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Superior and Juvenile Courts, Public Defenders, Clerk of Superior Court, Magistrate Court, Probate Court, and the District Attorney. Other county services include: Transportation Department, the Senior Center, Library, Health Department, Solid Waste Disposal, Extension Service, and the Civic Center. General and Administrative departments includes the county's accounting operations and auditing, Fuel, Property/Liability Insurance, Legal Services, Health Insurance, Building Maintenance, Courthouse operations, the Development Authority, NRCS, and partial funding of DFCS. The County also provides Environmental Enforcement, the Registrar's Office, Elections, Building Permits, Tax Appraisers, and the Tax Commissioner's funding. These county operations are done with basically 50% being funded with property tax dollars and 50% being funded with fees received from

these services.

All of this does not even include the SPLOST sales tax project budget. So see, your tax dollars do go a long way in providing an incredible amount of services.

Q. We heard there was going to be some new playground equipment at Meeks Park. Is this true?

A. Yes there is! We have recently replaced the old playground that was built in the 90s adjacent to Rich and Bryant Fields in Meeks Park, with new playground equipment. We are then taking the old equipment and moving it to the county campground, Poteete Creek, on Lake Nottely. In addition, for the first time ever in Meeks Park, we are going to have a swing set, which will be constructed adjacent to the current playground and handicapped swings. This is very exciting and will be a real improvement to Meeks Park.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

a lifeline to the family. Uncle Coon's sons can remember walking to the spring located 1/4 mile away to fetch water before the well was dug. Since the digging of the well the family regarded the water as more precious than gold or silver.

As I stared down into the well I picked up a pebble and dropped it into the water. I was intrigued by the sound of the pebble hitting the water and I soon ran out of pebbles. So, before I knew what was happening I began dropping pieces of my biscuit into the water. Soon I found myself in the kitchen and another biscuit was placed in my tiny hand. So, back to the well I went and listened to the soft plunk of a biscuit hitting the well water. I made four trips to the kitchen of Glenna and I enjoyed listening to the sounds of 4 biscuits hitting the well water. I guess I never realized the mess I was making of the one time pure well water.

Eventually, the visit to Aunt Glenna's house was finished and after several hugs, squeezes and kisses Aunt Mabel and I made our way back home. Somehow my 6 year old brain left the well behind and never realized that I had spoiled the well water of the people I loved. At least until later that afternoon. But, it all came back to my memory when I watched Uncle Coon as he came up the driveway to Aunt Mabel's house. It occurred to me that Uncle Coon was there to take care of business and not for a casual visit. I noticed that Uncle Coon had a sadness on his face that usually shown a

pleasant kindness. After a conversation with Uncle Coon and Aunt Mabel I was asked about the biscuits and the well. I explained what had happened and Aunt Mable explained how I had contaminated the well as I received a much needed spanking. The spanking was the first time anyone other than my mother ever touched me. It hurt my feelings, my pride and my rear end. But, it taught me to respect others' property. I have never wanted to throw as much as a kiss into anyone's well again."

Our RSVP process for vendors begins on March 7. The first stage of registration is for farmers. We will be at the Canning Plant Office each morning that week between the hours of 9 and 12. If you are a farmer you can register for the season for a stall at the Farmers Market.

Please do not bring us a registration form unless you are a farmer. Forms will not be accepted if you are not a farmer. The cost for a stall is \$209 and this cost covers stalls for Tuesday and Saturday throughout the year. The following week we will accept forms from last year's vendors which were not agriculture related. The last week of March we will accept forms for new vendors which have never been a reserved vendor. Please go to our website at UCFarmersMarket.com to find more information about the process. Also, during the registration process make sure that your registration forms have been notarized prior to bringing them to us at the Canning Plant Office.

Mattee ... continued from Page 4A

2. Treat your seeds. Seeds treated with insecticides can keep SCA at bay for up to 40 days after planting.

3. Get out in the field. Scouting is the number one way to prevent major damage by insects, and SCA is no exception. Damaged leaves are often yellowish and covered in honeydew produced by the aphids, giving them a shiny appearance.

Unfortunately, there are no pesticides that are appropriate for application to sweet

sorghum, which is used for making the syrup we all know and love. However, there are effective treatments available for feed and silage sorghum, such as Sivanto. The threshold for treatment is when 50 or more aphids are found on 25 percent of the crop. Treating for SCA at the boot stage (seed head is developing inside of the stem and has not yet emerged) and the preboot stage (the growth stage before the seed head is present) will help to prevent devastating damage to forage and silage sorghum. It is important never to use pyrethroid insecticides to control SCA, because these will kill any beneficial insects that are potentially keeping the aphids in check while having little effect on aphids themselves, allowing the pests to flourish and damage your crop.

Chaussy ... continued from Page 4A

hair and lost his hearing, but he came back alive. Although horrible at the time, he cherished his experience on Iwo and would have loved to have participated in the anniversary celebration. But sadly, we lost him last year.

The victory on Iwo Jima was expensive in lives lost. But the goal of securing the airstrips on the island was achieved. My dad's description of shot-up B52s landing on Iwo, even before a runway was ready, brought home the importance of the Iwo victory to the war effort in the Pacific. The 71st Anniversary Celebration was a sober reminder of the sacrifices made on Iwo. Thanks to Marine Corps League Unicoi Detachment #783 for a fine program to remember the invasion of 71 years ago.

