

# Opinions

## Everybody has one...

### Home Emergencies

Emergencies are our business. We are continuously training or taking classes on how to handle various types of emergencies. Although, handling emergencies is our job, it is best for everyone to be prepared for emergencies. People can be better prepared by having safety equipment on hand and by gaining knowledge on how to handle various home emergencies. Being prepared may provide a positive outcome from a tragic situation.

**Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief**  
*David Dyer*



Preparing for emergencies and making a home safer does not take a great deal of equipment. People do not need to buy their own fire truck or ambulance; nor do they need to set up an ER in the spare bedroom. Safety equipment can be simple. Smoke alarms and Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms are a great start. They are there to warn you of an emergency so that you can act, especially at night. Having smoke alarms and CO alarms have been proven to save lives.

Another valuable component of home safety is the fire extinguisher. They can be used to extinguish a small fire before it gets out of control. You need to have the right type and size of extinguishers. A multi-purpose, class ABC fire extinguisher will extinguish most fires in or around the home.

A fire extinguisher should be big enough to put out a fire but also small enough to use. Most people purchase a 5 to 10 lb. extinguisher. Fire extinguishers should be stored near areas of potential fire but not so near these areas that the fire or smoke prevents access to them.

First aid kits are also great to have in the home. They usually contain supplies for minor cuts or scrapes but they can also contain materials to stop bleeding and treat a major injury. Common emergency medications can also be stored in the first aid kit.

Once you have some equipment, next is to learn how to use it and what you should do in an emergency. This can range from taking formal classes such as CPR to simply learning how to turn off the utilities of your home in the event of a gas leak, water leak, or electrical issue.

Dealing with emergencies is everyone's responsibility. Everyone should better prepare their home by purchasing safety and first aid equipment. They should also learn how to use that safety

See *Dyer*, page 5A

### Religion or Relationship

I attended a conference where two highly respected men were to discuss and answer questions on a serious topic. Comedian Jeff Foxworthy was the moderator for the evening.

Foxworthy was so serious as he introduced the men sitting beside him as academics, intellectuals, and philosophers. Then he said, "Now let me explain what's happening here by borrowing from Sesame Street." Pause. "Remember that little song, 'One of These Things Is Not Like the Others'?"

That moment of self-deprecating humor opened the way for a lively discussion on reasons faith in Christ Jesus is rational and how the Biblical worldview uniquely aligns with how we experience the world. They (including Foxworthy) discussed meaning, suffering, and hope.

The Christian faith is "not like the others." I would summarize it like this: it is about relationship, not religion. For that formula to work, let me define religion as a moral framework for humans to overcome our flaws and a system to reach or satisfy a deity if it exists. Christianity explains that on our own, humans could never overcome our flaws and attain favor with God. Instead, God reaches for us and provides a relationship that mends the fallen human condition.

When God the Son became flesh and dwelt among us He brought relationship. "Our Father," he taught us to pray. He referred to His followers as family (Luke 8:21). Friendship motivated His mission on earth. He said, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

For years, Foxworthy has led a Bible study for homeless people at The Atlanta Mission. The fact that he shows up when he could be elsewhere teaches its own lesson. It models how Jesus humbled himself and entered into human suffering so that he might offer you the gift of God, eternal life. It's the gift of presence.

Jesus lay down his life so you can have an eternal relationship with the Father and live a transformed life by the Spirit's presence within you. By faith you are a child of God (1 Jn. 3:1).

**All Things New**  
*Wayne Fowler*



### Commissioner's Questions

Our office has received numerous calls from residents asking about the possibility of installing speed bumps on certain county roads because of speeding vehicles. There are advantages and disadvantages of installing these types of obstacles on our roads, so I wanted to share some of the questions and answers related to that.

**Q. Why do people speed through neighborhoods? Don't they realize kids are playing outside and adults are working in their yards?**

A. We all seem to be in a hurry to get to our destination. Sometimes we forget that our neighborhoods are DELICATE communities where neighbors visit, children play, residents walk their dogs and pets often roam. Sometimes people are actually "cutting through" one area to get to another. People speed for different reasons, and nothing can ever be good about speeding in a neighborhood or on any road approaching a neighborhood area.

**Q. Why isn't the Commissioner's Office doing anything about the speeding in our neighborhoods?**

A. Traffic and vehicle control in Union County falls under the authority of the local Sheriff's Office. When vehicles travel at unauthorized rates of speed, very serious safety issues are created. Any resident who has concerns about speeding in a neighborhood can call the Sheriff's Office for advice or for assistance. However, be aware that this is also often frustrating for the Sheriff's Office as it is sometimes difficult to catch someone speeding in a residential neighborhood.

**Q. Several households in my neighborhood have discussed the problems we are experiencing with speeding vehicles. Can you install speed bumps along the straight runs of road to slow down the traffic?**

When it comes to slowing down traffic the first thought that usually comes to mind is the idea of using road obstacles as a solution. People have suggested speed bumps and parking on the side of the street as possible deterrents for speeding vehicles. Of all the ideas we have heard, these two ideas are our least favorite. When speed bumps are installed, it also can impact the safety

See *Paris*, page 5A

**Q & A from Union County Commissioner**  
*Lamar Paris*



### Habitat for Humanity

Many of you reading this column come from long lines of families that are or were homeowners. That, however, is not the case for many other families in Union and Towns Counties, here in Georgia. According to a quick internet search, it seems that around 23% of Union County adult residents and 22% of Towns County adult residents rent their homes. Some, of course, rent by choice, others out of necessity. You may not have given

**Habitat Happenings**  
*Cathy Wheeler*



much thought to it, but owning a home is proven to have a wide-ranging impact on a family, in ways that you may not have considered.

People who own homes are much more likely to stay in their homes longer than those who rent. This provides stability to families, because they aren't moving around often. Parents become more involved in their communities. Children do better in school when provided with a stable environment. Home ownership comes with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

See *Habitat*, page 5A

### Letters to the Editor

#### New Year, New Beginning

Dear Editor,  
Now is the time for a kinder America. Never in our lifetimes have we Americans been so vocal in expressing our political beliefs. Back in 1942, America was at the low point of a world at war, with truly bad guys threatening our American way of life. By any standard, America was the good force and our enemies were truly the manifestation of evil. As low as our country's morale was, we never doubted America's greatness nor doubted that we would eventually win the war.

With perfect timing, "The Adventures of Superman" radio drama series first introduced the phrase, "Here's to Truth, Justice and the American Way." It became a rallying cry that molded our thoughts and opinions. While we each had differing beliefs on domestic political issues, the important thing was that we were Americans, we had a war to win, and we needed

See *Scott*, page 5A

#### No Benefit

Dear Editor,  
I just found out that our neighborhood recycle station has permanently closed. I guess a 39.5% increase in my property taxes over last year was not enough to keep it open for my convenience, even though it was staffed by unpaid volunteers. Thanks Lamar. Tax and spend for everything that provides me no benefit.

*Steve Bernthal*  
Union County Resident since 1993

#### Native

Dear Editor,  
Each week while reading letters printed in the North Georgia News, it seems that most of the people that have recently moved here have more complaints than compliments for our county about the way things are done. My question is, why are you here? I'm native to the area, and while we might not be a perfect place to live, we have been able to earn a living, pay our taxes, raise families and enjoy our way of life. Apparently you must not have been happy with the place you previously lived or you wouldn't have moved here. So why not just enjoy the way we live? As we have all our lives. We don't need your ideas of change. If you think the way things were done in the town you previously lived were better than what we do here, maybe you should go back there.

We have been a small happy community as far back as I can remember. I worked in doctor's offices in the county for 45 years, and they

See *King*, page 5A

### Letters to the Editor

#### RCUT Dangers

Dear Editor,  
It was (is) heartening to see the headline "RCUT intersection raises safety concerns at 515/325" reach the front page of your newspaper — it belongs there — and it needs to be seen! What we do not want is the future additions of your newspaper having a headline like "Deadly crash caused by the 515/325 RCUT project." That is surely what's going to happen unless someone at the Georgia Department of Transportation gets their heads on straight and STOPS this ridiculous project.

It was truly unfortunate that Sydnie Grace Jones was killed when the vehicle she was riding in made an ill-advised left turn from 515 East into oncoming traffic. Any left turn into oncoming traffic must only be made when it's safe to do so. It obviously wasn't safe in this particular instance. That situation WILL NOT BE RESOLVED by this RCUT project. The facts are, this RCUT project will undoubtedly cause un-

See *Holzinger*, page 5A

#### A Great Place to Live

Dear Editor,  
For those who have moved here recently and seem to be angry about everything, you chose to move here. Whether you came from Atlanta, Miami, or Palm Beach, you chose to move here. This place before you was a community. People looked out for each other. When there was a neighbor in need, someone came to help. Some of the best people I have ever known are the "natives" here. I could give you a list.

