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was okay," Chief Carroll said. According to the Chief, Baxter suffered a leg injury, and cuts and bruises.

"He took a lick," Chief Carroll said. "He's on the mend and is ready to come back to work. He'll be on desk duty for a while."

Chief Carroll said the young man was not cited for his vehicle's contact with Baxter.

"He was cited for not having insurance and a suspended registration," Chief Carroll said. "He didn't intentionally hit Bear with his car, he didn't even know Bear was back there."

"He was just doing what

we asked him to do, pull his vehicle out of the way of traffic, so we could cite him for suspended registration and no car insurance."

Chief Carroll said the entire department was breathing a collective sigh of relief that Baxter was not seriously injured.

"It could have been something more serious," Chief Carroll said. "We're just thankful the Good Lord was watching out for Bear on that day."

Baxter said things could have been a lot worse.

"Oh yeah, a lot worse," Baxter said. "We were just road-blocking and he backed

up over me.

"I've got road rash on one side and on the other side it banged up my knee and my arm," Baxter said. "I've got to go back to the doctor next week."

Baxter said the incident caught him off guard.

"Yeah, it caught me off guard at the time," Baxter said. "It was like getting blindsided. It could have been a lot worse."

Baxter shrugs off the incident as just part of the job as a police officer.

"I'm okay, it's nothing bad," Baxter said. "I appreciate all the concern from folks, but I'm doing alright."

Baxter was back at work on Wednesday, doing desk duty and running errands.

"Yeah, I'll be glad to get back to work," Baxter said. "It wasn't anything too bad. I'm doing all right."

Chief Carroll said he's proud Baxter is on the mend.

"They didn't make two Michael Baxters," he said. "They broke the mold when they made Bear and we're proud to have him as a key part of our department."

"I don't know what we'd do around here without Bear," he said. "We'll be glad when we get him back at 100 percent."

Chief, we all will.

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ping day.

Bentley, his parents Tsali and Jacque Bentley, his sister Morgan Bentley, and UCHS Principal Ed Rohrbaugh were invited to a reception in the Atlanta Falcons Owners Club at the Georgia Dome prior to the recognition on the field.

In nominating Bentley for this honor, Principal Rohrbaugh said, "Hands down, (Bentley) is the ideal student to have in a school or community. His presence within our student body has given many fellow students a leader to follow and a role model to emulate."

Receiving an award named after Dunn is an achievement that Bentley, and all of Union County can be proud of for years to come.

Dunn, a member of the 1993 Florida State University National Championship team, former Tampa Bay Buccaneer and Atlanta Falcons' running back is currently a minority owner of the Falcons.

In 2012, Dunn launched Betty's Hope. Named after his mother, Betty Smothers.

The children's bereavement program works to empower youth as they manage



T Bentley accepts his honors during the Georgia football playoffs.

their grief in a responsive environment to heal and enhance their quality of life.

In 1993, Smothers, an off-duty Baton Rouge, La. police officer was escorting a businesswoman to a bank to make a night deposit when she was ambushed and killed by armed robbers.

The three-time Pro Bowl selection also established the Homes for the Holidays program in 1997, and started Warwick Dunn Charities in 2002 as a way to grow programs and services. The HFTH program rewards single-parent families

for reaching first-time homeownership.

HFTH recipient families are chosen through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity affiliates and WDC with complete home furnishings and down payment assistance.

As of July 2012, HFTH has assisted more than 115 single parents and more than 300 dependents in Atlanta, Baton Rouge, Tampa and Tallahassee.

The *North Georgia News* congratulates T Bentley on such an outstanding achievement.

Making things happen for rural America is what we do

The Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D Council has a very successful track record of projects and accomplishments that have improved citizen's lives, helped create jobs, and improved the economies of communities in the 13 county area of North Georgia.

Some examples of past and present projects are:

Dry Hydrant program - This project installed "dry" fire hydrants in areas where there were no water lines for "wet" fire Hydrants. This program provided a water source from streams, ponds, and rivers for the county volunteer fire departments to draft water to protect the citizen's property and lives.

Wheels To Work program - This program purchases dependable, used vehicles to provide reliable transportation for people who need transportation to get to work. The vehicles are financed with zero-interest loans to qualified applicants.

Revolving Loan Program - a grant from USDA Rural Development to help establish or expand small businesses in the area for qualified applicants. When the principal is repaid, these funds are available to be loaned again.

Northeast Georgia Tree Planting Initiative - The Northeast Georgia "Tree Planting for Ecosystem Restoration and Green Jobs" helped create or retain approximately 42 Green Industry jobs under the GFC's Georgia Growing Green and ARRA Grant Program. The project enhanced urban areas through reforesting the communities as well as providing storm water and bio-diversity improvements.

EBT Farmers' Market - a statewide effort to help make locally grown fruits and vegetables available to SNAP recipients many of whom use



debit cards for purchases. Locally grown fruits and vegetables are mostly sold at farmers' markets where electronic card machines are unavailable. The project assists local markets with equipment purchases and training about the legalities of SNAP funds.

North Georgia Rainkeepers - a rain barrel program for the 13 county area. While collecting rainwater from downspouts, these barrels also divert water from the municipal storm drain system, thus protecting our rivers and streams from runoff pollution. Every inch of rain that falls on a roof area of 1,000 square feet produces approximately 600 gallons of water.

EPD 319(h) grants - The

Chestatee-Chattahoochee Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) is presently administering water quality 319(h) grants in the Mud Creek/Little Mud Creek and Cold Water Creek watersheds. More on these EPD projects later.

Some other very successful Chest-Chat projects are: Community Outreach Grants, Economic Development (Greenhouses), Agritourism, No-Till-Drill (pasture restoration), Natural Resource Protection, North Fork Broad River - 319(h), Better Back Roads Project, Public Recreation Facilities, Road Stripping, Soque River Watershed 319(h), Straw bale Building - Stephens County, Timber Bridges, Upper Etowah Stream bank Revert, Waste paper Recycling, Waste wood recycling, Water Quality Projects.

For more information on Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council, visit our website www.chestchattrcd.org - Phone 706- 894-1591; email susan.ccrd@gmail.com.

We need your help

Community Service Projects are needed by the Beta Club and we need your help. The Union County High School Beta Club WANTS several community service projects for the morning of Monday, January 21, 2013, from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. School is out this day due to the Martin Luther King Holiday.

This national holiday is quickly becoming a day of service and the Beta Club needs projects. "The more projects we have, the more volunteers we will be providing", says T. Bentley, President of Beta Club. Please identify a project and contact T. Bentley at 706-745-2662 so the Beta Club can organize the volunteers. NJan928/CA