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manner? I do not have the answer. What is an acceptable amount of danger? If we have a pistol, do we need a rifle for protection, or maybe a shotgun? If that is not adequate, do we need an assault rifle, and if that is not adequate do we need a machine gun? So do we then need a grenade launcher and why not allow us to drive around in military tanks that can blow holes in about anything? Where is the logical limit when so many want no limits and no licenses of any kind and worst of all, no training of any kind.

Q. Would not a sign prohibiting armed entrance into the courthouse-similar to the sign which was in place for many years, be sufficient and prevent the need for courthouse security?

A. I think so and again, I personally agree, at least in our part of the state. But with the new gun law, HB 60, without courthouse security checkpoints and scanners, we would have no longer been able to have a sign stating that guns were prevented in the courthouse, because the new law would not have allowed the signs!

Another strange part of the new law - if one of the two deputies that we have had patrolling our courthouse for several years saw someone walk in with a gun on their hip, they would not have the right to ask them if they had a license to carry the gun. If that is not enough, the State of Georgia is now not allowed to keep a central database of gun carry permit holders, only local counties can do it. So even if a deputy asked to see a license, which they could not by the new law, then there would be no way to verify the new license for authenticity. In other words, if someone has a counterfeit gun carry license, unless you are in the county where it was issued, you have no way to check it. Further, since you can not even ask to see it without cause, then no one will ever know it is counterfeit unless that person uses the gun inappropriately, and then it is too late.

Q. Is the new gun law, HB 60 really the real problem?

A. I will let you decide what kind of legislation it was. No city or county office building in the State of Georgia, including city hall or our offices, that does not have a manned security checkpoint with a scanner, not only can not put a sign up against bringing in guns, but can not prevent the carry of weapons into their buildings with a carry permit. And guess what else, no deputy or sheriff or police official is allowed to ask anyone if they have a legal carry permit for the weapon strapped on their hip, without cause. However, we have found a trick, although we will not be using it.

If we did not have a security check point with a scanner in our lower level where you enter to go to the Clerk of Court's office beginning July 2, the only way we could legally limit weapons carried into the building would be to establish a liquor bar at the bottom of the steps. If we were to open a public bar, properly licensed, then we could legally put up a sign stating that you could not bring weapons into the building, but because we are not a bar but just a government building, we can not erect a sign or limit guns unless we have security check points. You decide what someone was thinking in this bill?

Q. Are you one of those anti-gun rights commissioners?

A. I certainly am not. My father bought me a 20 gauge shotgun when I was 12 and I have hunted by myself and with others ever since. I have many guns and a carry permit and I know how to shoot. But this new gun law went way past gun rights. They took the rights away from all governments in the State of Georgia, yet left the churches and bars with the rights to make their own decisions. Many are constantly complaining because states rights are taken away from the states by the Federal government, yet they do not blink when they take rights away from local governments, apparently assuming we are incapable of making our own decisions.

Q. Are you happy with the new gun law?

A. Not no, but heck no !!!

Q. Who is to blame for the new gun carry law?

A. It is not for blaming people, but should be about fixing the problems for next year in the State Legislature. I know many did not know what they were signing the last night of the Legislative session, when the bill was passed back and forth between the House and Senate just before midnight, and I think there are still many that do not know what is in the new law or even how to interpret it. It was not a partisan bill. Heck, since I have been unable to get guidance on many parts of the bill, I could be misunderstanding parts of it. I hope you will try to log online and read the new law and let me know what you think and how you understand it and what purpose it really serves to improve safety and improve legitimate and common sense gun carry rights. To view HB 60 go to the Georgia General Assembly website at www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/. You can contact me at unioncounty@uniongov.com, 65 Courthouse St., Blairsville, GA 30512, or call at 706-439-6000.

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I'm sure. I've never been to a Thursday or Friday Trash and Treasures day at the Farmers Market between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. (don't get on me for the shameless plug. This is a Farmer's Market column) where I didn't see someone else selling a paper shredder. The sign usually say's "Free to good home. Used only once."

So if you are like me, and won't use the shredder, your only other option is to store all your paper. This includes your magazine and catalogues because your address is on them. After all, you can't lead them directly to your door. They will know your affluence when they see that you subscribe to Paula Dean Magazine and purchase your vitamins through the mail.

Well, this Friday, July 11th, there is another option. Trash and Treasures has invited

American Security Shredding Company to set up their Super Shredding Mobile Facility at the Union County Farmers Market. You bring your papers and you get to have the first 100 lbs shredded for just \$10. They'll even have a hand truck and come to your car to get it from you, so you don't have to get near this man eating machine. I can now rest more comfortably. See you Friday.

This Saturday, July 12th, come to the Farmers Market to commemorate our Honey Bee Jubilee. We are celebrating Honey Day by serving silver dollar pancakes coated in local honey. Logan Turnpike will be cooking the pancakes and we will serve them beginning at 10 AM. Don & Harold Berry and Michael Surles will donate the honey. It doesn't get much sweeter than that.

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locally made gifts and treasures. We made the news! Thanks in large part to the Chamber's tourism efforts, we have seen recent articles in *Northeast Georgia Living* on The Sawmill Restaurant and a feature on the Blairsville Scottish Festival and Green Bean Festival in *Georgia Magazine*. Additionally, Tobie hosted a film crew at the recent Blairsville Scottish Festival that was shooting a pilot show for The Travel Channel!

