

Opinions

Everybody has one...

CodeRED Notification System

CodeRED Notification System and Test: One of the major responsibilities of Union County Emergency Management Agency (UCEMA) is to provide information to the public about potential emergencies and disasters that may affect the community. UCEMA provides this information through various avenues, however; the best way is through the CodeRED Emergency Notification System — an ultra-high-speed telephone communication service for emergency notifications.

Any emergency system must be tested periodically to ensure that it works properly. UCEMA conducts a county wide test of the CodeRED system two times a year, usually in April and August. The next test of the Union County's Emergency Notification System, CodeRED, will be on April 28, 2022, at 2pm. During this test, you may receive a text message, email, and/or a phone call with a recorded message stating that is the test of our notification system. If you do not receive the message on April 28th, you are not registered in the system to receive these emergency alerts.

The CodeRED system is a great communications platform and has several different types of notifications. CodeRED Weather Warning is a unique service that automatically notifies citizens in the path of severe weather just moments after a warning has been issued by the National Weather Service. UCEMA also uses CodeRED to send EMERGENCY notifications to keep citizens informed of other emergencies such as evacuation notices, fires, floods, chemical spills, or other emergency situations.

UCEMA may also use CodeRED to send GENERAL notifications to those who register to communicate non-life safety matters, such as planned road closures, water main repairs, water and power service interruptions, etc. By selecting the box for GENERAL alerts when you register, you will also receive these types of notifications.

CodeRED is a nationwide service. Residents and visitors alike can receive notifications no matter where you are located via the CodeRED Mobile Alert app. This is a free public safety app for both Android and iPhone users. The CodeRED Mobile Alert app delivers community and emergency alerts to individuals targeted within an impacted geographical area anywhere in the country, in-

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Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



Receive a Child

I shudder to think about what's happening to children at the hand of adults these days. It's not the world I grew up in. Maybe every generation says that...

My parents raised me in a community that cared about children and respected a parent's responsibility to raise them well. My parents invested much in me, but there were other adults who were formative in my life. They received me into their sphere of influence.

The public school I attended hosted the traditional first-grade play. From among the 40 or so first-graders, one would recite the 23rd Psalm and lead in the Lord's Prayer. Our teacher Lila McDuffie selected me and helped me prepare. I was confident as I stepped behind the "pulpit" and faced the audience.

Before young Gloria Thurmond (see autobiography "Gloria") set out on a lifetime of missionary service in Bangladesh, she visited my church's Sunbeam class for children. She appeared wearing a traditional Saree, a long cloth garment that could be worn in various ways. Suddenly, the world seemed smaller and less mysterious to me, with fascinating cultures different than the deep South.

Edgar Davis was a pastor to our community. When I was 14, he asked me to play hymns on the piano for the worship service he conducted at the nursing home. Walking those halls my young eyes saw some shocking things, but he talked me through it. He helped me see that ministry includes serving people outside the walls of a church building.

Don Tennyson formed a contemporary Christian youth band and ensemble when I was 16. He selected me for the band. It was a heady experience when we procured a touring bus and took our troupe on the road for 10 days. What started out as fun turned into hard work, problem solving, and relationship management. We grew up a lot on that trip.

Here's your takeaway. Invest in a child. Let him or her see your faith in action. Train them by giving them opportunities. Protect them from "the serpent of old...who deceives the whole world" (Rev. 12:9).

Children matter to God. "Whoever receives one such child

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All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Friends of mine with the Georgia Bounty Runner 4WD Club said they recently picked up trash on Rosemary Rd and Alfred Hughes Rd in March of this year. They said that the organization belongs to the Adopt-A-Road program. What is this program and how does it work?

Q. What is the Adopt-a-Road program?

A. This is a litter prevention program that is sponsored by North Georgia Resource Management, Keep Our Mountains Beautiful and Union County to attract public involvement in cleaning up litter along county roads. When an individual, civic organization, or business volunteers to adopt a portion of a county road they are committing to picking up trash on their adopted road at least 4 times a year or once a quarter.

Q. Why is this program a benefit for Union County?

A. If someone adopts a portion of a road and cleans up the litter, that is just one more portion of a road that the county detainee crews do not have to clean up. This in turn saves the taxpayers the cost of that crew cleaning up that portion of the road and this crew can be working on another project within the county. It has the potential to save the county thousands of dollars per year on litter clean up and helps keep your area of the county looking better.

Q. How can I Adopt-a-Road?

A. Any individual or group interested in the Adopt-a-Road program should contact the Commissioner's Office at 706-439-6000. There are some forms that will need to be filled out, and you must agree to adopt a minimum of 1 mile of a county road and pick up the litter once per quarter. You will also be asked to fill out a Status Report when you pick the litter up because this information is used to calculate how much litter is picked up by the volunteers.

Q. Where do we get the trash bags?

A. Once you sign an Adopt-A-Road agreement and pick your road, the Commissioner's Office will provide the members of your party that will be picking up litter orange safety vests and orange bags for collecting the litter. There we will also be

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Habitat for Humanity

Our Helping Hands Program is a huge part of what we do here at Habitat for Humanity. We have helped over 11 families with repairs and accessibility needs in their homes this year alone and we are just getting started! The need in our community is a huge one and we are so happy to be a blessing in these homeowner's lives as we help them make their homes safe, and efficient to their personal needs.

