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**does not work, why does the state continue to use it?**

A. It apparently works well under some conditions. We just have not had the exact conditions necessary in the past couple of years. If it rains before a snow event, then most of the pretreatment will be washed off the highway. However, if we have an extremely dry and cold snow and the air temperatures are well below 20 degrees, it also does not seem to have much of an impact. During last year's snow and the one storm this year, it was so cold that the pretreatment and the salt could not melt fast to have a significant impact on the ice that was on the highways from being packed down by the drivers.

**Q. Were there any issues with the snow removal this time?**

A While snow removal can always be an issue, I think our employees handled it very well. However, any time you have extremely low temperatures immediately after a snowfall, it means ice will form on the highway and this time was no exception. Also, once ice forms, salt will not melt the snow until the temperature increases above 20 degrees. What really did help was all the sunshine for the next few days following the snowfall. Even though the air temperature is well below freezing, the dark road surface heats with the sunshine, helping to melt the ice.

**Q. What other precautions are taken by the Road Department?**

The Road Department was prepared and began salting and scraping as soon as the snow began. This contin-

ued day and night for the next several days. All employees and departments were kept updated with regular weather briefings throughout the week so they had all the information that was available regarding the upcoming weather. This allowed them to be prepared and know what to expect.

It was also helpful that the weather forecast was very accurate this time which helped that we knew what was going to happen. Outside contractors with motor graders were utilized again this year to help in the early removal of snow which was a tremendous help.

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ing for any of your upcoming events, you can give Karl or Ellen Engelmann a call at (800) 996-0978.

What a special treat it was to honor Habitat for Humanity of Towns/Union County as Business of the Quarter on January 12th. From the Chamber Team, Board Members, and Ambassadors, thank you for all that you do for our community.

Habitat for Humanity helps provide houses to families in need that are affordable offering them "a hand up, not a hand out" in the words of Richard Daves, President & Chairman of the Board. They have a Re-Store located just over the county line in Towns County that offers a variety of items from furniture, to home décor, to appliances at reasonable prices. The inventory is comprised of donations from individuals and businesses; proceeds from the sales in the Re-Store helps them raise money for their projects.

Habitat for Humanity of Towns/Union County also launched a new program called Helping Hands. This program helps people maintain their homes that otherwise would not be able to afford them as they may be on a fixed income. Just as with the home builds, volunteers come in and do the work and the homeowner is required to help. The homeowner makes payments for the work, investing back in Habitat for Humanity of Towns/Union County and our community.

## Dyer ...

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with such an event as we do. It is a combination of many things but the two most prevalent are the experience we have and the cooperation of everyone in the county. The Union County Government, public safety and the citizens all work together to prepare and respond to these significant events. We, Union County Fire Department and Emergency Management, are proud to be included in that team.

~ Union County Fire Department – Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

## Fowler...

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We "think like that" because our world views filter how we perceive reality, including politics. Understand and settle your own world view, and then you may understand your neighbor better. As for our country, "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" The answer, "In the Lord I take refuge... the Lord is in His holy temple." (Psa. 11) May the Lord lead us His Way, teach us His Truth, and give us His Life.

## Cordier ...

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coverage; and 6) preventative care services including flu shots, cancer screenings and mammograms.

Health care has been a highly debated issue in our country for many years and there has been much disinformation circulated about the Affordable Care Act which makes health care issues even more confusing. As our new congress takes office there are many legislators ready to not only repeal the Affordable Care Act but also to revamp the most effective safety nets of our society -- Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Those voices shouting to repeal the ACA (Affordable Care Act) have offered no constructive plans for replacement and ideas to privatize Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid should have all citizens demanding greater responsibility from their elected officials. A democracy is only as effective as the involvement of its citizens. We must step up and let our voices be heard. Call Senator Johnny Isakson: 202-224-3643, Senator David Perdue: 202-224-3521 and Representative Doug Collins: 202-225-9893 to express your opinion about these and other issues. Our legislators work for the citizens and they need to be held accountable.

**Jennifer Cordier**

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

is why I admired Bob. He was courageous and demonstrated that courage in the spring of 1973.

