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would be about 832 columns and approximately 416,000 words. Some might say that is also a lot of bull.

Q. Is it hard to always come up with the Q & A?

A. Yes, it is and I want you to consider others who write columns in the *North Georgia News* every week also.

It takes a lot of time for them all to spend their personal and work time preparing something for your enjoyment and informational purposes.

If you look on the editorial page alone, you see the regulars from the Editor, Charles Duncan, Wayne Fowler, local minister, the Chamber with Regina Allison, David Dyer for the Fire Department, Mickey Cummings for the Farmers Market and all his old buddies from growing up, Melissa Mattee with Union County/UGA Extension, and there are many others including the NGN staff.

It is easy to take all of this for granted, but I can assure you, it takes a lot of time

and effort by everyone.

Q. During this Thanksgiving season, related to the county, what are you the most thankful for?

A. That is a tough question. Other than God, family and our beautiful and scenic county, I think I can sum it up by saying that I am thankful for those from here and those who have moved to Union County from other places, because we all basically like it the way it is.

Many counties have to deal with people moving there and then wanting to change it to be like where they came from.

This is not to say that you all like everything that I do, but generally you are comfortable with our county. Not only that, but we have so many people who have always lived here and moved here that volunteer so much of their time and money to helping others.

Whether they assist through their churches or their community clubs, or other organizations, this is just a really giving community and I am blessed to be a part of it.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

court. They passed to a man inside and immediately scored. Rod took the inbounds pass under the basket and tried to dribble up the court. Before he reached the midline a Leighton defender stole the ball and scored on a lay-up. This same scenario happened three times over the next 3 minutes.

Phil Campbell was down 10 to 0 and could not even get the ball past mid-court.

Paul looked at his coach and said, "I hope you have enjoyed your time at Phil Campbell. Here you are watching your inept point guard while I am sitting on the bench." Once again Rod took the inbounds pass and tried to pass, but was intercepted and Leighton scored again.

Newman called time out and told his young player, "Cummings, get in the game and if you lose the ball one time you will be running the stairs for a month." The young man was small at only 5 feet 10 inches and 140 pounds. But, he was fast and smart. Leighton was in a full court press meaning that they contested every inbounds pass and when a player from the Bobcats caught a pass, one of the Leighton players would contest the dribble while another would try to steal the ball.

On the first play the new point guard fainted hard to his

left and then stopped. The defensive player trying to steal the ball from behind plowed into him and a foul was called. He pulled the same trick the next three times they received the ball. The Leighton Coach called a timeout after the Bobcats had pulled within 4 points. He called off the full court press. Phil Campbell never looked back. They won the game by 25 points after an inauspicious start and Paul Cummings won the starting job of point guard. At the beginning of practice the next day the young man also received a new jersey and a pair of new shoes while his competition, Rod Craig, quit the team the next week. The team did not miss him. They went on to lose only 3 games that year and was the only team to beat the burn from Haleyville during 1956.

Finally, Coach Newman moved to south Alabama where he eventually was elected as a State Senator. A few years ago he passed away. When the point guard of 1956 found out about the passing of his former coach he called the daughter and told about how Coach Newman had influenced his life. She told my father, "Even though we have never met I feel that you are part of our family. Dad talked of you often and you meant much to him." It sure is funny what a new pair of shoes will do for a boy!

Steed ... continued from Page 4A

fast in the high school cafeteria where students waited on each Veteran with the care, dress and poise of professional servers.

With escorts over to the Stadium, each Veteran was offered a special seat to observe the program.

And what a program it was. Hard to ever top next year.

Two points I shall remember. One Student gave me a self made card that said, "You are my Hero." Signed Gabby.

During the closing moments, Will Stafford joined the chorus and band with his Saxophone making great notes to

Amazing Grace.

Yes, that was a highlight. All in all, the Union County School students from Kindergarten to 12th grade were professional, kind, organized, and courteous.

The stadium was full to the brim! But most of all, they gave it their very best to the Veterans present, and all Veterans who are serving and have served in the U S Military.

Patriotism was the day. Thank you Union County Schools.

**Jim Steed,
U.S. Marine,
Blairsville**

Coalition... continued from Page 4A

anxiety, suicidal thoughts, and personality disturbances. One of the potential effects is a motivational syndrome—a diminished or lost drive to engage in formerly rewarding activities.

Research suggests that marijuana use during pregnancy may be linked to subtle neurological changes and, later in childhood, to reduced problem-solving skills, memory, and attention. However, the fact that pregnant women who use marijuana are also more likely to smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol makes it difficult to determine exactly how much of these effects are due to marijuana.

Many people who use the drug long term and then stop have symptoms that are like those of nicotine withdrawal—irritability, sleep problems, anxiety, and craving—which may prompt relapse (a return to drug use). Withdrawal symptoms are generally mild and peak a few days after use has stopped. They gradually disappear within about 2 weeks. While these symptoms do not pose an immediate threat to health, they can make it hard for someone to stop using the drug.

