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### 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 simply NOT safe. 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 30-second delay in reaching a person in distress or delivering that person to a hospital can be fatal. Another big drawback of speed bumps is the damage they can cause to vehicles with fairly shallow ground clearances. If you mistakenly drive a low-profile automobile over an unexpected asphalt bump at a high rate of speed, you might crack your front bumper or seriously compromise your oil pan, bust your tires, or bend your tire rims. Also, once speed bumps are installed, salting, and scraping of ice and snow is not possible because of the danger to equipment, vehicles and employees. Finally, some have observed that speed bumps do not change driver behavior and instead encourage other dangerous driving behaviors, such as going "off road" to avoid the bumps or spinning their tires upon leaving a speed bump.

### 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 being allowed to play on the streets and that the activity is known and allowed by the governing authority - is simply not going to happen.

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very professional. However, his right hand, which was keeping time, sped up, and instead of being in 1/4 time, the song was played in 3/4 time or maybe even faster. The whole situation is now a legend at Union Hill Church. Some even think it is not true. But I was there.

An even earlier memory happened when I was 2 1/2. It was March 1960 and we were visiting from up North. Actually, Mom and I had come home so my sister could be born. Mom knew the Doctor in Haleyville well and wanted him for her birth of my sister. We were sitting in Sunday morning service and the Preacher walked to the pulpit to begin his sermon. I was riled because I was not allowed to sit with my Papa. As scripture began to be read, I found my chance. I left the pew in a hurry and ran to the "Amen Corner" where he was sitting. I figured I was safe there with him. I tried my best to remain still and quiet. And I was for maybe a minute. I eased to the end of the pew, and Papa looked at me, so, I grabbed a hymnal and pretended to look at it. I made another break when he looked away. I dove under the pew and popped up in front and began

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ally need to go on? Aah, I remember it well. There was also a "goodies" sack inside of each C-Ration box which contained life-sustaining extras such as a small pack of TP, salt/pepper/sugar, and sometimes a packet of hot cocoa mix; let me tell you, it was the nastiest portion of chocolate-flavored powdered milk, but on a cold night in the field, it was the nectar of the Gods, legal tender in almost every field environment, much like the grapefruit sections and cigarettes that my husband said were included in rations while serving in Korea during the war.

Now, I will tell you that I had always liked to cook as a child, and that did not change when I went into service. Reforger, a large field exercise, usually in the fall in Germany, was in the cold and rain leading up to winter. As the only female helicopter crew chief in our company that went to the field, partially as a chief and partially as the maintenance records clerk, I always had the back

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That's almost three times more than today's average Social Security benefit of \$1,230 per month. Your retirement fund would last more than 33 years (until you're 98 if you retire at age 65). Social Security is going bankrupt because Congress has borrowed against it — with the promise of repayment at some unspecified time in the future. A Ponzi scheme is illegal — unless it's the government that is supporting it.

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

A. One fantastic way to reduce speeding in the neighborhood includes speaking with your Homeowners Association (HOA) 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. In review, the Union County Sheriff's Office is the official authority on traffic and road safety. However, there are a few things that you can try to suggest that neighborhood traffic should obey speed limit requirements. 1) Raise awareness in your neighborhood. Talk with your neighbors about the problem, and compare your ideas for solutions, 2) Consider yard signage. Inexpensive "Slow" signs or plastic sandwich board type signage often help — especially when small children are out at play, and 3) Seek assistance from your local law enforcement. Though such speeding is often sporadic, random police presence can often encourage a potential speeder to think twice.

playing hide and seek with the Deacons.

They were all laughing, and I was having a good time until I noticed my Mom. She was coming for me, so I made a dash for the preacher. Soon the whole audience in the church was laughing, even the preacher, and I was the center of attention. Can you imagine what my Mom was thinking and feeling? Remember, she was 8 1/2 months pregnant and chasing this little kid across the stage at our little country church. After another mad dash around the stage, she grabbed my collar. I cannot remember what happened. All she'll say is that I never acted up in church again. And it was a long time before I was allowed to sit with my Papa.

Now, there are some which would think these stories irreverent. However, I cherish them because they remind me of a much simpler time in my life. I wish the whole country could take a trip down my memory lane to that little country church in Trapptown, Alabama, to listen to some good old gospel singing and preaching. Who knows, there might be a laugh at the antics of a little boy.

half of the administrative GP (General Purpose) small tent to myself, separated by the hanging of two ponchos or shelter halves, outfitted with a kerosene potbellied stove. In addition to always keeping a pot of coffee going with the manual percolator from my Grandmother's basement, I would transform muck to majesty, transform the schlock from the C-Rations — with a little help from a few additions from central mess — into rather palatable meals. And if our field trials took us in summer to late fall, there would always be berries to be foraged, a skill learned early on in my upstate New York childhood, and whipped into some delectable dessert.

Ya know, life is what you make it. When life gives you lemons, err, rather C-rations, you make — well, you know.

And now, the buzzer on the oven reminds me that the cranberry apple coffee cake is ready, so until we muse again, I bid you "At Ease!"

