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the most decorated soldier ever from Union County. While he had many awards, the three silver stars were the most prestigious and are evidence of his bravery in battle. Leon served in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Cold War. His famed 24th Infantry Division was the first American unit to see action during the Korean Conflict. During his 22-year career, he served 131 months overseas helping protect our country.

While Major Davenport is known mostly for being a military war hero, perhaps his greatest work was as Administrator of Union General Hospital, a position he accepted soon after leaving the military. He came home just in time to help save Union General Hospital. His first week working, he and Gene Foster, Board Chairman, had to co-sign a loan to make the payroll at the hospital which was around \$10,000. Leon was also very involved in working to get Dr. Gowder to move back to Blairsville, which was the main event that saved our hospital.

Over the next 21 years,

Leon was dedicated to our hospital operation just as he had been dedicated to our military. Mr. Davenport saw the payroll number grow from \$10,000 per month to nearly \$500,000 per month and he watched a fledgling, little country hospital move from barely paying its bills to having several million dollars in savings when he retired in 1993. It became an award-winning hospital prominently known in our region. Under Leon's leadership, Union General added a nursing home at the old hospital location, then purchased the Blairsville (Tankersley) Hospital and moved to its current location. Under his leadership, the first Ambulance Service in the county was started, and he began the Union General Hospital Auxiliary or the "Pink Ladies" which is still in existence today.

The leadership of Dr. George Gowder and Major Leon Davenport and the many fine employees of the hospital, saved untold lives in our county through the years and we continue to have an excellent hospital today thanks to their early involvement.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Vince Dooley. I knew that Granny's sister had worked at Auburn when her son attended that school. Therefore, Granny knew a little about Auburn due to her sister's stories. As soon as we hung up the phone Granny called her sister, Bess, to tell her about my news. Granny even mentioned Vince Dooley's name. Bess interrupted Granny and said, "I never did like that Vince Dooley. When I worked in the cafeteria at Auburn that Vince Dooley was the meanest boy at school and if he is coaching at Georgia then I don't like them". Granny responded, "If you say one more word about Vince Dooley and the Georgia Bulldogs I will beat the stuffing out of you". Granny didn't know Vince Dooley and she never watched the Dogs play. But, she knew I attended that school. She defended UGA and Vince Dooley because it was my school.

A few years later Papa was away working and Granny was washing clothes when she heard a chain saw running on the east side of their farm. She got in the truck and drove over to the community of Dime and down an old logging road to the backside of the farm. She got out of the truck and heard the

chainsaws. She pulled out the shotgun and walked toward the saws. She laid down the gun at the base of a big white oak and proceeded another 30 yards to the men running the saw. When she got to the men they were on our place and cutting our timber. When she confronted the man with the saw he laughed at her. Granny walked back toward the white oak tree and picked up her shotgun. When she got back to the man he was sitting in a skidder. She raised the gun, pointed it at him and told him to get off her place. She did find out his name and he paid Granny for the timber he had stolen.

Granny loved to watch "wrestlin". She would bristle at the notion of the sport being faked. One February evening Papa and I were ready to go coon hunting over in the Bankhead National Forest. But, a cold heavy rain changed our minds. So, we stayed at the house with Granny and watched "Hulk Hogan" wrestle "Andre the Giant". We begin to poke a little fun at Granny and she'd had enough. She said, "I'd like to see you in there. Hulk Hogan would beat the - out of you". Granny covered her mouth and said, "Look what you made me say".

Mattee ... continued from Page 4A

ganic material that provides nutrients for a long period of time. Though planting cover crops and rolling them can be a costly upfront investment, after a few years, soil quality typically improves to the point that producers need less fertilizer, reduced herbicide treatments, and produce high crop yields to the point where the process can pay for itself.

This is just the tip of the iceberg that is soil conditioning. If you're interested in getting the most out of your soil, the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center and UGA Extension are conducting a soil health field day on February 17th at GMREC. Registration and refreshments begin at 9 a.m. and presentations begin at 10 a.m. Topics include ideal soil profiles, improving soil health, federal conservation programs,

and soil testing and interpretation. Lunch is provided and the program concludes at 1 p.m.

Additionally, Union and Towns County Extension will hold the Annual Northeast Georgia Corn Production meeting will be Wednesday, February 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, corn disease identification 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!

Drugs ... continued from Page 4A

Disabilities Act which mandates that employers accommodate workers with illnesses that rise to the level of disability, it is clear that the Act does not protect current users of illegal drugs. So will the courts rule that employers can discriminate against users of medical marijuana?

If we look at safety concerns, an employer would likely not allow a person regularly smoking marijuana to operate heavy machinery, drive big rigs or work in other safety sensitive positions. Company drug free workplace policies must be updated and revised to determine what positions are safety sensitive and to address the State's current medical or marijuana laws.