Habitat Happenings
Madelyn Bailey



We recently helped S. Kelley with some needs in her home. Seeing her needs met and her worries gone is what this program is all about. She wanted to publicly state, "I would like to thank the Habitat for Humanity for everything they have done to help my family and I in a difficult situation. Without them we would not have been able to get our home repaired. They were compassionate caring and considerate of our situation. We could not possibly thank you enough for everything you have done. The Habitat for Humanity

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Chamber of Commerce

I would like to thank Commissioner Paris, Senator Steve Gooch and Representative Stan Gunter for being a part of our first Legislative Wrap-Up Breakfast. It was great hearing about all of the bills that were passed through the Legislative Session and everything that was put into play to help our law enforcement agencies, hospitals, and even our schools. If you'd like a copy of all of the bills passed, please email info@blairsvillechamber.com.

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President
Steve Rowe



I also want to thank Keen Creation for helping put on the Outdoor Market last weekend at downtown Blairsville. What a fun time and what a crowd! If you weren't able to attend this time, the downtown will continue to have these pop-up festivals the third Saturday of each month so be sure to mark your calendars. We are excited to have a new festival coming our way, the Mountain Music and Moonshine Festival the weekend of the July 29th. Contact Darren Harper at the Downtown Development Authority for

See Chamber, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

Support ESPLOST

Dear Editor,
As a father of two children and citizen of Union County, I support ESPLOST.

ESPLOST has alleviated the burden of funding 100% of school system expenditures from the county's Property Tax for over 20 years. The capital plan generated for the new ESPLOST will allow the schools to execute various facility improvements that are needed today. In addition, recent population growth has caused our younger grades to run out of space. The increase in lower grade class sizes require a new elementary school to accommodate today's enrollment and plan for additional migration into our area. These items (facility maintenance and construction of a new school) are not discretionary. Also, these items cannot be delayed forever.

I believe that the renewal of ESPLOST will accomplish two objectives: 1) Overall tax burden for required spending will be shouldered in part by visitors that spend money in our county. Visitors may be day trip shoppers visiting our stores or weekend tourists in town for an extended getaway. 2) The inflow of money will be coupled with a capital plan that will allow our system latitude in prioritizing projects over

See McCarter, page 5A

Really? Facts?

Dear Editor,
Once again, Dear People of Blairsville and Union County, I'm sorry I have to write this to you.

That being said, I opened my paper last week to see someone spouting nothing but lies, for the most part, as "Facts." First of all, he says, and I quote: "I just stated that it was our collective and patriotic responsibility to support what he's (The President's) trying to do for the good of the country." Really? I'm curious, since a lot of time is dedicated in your Op/Ed to bashing President Trump, why didn't you, during the Trump years, take your own advice? By your own writing, it's evident that Trump is the cause of most if not all our problems. Hey, from your previous quotation, I thought we were just supposed to support our president regardless of his actions and party affiliation. I guess that doesn't apply to you. Then, he goes on to state that "we should NOT be allowing our Congress to simply do everything they can to stop the president from getting anything done, as seems to be going on now." Excuse me, but you are aware that Democrats, in both houses as the president, have a majority in the same Party of Congress presently, right? So I guess that means, by your own rea-

See Rains, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

Spending Problem

Dear Editor,
I am a 55-year-old lifelong Republican voter. I do not see anyone placing blame for inflation on COVID payments. Money cannot simultaneously be something you get for working and not working. Those who work, their clock and calendar run faster than those who collect. We would run someone off who suggested clocks should favor unproductive activity.

The Old Testament says the Lord abhors dishonest weights and measures. Honest Abe Lincoln said slavery, of which socialism is a variety of (slavery of the able), undermined legitimate authority of government to do authorized and necessary functions, as in Equal Protection of Law, the highest moral good, the founding principle of the Republican Party.

When can I expect to see a successful Republican candidate for Atlanta Mayor? When can I expect to see an ad linking Black Lives Matter, an unabashedly Communist organization, to the genocidal atrocities committed by Communist governments in Russia, China, Cuba, Nicaragua, etc.?

Is Rand Paul the only politician who is willing to talk about spending? Has anyone read Edmund Burke's "Reflections on the Revolution in France," the casino effect, or Friedrich Hayek's "Road to Serfdom?" Or did the entire Republican party spring out of the head of Donald Trump, like some inbred version of Athena, unable to read a balance sheet?

Sincerely,
Sisyphus, aka
Raymond da Silva Jr.

Not Acceptable

Dear Editor,
In response to the recent front page article about the Greystone Plaza property, I am sorry to hear of Mr. Pack's health issues. The majority of us can definitely relate to his situation. And I also appreciate his efforts so far.

