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bags of trash or loose items to the dump.

4 - People are drinking beer and do not want to be caught with empty bottles or cans in their vehicle, so they throw them out as they go down the highway. While aluminum cans can be recycled, glass beer bottles cause a lot of problems. I really do not have a solution for this except to say they are fooling themselves. If they are stopped by law enforcement, it will not matter if there are bottles in the car or not, the officer can smell the alcohol emanating from the driver and he or she can be arrested anyway. If you have a criminal record, beer cans and bottles still retain fingerprints that can lead to an arrest also.

5 - Some people, for reasons I do not understand, simply think it is ok to throw out bags, bottles, cigarette butts or any other type of trash onto the highway when they finish with it. Why is a mystery. Personally, I simply throw any trash in the back floorboard and when I get home, I simply put it in the trash can or recycle bin. Another suggestion is to throw

away the trash in your car while you are getting gas since most gas stations have trash receptacles at the pumps. Many others simply keep a grocery bag in the car as a trash bag.

Q. Are we the only county with this littering problem?

A. We certainly are not. Every county has the same problem, which does not make it any easier to swallow.

Q. If someone is caught littering, what is the fine?

A. The fine can be up to \$1,000 and up to 60 days in jail or both. Our goal is not to penalize people or punish people, but for people who continue to litter after being warned, there will be expensive fines and penalties.

Q. Do you have solutions on how to get people to stop littering?

A. We would welcome any suggestions you have. You can email me at commissioner@uniongov.com, or write our office at Union County Commissioner, 65 Courthouse Street, Box 1, Blairsville, GA 30512. You can also call at 706-439-6000.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

trying to explain a mouth full of forbidden apple. Mom never received any punishment, however, Athel, received a tongue lashing. When Dad Baker left the two girls giggled all the way back to the house.

One day while playing in the front yard of the Baker house the two girls noticed the so called preacher walking up the road. You guessed it the man was the one and only Tom Clark. Athel told my mom, "I have always heard that man is my daddy. I have asked and asked and nobody will tell me the truth". So, the young 13 year old girl bravely walked up to Tom Clark and asked, "Preacher Tom are you my daddy"? The hypocrite's face reddened and would not even look at Athel while he denied being her daddy.

Everyone in the community knew that Athel didn't have an active daddy. Some people took advantage of the fact. For example, the Enterprise School out close to Gray Rock was a 3 room school house. The teacher's name escapes my mother. However, she described him as a short chubby fellow who was nearly bald. One particular day some of the local boys did something wrong and this short, chubby teacher could not

prove the boys had done the deed.

This made the teacher angry and he took this anger out on Athel because he knew she did not have a daddy to take up for her. So, while he was in a foul mood Athel dropped a framed picture on the floor resulting in it breaking and shattering the glass resulting in a whipping which left her bruised and bleeding. She would never complain to Dad or Alvie. So, Athel's cousin, my mother, went home and told her mother. MawMaw called her brother T. D. Baker. He was an imposing man standing about 6 feet 3 inches tall and tougher than wang leather. He paid a visit to the teacher after which the chubby little man left Enterprise never to return to the local community again.

Fifteen years later Athel left this world as a young mother. She too had young children.

You might think her life story is a true tragedy. But, when her name is mentioned around our family everyone's eyes brighten and their memories reveal a young girl that was the apple of their eye. A hush falls around the room because everyone knows that none can live up to the life of Athel Motes.

Child Abuse ... continued from Page 5A

abused?

If you think a child is being abused, the best way to begin is to simply talk to the child. For example, if a child has a visible injury, simply ask them how they got hurt. Use open-ended questions such as "tell me what happened" to get the child talking honestly. If the story seems implausible, continue asking questions to see if the explanation changes.

Not all odd injuries are related to abuse, but only by talking to the child will you know if the explanations are inconsistent with those given by a parent or given by the child to a different adult, like a teacher. If you are still unsure, consider speaking with a neutral third-party, such as a school counselor.

If you think a child is being abused or at risk of abuse, the most important step you can take is to report it. If you suspect a child is being or has been physically abused, please call 1-855-GA CHILD / 1-855-

422-4453. This is Georgia's Child Protection Services' Intake Communication Center which is staffed 24 hours a day, every day. All calls to the hotline are confidential.

If you want to do more to support children and families in your community and prevent abuse before it ever occurs in the first place, consider becoming a volunteer with Enotah CASA or S.A.F.E. And you can show you've taken a stand against child abuse by purchasing a Pinwheel at either S.A.F.E. thrift store or from the Young Harris' Army of Hope. Or make a donation to these nonprofits which gives an advocate for the child's best interest and fights the violence and trauma they experience. You can make a difference; take a stand against child abuse.

**Linda D'Angelo, Executive Director, Enotah CASA
Betsy Ramsey, Community Response Coordinator, S.A.F.E.**

Compton ... continued from Page 5A

on the part of the patient will save money and keep people healthier and able to work, care better for their families. Before the minimum standards in the ACA there were less expensive policies available, however they had limits on how much they would cover and might not cover a condition at all.

