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has walking trails as well as an 18-hole disc golf course. When you add up all three parks, there are approximately 6 miles of walking trails.

Walking is one of the easiest, most enjoyable, and most available forms of exercise. All you need is a good pair of shoes and comfortable clothing. The walking trails cross Butternut Creek and go under State Hwy 515 – connecting the dog park. All trails are easily accessible. In the Spring and Summer, you might also see the Union County Middle or High School students practicing for cross country competitions.

Q. I see many baseball fields in Meeks Park. Who uses these?

A. The seven (7) baseball fields are used by the Union County Recreation Department baseball program. They are also used for football practice and cheerleading practice. The Union County School System will also use the fields from time to time for middle school softball and baseball.

Q. Can I reserve a

Meeks Park pavilion for a special occasion?

A. There are four pavilions and one gazebo at Meeks Park and one pavilion across from the Senior Center. If you wish to reserve a pavilion, please contact the Recreation Office at 706-439-6074. The Union County Recreation Office will be happy to provide costs and to reserve a pavilion for your special day.

Q. Do you allow bicycles on the walking trails?

A. No, we do not allow bicycles, skateboards, or any other wheeled activities on most of the walking trails. Safety of our trail walkers is top priority. However, residents do have a couple of biking options. The portion of Meeks Park I trail that connects the Sorghum Festival Field to the Senior Center will support bicycles; however, we do recommend that this ½ mile portion be limited to small kids on their bikes.

Additionally, a TVA maintained trail for off-road biking is available. You will find it out by the Nottely Dam.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

even in cold weather. Just like Miss Floss was there for Sunday School, the old Ford tractor was always ready to work. Is it any wonder then that the tractor picked up the name “Flossie?”

About 25 years ago Papa called me with some news. The first words from his mouth were “I baptized Flossie yesterday.” Papa had taken the old tractor down by the lake to clear out some brush. He set the parking brake and got off the tractor to close a gate he had driven through. Somehow the brake loosened, and he watched helplessly as the old tractor rolled into and disappeared under the

waters of Bear Creek Lake. I actually shed a tear for a tractor that day.

As you can see I have always been partial to red milk cows, Martha White Flour and blue tractors. Now, each time I eat a biscuit or sit on top of my orange tractor, I think about a long gone Sunday School teacher and the stories Papa told me about her. And as I age, the word “old” keeps changing. The word fifty nor seventy sound old to me anymore, and I keep walking in the high mountains trying to stay healthy and doing my best to keep the old man out.

Fowler...

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of natural law...reveals an intelligence,” and commented, “The beauty and simplicity of those laws...suggest a design. A design suggests a designer. That was (Einstein’s) back door approach to the question of belief in God.”

Here is what theologians know: “In the beginning was the Word...All things came into being through Him...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1). Jesus. God the Son, is that Word. Those who looked into His face saw the One who spoke the universe into existence. Those who believe in Him will not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). And science keeps pointing us to that same Creator!

Williams...

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there. Researchers have to be very careful about introducing a natural predator, because the effects of that introduced species are unknown on our ecosystem.

If you have any questions about fire ants and fire ant control, contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Ashurst...

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The purpose of this story is that while we may have a multiplicity of friends, there may be a special confidant. And such is normal and OK. Among all of our friends, we may be fortunate to have one or two confidants besides our significant other. If you do, you are blessed in an extra way. C. has been my friend for over 40 years, and the friendship is still strong and special.

“Good friends are like stars. You don’t always see them, but you know they’re always there.” (unknown)

Hambourger... continued from Page 4A

we) need G-d’s help once again, the cycle we despise when people do it to us, repeats: You need me, I help you, you move on without thanks or appreciation, and then you’ll call the next time you need me.

So how can we show G-d thanks for all the blessings in our life?

We must see every green light, as well as every bump in the road, as a custom-sent message from G-d. But just as your phone must be turned on to receive a text message, your spiritual sensitivity must be turned on to receive G-d’s messages.

Take a few minutes right now and review everything that occurred to you today and contemplate the messages that G-d has sent you. Think of the everyday miracles we take for granted – our families, homes, and our health – and how fortunate you are for your own good fortune. Make efforts every day to deepen your relationship with your Creator and express your gratitude proactively.

This is strengthened through learning Torah (the Bible) and fulfilling His precepts. Rather than attributing things to “coincidence” (which is just an eleven-letter name for G-d), recognize we experience divine providence in all aspects of our life.

The Baal Shem Tov, founder of the Chassidic movement, was an early advocate of this approach. He taught the concept of hashgacha pratis (Divine Providence), which teaches that G-d is intimately

involved in every detail of our lives, from the grandest events to the smallest occurrences. Nothing happens by chance; every moment is part of G-d’s purposeful plan. This perspective encourages us to recognize and reflect on G-d’s presence in our daily experiences, deepening our connection through Torah study, good deeds, and gratitude. By viewing life through the lens of hashgacha pratis, we see every experience as an opportunity for spiritual growth, fostering humility and trust in G-d’s benevolent guidance. The Baal Shem Tov also used to encourage people to respond “Thank G-d” when he asked how they were, as another way to actively express our appreciation for G-d many times throughout the course of our day.

With this mindset, paired with a hearty work ethic and trust in G-d, we will never go wrong.

Yonatan Hambourger and Tzali Reicher are rabbis serving communities throughout the regional South.

Chamber...

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together in joy, we remember and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice, ensuring our ability to gather and thrive in such a beautiful and welcoming town.

Our community makes life better in Blairsville.

Union County Retired Educators Association Annual Picnic scheduled for Wednesday, June 12th

The next meeting of the Union County Retired Educators Association is our Annual Picnic on Wednesday, June 12th at Conley Pavilion in Meeks Park at 11:30 a.m. We will provide the meat, paper products, and drinks, so please bring side dishes – vegetables, desserts, bread, etc. We would like to extend a special invitation to all new retirees and prospective members to join us, find out about our association, and consider membership at the state and local levels. Membership in the state organization is critical for retired educators and only costs \$27 yearly. Automatic Deduction is an option. Simply go to <https://www.garetirededucators.org> where you can print/complete a membership form and mail to the address listed or you can join online. We urge you to join the LOCAL (\$15.00 yearly) association also. Our local dues provide monies for a Scholarship for a graduating senior each year, for our local project which is the First Readers Childhood Literacy Program of Union County, other service projects, and for any supplies needed for maintaining our unit. Dues are tax deductible and they, or any other contribution you may want to make, may be paid at any meeting.

Pat Everett, UCREA President Allyson Mc-



Shelia Garrison and Judy Carpenter giving note pads for Teacher Appreciation.



Convention attendees.

Graw, Judy Carpenter and Shelia Garrison represented our local unit on May 7-9 at the State Convention held at

the Classic Center in Athens, GA. They will give us an update including the awards our unit received. This meeting will also include our local awards presentation and officer installation. County Commissioner Lamar Paris will also give us an update on what is happening in our area.

We seek to provide support, fellowship, and service to each other and our community. Come for a time of fellowship and good food! The Union County Retired Educators Association is an affiliate of the Georgia Retired Educators Association and all retired educators, affiliates, and their family members are invited to join this local unit.

Special concert featuring Colin Grant-Adams at Old Courthouse

A special concert on Saturday, June 8th as an extension of the Scottish Festival going on at Meeks Park, Colin Grant-Adams and Robert Valentine will be in concert at the Old Courthouse on the Square in Blairsville, beginning at 7 PM. The doors will open at 6 PM.

This is a free event and open to the public. All are welcome to attend.

Donations are accepted and appreciated.



Colin Grant-Adams