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kids playing in their neighbor's yard and the noise disturbs them. While these same children are not bothering other neighbors at all. Then there is always the problem with yard chickens crowing in the morning and waking folks up. I was recently at a funeral and it was difficult to hear the pastor at the grave side, because of the goats, chickens, turkeys and other animals on the adjacent property making a very loud racket. The animals were upset by all the people invading their area for the funeral.

So, do you see that noise is a problem no matter what way it impacts you. Setting a noise limit that is fair to all and covers every possible problem is impossible to develop or enforce. What this problem does require is "common sense". It also requires people that care for each other and are willing to consider what they are doing and how it would impact them if someone were doing the same to them. Basically, the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you", is the simple answer, but then if everyone lived by this rule, life would be so much more pleasant anyway.

**Q. What is the solution to the NOISE issue?**

A. I honestly do not know for sure. We are looking into all kinds of options, but there are no GOOD options. I do realize that those who are continually pushing the envelope and causing most of the problems, are the problems themselves. We do not want just a few causing problems for the entire county. At some point, not caring what other people think, hear or feel will eventually have consequences. It is just that we do not know what those consequences are at this time. So we are pleading with people to be aware of what is going on at your property and make sure you are not

causing others to not be able to enjoy their own property.

**Q. As a private citizen, do we have any legal options?**

A. The best option is the state law dealing with Nuisance. The only difficult issue is that it requires you to hire an attorney and sue the person causing the problem. Then it would be up to a Union County jury to determine if the noise is unreasonable. In the meantime, we are going to continually research what other counties are doing to see if someone has found a real solution to a vexing problem without negatively impacting us all.

**Q. How often do you receive a noise complaint?**

A. Until this year, just a few times a year. Most often, we were able to deal with the problem. Often the shooting issue was usually a problem before deer hunting season and I would tell people to give it a couple of weeks and it would stop, and mostly it did. Our animal control ordinance deals with unreasonable barking dogs and most people usually get used to some of the reasonable noises. It has only been in the past few months that the complaints have multiplied so much, especially regarding discharging firearms for long periods of time.

I would encourage you as a private citizen in our county, to be respectful of your neighbors. If you plan on shooting, let them know when and for how long. If you have a constantly barking dog, try to put it up at night or get a bark suppression collar. Outdoor music makers, shut down your music at a reasonable hour and direct your speakers so you do not disturb the neighbors. If you will not trample other's rights with what you perceive to be your rights, we will all be better off.

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blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but set apart Christ as Lord in your hearts, always ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence (1 Pet. 3:14-15).

The takeaway is that not only does a truthful point of view matter, but also does the manner in which you litigate your case. If you must disagree, do it with gentleness.

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can be especially dangerous. Water can rise quickly and the power of rapidly moving water is incredible. It is never a good idea to walk through or drive through rapidly moving water.

Everyone should stay informed. Television, radio, internet and social media can provide information on severe weather events. Knowing the difference between a Watch and a Warning can be very helpful. A Watch means severe weather is likely to occur. A Warning is issued when severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. It's happening. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path or area. Be prepared for possible severe weather and plan accordingly. For more information on Severe Weather Preparedness Week, visit the NWS website or follow up on Facebook.

*~Union County Fire Department – Our Family Protecting Your Family~*

**Cummings... continued from Page 4A**

with George Washington. Also, unknown to the British was that he and his brothers were making Kentucky Long Rifles for the Continental Army.

Robert Baker's grandfather was one of the first men to build a fort in Pennsylvania. John Baker traded with the Indians and built a fort and blockhouse in Franklin County, PA sometime around 1650. Later he served as a colonel in the French and Indian War.

Go back a few generations and we find another outstanding Baker. Sir George Baker was a doctor who served as "Surgeon-in-Ordinary" to Queen Elizabeth. He wrote several books about health and making of medicines. He was a healer who devoted his life to helping people. However, his grandfather "John" had another reputation.

