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does an excellent job of representing us in Atlanta and in our region. I have known and appreciated her work ethic and abilities for many years. She is very responsive and always available for us. We also have exceptional leadership in our district office in Gainesville.

GDOT works very hard at keeping our highways safe and maintained and should be given a lot more credit than they receive, whether it is our local maintenance office in Blairsville, all the way to Atlanta. For the most part, these are dedicated individuals who are trying to improve the transportation system of our state while maintaining a very tight budget.

Q. I want to compliment the county on the beautiful yellow "day lilies" along Hwy 515 and the courthouse. Who is responsible for this beautiful area?

A. This area was funded as a "Gateway" to the community grant project by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Many years ago the Garden Club of Georgia worked with GDOT to establish a grant program funded by the fee charged to billboard owners to cut trees on the GDOT R/W.

Q. How did the county receive the Gateway grant?

A. Each year, grants were distributed throughout the state on a competitive basis. Kathryn Litton, local landscaper, came to the county about the project, wrote the grant that was successful, and her firm did the first planting contract three years ago. It is a beautiful area and we are very proud of it. (located at the bridge across from the Courthouse). This was a joint project by the City and the County with the City now taking the

lead in maintenance of the area. This is the location of the yellow "Day Lilies."

Q. Didn't I hear about another one of these Gateway landscaping grants and planting area near the old Chamber of Commerce building?

A. Yes you did. This was a second grant we received from GDOT and Kathryn Litton also assisted us with this award. Through a competitive bid process, Beverly Bradley Landscape Design, Inc. did this planting. GDOT now wants mostly trees and shrubs planted with very few actual flowers, so while this area is also very beautiful, it will not have the flowers the one near the courthouse has.

Q. I was recently at the new Community Center and noticed a beautiful white blooming shrub that was unusual to me and had leaves that looked similar to a hand with five points, or fingers. Could you find out what this shrub is for me?

A. After riding over to look at the flower, I had no idea what it was. I asked my wife who felt it was an Oak Leaf Hydrangea by the way I was describing it, but she suggested I verify it. I contacted Beverly Bradley who had installed the plant and she confirmed the name. The typical hydrangea has a white (or blue) round flowering bloom, while this one is more in a pointed or cylindrical shape. I am obviously way out of my league on this question but enjoy all beautiful flowers and shrubs and really appreciate what Ray Payne and all our landscaping partners do for the county, and what the Garden Club does to help make our county and city even more beautiful.

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failed to graduate 55 percent of his recruits?

How would it be if a commercial pilot successfully landed this aircraft 45 percent of the time? How would it be if a heart surgeon succeeded in his surgeries 45 percent of the

time?

The up-close magnifying glasses are working really well. What is the distant view when we look through field glasses?

George Mitchell

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something which was denied me by the previous officer. Both of these gentlemen are fine officers who genuinely care for lost, abandoned and abused animals. Both are a credit to our new Sheriff Mack Mason who clearly picked the right people for the right jobs. In my humble opinion, Union County is now much better served by our new Sheriff and his staff.

On the same note, I cannot say enough good things about the staff of the Mountain Shelter Humane Society, managed by Lisa McConnell. Sadly I do not know all of the staffs names to mention in this letter but everyone there goes above and beyond the call of duty to help protect and care for helpless animals. Lisa and her staff have helped us on several occasions to find the owners, or to find homes for lost and abandoned dogs and kittens we have found wandering the streets or left somewhere to die.

On Saturday 6-15-13 the Mountain Shelter held "Pet a Pet day" at the annual open house at the shelter with

food, entertainment and an opportunity for the people in our county to visit our No Kill shelter, meet the staff, and see firsthand the fine and hard work these dedicated people do to care for our best friends. I encourage everyone to either join this fine organization or make contributions to them. They have donation jars located at businesses and restaurants throughout union county. Please donate whatever you can. God will bless these people beyond measure, for I believe he judges us on how we treat the animals he gave us dominion over.

Also if you are aware of anyone abusing animals or if you know of someone involved in dog fighting please speak up and report it to Animal control.

Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to man. Just as one wants happiness and fears pain, just as one wants to live and not die, so do other creatures. Dalai Lama XIV

Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened. Anatole France.

John Q. Adams III

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Next time we have events for kids, I'm going to get them to create art they can eat.

When we have our grill out at the market this year, and when I'm grilling veggies, I'm going to have one recipe that we'll give a cute name and it will be just for the kids, served on a kids animal plate, so they'll be

more likely to try it. And we'll read more stories to them about being on a farm. While they are listening to the story, we'll serve veggie lollipops.