When you came and built your gigantic houses, you caused home values to skyrocket. It is now impossible for young people to buy a house. Don't complain about your assessments. No one made you build a 3,000-6,000 square foot house for two people. Don't blame Lamar. When Lamar retires, those will be big shoes to fill. No one has loved Union County more than he has. Under his guidance the community has improved dramatically. I haven't agreed with every decision he has made, but Union County is a better place because of him. Meeks Park is used by walkers, joggers, picnickers, mothers and children every day. The Farmers Market is a great success. Our hospital has doubled in size, and we no longer have to go over the mountain for cancer treatment. I just spent eight days in Union General because of COVID. Union General saved my life.

For the person that says the county is 70% Republican, I wish local elections were nonpartisan. If your faith is in either party, it's in the wrong place. Both have failed America. There

See *Rafter*, page 5A

### Hootie and Old John

Hootie was a likable fellow who loved to make people smile. He enjoyed telling stories and looking important. He always enjoyed being in the limelight. This man was a person which would give the shirt off of his back to help another person. But, sometimes his stories would become exaggerated with age. For example, a fish he caught as a boy grew nearly 5 inches during his lifetime. An old boar coon he and his daddy caught years earlier had increased by 10 pounds as Hootie aged.

His favorite coon hound which was just an average dog when living had become a world beater during his senior years. According to Hootie he even walked to and from school in 10 inches of snow, and it was uphill both ways.

But there was another side to this storytelling old man. Once a family down the holler from Hootie had some trouble. Old man Mitchell broke his leg and couldn't plow his mules to break up the ground for spring planting. Hootie showed up at the Mitchell Farm to break the land for the family and wouldn't take any payment for his service. Later in his life our storyteller cut firewood for the young family of a fellow named Homer. Homer was laid up sick in the dead of winter, and Hootie's efforts kept the family from freezing. Hootie was always the first person to show up and the last to leave when work days were held at the church house.

But, later in life Hootie developed some problems of his own. He had trouble with one of his legs that necessitated his use of a crutch. This resulted in a real slowdown in his escapades in the woods. Hootie's wife became ill and passed away while one of his sons ran into some legal trouble resulting in his incarceration. However, the man's demeanor never changed. He still spent his time smiling, telling stories and trying to help others.

There was another man in the community called Old John. John, like Hootie, was an outdoorsman. He loved fishing and hunting. But, John was a person who always thought he had to be the best at everything. Unlike Hootie, John's version of the story always revealed that he wanted to be better than everyone else. So, if your coon hound treed 45 coons last winter, then John's would have treed 46. Or if you killed a 6-point buck, John would kill a 7-pointer. But these were stories where John always did better than anyone else. And he enjoyed letting you know that he was better than you.

Old John was especially hard on Hootie. All the old men would gather down at the little country store and begin telling stories. Hootie

See *Cummings*, page 5A

**Around The Farm**  
*Mickey Cummings*



### Radon Awareness Month

January is national radon action month. Many Georgians spend these cold months huddled inside waiting for a warmer spring. This makes it even more important that we test our homes for radon, a colorless, odorless gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer.

In Union county, about 46% of homes have elevated levels of the naturally radioactive gas radon. In Towns County, it is 36%. Over the course of many years, exposure to this gas can cause lung cancer even in non-smokers. In fact, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Smokers, current and former, exposed to radon gas have an even greater risk of developing lung cancer.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that comes from the breakdown of uranium in soil and rock. Often granite rock naturally has high levels of uranium, which is part of why radon is such a persistent problem in Georgia, the gas seeps out of the soil and up through crawlspaces, foundations, and basements into a home. About 800 Georgians die annually from radon induced lung cancer.

Fortunately, testing for radon gas is simple and inexpensive. You hang a short-term radon test in the lowest living level of your home for three to seven days, and then mail it to the laboratory for analysis. In a few days, you will receive the test results. If the radon level in your home is high (4 picocuries per liter or above), you can have a certified radon mitigation professional install a radon reduction system that will reduce the indoor radon level. The system most frequently used is a vent pipe system and fan that pulls radon from beneath the house and vents it to the outside.

A radon test kit can be obtained from the UGA Radon Program ([radon.uga.edu](http://radon.uga.edu)) or a hardware store. During the month of January, Georgia residents will receive \$5 off the cost of purchasing a radon test kit online by using the code NRAM2022 at checkout. You can also purchase a radon test kit at the Union or Towns county Extension office for \$10.

Radon may also be found in drinking water. This is primarily a concern with private well water. In Georgia, wells drilled into granitic crystalline rock aquifers, usually in the northern part of the state, are at risk of naturally occurring radon contamination. This is where the uranium that decays to radon can be found at higher levels. To learn more about radon in water in your county visit <https://aesl.ces.uga.edu/water/map/>. If you are interested in radon in water test kit,

See *Williams*, page 5A

**Blairsville - Union County Chamber**  
President  
*Steve Rowe*



### Chamber of Commerce

The New Year is off with a bang, and I don't just mean the fireworks. The process has begun to take down all of the decorations but the memories of all the trees will last throughout the year.

As I stated last week, we are excited about our 2022 program of works and plans that are well underway for our 40th anniversary celebration to be held on Jan. 20 at Brass-town Valley Resort. This should be a great evening remembering the past and recognizing the Business of the Year and our 2021 Person of the Year. Call the Chamber today and reserve your tickets. Tickets will be limited, so reserve yours today.

Did you hear Emma Thompson was named this year's STAR Student for Union County High School? The Evening with the Stars will be Feb. 10 at the Union County Community Center, where we will recognize Emma and several other outstanding students, teachers, and alumni.

See *Chamber*, page 5A

## North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

**Kenneth West** Publisher/Owner   **Shawn Jarrard** General Manager/Editor   **Derek Richards** Advertising Director   **Todd Forrest** Sports Editor   **Lowell Nicholson** Photographer

Website: [www.nganews.com](http://www.nganews.com) • Email: [northgeorgianews@hotmail.com](mailto:northgeorgianews@hotmail.com) • Mail: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514

The North Georgia News is an independent and nonpartisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

Publication No: 001505

Advertising, News deadlines Friday at 4 p.m. • Mail Service for all subscriptions except 30512, 30514 & 30572 - One Year \$40. In county, carrier delivered subscription is \$5. All subscriptions must be paid in advance. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is published weekly by NGN/TCH, Inc., 266 Cleveland Street, Blairsville, Georgia, 30512. Entered as Second Class Matter as of Dec. 24, 1988, at the Post Office in Blairsville. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

Phone: 706-745-6343 Fax: 706-745-1830 • P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514

**Paris... continued from Page 4A**

of our roadways for salt trucks and snow clearing. Blocking a roadway is never a good idea, and parking on the side of the street might make it impossible for an emergency vehicle to make its way through. Only in very extreme circumstances will the county consider a speed bump.

**Q. What are the advantages of using speed bumps?**

A. By forcing drivers to slow down, speed bumps greatly reduce the frequency of minor fender benders and serious collisions. More importantly, they are quite effective at reducing automobile accidents involving pedestrians. However, on higher speed roadways, they are sometimes simply NOT safe.

**Q. What are the disadvantages of Speed bumps?**

One of the few major drawbacks of speed bumps of any kind is that they are a pain for the traveling public. They are a terrible inconvenience for traveling, school buses, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles. In life-or-death situations, a delay in reaching a person in distress or delivering that person to a hospital can be serious. Also, once speed bumps are installed, salting, and scraping of ice and snow is not always possible because of the danger to equipment, vehicles and employees.

**Q. Do speed bumps change driver behavior.**

A. Often it is the only way to impact a driver's behavior. However, some will try to avoid the bumps by going "off road" to avoid the bumps or spinning their tires upon leaving a speed bump. Neither is advisable or legal.

**Q. Why can't the county just install "Slow Children at Play" signs.**

A. Because the streets are not for kids to play on. Any indication such as one of these signs - that kids are allowed to play on the streets and that the activity is known and allowed by the governing authority - is simply not appropriate.