John was a prominent man who served in several capacities to the English Throne. He served as the Undersecretary of London in 1520, the Recorder of London, the Attorney General of England, Cabinet

Minister, and Speaker of the House of Commons. Sir John "Bloody" Baker acquired this nickname by helping the King of England, Henry VIII, persecute Catholics and Protestant dissenters. It is my understanding that Henry VIII's wife hadn't born him any male heirs. So, the King sought to divorce this woman. When the Pope refused to grant an annulment or divorce the King left the Catholic Church and also helped establish another church. Soon he began persecuting both those of the Catholic and the Protestant Faiths.

My ancestor Sir John "Bloody" Baker helped Henry VIII in this persecution and as a result acquired many lands and homes from those persecuted. He also acquired the infamous nickname. As you can see I have some really great people in my family tree. There are those who are well thought of and some who do not have a good reputation. But, each had an impact upon the family name and those of us residing in this great country.

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difloras should all be pruned in late winter before new growth begins. Weak growing varieties should only be pruned lightly, while vigorously growing roses should be pruned heavily. Always be sure to remove dead or diseased wood as well as shoots that emerge below the graft union. Climbing roses should be pruned back to about a third of their length after the first blooms start to fade. Also remove any dead or diseased wood. Be sure to use sharp clippers to reduce splitting of cut wood.

For more information about rose varieties and disease management, contact your extension office for our "Roses in Georgia: Selection and Growing Techniques" publication.

Don't forget about our soil health field day on Febru-

ary 17th at GMREC. Registration and refreshments begin at 9 a.m. and presentations begin at 10 a.m. Topics include ideal soil profiles, improving soil health, federal conservation programs, and soil testing and interpretation. Lunch is provided and the program concludes at 1 p.m.

Union and Towns County

Extension will hold the Annual Northeast Georgia Corn Production meeting Wednesday, February 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. There will be pesticide credit available at this meeting: one hour for private applicators and three hours for commercial applicators in category 21. Please RSVP by 5 p.m. Friday, February 17th to the Union County Extension Office at (706) 439-6030. Lunch will be provided!

**Narcotics Anonymous**

A new NA group called "One Is Too Many" has started meeting in Young Harris at Sharp Memorial Methodist Church. Meetings are being held every Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. The church is on campus and the meeting entrance is through the back door.

For further questions about Narcotics Anonymous please call the NA Help Line at 888-666-3609. NT(Feb8,Z1)CA

**Drugs ... continued from Page 4A**

Several factors have limited research. While the federal government has approved some medicines containing ingredients found in marijuana, it still classifies marijuana as illegal and imposes restrictions on research. Because of this, scientists must jump through bureaucratic hoops that some find daunting, the report said.

A federal focus on paying for studies of potential harms has also hampered research into possible health benefits, the report said. The range of marijuana products available for study has also been restricted, although the government is expanding the number of approved suppliers.

The review found strong evidence that marijuana can treat chronic pain in adults and that similar compounds ease nausea from chemotherapy, with varying degrees of evidence for treating muscle stiffness and spasms in multiple sclerosis.

Limited evidence says

marijuana or the other com-

pounds can boost appetite in people with HIV or AIDS, and ease symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, the report concluded. But it said there's not enough research to say whether they're effective for treating cancers, irritable bowel syndrome, epilepsy, or certain symptoms of Parkinson's disease, or helping people beat addictions.

There may be more evidence soon: a study in Colorado is investigating the use of marijuana to treat PTSD in veterans. Turning to potential harms, the committee concluded that strong evidence links marijuana use to the risk of developing schizophrenia and other causes of psychosis, with the highest risk among the most frequent users.

Some work suggests a small increased risk for developing depressive disorders, but there's no evidence either way on whether it affects the symptoms of such disorders.

There's a strong indication that using marijuana be-

fore driving increases the risk of a traffic accident, but no clear link to workplace accidents or injuries, or death from a marijuana overdose.

For pregnant women who smoke pot, there's a strong indication of reduced birthweight but only weak evidence of any effect on pregnancy complications for the mother, or an infant's need for admission to intensive care. There's not enough evidence to show whether it affects the child later, like sudden infant death syndrome or substance use.

Substantial evidence does link pot smoking to worse respiratory symptoms and more frequent episodes of chronic bronchitis. There's a weak suggestion that smoking marijuana can trigger a heart attack, especially for people at high risk of heart disease.

Some evidence does suggest a link between using marijuana and developing a dependence on or abuse of other substances, including alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs.