union County Historical Society has their 2021 calendars for sale. The theme for this year's calendar is MOUNTAIN MUSIC and features pictures and information about many local music artists and bands who have performed at the courthouse and in Union County over the years. Some

have performed on the Grand Ole Opry. This calendar highlights how early music began and how important it became in this area.

We will also have hand painted Union County Christmas Ornaments for sale this year. Our memorial bricks will remain on sale during the

holidays. The calendar and ornaments are collectable items that would make great Christmas gifts.

The memorial bricks would be a wonderful gift to honor a loved one or friend.

Stop by our museum on the square or call 706-745-5493 for more information.