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are some advantages to having a smaller jail. A similar example would be if you had an animal shelter. The humane society has room for about 36 dogs. So, when it gets full, they have to really work hard to find places to send dogs and increase adoptions. While our Humane Society does not do it, some shelters require that dogs, usually aggressive ones, be euthanized to make more room. If the same humane society had 100 cages, then the pressure is off until it is full. So, you could end up with all 100 cages full of animals since staff would not be under pressure for space and pet adoption efforts may decrease while operation cost would certainly increase.

A2. How does the above example compare to a jail? Obviously, the adoption or eu-

thanzing of prisoners does not apply, but what has to be done when a jail is overcrowded? Two steps are necessary. First, for immediate relief, some inmates may have to be transferred to counties who have additional jail space. This of course cost usually in the range of \$35 to \$40 per day. However, this cost is roughly half of the cost of keeping them locally. Second, since the Judge and District Attorney know there is a shortage of space, it keeps them aware of the importance of trying to process cases more quickly when possible to assist the Sheriff and the County. The lower the capacity of a correction facility, the more efforts there has to be to process or bond out. This additional effort could and does save the County significant cost.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

onds 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 friend Paul and cursed because of his missed shot. Paul, the referee, called a technical foul because of the cursing. Hackleburgh 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. A few weeks went by and the young man was asked to play in a basketball game with his

friends. The game just happened to be in the community where my mother lived, Baker Town. The boys from Trapptown were playing a bunch of boys from Baker Town and although they were all friendly the competition was keen and the rivalry heated. It was late in the game and Dad, who was playing at the position of point guard, was fouled. He was feeling pretty good about his relationship with the young Adams girl and his team was leading the Bakers by 10 points. So, Dad started to show out a little. As he walked to the foul line to take his two shots he looked toward his girlfriend and said, "This is for you honey". Dad looked toward the goal and closed his eyes. He sank not only the first shot, but, the second as well.

I think Mom was more embarrassed than impressed. Anyway, the two married later that summer and I was born 1 1/2 years later. Now, 60 years into the future they are still married and that young kid still tries to impress his wife.

Lee ... continued from Page 4A

judged, for those that think not, a shocking realization awaits you. God recognizes those that tried to do the right thing.

Please, please people make phone calls, write letters, send emails and whatever else is available to those in power. Let us be responsible ourselves and make them be responsible

and accountable as well. Do these deeds not just one, but over and over. Fill their offices, desks.

Next time you see a tiny baby, look close and thank God for that child, then think of the tiny babies that were murdered. To hell with Roe vs Wade.

Gary Lee

Trippe ... continued from Page 4A

government solution to education is to throw money at the problem, and that money goes to the teacher's union. Let's not act like there has always been a US Dept of Education and the evil Republicans are trying to take it away. It's only been around since 1980, and public education has gone down the proverbial toilet since. Throwing money (i.e. tax payer dollars) at problems never works. Look at the War on Drugs. Or the War on Poverty. \$23 trillion has been spent on the War on Poverty since 1963. The poverty level in 1963 was about 14%. The poverty level today is about 14%. Obesity has been linked to food stamps, according to a USDA report, the very organization that oversees the food stamps program.

Let's stop acting as if this country is riddled with starving people. It's an insult to people around the world that are actually starving. There is a simple solution to the tax problem, but it's far too simple for the boneheaded Democrats and Republicans in the Beltway. It's called a flat tax. Tired of someone on welfare having an Xbox One to play on a 70" flat screen TV and not paying taxes? The flat tax will end that. Tired of some corporation buying a fleet of Mercedes Benzes for everyone on their board of directors and writing them off at the end of the year? The flat tax will end that. But that's just a pipe dream. Dems and Reprs hate that idea because it'd ruin their graft.

Alex Trippe

Ripma ... continued from Page 5A

selling it for only \$678K. I am sure they had lots of buyers willing to pay \$1.2 million.

I realize property tax valuations are not always in line with the market, but the difference between the tax assessment value and the selling price seems extreme to me. Let me use my house as an example; the tax valuation of my property is \$185,000, and a recent drive-by appraisal was for \$225,000, a difference of only \$40,000 or about 16%.

I am a capitalist at heart, so I like it when someone makes a great deal and walks away with a bucket of money - legitimately. What rankled me

about this stinky deal, is that it was presented to the good people of Union County as a great opportunity, given to us by a very nice family, so that Lamar Paris can improve our standard of living. How gullible do you think we are?

I wish the *North Georgia News* would have used real journalistic reporting practices to dig into this deal and, at least, ask some smart questions. This 'news' article shows me that this newspaper has 'happy ears' when it comes to the Union County establishment, and it is a mouthpiece for Lamar Paris.

John Ripma

Gibson ... continued from Page 4A

bags of trash on an open bed pickup with no cover. I picked up three bags of his trash that blew off in one short section of road. I also reported these offenses to his company, but he still did not cover his load.