Behavioral therapies are available and are like those used for treating other substance addictions. However, there are currently no medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating marijuana

addiction, although promising research is under way to find medications to treat withdrawal symptoms and ease craving and other effects of marijuana.

How can I tell if my child has been using marijuana? Parents should be aware of changes in their child's behavior, such as not brushing hair or teeth, skipping showers, mood changes, and loss of relationships with family members and friends. In addition, changes in grades, skipping classes or missing school, loss of interest in sports or other favorite activities, a change in peer group, changes in eating or sleeping habits, and getting in trouble in school or with the law could all be related to drug use—or may indicate other problems.

If your child is using marijuana, he or she might seem unusually giggly or uncoordinated, have very red, bloodshot eyes or use eye drops often, and have a hard time remembering things that just happened. Drug-related items including pipes and rolling papers may be found in their belongings.

Whether or not marijuana becomes legal for adult recreational use or allowed for medical use, it can be harmful for teens and can alter the course of a young life, preventing a person from reaching his or her full potential. That's reason enough to have this important conversation with your children.

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causing anger, and impatience, sometimes resulting in "Road Rage," and possible death. Violating the Georgia "Slowpoke" Law:

- Impedes traffic; holds up emergency vehicles;
- Incites anger and road rage;
- Causes accidents, and possible death;

I say we can't afford not to enforce this law! If funding is an issue, let the offenders fund it. If they insist on breaking the law, make THEM pay for it! I know that if this law were enforced, it could very easily be funded. Want proof?

The next time you take a trip to Atlanta, or even here in Blairsville, out on 515, just for fun, pretend you are a State Trooper and count how many drivers are in violation of this law (make sure you read and fully understand it though.) I'll bet you could give out 30 to 40 tickets without even trying.

Pretending aside, in my opinion, there is no traffic violation more dangerous than this one. Almost every driver encounters slowpokes, almost every day, and the violation causes an immediate negative reaction from other drivers. The sad reality is that because the Slowpoke law is not enforced, violators escape the consequences of their actions.

The poor schmuck who speeds pass the procession of cars on the right to get in front of the slowpoke, risks getting a ticket, or worse, causing a fatal car crash, while the offender of the law "pokes" along oblivious of the chaos they've created.

There is no argument that would convince me that it is okay for anybody to hold

Allison...

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with our two boys. We know the season of having them at home full time is drawing short before they will be grown. I feel at this season in my life, devoting as much time to them as possible needs to be my top priority.

I cannot thank you enough for all your support, words of encouragement and help during my time with the Chamber. It has been very humbling. I would like to say a special thank you to the Chamber Board, Chamber Ambassadors and Staff for all that you do, day in and day out, for the Chamber and our community.

If you know of someone interested in the position, the board will be accepting resumes until December 1st at resumes@blairsvillechamber.com.

Fowler...

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(1:21). The fire did not end Hank's adventures.

Perseverance can be your story in Christ. "In any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:12-13).

If you gift one of Erickson's books, you'll add a new adventure story to the life of a child. But this story is about you, faith, and perseverance. Draw from that deep well of hope and strength to live well and finish strong.

Mattee

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help you save time and money, because it can take a long time to find the perfect tree, and prettier trees are almost always more expensive. Once you've decided on a tree, make sure that the bottom of the trunk has at least six to eight inches of clean bark with no branches. Always make sure it is watered to make it last longer. The more water a tree has, the less dry it is, and the less of a fire hazard it is.

Duncan

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If you choose to make a donation, you can make checks payable to, *The Foster Children's Christmas Program* and mail to: Pat Elliott, 514 Buck Run, Hiawassee, GA 30546 or deposit directly into the fund at Park Sterling Bank in Blairsville or Hiawassee. All donations go directly to purchase gifts for the children.

There's also Blairsville Police Department's *Shop With a Cop*; Union County Sheriff's Office *Give-A-Gift*, and the Blairsville Cruisers' *Shop With a Cruiser* programs. Ask around, it's not hard to find a way to donate.

There's plenty of opportunity to help a young child, or young adult this Christmas season.

ing worse. Something must be done! Spread the word! Tell your friends and neighbors. I openly encourage and solicit help/advice from citizens, state and local law enforcement agencies, newspaper, tv and radio, to help spread the word on the proper use of the left lane as spelled out in O.C.G.A. § 40-6-184, (Georgia Traffic Code.) In essence the law states: You can-

not stay in the left lane if you are being overtaken by another driver traveling faster than you - even if you are driving the speed limit. Please, KEEP RIGHT EXCEPT TO PASS!

Not only is it a matter of the LAW, it is a matter of safety.

Thomas Wallace