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extremely sorry for those individuals and businesses that this caused a problem for.

Q. Would this water have been dangerous to drink?

A. Apparently not, but EPD has their requirements and if for some reason the water quality had been compromised, they wanted the public to be protected.

Q. How does the City of Blairsville usually publicize a boil water advisory?

A. In the event there is a water line break and a boil water advisory needs to be issued, the City of Blairsville contacts local media outlets. These include the local television station, all local and surrounding radio stations, and now will utilize Facebook. If it is in a neighborhood, they sometimes have to go house to house. They will also be utilizing the Union County 911 Alert System in the future to reach even more people faster.

Q. Why was there a boil water advisory in effect last week?

A. Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) requires that the City of Blairsville and other water systems, if they utilize storage tanks, clean them every few years based on biannual tank inspections. That is what recently happened with

the City of Blairsville. EPD requires that if the tanks are cleaned internally by a human diver, a temporary boil band goes into effect. Sufficient planning did not occur and the main problem seemed to stem from allowing the cleaning company to set their own schedule instead of demanding they use the city schedule.

Q. Are there problems with City of Blairsville Water very often?

A. I doubt if there is a more reliable source for public drinking water. We have to remember that they have and do provide reliable water service to their customers 24/7, 365 days per year. This is also the case for Notla and Coosa Water authorities.

Also remember that a waterline does not tell time or know the day of the week and employees are called out all times of the day and night, weekends and holidays, to fix water breaks and insure reliable service, even though we may never know about it.

Although Union County government has plenty to take care of, I will admit to being very glad that we do not have to deal with water or sewer issues and are proud that others are willing to do it for the public.

Part Two next week.

Allison... continued from Page 4A

all the crew at Southern Polyurethane, Inc. for painting the Mayor's Train for this special event.

We have added more musical groups at Holly Jolly Christmas this year for all of you who love to listen to sounds of the season.

The schedule is as follows:

@ 2:30 p.m. - 2:50 p.m., Currier & Ives Brass Quintet;

@ 3 p.m. - 3:20 p.m., Union County Nursing Home Hand Bells;

@ 3:30 p.m. - 3:50 p.m., Jim Wood - Guitar Player and Vocalist;

@ 4 p.m. - 4:20 p.m., Steve "Elvis Presley" singing some of your favorite holiday tunes impersonating the "King of Rock,";

@ 4:30 p.m. - 4:50 p.m., Union County Jazz Band;

@ 5 p.m. - 5:20 p.m., Christmas Carolling;

@ 5:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., Woody Gap Band of Steel

Thank you all for donating your time and talents to making this year's Holly Jolly Christmas the best one yet! Thank you also to the Union County Community Center for providing free refreshments for this event.

The Reindeer Games are being held once again in the upstairs ballroom. Thank you to the following businesses for volunteering to run the games for us and provide the prizes: University of North Georgia,

Chick-fil-A, The Ladies Golf League, Windstream, Dixie Confexions, and Noontootla Creek Farms. The Cow from Chick-fil-A and Critter from the Mountain Life Team-Keller Williams Realty will be at the event as well to celebrate the season!

We would like to say a special thank you to North Georgia Technical College for helping the children with the arts and crafts again this year and Danita Stephens and her family for providing face painting for the children.

We also would like to thank the Community Action Team of the FERST Foundation for volunteering to help with the event and read stories to the children. Thank you to Aspen Hearth and Home for letting us use the fireplace display for this event.

Thank you to the businesses and individuals that provided the items for the silent auction and raffle. Proceeds from this benefit FERST Foundation; an organization whose purpose is childhood literacy.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on the preparations to make this year's event a great one! Thank you to all of the volunteers working the day of the event! I would especially like to thank Marcie Culpepper, Jacque Bentley, Ashleigh Stephens, and the Chamber Team, Chamber Board Members and Ambassador Team.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Hackleburgh. Hovater posted up down low and a teammate passed him the ball. He turned and jumped into the air and just before shooting the ball Dad turned his back and pretended to watch the ball. At the same time he grabbed a handful of hair on Hovater's leg and snatched them out. The young man shot the ball and everyone watched it sail completely over the backboard and out of bounds. Each time the forward tried to shoot the ball the same thing happened. Soon he became frustrated and fouled out of the game. He left the game with only 10 points.

Next, Paul switched to the next best player on the team, which was their shooting guard.

He also soon fouled out of the game in frustration. This tenacious defense only allowed the team from Hackleburgh to shoot 23 percent of its field goals during the game. All their players became frustrated and the game became quite chippy. Bobby Stencil was a small forward and also one of the nicest players on Phil Campbell. After graduation he became a minister. As the game progressed a player he was guarding lost control of the ball. As

it was rolling toward the bench of Hackleburgh, Bobby dove at the ball trying to gain control of it. He slid out of bounds and came to rest at the feet of the Hackleburgh All-State power forward. Stencil looked up at Hovater and smiled. He responded by punching Bobby in the nose, who responded by asking, "Why did you hit me?" He then received another punch in the nose. During this fracas Coach Cannon, the assistant to Newman grabbed Paul and Price in a head lock and forced them to the bench where they sat out the brawl. Both benches emptied for the ensuing fight.