One Monday in April word got around that everyone should plan on being at the town 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. Every kid in town was cheering and clap-

ping their hands. None of us knew that the person under the bag was Bob. Well, most of us didn't know.

After running through town he ran by the spring to pick up his clothing. He dressed himself and made his way back home. Upon arriving at his house he found the Chief of Police sitting in his driveway. 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 grinned and asked Cubie, "How did you know it was me?" He responded, "Well Bob, you are the tallest kid in Chickamauga."

## Drugs ... continued from Page 5A

for on a daily basis to monitor if your teen is depressed, anxious, and could be abusing substances. Look for things like if they are eating too much or too little, sleeping too much or too little or if you see a significant drop in their grades. If they do not have as much enjoyment in normally enjoyable activities or if they have sudden concentration problems, start asking questions. If they are complaining of body aches (headaches, backaches, stomachaches, etc.) that do not have a medical basis after being checked by a physician or are more irritable than normal, then start watching for other clues. It is not normal for a teen to become socially isolated.

These are all warning signs. If you see even one of these symptoms - act and get

your teen evaluated. Too many parents dismissed these warning signs or were too busy to notice, and their teen ended up in trouble. If your check engine light goes on in your car, you don't keep driving it. These symptoms are the closest you are going to get to your child's "service your teen" light. It is better to be safe than sorry, so act.

If your child does come home under the influence and does not need to go to the hospital, do not take this time to discuss what they did, why they did it, and the consequences that are going to come from it. You cannot be rational with irrational people. Let them sleep it off and discuss it later the next day. The additional time might help you to gather your thoughts and determine the appropriate consequences.

## Mattee ... continued from Page 4A

5. Know the warning signs: Monitor your birds regularly for any of the symptoms I mentioned previously. Early detection is the best detection!

6. Report sick birds: If you think your flock might be infected, don't hesitate to report it. The USDA and University of Georgia are encouraging you to contact your local extension agent (that's me!) if there is the slightest possibility you think your birds might be sick with AI.

The Annual Northeast Georgia Corn Production meeting will be Wednesday, Febru-

ary 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. Topics will include best management practices in corn production and management, pest management, and nutrition requirements. There will be pesticide credit available at this meeting: one hour for private applicators and three hours for commercial applicators in category 21. Please RSVP by 5 p.m. Friday, February 17th to the Union County Extension Office at (706) 439-6030. Lunch will be provided!

## Connell ... continued from Page 4A

one because they are Gay? The liberty to pay women less than men for the same job?

The authors of these letters demonize those who disagree with them. They call other citizens barbarians among other names. What happened to civility and discourse? These writers cry liberty and shout mistruths claiming we are a Christian nation. A reading of the first amendment of our treasured constitution proves otherwise. The truth is, we have separation of church and state. They

claim we are becoming a socialist country when in fact we are not a socialist country although we do have some socialist programs such as Social Security, The Veterans Administration and Medicare. The truth is, eight years after the election of Barack Obama, we have better job growth, increased health care access and no one has taken our guns away. We need continued and vigorous debate on these and other issues, not name calling and disrespect.

**Penny Connell**



## Skywarn Storm Spotter Training Class



The National Weather Service in Peachtree City and Union County Emergency Management present a free Skywarn Storm Spotter Training Class on January 18, 2017 at 6 PM.

What is Skywarn? SKYWARN is a volunteer program with more than 230,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

Who should attend? Anyone with an interest in the weather—amateur radio operators, police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers, emergency

management teams, boaters, weather enthusiasts and of course – the general public!

What is covered? Importance of Storm Spotters; Basics of thunderstorms; Relationship between NWS, Media, and Emergency Management (EMA); Basic radar interpretation; Identifying storm & potential severe weather features; How (and what) to report storm information; Storm spotting safety and awareness tips.

Other class details: Location – Union County Fire Dept. Station 1, 507 Shoe Factory Road, Blairsville, GA. Point of contact – Jeannie at 706-439-6091 or ucfclerk@gmail.com. NJJan18ZJCA