A second troubling event was the first thing Trump did by executive action was to get rid of a rule the financial advisors had to have a fiduciary responsibility to their clients. In a saner world it would seem unnecessary to think they would not always be looking out for the small investor. We are heading into retirements with 401K's in place of pensions. There is growing industry of

financial planners and new financial products. We have seen a scandal involving Wells Fargo Bank; remember Bernie Madoff and many that did not make big headlines. Realistic consumer regulations protect us and bring stability to the market by reining in risky business practices and weeding out the bad apples.

Regulations that are out of date, ineffective or unenforceable should be removed.

This all comes down to the underlying debate over the proper role of government in our lives. I believe we have to make investments in ourselves, health, education, infrastructure, environment, and defense.

Andrea Compton

Dyer ... continued from Page 4A

ers is that they never see the end result of their work. They only hear the radio traffic and, when it is over, they move to the next call.

The dispatcher is a critical part of public safety. They are the calm voice on the phone when someone calls 911 on the worst day of their lives. They

dispatch the appropriate units and provide the best information they can to help the people in the field. They are not as visible as other public safety but you can rest assured that they will always be there.

Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

Chandler ... continued from Page 4A

Filming began for seven videos highlighting three of our local entrepreneur success stories: Sunrise Grocery, Paradise Hills, and Lamin-X, three highlighting our community's assets: Mountains, Lakes, Families, and one commercial. We increased our presence in printed publications with messages geared towards enjoying our natural resources like Helton Creek Falls, Vogel State Park, the Appalachian Trail, Lake Nottely, etc. We proudly shared information about our many festivals and the fine dining, shopping and lodging establishments located within Union County.

We had a few "firsts" in 2016. Blairsville-Union County ventured into outdoor marketing with our first ever billboards. We also debuted our first TV commercial through Comcast in the Roswell and Cherokee markets which was aired more than 4,400 times over 22 networks including Fox news, Bravo, ESPN, HGTV, CNBC, CNN and more. Also new was the opportunity to host the Cabella's crew as they spent three weeks here doing a photo shoot for the 2016 fall catalogue. Not only did they contribute to our economy by renting cabins, buying gas and groceries, eating at our restaurants and shopping in our

stores, they also used local children and dogs as models as well as local residents' bass boats, drift boats and canoes.

Some other notable successes include our community being designated as "Four for the Future" for *Georgia Trend*. We hosted renowned travel writer Bill Vanderford who experienced our community and wrote a great article in *Lakeside* on our behalf. Additionally, we had a media request picked up for *Roadside Attractions* which featured the World's Largest Amish Chair at Owl Town Market and four films/tv shows filmed in our area; *The Hunted*, *Moonshine Still*, *Beacon Point*, and *Logan Lucky*.

Our statistical numbers have soared as well this year. Phone calls to the Chamber increased more than 22%, visitors to the Chamber increased more than 39%, and our website hits increased by more than 50%! Additionally, the quantity of leads we send out to perspective visitors increased by 89% and our social media presence was a whopping 180% increase!

In Part 3 we will discuss why it is important to advertise our community. For more information about the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, call 706-745-5789 or go to VisitBlairsvilleGA.com.

Please join the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 20th for Business After Hours celebrating Corrugated Replacements as Business of the Quarter. Southern Bank and Trust is the host and sponsor for this great networking event.

Mattee... continued from Page 5A

significant loss of foliage. This can greatly stress a tree and when coupled with adverse conditions, such as drought, can contribute to a tree's decline. By diligently removing and treating nests before these caterpillars mature and repopulate, you can save your trees from unneeded stress and unsightly damage.

If you'd like to learn more about these pests and how to control them, contact our office for a comprehensive publication.

We will be offering a Master Naturalist class this fall. This is a nine week course that meets once a week and covers wildlife management, tree and insect ID, invasive species, Georgia natural history, and many other topics! If you are interested in signing up, please contact your extension office.

Fowler ... continued from Page 4A

here and now." The call to faith and holiness is most effective in the context of love and acceptance.

In 1997 Rogers accepted a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Emmys saying, "All of us have special ones that have loved us into being," and asked for ten seconds of silence to think of them. The Hollywood glitterati wept. He continued, "Thank you for allowing me all these years to be your neighbor. May God be with you." God loved you into being. In memory of Mister Rogers, take ten seconds and thank God that you are loved, neighbor.

Mitchell ... continued from Page 5A

that's with no interest paid on the amount on deposit!

If you bought a 4% annuity with the accumulated money, you'd have a lifetime income of \$2,979.40 per month, almost \$36k per year.

And don't let anyone fool you into thinking that there's a "lock box" protecting Social Security.

All that money has been borrowed against by Senators and Congresspeople for their pet projects to enhance their reelection probability.

It was too easily accessible for them to leave it alone.
George A. Mitchell

**Bell Ringing Union
County Old Courthouse**



April 13, 2017
In memory of
Fred L. Miller
Birthday
by Lorraine Miller

April 19, 2017
In memory of
Virginia B. Meeks
Anniversary
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

April 28, 2017
In memory of
Dolly C. Meeks
Birthday
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

April 28, 2017
Lori Michelle Nuce
Happy Birthday
by Mom, Dad, Bette Lou
and Maryann
Forever in our hearts
and memories