

## Blairsville Restaurant receives Certificate of Appreciation

On the anniversary of D-Day, Commander Harold Levi of the David W. Payne Camp 1633 Sons of Confederate Veterans presented Sharon Stephens, owner of Blairsville Restaurant, a certificate of appreciation for their war memorial display. This display, of course, includes soldiers of the War Between the States.

The Blairsville Restaurant is owned by Sharon and Larry Stephens who are long-time residents of Union County. Sharon worked in the Blairsville Restaurant for many years before purchasing the restaurant in October of 2011. The restaurant was originally located on the square where The Hole in the Wall Restaurant is today. This is the oldest continuous running restaurant in Union County. There are bumper stickers proclaiming the restaurant as "The World Famous Blairsville Restaurant."

After moving the restaurant from the square to its current location, they were approached by Phil Nichols and Pat Phillips with an offer to decorate the restaurant in a military theme. Not wanting the whole restaurant decorated in a military theme, Phil and



(L-R): Harold Levi and Sharon Stephens

Pat were given a dining room for the display. The dining room was turned into a war museum of sorts.

The display ranges from the time of the Indians in North Georgia to the current conflicts. This is a well organized display. Aside from military leaders, the only people in the display are those who left for the wars directly from Blairsville or the surrounding area.

There are many pictures of soldiers who participated in the various wars, especially WWI.

Of particular interest to

the Sons of Confederate Veterans is the display of the War Between the States. There are photographs of some of the many soldiers who left for the war from Blairsville or Union County. This is an excellent display of the people involved in the war. When a war is glamorized we tend to forget that the war was not fought by the politicians or the military leaders, but by the individual soldier.

Go have breakfast or lunch at the Blairsville Restaurant and sit in the military dining room and review some history. NJun22.Z3)CA

## Dean D. Worthingstun DO, PC dba Georgia Foothills Hand Surgery welcomed by Chamber of Commerce



Ribbon Cutting with Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.

The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce was delighted to host Dean D. Worthingstun DO, PC with Georgia Foothills Hand Surgery during a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, June 14 in the Chamber lobby. Dr. Worthingstun and his staff offered a warm welcome to Chamber representatives and volunteers along with Janet Chapman with the Department of Labor and Chamber President, Regina Allison.

"I am honored, privileged, and blessed to provide quality care to the residents of Blairsville, Blue Ridge, Mor-

ganton, Hiwassee, Young Harris, and Murphy, NC," stated Dr. Worthingstun. "As the community grows and expands, it is important to have highly qualified and well-trained physicians to care for the residents of Union, Fannin, Towns, and White counties. When orthopedic services can be offered locally, and residents can obtain their healthcare locally, it is a positive benefit for those residents and the community."

Dr. Worthingstun's practice focuses exclusively on the medical and surgical manage-

ment of the hand and wrist. Board Certified in General Surgery, he is a candidate member of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. The Georgia Foothills Hand Surgery office is located at 980 East Main Street, Suite 300 in Blue Ridge, and Dr. Worthingstun is affiliated with Fannin Regional Hospital, Union General Hospital, and Northside Hospital.

For more information about the services available through Georgia Foothills Hand Surgery, call (706) 946-7300 or visit their website at deanworthingstun.com. NJun22.Z7)

## Union County Anti-Drug Coalition: Cannabis vs Alcohol Dependence- Social and Economic Costs

One of the touted potential benefits of the decriminalization of marijuana is that cannabis dependence is less harmful than alcohol dependence. Granted the percentage of persons using cannabis who become dependent is only about 9%, compared to approximately 15% who become dependent on alcohol. But do cannabis-dependent persons have less social and economic problems than those who are alcohol-dependent?

