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proud parents, would like to thank Dr. Mercer and the kind and wonderful staff at Union General Hospital.

The word on the street is that Dr. Mercer and Union General's staff put up quite a big fuss over Bailey Grace.

Bailey Grace also shares something in common with her 2012 predecessor as they both share the same last name.

On Jan. 6th, 2012 Charlee Alexis Brown was born at Union General at nearly the same size - 19.5 inches long and 7 pounds and 15 ounces.

Fast forwarding back to 2013, Luke Grayson Spiva just



Luke Grayson Spiva

missed being the first baby of the year by a matter of hours.

Luke was delivered by Dr. David Breedlove and weighed 9 pounds and 2 ounce-



Brentley JC Garland

es and was 20.5 inches long.

The word on the street is that Union County Wrestling Coach Michael Smith-Foote is already recruiting young Luke

for the 2018 Youth Wrestling season.

Luke is the son of Jonathan and Andrea Spiva.

Hot on the heels of Bailey Grace and Luke Grayson was Brentley JC Garland.

Brentley arrived two days later on Jan. 9th at Union General weighing in at 6 pounds and 14 ounces and 19 and a quarter inches long.

We're told that Coach Smith-Foote also has his eye on Brentley for the 2018 Youth Wrestling season as well.

Brentley's proud Dad and Mom are Zackery Garland and Mellissa Garland.

Excise Tax...continued from Page 1A

tion law covers all 4 percent of state sales tax and 2 percent of county taxes. It does not exempt the school sales tax.

Eligible companies utilize this sales tax exemption instead of sending a check to the power company or gas company for the 7 percent of sales tax. They will only send in a check of 2 percent sales tax.

"Some have asked how much revenue would the county lose. The answer and the problem with the law is that we have absolutely no idea," Paris said. "We do not know which companies are even eligible for this exemption and if so, how much of their power



The City Council weighed the merits of an intergovernmental agreement with the county regarding an Energy Excise Tax before signing off on the measure. Photo/Todd Forrest

bill is actually utilized for the actual manufacturing process.

"The county could lose \$500 or \$50,000, but without adopting this tax, we have no idea how it is affecting our revenue," Paris said. "By adopting the Energy Excise Tax, the county and city will be able to determine what the loss will be and then have the option at some time in the future, if we feel we should offer the same tax break. If we should offer it, we can simply repeal the ordinance. There are also regulations that the sales tax exemption will be phased in over four years."

Meanwhile, Mayor Conley explained the water-related events that went down on Jan. 4th.

That afternoon, a water main break on the west side of town, near Cobb Vantress Inc. caused reduced water pressure and water loss throughout Blairsville and Union County.

The effects of losing more than 125,000 gallons of

water were discerned as late as Saturday, when the Boil Water Advisory was lifted.

Superintendent of Water and Sewer Maintenance Otis Franklin and Council Member Rhonda Mahan pointed out that just because a Boil Water Advisory was in effect, doesn't necessarily mean anything was substandard with the water supply.

"You don't have to boil your water, but it was recommended," Franklin said.

"You can also check Channel 2 News or the Murphy radio station to find out if an advisory is in effect," Blairsville City Council Member Rhonda Mahan said. "But it doesn't mean that something is wrong with the water."

Afterward, a discussion with Blairsville Airport Manager John Hamler led to news that the airport is less than a month away from the expansion process.

Mayor Conley announced the news of the soon-

to-be beginning of the expansion process.

On Jan. 4th, a pre-construction conference was held at the airport regarding the North Terminal expansion, Mayor Conley said.

"We found out that it would be approximately six weeks before we hear back from the Department of Transportation Aviation on the notice to proceed with the work," Mayor Conley said.

A bid was accepted from Knight's Tree Service to remove 15-30 trees at \$100 per tree from an adjacent property to the airport. The trees will be cut into firewood and left on site for the property owners.

"We'll be doing that as a courtesy to them," Mayor Conley said. "We've gotten the court order to remove the trees and clear the airspace for the (instrument) approach area to the airport. Of course, we can't proceed until we get the letter from the DOT."

Blaze...continued from Page 1A

The family quickly called 911 to report the fire around 12:14 p.m. on Jan. 6th, Union County fire reports show.

"It was 50 percent involved when we got there," Capt. Jones said. "Flames were already showing through the roof. We helped the family save what we could save. We got some clothing out. I'm not sure what else."

Union County firefighters were out in force to fight the blaze. Nine units arrived, with 22 county emergency personnel on the scene, Jones said. The cause of the blaze remains to be determined.

The American Red Cross provided immediate aid to Josh and Camilla Bingham and their two small children, Capt. Jones said.

"I know this home was a total loss, it's gone," he said. "I'm not sure what steps are being taken to help the family. I do know the Red Cross is involved, and to the best of my knowledge, the home is insured."

"I did see something on Facebook about clothing sizes for the children," Capt. Jones said. "I know there are two small children, but I'd be afraid to say what sizes they were. I just don't know for

sure."

According to local sources, some churches are taking up donations for the family in their time of need.

Also, clothing is a necessity for the family.

The Bingham's daughter, 18-month Mikalin, wears a size 4 shoe and size 3 diapers (18-24-month old); 5-year-old Logan wears a size 5-6 T-shirt, and a size 12.5 boys shoe.

There mother wears a size 7-8 medium shirt, with size 7.5 shoes. There father wears shirts size XL, and pants size 38 waist and 32 length and a size 12 shoe.

EKG...continued from Page 1A

"In the situation of a heart attack, they can diagnose it and start intervention and begin intervention well before the ambulance can get to Suches," Rogers said. "We're getting advanced cardiac life support in Suches now a lot quicker."

Rogers added that the current, best practice is, the patient would go directly to a cath lab for a surgical intervention to stop the heart attack.

"That's pretty standard now," Rogers said. "Now we can find that out, get a helicopter, fly them out to Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville or even to a hospital in Atlanta and the faster the

patient gets to the cath table to get the intervention."

Rogers noted that not all chest pains are heart attacks, but the updated technology will be able to make that determination on sight by transmitting EKG reading via cell phone towers.

"If it's a STEMI, which would be the type of heart attack that needs immediate intervention, they will know that now 20-30 minutes sooner," Rogers said. "We can have a helicopter on the way, and we can notify the receiving facility so the cath team knows what to do. The patients can bypass the ER, go directly to the cath lab. The main thing

is, time saves heart muscle."

Rogers encourages everyone to call 911 as soon as they begin having chest pains, as every second counts when it comes to a life or death matter.

"The sooner you call 911, the sooner we can get to you, and the sooner we can get you to the cath lab," Rogers said. "Thirty minutes makes a huge difference and that's 30 minutes less that the patient is having a heart attack."

Saving lives means saving minutes, and thanks to Union General Hospital, saving lives in Suches just got a little quicker.

Seconds do matter.

Licklog Players audition

Licklog players will hold auditions for "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" at the Creekside Plaza Mall Theater across from the ABC store in Hayesville on Sat., January 26 at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Monday, January 28 at 7 p.m. Male, female, all ages welcome. Call 828-389-8632 for further information. NT(Jan16,220)CA