**Q. I live in a subdivision where children regularly play outside. Does the Homeowners Association have any authority on this matter?**

A. If you live on a private road, one fantastic way to reduce speeding in the neighborhood includes speaking with your Homeowners Association (HOA) if you have one, or at neighborhood gatherings. Your HOA council members or homeowners may know how to slow down traffic in your neighborhood through the use of campaigns, traffic calming solutions, and by working closely with local law enforcement. The HOA will absolutely have the right to step in and install traffic calming solutions, such as speed bumps and speed humps, which help discourage speeding. They might even install a speed monitoring digital sign. But they can do nothing until alerted about the situation. If no one speaks up, then nothing gets done. If you go to an HOA board with multiple families ready to complain, the chances of something being done are much higher.

**Q. If speed bumps aren't the answer, what do you suggest?**

A. It is the last resort for slowing down traffic in Union County. However, if nothing else works, it is still sometimes necessary.

**Q. What is Union County policy on speed bumps?**

A. If there is enough speeding on a particular roadway and if it is persistent for an extended period of time, then you can speak with the Sheriff's Office and/or the Road Dept. If warranted, The Road Dept will paint a warning bar on the roadway and place signage nearby, letting the public know that if traffic does not slow down, a speed bump will be installed. The county will then after (a period of time) install a speed radar type instrument that will record the actual speeds along a section of the road. Finally, if the speed limits are well above the legal limit, then the speed bump signage will be converted to an actual speed bump. So, if you do not want a speed bump, then slow down along rural roads and treat it as if you had your dogs or the public walking along the roadway. Abide by how you would want the public to drive by you in similar situations.

**Habitat...continued from Page 4A**

Habitat for Humanity has developed a model that helps families become homeowners, when they normally would not be able to accomplish this in a conventional way. For example, potential Habitat families don't just buy houses, they become "Habitat Partner Families." The Families don't need a huge down payment (which is often 10% of the home's value). Instead, their down payment is \$1,500. This down payment amount is due at closing but can be paid in smaller increments from the time a family is selected, until the date of closing.

Partner Families are required to donate 350 hours of work on the building of their home, someone else's home, construction repair projects, or working in the ReStore. Since it usually takes about a year from the time a family is selected until the time they move into their home, there is plenty of time for this to be accomplished.

Partner families are offered support all along the way,

from the time they fill out the application for home ownership all the way until they pay off their 20-year mortgage. There is always someone from the Family Support Committee available to answer any questions a family may have, and offer help when situations arise. There are credit counselors available to help families learn how to best spend their money, the best way to raise their credit scores, and handle things like bank accounts, credit cards, and bill-paying.

The best part of this Habitat program is its lasting effects. Some of our homeowners sell their homes, and move on to bigger and better situations. Homeownership becomes "generational" ... meaning that the children who grow up in stable housing tend to further their education beyond high school, potentially moving into careers that pay more. They tend to become homeowners themselves. Their children follow their examples.

Habitat offers "a hand up, not a hand out."

**Holzinger...continued from Page 4A**

told future accidents, possibly even more deadly.

Causing all vehicles, including many trucks, some with trailers, to make a U-turn into oncoming (at speed) traffic is bordering on criminal. It makes no difference whatsoever that "the new turn lane and U-turn lane will accommodate this size of vehicle" — this situation WILL CAUSE ACCIDENTS TO HAPPEN — the U-turners will not be able to make this sort of a maneuver safely.

Reading that the GDOT folks "determined that a 'Restricted Crossing U-Turn would be the appropriate intersection control..." tells me very clearly that they simply haven't properly, if at all, investigated this particular situation. Fire Chief David Dyer is apparently correct that "the GDOT has not reached out to any local ... etc." They obviously did not reach out to anyone familiar with this particular intersection.

The primary problem at this sometimes very busy intersection is mostly due to the lack of visibility for 325 left-turners to see oncoming (at speed) westbound traffic on 515. If a vehicle is in the right turn lane from 515 to 325, any westbound traffic on 515 is almost totally blocked from view. All they have to do to help this situation is to move the right turn lane to 325, coming west

on 515, further off the highway, just like they did at Walmart. That would greatly improve the visibility of oncoming traffic for left-turners. There is plenty of room to do that, and it would cost our taxpayers one heck-of-a-lot less than the \$300,000-plus that the ridiculous RCUT project will reportedly cost.