Now, how are you going to help the cause? Your children and grandchildren need you to do more than just talk about the fact that they don't eat enough fruits and veggies. They need you to think of creative ways to encourage them to at least try them!

I can't seem to spend enough time with each person that stops to chat with me at the market, each week. I always enjoy meeting new friends and visiting with old compadres. Sometimes I don't even get down one side of the Market to say hello to all the vendors. I get home and wonder why I have no produce. The "meet and greet" aspect of our Market is contagious, so bring your "out of town" company this summer, because they are going to enjoy the experience at least as much as you do. I hear it every week from visitors.

Each Saturday we have an event and the schedule can be found online at www.UC-FarmersMarket.com. Upcoming events are Bubba's BBQ Blast (June 29), EGG-stravaganza (July 6), The Sweetest Corn Festival (July 13) and everyone's favorite, Community Appreciation Day (July 20th) where we give-away free tomato sandwiches.

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Farm & Heritage Center as part of the state's Travel Media Marketplace. A great article on the farm appears in the summer edition of Northeast Georgia Living.

The Chamber and local business partners hosted a well respected travel writer, Doc Lawrence, during the month of June. We expect great publicity for our community to be forthcoming. I would like to thank Paradise Hills Resort & Spa, Noontootla Creek Farms, the Union County Historical Society, FATZ Café, Rib Country, GnG Bakery and Café and the Union County Community Center for helping make his trip a success.

Union County will be featured in the July issue of

Georgia Trend magazine.

Georgia Trend is a statewide publication focusing on all aspects of economic development which will serve as a great avenue for sharing the story of Blairsville-Union County.

All in all, things are looking good in 2013. We invite you to be part of the network of businesses that are the driving force for economic prosperity in Union County by becoming a member of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce. For more information about our Chamber call (706) 745-5789 or e-mail me directly at President@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

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her daughter-in-law returns to Bethlehem. Upon her return the whole town was moved by the physical appearance of Naomi. She said, "I went out full and the Lord brought me home empty" (Ruth 1:21). She requested her people no longer call her Naomi (pleasantness), but "Mara" (bitterness). To conquer bitterness the first step is to admit the problem. Confess to God that you recognize the sin of bitterness in your life.

Refrain from placing blame with anyone or anything. The second step is to acknowledge the supernatural power of God. God can sweet-

en the spirit of any person if they acknowledge and allow God to work in their lives.

The third step in conquering bitterness is to apply scriptural principles to your life. Paul tells us to "be kind to one another, tender-hearted, and forgiving."

If we practice this instruction no matter how life may tumble in, we will maintain a positive and sweet spirit about life and living.

Do not lose your witness for Christ by developing a bitter spirit. Choose to be a potato.

Cummings

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their sister. The boys all met at their Daddy's house. After supper they waited until dark and then slipped down to the local bootlegger's place. The Baker brothers knew that Zed had been drinking all day. The 8 brothers slowly surrounded the still and raised their guns. My great grandfather, Dad Baker, was the leader. So, he called out to his brother-in-law, "Zed, come out of there. I aim to talk with you". Zed staggered out from the still house with his hands on his head. The Baker boys roughed up the young man pretty good and then tied Zed with leather thongs and forced him to walk 3 miles back to Dad's home place at Gray Rock. Upon reaching the home place they locked Zed up in a corn crib made of chestnut logs. Zed stayed locked up in the corn crib for 21 days and was fed nothing but corn bread and water. He lost a little weight, but, he never beat on Sue again. I think he knew what would happen to him the next time.

About the incident my grandmother was asked, "Why didn't the boys call the sheriff"? Grand maw said, "Back then the law wouldn't come to Ray Mountain. We were our own law and we took care of our own". So, the next time you hear someone say the people of Appalachia are clannish or they talk funny remember we have our reasons for these ways.

The Union County Canning Plant will open on July 9th. The Canning Plant's hours are from 6:30 a.m. until 12 noon. You bring all your jars and produce as well as seasonings. You prepare everything and place the product into the jar. When the product is in the jar our staff will process the product. You can return a few hours later and collect your product. The cost of processing is 35 cents per quart and 25 cents per pint. We will be open each Tuesday and Thursday in July with the exception of July 23rd.

I will be attending the National 4-H Wildlife Judging Contest with our Wildlife Judging Team that Tuesday.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



June 15th
in memory of
Paula Paris Johnson
by Ginger & Terry Meeks

June 17
In memory of
Lori Michelle Nuce
by Mom, Dad, Bette Lou
and Maryann

June 19th
In memory of
Bill Meeks
by Ginger & Terry Meeks

Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493