Hackleburgh lost their entire starting lineup while the Bobcats lost the only completely innocent player on the team. Bobby Stencil never threw the first punch. Phil Campbell went on to win the game by 40 points. During the celebration after the game Bobby told Dad, "Paul, you made every one of them boys mad. I never even threw a punch. But, I am the one that paid for your shenanigans."

Last year the 1956 Phil Campbell Graduating Class had a reunion. Bobby Stencil still remembers that basketball game against Hackleburgh.

Mattee

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original container, depending on how much it has grown. The more organic matter contained in your potting mix, the happier your poinsettia will be!

Getting a poinsettia to reflower is no easy task. These plants have strict light requirements for them to form the yellow flowers and colored bracts.

In the first week of October, the plant needs complete darkness for 14 hours every night. You can move the plant into an area of the house that gets no light, or putting a box over it. The plant also needs about six or seven hours of bright sunlight each day.

Though this seems demanding, after eight to 10 weeks, you should see colored bracts start to grow and the plant will fully come into bloom once again in November and December.

Fowler...

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pared an eternal place for you and He is the Way to it (John 14:6). Jesus brings meaning to a mean world, promising that the poor will receive the kingdom, the hungry will be satisfied, the weeping will laugh, and the scorned will have their joyful reward in heaven (Luke 6:20-23).

Today the personal and loving Gift is still offered, and received by faith. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Wise men and women still seek and find that delightful Gift.

Samson

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I have experienced the peace and joy in my life that can only come from Christ.

Life has not been without problems, but Jesus has been with me in the struggles.

So, what about you? God wishes good for your life and is for you.

Please know God offers you the greatest Christmas blessing of all: "Let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life." (Revelation 22:17) Merry Christmas to you!

If you have any questions about this or want more information, please email me at Jerrysamson123@gmail.com.

Jerry Samson

Duncan ...

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in a financial position to take this kind of risk on a player who would fill a bench spot if he stays in Atlanta.

They took a risk on B.J. Upton and lost big time. Adams, in 100 games, has already outperformed B. J.'s two years of service in Atlanta.

It's time to act like you know what you are doing. I'm hoping that Anthopoulos knows what he is doing.

To scramble just to fit a 19-year-old rookie in our lineup is crazy. As is trading the second most dependable player we've had over the last three years - Markakis.

Let's use our heads here and make the best available deals.

For more information about Holly Jolly Christmas and all the events happening around town, you can give us

a call at the Chamber office at 706-745-5789 or go to our website at VisitBlairsvilleGa.com

Coalition... continued from Page 4A

culture discussing the negative impacts of alcohol use that the teens aren't hearing enough of the messaging from their parents about the perils of any type of impaired driving. This study presents a good opportunity to start sending out a broader message. Driving under the influence is driving under the influence no matter what the substance.

Another study done in 2016 by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety showed a similar disparity in attitudes toward marijuana and alcohol. It found that, nationally, driving after using marijuana wasn't perceived as negatively as driving after consuming alcohol, which most respondents viewed as a problem in their communities. Less than half of drivers surveyed considered marijuana's effects on driving to be about the same as alcohol.

A University of Texas study published earlier this year, found an increase in fatal crashes in Colorado and Washington after the legalization of recreational use. Safety organizations have begun to study marijuana and its effects on crashes, as more states have legalized its recreational use and as traffic deaths have started to rise.

The federal government, for example, just announced that traffic deaths in 2016 increased 5.6 percent over 2015. This means 37,461 people died on our roadways in 2016, which is 1,976 more than died in 2015. Deaths also rose in 2015 from 2014 numbers.

The Governor's Highway Safety Association published a comprehensive report about drug use on our nation's roadways. The author, Dr. Jim Hedlund, reported that marijuana was the drug that showed up the most of any drug in the system of drivers who died in crashes. No other specific drug shows up in amounts greater than 10 percent. Marijuana, however, accounted for more than one-third (35.6 percent) of the drugs found in testing in fatal crashes.

Another study done by

the research arm of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety linked legalizing recreational marijuana to an increase in motor vehicle crashes. The study found that insurance claim rates under collision coverage went up about 3 percent overall after recreational marijuana sales started in Colorado, Oregon and Washington.

At that time an I.I.H.S. statement noted that worry about legalizing marijuana increasing crash rates isn't misplaced and that the findings should give other states considering legalization a reason for pause.

There is good news and bad news for parents in this current study. The study found that where marijuana has been legalized recreationally, a conversation between parents and teens about driving under the influence of marijuana is having an impact on a teen's views of risk.

Where this conversation has taken place between parents and teens, 80 percent of teens think smoking marijuana makes someone a worse driver; where it hasn't taken place, only 72 percent of teens think so. And where parents have had this conversation, 75 percent of teens think this practice is dangerous; where it hasn't taken place, only 71 percent of teens think it's dangerous.

However, if parents need more proof that their teens may not be listening, there is this finding: while the majority of parents (78 percent) say they are talking to teens about the dangers of smoking marijuana and driving, only 53 percent of teens recall having these conversations with their parents.

Since talking about these risks does seem to make a difference, reinforcing the message by formalizing the discussion and putting it in writing can help.

Setting clear rules and expectations is important. These are young adults and they need to know the rules and consequences if they don't play by them. The rule is - there is absolutely no driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.