Beverly Behn Chaussy

Mitchell...

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research group. (This does not necessarily mean they won't owe their home states income tax.)

Roughly half pay no federal income tax because they have no taxable income and the other roughly half get enough tax breaks to erase their tax liability, explains Robertson Williams, a Senior Fellow at the Tax Policy Center.

The top 1% of taxpayers pay a higher effective income tax rate than any other group (around 23 percent, according to a report released by the Tax Policy Center in 2014) — nearly seven times higher than those in the bottom 50%.

On average, those in the bottom 40% of the income spectrum end up getting money from the government. Meanwhile, the richest 20% of Americans, by far, pay the most in income taxes, forking over nearly 87 percent of all the income tax collected by the IRS.

George A. Mitchell

Gibson...

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area roadsides clean and natural looking. Of course, this starts with never littering ourselves (I hasten to add that most readers would never litter) and doing all possible to encouraging others to behave accordingly. For example, when you have construction workers or service persons driving a pickup or open truck doing a job for you, pay attention to whether there is any packaging or loose material used on the job. If there is, offer the worker a bag and ask him to bag the material and put it inside the cab so that it will not blow off. Much of the trash that I personally pick up originates in fast food outlets. Let's join together and think of creative ways to get the franchisees to help us lessen this source of litter. We cannot reasonably expect to eliminate takeouts altogether or require buyers to post bond, but perhaps if we asked the managers of these outlets to help, they will think of good ideas such as adopting a section of highway and regularly picking up the litter. As time permits I plan to contact the national headquarters of local franchises, apprise them of this problem and ask for their cooperation and assistance. I also plan to contact local commercial trash haulers because I know for a fact that much roadside litter is blowing off their trucks. Has your church or civic organization adopted a highway yet? Maybe you will encourage them to do so. Let me remind you of an ancient proverb paraphrased here as, "It is better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness." Every time that you stoop to pick up someone else's trash you are lighting a small candle and we are making a difference. Thank you for caring so much!

Wm. Ronald Gibson

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Dyer ... continued from Page 4A

worked very hard to prepare for the survey. The dispatch center, which makes up 10% of the survey, was evaluated for equipment, personnel, and training. The water departments, which make up 40% of the survey, were evaluated for hydrants, water pipes, supply and usage. The fire department, which makes up 50% of the survey, was evaluated on apparatus, equipment, training, station placement, response, and personnel on scene of

structure fires.

ISO expects to survey Union County's fire suppression efforts every 3-4 years or sooner if there have been any major changes to the dispatch center, fire department or water systems. Union County Fire Department works continuously to maintain and improve Union County's ISO PPC™ class.

Union County Fire Department — Our Family Protecting Your Family.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Monday:	Union County Library	11 am
Children's Story Time	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Kiwanis Club	298 School Circle	2 pm
A Course in Miracles	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Civil Air Patrol	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Boy Scouts #101	Every Tuesday:	
Tri State Bus. Women	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
MMQG Tues. Strippers	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
Every Wednesday:	Civic Center	7 pm
BINGO	Every Thursday:	
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Second Monday of each month:	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 am-3 pm
MMQG Sewcials	Masonic Lodge	7:30 pm
Enotah Chapter #24	Veterans Center	7 pm (Jan-Oct)
Disabled Am Veterans	Second Tuesday of each month:	
FPL Retirees	Hole in Wall Rest.	9 am
Historical Society Bd.	Old Courthouse	9:30 am
Mtn Laurel Arts/Crafts	Union County Library	10 am
Active/Retired Fed Emp.	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer	Sr. Citizens Center	1:30-3:30 pm
Mountain Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
Blairsville PTO	UC Primary School	6 pm
Blue Ridge Mtn Jeepers	Steve's Steakhouse	6:30 pm
Beta Sigma Phi	Kappa Alpha Chapter	7 pm
Mtn. Reg. Arts/Crafts	Library - Young Harris	7 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
Band Boosters	UC Middle School	7:30 pm
	(Aug through May, except Dec)	
Second Wednesday of each month:	So. Bank & Trust	3 pm
Parkinson's Sup. Grp.	Second Thursday of each month:	
Second Thursday of each month:	Civic Cntr. Conf. Rm.	12 noon
UC Interagency Grp.	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Lions Club	Shrine Building	6:30 pm
Appalachian Shrine Club	UC Senior Center	6:30 pm
Democratic Party	So. Bank & Trust	6:30 pm
Trout Unlimited	UCB Community Rm	7 pm
Sons Confederate Vet.	Marian Hall	7:30 pm
Knights of Columbus	Second Friday of each month:	
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
Second Saturday of each month:	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
His Victory Riders	Second Sunday of each month:	
Second Sunday of each month:	Call 706-389-5269 for Info	
PFLAG		

The best way to avoid issues with SCA is not to let the aphids get out of control in the first place. By planting early,

treating your seeds, and vigilantly scouting your field, you can potentially prevent a very sticky situation (literally).