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and I am writing in response to the article written last week about the murder of my brother-in-law Jeff Fox.

"Upon reading your article, I was appalled, disgusted and humiliated for Jeff and his family when I saw that you had included his arrest record and substance abuse problems.

"Jeff's past history had absolutely nothing to do with the supposed crime that was committed against him and had no place in your article other than to maliciously attack his character."

"Your article gave its readers the impression that Jeff was a low-life, ex-convict drug addict whose life was not worthy of respect or dignity.

"Jeff had his problems and was not well liked by a lot of people, but he was still a human being, and as a human being, he deserved to be treated with dignity no matter how checkered his past may or may not have been.

"I have read other articles in your paper about past murders and none of them included any of the victims' possible arrest histories.

Nothing was mentioned about their possible drug or alcohol addictions."

"So why did you feel it was appropriate to list Jeff's?"

"I have seen nicer articles written about murderers than the one you wrote about Jeff, who was a victim. In this instance, he was victimized twice.

"Since your article appeared in print, our family has endured (more than once) comments like 'well, if he did all the things they say he did, then he deserved what he got.'

"Nobody deserves what Jeff got either from his attacker, or from the media.

"I can only imagine how his family must have felt reading the grisly details of his horrendous death and then turning the page to see Jeff's checkered past outlined in detail for all to see and scrutinize.

"Talk about rubbing salt into the wound. The author of this article obviously had no regard for the feelings of Jeff's children or siblings.

"I think I can safely speak for all of us when I say

that we all felt the sting of a slap in the face.

"I would like to defend my brother-in-law since he is no longer here to defend himself.

"Contrary to the picture your article painted of Jeff's character, I would like to go on record saying that the Jeff I knew, despite his problems, was a gentle soul with a child-like mentality.

"He would never have hurt anyone other than himself. He lived a tragic life and died a tragic death.

"He did not deserve to die the way he did, and he certainly did not deserve the final blow of humiliation delivered by the article in your newspaper.

"Goodbye Jeff. Your family loves you and will miss you.

"We pray that God will have mercy on you, and will bless your soul and allow you to finally rest in peace in the safety of his arms," Betsy Fox concluded.

The case remains under investigation and no new details were available at press time, according to the sheriff.

## City...from Page 1A

"It's a must do project."

The Meter Replacement Project will upgrade meters for City customers to AMR meters, Automated Meter Reading, Mayor Conley said.

The new meter reading system would be more cost effective, save on human error and be more efficient than the outdated meters resulting in a possible gain in revenue, he said.

The projects will be done in unison, and the City will save on support costs, Mayor Conley said.

In other business, the Blairsville City Council has voted unanimously to spend \$4,000 to be included in a study by Atlanta-based consulting firm, The Pendleton Group.

The cost of the study is \$15,000, of which Union County government will pay \$11,000, Mayor Conley said.

The Pendleton Group focuses its efforts in helping local governments get on the same page in concerns to economic development.

The group specializes in new restaurants and small businesses.

The group, led by Managing Partner Craig Lesser, includes former Decatur Mayor Bill Floyd, former Senate District 51 State Senator Chip Pearson, and former BellSouth executive Phil Jacobs.

The group will help the two local communities develop a long-term economic development strategy, Mayor Conley said.

"We need some long-term planning strategy," Council member Tony Dyer said.

## Town Hall

District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch will host a Blue Ridge Town Hall Meeting on Saturday.

Sen. Gooch (R - Dahlonega), will hold a Town Hall meeting on Saturday, March 15, to answer questions about legislative efforts at the Georgia State Capitol in 2014.

All constituents are welcomed to meet with Sen. Gooch at Mercier Orchards in Blue Ridge at 10 a.m.

During the 2014 legislative session, Sen. Gooch traveled throughout District 51 to meet with constituents and discuss common questions and concerns, both locally and at the state level.

This is the final Town Hall meeting for the 2014 legislative session.

Sen. Gooch serves as Chairman of the Transportation Committee.

He represents the 51st Senate District which includes Dawson, Fannin, Gilmer, Lumpkin, Union and White counties and portions of Forsyth and Pickens counties.

He may be reached at 404.656.9221 or via e-mail at [steve.gooch@senate.ga.gov](mailto:steve.gooch@senate.ga.gov).

## Scam Alert

The Union County Sheriff's Office reports that an ongoing scam is targeting residents identity information.

A man purporting to be Union County Sheriff's Lt. Davis is calling residents and seeking vital personal information.

A ping of the cell phone alerts authorities the call is coming from Camilla, GA.

Chief Deputy John George urges residents to call (706) 439-6066 to report any information about the caller. The Sheriff's Office doesn't solicit over the phone.



Leadership Union members visited City Hall on March 6 during the monthly Blairsville City Council meeting. Photo/Charles Duncan

Mayor Pro Tem Buddy Moore was in agreement.

"Economic development is something we need to focus on for a brighter future," Moore said.

Also, Blairsville Municipal Airport Manager John Hamler said that March 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. would be Airport Awareness Day at

the airport.

"It's our version of Open House," Hamler said.

The Council hosted Leadership Union during its monthly meet at City Hall.

The conference room was packed with Leadership Union members as well as those attending the monthly council meeting.