The Chamber is now on Instagram. This photo and video sharing social media tool will be used for the primary purpose of enticing visitors to come, visit, and stay awhile. Photos have become the easiest and most valuable way to sell the beauty of our county and lure visitors to come experience all that we have to offer. Find us on Instagram by searching BlairsvilleChamber. Use #iheartblairsville to tag your posts or email your photos to tourism@blairvillechamber.com

ber.com and we will likely use them in our promotions.

And we're blogging! The Chamber's blog can be found at www.ExploreBlairsville.com. This blog allows us to have candid conversations with the world about who we are and what we have to offer in Blairsville-Union County. Those who follow our blog will soon be treated to the explorations of our good friend, Lottie, who will experience Union County in fascinating ways and recap her adventures.

In addition to these great accomplishments, the Chamber is fulfilling daily information requests that come from a variety of sources about all the great things to see, do, and experience in Blairsville-Union County. We are working hard on behalf of our 560 members and a community that we love. If you have ideas, suggestions, or feedback please call our office at 706-745-5789 or email me directly at President@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

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become empty and to get we must give. The human side says everything is now. I must provide, I must build, I must store up. The emphasis is upon I. The focus is not upon Him. If you have to save yourself, preserve yourself and provide for all your needs, then you have made yourself god and the pressure is really on. You have a right to worry. However, if you recognize your total inadequacy and seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness then all these other things will be added unto you (Matt. 6:33). Finally, have

you noticed how many people are always preparing for the worst? They are always saving for a rainy day. They are waiting for that disease to strike them, that disaster to fall, that doom to overwhelm, that darkness to engulf. As a result they are worried, depressed and about to despair. Let me suggest that you prepare for the best. Be ready to receive God's very best for your life. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give to you an expected end." (Jeremiah 29:11).

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and you could hear him laughing all the way to the Church House. Eventually the two men turned their attention to the two little boys, Paul and Bud. They decided to tickle the boys.

The two boys were scared so they did what a typical 6 or 7 year old would do. They ran and their place of safety was a 100 yards down the road at Uncle Johnny's house. Dennis and Poggy gave chase and half staggered and ran while chasing the two young boys. Meanwhile Uncle Johnny had heard all the commotion coming from Papa's house and was already making his way toward his friend's home. As Uncle Johnny came to the edge of the corn field separating the two houses the boys met him. They hid behind his legs as Uncle Johnny patted their trembling heads.

Suddenly, Poggy and Dennis emerged from the corn field and came face to face with the 80 year old Johnny Blalock. The men were laughing until Uncle Johnny raised the double barreled shotgun. Dennis looked at the old man and said, "Uncle Johnny you know we ain't gonna hurt them boys". Uncle Johnny replied, "No, you ain't because you are about to be dead".

Uncle Johnny and Aunt Ruth loved my uncle and my daddy. They also loved my grandparents. Poggy Cummings and Dennis Hyde came back for many visits to the home of my grandparents. But, they were always sober. And Uncle Dennis was always looking for a piece of Coconut Cake, but, he never ransacked Granny's kitchen again.

Mitchell...

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erecting of electronic walls between you, an elected official, and the voters and taxpayers of this County?

Must each and every employee at the courthouse — including you -- pass through electronic screening every time that (s)he enters or leaves the courthouse?

Does an I.D. tag obviate screening? Does it guarantee security?

From this day forward, I will do everything in my power to avoid the courthouse. Unless absolutely inescapable, I will rely on the Post Office and on my telephone.

I'm fully aware of the changes which are in play in Union County. At the same time, over the years, it has been a matter of trust between you and me — which I feel has been set aside for so-called "security."

In the past, I have supported you because of your financial acumen.

However, the issue of the violation of mutual trust trumps all other considerations.

Perhaps I'm not seeing the "larger picture." That, of course, is a possibility.

Always wishing you the best. God bless.

George Mitchell

Fiser ...

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of the attorneys managing defense of the potential suit summarized the situation perfectly. Here are his words: "Taking personal offense is not an injury that warrants invoking the power of the courts to shut down everything you disagree with. The Constitution is not a personal tool for censoring everyone's belief but your own."

As for the atheists, one must assume they consider themselves in the category of the ancient vampires and thus believe in the Dark Ages myth that proclaims, "Exposure to a Christian cross or the Holy Bible threatens their very existence." Why else would they fear Christianity and God so much that they attack these beliefs so vehemently? And really! No one cares what they do or don't believe except maybe a few Christian evangelists who threaten only one's conscience.

Richard Y. Fiser

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their local communities and surrounding areas.

In our area, Union County has a state-of-the-art farmers market that is growing by leaps and bounds, Hayesville has a market on the square, and Towns County has its Farmers Market located next to the county beach. Come out on Saturday mornings and see what the local farmers have to offer or better than that grow

your own to come out and sell it. Visit your local farmers markets and support your local farmers, it's good for us and good for the community.

For more information on Locally Grown, Farmers Markets, or Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council contact Frank M. Riley, Jr, Executive Director - Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council. email: frank.ccrd@gmail.com. NTJ09.26/CA