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talk to staff or me. If you want to speak to me personally, the best way is to call my assistant at the above number and set up an appointment, because I am often out of the office and in the county checking on projects or at meetings. Fourth is through Facebook. I have a personal Facebook page that you can friend me on, however, I am very careful of who I friend so as to minimize hacking. Fifth is the newspaper. I furnish a Question and Answer column each week in the **North Georgia News**, the Legal Organ of the county. I have been submitting these Q & A for 15 years and as far as I know have never missed a week and have answered thousands of questions over the years to help keep you informed of what is going on in our county government, whether you are a native, newcomer, or somewhere in between. Then there is texting and fb messaging. It is often hard to keep up with all of these, but if someone says they cannot get in touch with me for a long time, it is usually not accurate.

Q. With all of these ways to contact you or the county does anyone ever fall through the cracks?

A. Yes and if you do, please contact us again. I was gone several days at the annual Commissioner Conference and immediately upon returning, I

was out of town an additional three days. That makes it very easy to get behind and sometimes simply forget. I also hand off issues to other departments and staff. But for the most part, you can get hold of our government relatively easy.

Q. Is one way better than another to get in touch with the county or you?

A. Usually, phone and e-mail messages are the slowest, only because they are the easiest to send and there are so many to respond to. I currently have about 50 telephone calls to return and hundreds of e-mails. Now I do not have to respond to all the e-mails, but I must take the time to go through each one and either delete, forward to others or respond. So try to be patient if you can.

Q. How do we submit questions and where do the questions you answer come from?

A. All the contact resources I have mentioned above are also your avenue to submit questions. So if you contact my office and are unable to contact me or simply have a question you think the public would be interested in, please contact us and let us know.

Q. Do you ever make up questions that are in the newspaper?

Cummings... continued from Page 4B

he'd never met Mrs. James. So, he asked the lady if he could be of service. Mrs. James smiled and responded that her husband asked that she come to the bank and get some money.

Obadiah asked, "What is your name?" The lady responded, "Jesse James." All the color left the face of Obadiah Allman and he looked toward the vault and realized the door was stand-

ing wide open. Allman grabbed his chest like he was having a pain and ran toward the vault door. He grabbed the door from inside the vault and pulled the door closed locking himself inside. The tellers sent for a locksmith and 2 ½ hours later the door was unlocked. Obadiah Allman nearly suffocated just because of his reaction to the name of Jesse James.

Allison... continued from Page 4B

more attractive, and healthier. I have seen white hair turn black again, wrinkles disappear, and diabetics revert to a normal blood sugar. I had a person who was given 9 months to live, who went on to live for 9 years. It's amazing what the body can do, if you give it the right tools.

2. If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you want to meet?

I'd meet Hippocrates, who said, "Let your food be your medicine and let your medicine be your food." I'd love to watch him interact with his patients for a day or two, and see what foods he'd recommend. I know he recommended barley more than anything.

3. What was one piece of inspirational advice you received growing up?

My father gave his 7 children lots of good advice. What stuck with me was, "Get all the

education you can." I've done this, it's served me quite well, and I'd advise anyone to do the same.

4. If you could be an animal, what would it be?

I'd be a seagull, because they live on the beach, eat fresh seafood anytime, don't worry about sunburn, and glide on the wind so effortlessly. That looks like fun to me.

5. What is the best gift you ever received?

That's hard to say. But, moving here in 1989, from Boston, was an incredible gift, because things here are so much kinder, gentler, more beautiful, and much closer to nature. And, you can grow so many fruits and vegetables here, and hunt and fish. It's wonderful.

To learn more about the health services that Ann Marie can offer to you and your family, she can be reached at (706) 745-7900.

Mattee... continued from Page 4B

plant to get rid of the lichens will not solve your problem. Currently, there are no recommended treatments for lichens that are also safe to use on plants. Spraying a plant that is already stressed and in decline with a home remedy or unapproved chemical could injure it or make its condition even worse. Instead, manually remove any unwanted lichens by gently scraping them from the bark. If you have an extensive lichen problem, you should also examine your plant for signs of disease or an insect infestation. A soil test is also recommended because most of the time, plant stress comes from a source under the surface that we can't see. The soil test

will show what nutrients are deficient in the soil and it will tell you what to add in order to improve it.