Some employers might consider policies that offer some reasonable accommodations if the employee holds a valid medical marijuana card; if it's not a safety issue; if it's not an undue hardship for the employer; and if the employee can continue to perform all job duties "in a constant state of alertness and a safe manner". Employers are also concerned about potential liability costs if there is an accident and an employee tests positive for pot use. What liability does the employer have if they had documented knowledge of the pot use?

There is also a huge challenge in this whole arena of determining of when an employee smoked marijuana and if the employee is impaired at work. Unlike alcohol testing, current marijuana testing methodologies will not prove

impairment. Many will have an opinion that if employers want to fire somebody that is high on marijuana, they can and they should. Just like they should fire somebody that came in drunk as a skunk after lunch, after having too many beers. However that opinion might also be that employers should not fire someone who is taking marijuana in their own time and who is not impaired or intoxicated at work.

First and foremost, for DOT regulated employers and employers who have federal contracts or are otherwise subject to federal regulations concerning drug-free workplaces; your practices should not need to change. Employers that are not subject to federal drug testing regulations should review their drug free workplace and substance abuse policies to ensure compliance with local and state law. In those states that do provide for some form of employment protection, you should carefully revise your policies to be consistent with those laws.

Also very important, employers should train their supervisors and managers to recognize signs of impairment (whether due to marijuana, alcohol, or other substances) and how to deal with inquiries from employees regarding their use of medical marijuana.

Stay tuned for some very interesting court cases to be reviewed considering the medical marijuana and recreational marijuana legal challenges now being imposed on employers in our communities.

Allison... continued from Page 4A

The good news is, we have members who can help him with that when he is ready to tackle that!

If you get a chance to stop by the Chamber Office, be sure to say hello to Chris. If you are not currently receiving our weekly e-newsletter and would like to be on the list of recipients, you can feel free to stop by the office, give us a call or email Chris at admin@blairsvillechamber.com. We will be happy to add you to the

Mosley ...

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ger a Blairsville-only institution, it seems that the personal service I once enjoyed with Union County Bank is disappearing. The bank is becoming similar to the big banking institutions that are common in metropolitan areas. I'm not sure my Uncle Frank and Uncle Jim would be pleased with the changes. This letter is to inform the community of the bank's intentions, as I'm sure many people aren't aware of the plans. My hope is that the bank will reconsider the closing of the Ingles branch.

Thank you,

Jo D. Mosley

Fowler...

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Elizabeth Clephane penned the words to the hymn "There Were Ninety and Nine" which captures the intense search, and the joyful find. "Although the road be rough and steep, I go to the desert to find my sheep... Lord, whence are those blood-drops all the way? They were shed for one who had gone astray... And the angels echoed around the throne, Rejoice for the Lord brings back his own!" Are you Found?

White ...

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years that exceeds what the previous 43 presidents accumulated – combined. Running up trillions in federal debt that threatens America's economic stability and very existence is not exactly a Biblical principle. Would you expect any less of a man that once said the early morning call of the Azan (Islamic call to worship) was the "most beautiful sound on earth"; or for twenty years attended a Black liberation theology "church" in Chicago where Jeremiah Wright routinely disparaged Whites, Jews and the United States? Eight years of Obama have reversed decades of gains made in race relations, and he's the most divisive president since Abraham Lincoln.

Gregory C. White

Kamber ...

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we are to love the sinner but hate the sin. It is not discrimination to be against homosexuality because that is what the Bible says. I have never seen anyplace where Trump fired anyone for being a homosexual. You use the word Gay but there is nothing gay about that lifestyle and you should be on your knees praying for these people to be delivered from their lifestyles.

You also mentioned the differences in pay from men and women and you are right on the money. However, you should be criticizing Mrs. Clinton since she was the one doing that while I understand that Trump gives equal pay for either gender.

Finally, the separation of church and state is nowhere in the constitution. It only exists in the minds of those who don't want the church to encroach on their lifestyle. The separation of church and state was not created to keep the church out of the state but to keep the state out of the church. Our founding fathers were pretty cool to think of such a thing.

My dear Penny Connell, you are most certainly entitled to your opinion as I am entitled to mine. I just wish that you would get your facts straight before you put them down on paper for all to see.

I shall most certainly add you to my prayer list and hope that the Lord Jesus will touch your heart with the forgiveness that only He can. God bless you my dear!

Ernie Kamber Sr.

Compton ...

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our own intelligence agencies. Who voted for who last November is not the issue. Where we are now and what we should demand to know of the President-Elect and his administration is the issue.

Thank You,

Andrea Compton,
Young Harris

Dyer ...

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prepared through actions of the citizens and public safety can save lives and possibly reduce damage to property. It is a community effort and being a StormReady® Community educates and prepares Union County to deal with severe

weather events.
~Union County Fire Department – Our Family Protecting Your Family~

weather events.
~Union County Fire Department – Our Family Protecting Your Family~

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