2. A driver from a Blairsville trash service driving with an open tailgate. (I reported this to the sheriff's office).

3. An unidentified trash hauler in Towns County with no tailgate on his truck (but several bags of loose trash).

4. Loose paper blowing out of the back of a white Ford truck driving around the Courthouse Square in Blairsville.

A friend told of seeing a full bag blown from a trash truck in Towns County. A dep-

uty in an official patrol car was cruising immediately behind the truck but did nothing.

Such blatant disregard of the littering law by commercial trash haulers is easy to address. We know who they are and where they are. The answer seems simple. Send deputies to the transfer stations to meet incoming traffic and issue warnings first and fines for repeat-ers. I have written letters to the Commissioners and Sheriffs in both Towns and Union Counties requesting they take enforcement actions against these violators. If you believe reducing roadside litter is important, will you add your voice and influence to this effort?

Wm. Ronald Gibson

Allison... continued from Page 4A

grab a stack of business cards and prepare to have fun while networking at another free Chamber event! Thursday, June 15th, marks the first of 2 additional Business After Hours Events that we added this year. This was in response to numerous requests from our members.

We are pleased to join the Townsend family as they host Business After Hours at

Mattee ...

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and blue catfish are especially sensitive to copper treatment, so be sure to explore all options before treating. An alternative to copper is sodium precarbonate, which not only kills algae but also helps to get rid of toxins that are released during treatment. However, toxins will eventually degrade on their own with exposure to more sunlight as the algae dies off.

To prevent future blooms, be sure to maintain grass buffers that will prevent excessive nutrients from entering the pond. Also, if you have livestock around the water source, limit their access to only a few points. This prevents mass contamination of the water with manure that could otherwise feed algae and other pond weeds, as well as preventing erosion and damage to buffers. Always be careful when applying fertilizer near bodies of water as contamination with nitrogen or phosphorous may also encourage algae growth.

If you would like our publication on pond algae management, please contact the extension office.

Dyer ...

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ing the watch, people should be aware of the situation and get prepared.

A Tornado Warning is issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Tornado Warnings evolve quickly. They may be issued within minutes of a tornado and usually last for a short period of time. During a Tornado Warning, immediate action should be taken to move to safety.

The key to being prepared is to be informed. The best way to stay informed is thru the Union County Alert Emergency Notification System (Union Alert). It is designed to instantly reach registered cell phones, landlines, emails, pagers, and desktops when an urgent alert needs to be communicated. Receiving Union Alert messages is voluntary. People who wish to receive these alerts must register with the system.

There are several ways to register. You may call 706-439-6056 to speak to someone in the 911 mapping division. You may also register on-line by visiting tinyurl.com/ucwens. Here you will be able to register the devices (cell phone, email, landline, etc.) and choose which alerts that you wish to receive. Entering your street address is important because alerts can be sent to specific locations or geographical areas in the event of an emergency in that specific area. You may also determine at what times you would like to receive or not receive an alert as well as if you want to receive NOAA weather alerts.

A tornado can happen quickly. Keeping informed and knowing the actions that must be taken during a Tornado Watch and/or a Tornado Warning can be the difference between life and death. Registering with the Union Alert can keep you informed. For more information on what to do during tornado events, please visit www.ready.ga.gov.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Editor ...

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turbulent journey to get back where I belong.

Also, thank you to all who kept me in their prayers – and a huge thank you to Betty Jo Allison, the love of my life. You stuck with me through this entire ordeal.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm back.

Career Coach visits St. Francis

The WorkSource Georgia Mountains Career Coach will be visiting Saint Francis of Assisi Church on Thursday, June 22nd from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. The church is located at 3717 Highway 515 East in Blairsville, GA.

We will help local residents search & apply for jobs, write resumes & cover letters, and discern their career interests. We will also provide information about WIOA funded training opportunities.

Granddaddy Mimm's Distillery & Museum. The event starts at 5:30 and is immediately followed by an open house for Granddaddy Mimm's beginning at 6 p.m. Two great events that you will not want to miss! We would like to thank Tommy, Christy and Debbie Townsend and all the staff at Granddaddy Mimm's Distillery & Museum. We appreciate you hosting this event!

It is time again for the annual Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games! Head down to Meeks Park for a fun filled event June 10, & 11 to experience a "wee bit of Scotland" in our own back yard. Come ready to enjoy great music, great food, and a lot of fun!

If you enjoy learning about Scottish Heritage, stop by and visit with the members of the Clans. They are always glad to share their knowledge of their Family Crest and Tartan with visitors. Congratulations to Clan Frasier for being selected as this year's honored clan.

Fowler ...

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the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men" (Luke 6:35).

Even if to you, it beggars belief that God became man, you cannot deny that this kind of love would change the world to the extent it is practiced. The more you personally live by love, the more people in your world will be changed. So, who will show the love of God to the people around you? That is the sweetener the world needs now.

I want to thank everyone on the planning committee for the Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games. I appreciate all that you do to help make this event a great success! Congratulations on having this event designated as a Top 20 Event by the Southeast Tourism Society. I want to say a special thank you to Tobie

Chandler for volunteering each year to be a part of the planning committee. Thank you for all your hard work.

For more information about the festival and a list of other events going on in our community call the Chamber office at 706-745-5789 or visit our website at VisitBlairsville.ga.com.