**Jim Holzinger**  
Still (Even More)  
Concerned Citizen

**Dyer...**

**continued from Page 4A**

equipment to deal with emergencies until help arrives.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

**Scott...**

**continued from Page 4A**

to pull together. I would hope that with the dawn of 2022 we all begin a period of healing, emphasizing the positive and each doing our part in making our great America a kinder place. America in 2022 is still the greatest country on earth, and we have come a long way since our beginning. If this weren't the case, there wouldn't be so many people trying to get in. Here's to Truth, Justice and the American Way. Happy New Year,  
**John Scott**

**Cummings...continued from Page 4A**

would get started telling a tale, and Old John would let him get halfway through a story and then make a smart aleck remark about his exaggerating or even telling a downright lie. Hootie's face would redden as he quit his story, and he would just get up and leave the store.

William was in the store the day of this incident and overheard Old John's scathing words. William said, "John, you ought not be so hard on Hootie. What's the harm in listening to his stories? We all need a little laughter." Once again Old John told everyone Hootie was just full of hot air. "I bet he has never even killed a big deer." "Maybe he has and maybe he hasn't, but, that old man is a good old man, and you shouldn't be so hard on him," replied William.

Not long afterward, William's son Dumplin' (he loved chicken and dumplings) killed the biggest deer many people around these parts had ever seen. The old Buck had mas-

sive beams and registered 9 full points and broken tine. The young man killed the deer in a place he called "no man's land," which can be found on the east side of the Duncan Ridge Trail. The young man carried and drug the massive deer some 3 miles back to his home and was about to hoist the buck up by a winch when Hootie drove up.

He got out of his truck and began to laugh. He walked up to Dumplin' and patted his back. He wished to make sure the boy received his due congratulations. Hootie said, "This old buck reminds me of the time I killed that 8 - or was it a 10-pointer? - when I was 16." Then the old man fell silent. A look of deep thought fell across his face. He looked at Dumplin' and then his Dad. For a moment all was silent. Then Hootie said, "You fellows know how Old John is always ragging me? He always says I could never kill a buck bigger than what he has killed. I wonder if you boys would let me borrow this deer for an hour. William looked at his son Dumplin' and grinned. Both of them told Hootie to take the deer for a spell.

They helped the old man load the deer into the back of his old 1963 Chevy Truck. He then drove down to the store where he related to all that would hear about how he'd taken this old mossy back buck. Yes, Old Joe was there and heard it all. He went to his grave thinking he had been bested by Hootie's big deer in 1973. And he never called Old Hootie a liar again.

**Williams...**

**continued from Page 4A**

contact your county Extension office.

Radon is a real concern for where we live. Thankfully, more and more people have become aware of the problem that it presents. Mitigating radon in a home that has finished construction can be expensive. If you are in the process of building a home consider installing a mitigation system, as it is cheaper to have the system installed before a house is completed. If you have questions about radon, you can contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.williams@uga.edu.

**King...**

**continued from Page 4A**

were good years until the last couple of years. I have never dealt with so many obnoxious, complaining people. WHEN IN UNION COUNTY, DO AS THE UNION COUNTIANS DO!! Or find another place where you can be happy.  
**Linda King**

**Rafter...**

**continued from Page 4A**

was a video made before the last election. It is called "The Unbreaking of America." It's narrated by Michael Douglas, and everyone should watch it.

Ask yourself why you are so angry when you live in such a beautiful place.  
**Cynthia Rafter**

**Chamber...**

**continued from Page 4A**

We are still waiting for the announcement of this year's winner from Woody Gap, so stay tuned.


Every five years, the City and County prepare a Joint Comprehensive Plan, which includes input from the public. The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission invites the public to take a brief survey to assist in this process. Visit the County website to get the link to this year's survey, www.unioncountyga.gov. Anyone with questions about the public involvement process can contact Adam Hazell at the GMRC at (738) 538-2617 or ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov.

**Georgia Mountain Pregnancy Center**

The Georgia Mountain Pregnancy Center offers free first Trimester ultrasound, pregnancy test, and counseling.

The center is located at 136 Hospital Drive Road, Suite A, Blairsville, GA; (706) 994-3364; gmrcmedical.org

**Bell Ringing Union  
County Old Courthouse**



**January 2, 2022**  
In memory of  
**Virginia B. Meeks**  
On the occasion of  
her birthday  
By: Terry and Ginger Meeks

**January 14, 2022**  
In memory of  
**James Partain**  
In remembrance of  
his birthday  
By: Sarah Partain

**Bell ringing information  
at 706-745-5493**