Though lichens can be an unsightly pest on our plants, they are actually a warning sign that there may be something wrong with your soil or the plant itself. It's important to scout your plants throughout the growing season, even your ornamentals, to make sure that there are no diseases or insects stressing them and ruining all your hard work!

As of this week, I will be in Towns County Tuesday mornings and Thursdays, and Union County Mondays, Tuesday afternoons, Wednesdays and Fridays.

A. Yes, occasionally I do. You can normally tell because they tend to be about one subject, such as this week. I am here at the office after hours on Friday evening, with the questions having been due to the newspaper at noon. I have been in Atlanta all day in a meeting and as soon as I got home, I had more meetings, so some time this evening I will get these questions to the NGN and hope it will not be too late. I am using questions that I have heard at different times over the years and including some that help educate you about what and how we perform at our local government.

We make every attempt to be the most accessible local government anywhere. Our goal in Union County Government is to be as available to you as possible and provide you the assistance you need when and if we can.

We have a lot of very dedicated employees and volunteers who are here to serve you, and our staff members do a very good job of solving your problems.

Our goal has always been and continues to be to provide you the best possible services at the lowest cost.

Our having the fourth-lowest property tax rate is an indication that we are successful in the latter, and we hope that you feel that the services and facilities we provide for a county our size are second to none. Thank you for allowing us to serve.

Drug Free ... continued from Page 4B

of MedMark Treatment Centers and Sheriff Mack Mason. Kids with lucky ticket numbers won door prizes donated by the sponsors.

The Union County Anti-Drug Coalition would like to thank the following sponsors and supporters of the drug awareness and prevention programs: Union County Government/ Commissioner's Office, Union County Sheriff's Office, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, United Community Bank, Blairsville Cinema, Coosa Creek Marketing Products, Alpha Drug Testing Services, New Hope Counseling, Chicfil-A and Zaxby's. Special thanks to the participants and presenters for their heartfelt contributions to the program.

The next event is scheduled for Tuesday evening, August 9, 2016, when the international lecturer Michael Nerney will return to Blairsville to offer his engaging presentation entitled "Welcome to the Adolescent Brain". This presentation is intended for parents of middle and high school students, but all parents and interested community members are invited to attend this informative and entertaining presentation.

Fowler ... continued from Page 4B

it. "The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).

For more information, visit www.museumofthebible.org. Just two blocks off of the National Mall, it will be easily accessible for tourists. This may be your reason to visit D.C. and see the kind of change our nation's capital needs.

Botting ... continued from Page 4B

ticed out of the corner of my eyes that the vehicle in question had a big sign advertising a well-known realty company in Towns. What some people do not realize is that while having a sign of the company you are associated with, you are their representative and actually you could say the company's ambassador. I know many people who if being in my position if ever in need of the services of such industry, would stay very clear from that particular company thinking that if they have a fool out there representing them, how many more they may have in the office.

I am not dreaming up this rule, it is actually in the manual, and also while leaving Hiawassee as soon as you cross the bridge onto Denton Straight, GDOT has a sign referring to slower traffic keeping right. I have heard from a few people that it is rude to flash your lights. I wouldn't say that to a European, especially a German on the Autobahn for they would run you right off the road for not heeding their request. Even if you are in the right lane and they are coming up on your left, they will flash their lights to make sure you know they are there.

Please be courteous and remember "Drive Right, Pass Left."

Richard Botting

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Garden Tours	Every Monday: GMREC (May-Oct)	9 am - 1 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
A Course in Miracles	298 School Circle	2 pm
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Tri State Bus. Women	Every Tuesday: Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
Tuesday Strippers	Mtn Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
BINGO	Every Wednesday: Civic Center	7 pm
Butternut Ladies Golf	Every Thursday: Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Blue Ridge Comm.	Fourth Monday of each month: McCaysville Lodge	7:30 pm
Compassionate Friends	Fourth Tuesday of each month: Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Dead Theologians Soc.	Cabin Coffee	Noon
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville UMC	12:30 pm
VFW Post #7394	Veteran's Center	6:30 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
No activities listed	Fourth Wednesday of each month:	
Lions Club	Fourth Thursday of each month: Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 pm
UT Homebuilders	YH College	7 pm
Eastern Star #471	Fourth Friday of each month: Location not listed	7:30 pm
Youngcane Lodge #597	Fourth Saturday of each month: Lodge Hall	7:30 pm