A long-term study on the health and behavior of 1,037 consecutive births between 1972 and 1973 has been ongoing in the city of Dunedin in New Zealand. The report is based on 947 participants (94% of the 1,007 study members who are still alive), and who have completed at least 3 out of 5 adult cannabis assessments from ages 18 to 38 years. The study assessed the participants in groups of 1) participants who never used cannabis; 2) used but had no diagnosis of cannabis dependence; and 3) with 1 or more diagnosis of cannabis dependence. With increasing can-

nabis dependence there was increasing decline in social class from childhood to age 38 years. The study showed an increase of financial difficulties as cannabis dependency increased as well.

The authors concluded that cannabis dependence was more strongly linked to financial difficulties than was alcohol dependence. They also did not find that antisocial behavior in the workplace and relationship conflict were less than those with alcohol dependence. This finding is the opposite of the popular opinion which states that heavy alcohol use imposes more economic and social costs on our communities than does heavy cannabis use.

Cannabis is perceived to cause fewer social problems than alcohol because far fewer people use Cannabis on a regular basis (less than 10% in the USA, although this is increasing as the legalization trend increases) than alcohol on a regular basis (around 66% in the US). It has long been maintained that the harm to society is comparable on a per-

use or -per person basis.

This research refutes the pro-cannabis propaganda. Alcohol use and abuse causes thousands of lives and over \$185 billion dollars in social costs annually, as reported by the Surgeon General's report. If the Cannabis legalization trend continues and Cannabis use grows to approach that of alcohol, the social costs of Cannabis use will become every bit as devastating as those attributable to alcohol use. Just because we tolerate one recreational drug that does significant harm to society is no logical reason to tolerate another that will add to that harm, regardless of any comparisons between the two. One is bad enough already. Willingly and intentionally adding another is simply irrational, and just plain idiotic.

*The mission of the Union County Anti-Drug Coalition is to support an overall safe community by providing information, education and support services to children, families and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse.* NJun22.Z6)gg

## Elder Abuse is on the rise in Georgia

Once a year on June 15, communities and municipalities around the world plan activities and programs to recognize World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). Elder abuse is an under-recognized, undetected and under-reported problem with devastating and life-threatening consequences. U.S. Administration on Aging estimates that as many as 1 in 10 older Americans are abused or neglected each year. According to the Department of Human Services, "Every day, older adults and adults with disabilities are suffering from abuse, neglect, and exploitation; often by people they trust the most. Abusers may be spouses, family members, personal acquaintances, professionals in positions of trust or opportunistic strangers who prey on the vulnerable."

Older adults are vital, contributing members of American society and their abuse or neglect diminishes all of us. Elder abuse can be financial, emotional, physical and sexual. It also includes people who are neglected and those who neglect themselves (self-

neglect). The consequences of elder abuse are grave: older adults who are abused are twice as likely to be hospitalized, four times as likely to go into nursing homes and three times as likely to die. While studies show that most abusers are family members, trusted professionals may also target older adults. Abuse can happen in any setting: in the older adult's own home, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities.

Georgia Council on Aging reports that between 2008 and 2012 there was a 65% increase in reports of elder abuse in our state. As the percentage of Americans over the age of 50 continues to grow, the number of older adults experiencing abuse in later life is also increasing.

More than any other demographic group, the elderly are actively involved in or contacted regularly by religious congregations. 32% of domestic violence victims have been involved with a faith community during the abusive relationship. Clergy and others from one's faith community are among the few, and in many cases, the only people who visit an elderly

person's home or care facility. Members of a faith community may be in a unique position to observe signs of abuse and neglect by family, paid caregivers, or facility staff.

The North Enotah Domestic Violence Task Force has instructors available for presentations to faith communities or groups that includes signs of elder abuse, what to do and what not to do, and how to report abuse. For more information on having a presentation for your faith community, please contact Betsy Ramsey, S.A.F.E. Community Response Coordinator at 706 379-1901 Ext. 35 or bramsey@safeservices.org

S.A.F.E. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides services to victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse in Towns and Union Counties. For information on available training or to volunteer for S.A.F.E. please contact 706-379-1901. If you are a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault or know someone who is, call S.A.F.E. for confidential assistance 24 hours a day. 706-379-3000. NTJun22.P1)SH