P.S. Trying to glean votes from the uninformed, Al Gore spoke of the Social Security "lock box" — which, as president, he promised to protect. There is no "money" in the Social Security "lock box." It has been appropriated — borrowed from — for government programs sponsored by Senators and Congresspeople to fund programs, such as Social Security.

George A. Mitchell

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ing and sharing Facebook and Twitter messages and tips with others in your community, and engaging in yard work around your home.

Home activities include: Raking and removing pine needles and dry leaves within a minimum of 3 to 5 feet of a home's foundation. And if you have the time, continue raking up to a 30-foot distance around the home. Dispose of collected debris in appropriate trash receptacles. Cleaning pine needles from your roof and gutters and paying attention to maintaining the home ignition zone. Getting out your measuring tape and seeing how close wood piles are located to the home. If they are closer than 30 feet, relocate them to at least 30 feet away from structures. Sweeping porches and decks, clearing them of leaves and pine needles. Raking under decks, porches, sheds, and play structures. Mowing grasses

## Williams...

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application is very important. You must apply it while the flowers are in bloom because that is when the infection occurs. You must spray Captan every 7-10 days during bloom. Serenade is another product that you can spray instead of Captan that is organic, but it is not as effective.

If you have questions about growing blueberries contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

## Fowler...

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God," Professor John Lennox quotes Norman Anderson summarizing the evidence. "The empty tomb forms a veritable rock on which all rationalistic theories of the Resurrection dash themselves in vain." The verdict: it happened.

The Bible offers you a challenge. Prove that the physical, bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ did not happen, and you disprove Christianity. It says, "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain" (1 Cor. 15:14). The question that remains is, will you follow the evidence?

A physical Resurrection is the most logical explanation of the evidence. It proves that Jesus' offer of love, forgiveness, and a living eternity with Him is real. Christians celebrate it worldwide because we know it happened.

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into four states on a clear day. At 4,784 feet above sea level, surrounded by the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Brass-town Bald stands guard over our beautiful region and gives sensational sunrises and sunsets. Take the shuttle up if you're not an avid hiker, and plan to enjoy the Visitors Center as well.

3. Reece Heritage Farm: If you're looking to combine culture with a hike, a picnic, and some small animals, look no further than Reece Heritage Farms. Featuring a poetry trail garden that highlights the work of Byron Herbert Reece, multiple barns housing 13 exhibits including farm artifacts and implements, a petting area, and a welcome center with gift shop and museum, this stop is perfect for those hankering for some history and education. Plan to pack a picnic and enjoy the beautiful pavilion along the creek. If you are adventurous, you can take a hike beginning right there at the farm.

4. Animal Encounters: If you've never taken a horseback ride through the hills and fields in spring, consider Track-rock Stables, Appalachian Trail Rides, or Brasstown Valley Resort where the horses are gentle and the views are breathtaking. Do you know the difference between a llama and an alpaca? Why not schedule an encounter with the fuzzy creatures at one of our local alpaca farms? While visiting you will enjoy discovering the art of working with fiber as well as the opportunity to purchase items. If you'd rather see baby goats, bunnies, and chicks or maybe even try your hand at yoga with goats (yes, you read that right), schedule a visit to Rhatigan Farms featuring lots of critters and a farm store.

Why not put the video games down, get outside, and explore everything Blairsville-Union County has to offer this Spring Break? For more ideas go to [www.visitblairsvillega.com](http://www.visitblairsvillega.com) (PLAY TAB). Make sure you take photos and tag us on social media. There's nothing better than seeing people fall in love with Blairsville-Union County all over again.

to a height of 4 inches or less. Removing items stored under decks and porches and relocating them to a storage shed, garage, or basement. Gasoline cans and portable propane tanks should never be stored indoors and should be located away from the home.

Challenge your friends, your family, relatives, or youth organization to develop a project and join others throughout the nation in making big changes for community safety.

Your efforts will help raise wildfire awareness, promote collaboration, and bring neighbors together (when we can) to work on projects that can help protect homes, neighborhoods, and entire communities from future wildfire risk. As old Smokey has said for many years, "Only You can prevent Wildfires!" He used to say Forest Fires, but that meant put out all fires in the forest and doing that for years created the buildup of fuel on the forest floor that leads to the devastating wildfires that we have now. Prescribed fires can reduce the fuel load and reduce the risk from wildfires.

Since most wildfires

are human caused, he is right, and we can make a difference with a little effort to reduce the risks that we take for granted all around us every day. Let the kids be a part (they probably need a project by now!) because if we can train our youth about wildfire, then when they become adults, they will already know what to do to reduce wildfire risk where they live, and they will not have to train them again.

Fire Adapted Communities is what this is all about, training citizens, fire departments, state and federal wildfire agencies and our children how to reduce the risk of wild-

fire in our communities by changing our habits to reduce our chances of losing all our stuff to a fire. Your local fire agency can help you become Firewise. It is something different you can do while sheltering and it can make a difference in your lives.

For more information on Firewise and Wildfire Preparedness Day, check National Fire Protection Association, [www.NFPA.org](http://www.NFPA.org); Georgia Forestry Commission, [www.gatrees.org](http://www.gatrees.org); U.S. Forest Service Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest; or The Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council on Facebook, Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D.