But it's been two years! It makes one wonder... what happened to the insurance settlement? It had to be insured, and I feel confident the claim has been settled. Another item, where did the ancient trucks come from? Who owns them? They were never on the property prior to the fire. Perhaps Tank Town would be interested in purchasing them? Or even moving them in an effort to clean that area. Thirdly, where the heck did the large engine come from? Again, who is the owner? Wasn't there before.

I wonder if Mr. Pack has considered selling the property? Seems to be a prime piece of real estate. Then the new owner could remove the de-

See Trlica, page 5A

Historic Finds

Historic Finds on the North Georgia Border - The history around the North Georgia border is very interesting. In 1796 the U.S. Congress decided that the state line between Georgia and North Carolina-Tennessee would be the 35th parallel. So, a couple of surveys were commissioned to place the state line between these states.

The first survey was accomplished in 1818 and was begun on the west side of the state at the corner between Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama on what is now Sand Mountain. This corner was wrong from the start, being a mile south of where it was supposed to begin on the 35th parallel.

We all need to remember that the survey crews were using equipment that would be considered out of date and sub-standard in 2021. Their 19th century technology had no electricity. So, the uses of a GPS and of motorized vehicles was just a dream. So, these men used outdated maps, sextants and compasses. Another factor could have also played a role in these mistakes. Much of this land was not a part of the United States at that time. Most of this area was considered part of the Cherokee Nation. Therefore, the men conducting the survey were on foreign ground and probably kept a vigilant watch because they were nervous about being here in these mountains. They walked or carried most of their equipment. So, basically it was them against nature in a hostile area.

The second survey began at a place called Ellicott Rock on the North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia borders. This rock can still be found on the south side of the Chattooga River. The survey traveled east and was supposed to meet where the other survey had come from the previous year. Try to imagine yourself walking from east to west in a straight line trying to stay on the 35th parallel using only a compass and sextant. Imagine crawling through rhododendron thickets and up steep ridges and rock faces all while keeping a wary eye for rattle snakes and hostile Indians. It could not have been easy then, and I know personally it is not easy now. The two surveys were to meet close to Hightower Bald. Actually, Ellicott's crew coming from the east was about 2,000 feet north and 500-600 feet lower in elevation from where Montgomery's crew came to from the west. The crew coming from the east set up a rock to mark a place called the 30-mile post. The crew coming from the west marked their corner by piling up some rocks.

Some time ago Milton Bradley, Jennings Ivester, Cody Allen, Tom Starrett and I set out to find the 30-mile post and Montgomery's Corner. The quickest way for us involved driving into

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Chicken Eggs

Many people want to buy locally grown or raised products. Chicken eggs are a great product to buy that's been locally grown. Sometimes the local eggs you purchase may not look exactly like the ones that you find in the store. And that's OK, most likely they're still very good eggs. Let's talk about some of the differences that you might see.

Eggs should be gathered from the coop at least three times a day. Cracked table eggs should be separated from the rest. Cracked and leaking eggs should not be consumed. Bacterial contamination is one of the main concerns with eggs. Cracked or leaking eggs could have contamination.

You may run across some eggs that are odd shaped. Store bought eggs will be graded for uniformity. Local grown eggs will have less uniformity, but each egg shows some of the personality of the hen that laid it. Each hen will generally lay the same size and shape of egg. Eggs that are an odd shape are OK to eat.

Some eggs may have some blood on them. Bloody eggshells normally come from hens that have just started laying eggs. Simply rinse the blood off and the eggs are OK to eat.

You may come across eggs that are extra-large. These could be double yolk eggs. Double yolk eggs have two yolks in them. These eggs would be graded out at the grocery store, but they are fine to eat.

Eggs come in a variety of colors. The color is generally dependent on the breed of hen. Taking a look at the earlobes on the hen can be an indicator of the eggs that hen will lay. Hens with lighter colored earlobes produce lighter colored eggs, hens with darker earlobes produce darker colored eggs. Some eggs may even come out with bands of different shades. This is because two eggs were close together in the shell gland pouch. Eggs of different color are OK to eat.

Speckled eggs are just from extra calcium deposits. This could be from extra calcium in the hen's diet, or the egg shaping calcification process was disturbed. Either way, these eggs are OK to eat.

You may see some deposits in the eggshell. This is from improper nutrition or from an older hen, and these eggs are OK to eat.

Wrinkles come from older hens or a hen that was disturbed while laying. These eggs are OK to eat.

Soft shell eggs can be from a dietary deficiency, heat stress, or too much salt. Soft eggs should not be eaten if they are cracked.

Another common question about eggs is should they be washed and refrigerated. Eggs will

Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



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Habitat...continued from Page 4A

is such a vital part of our community – they really help those in need. If you are in need, please reach out to them – they are such a wonderful program and more than willing to help.”

S. Kelley is just one of many people in our community that needed our assistance. Our neighbors need a helping hand and Habitat is blessed by our community through volunteers and charitable donations to help afford the resources needed to repair and sustain these homes for homeowners in need.

Interested in our Helping Hands program? Stop by and fill out a Helping Hands application so that we can begin the process of meeting you and determining how we can help you, your family, and your home. Once an application has been filled out then you will meet with Charlotte Randall our Executive Director here,

and she will discuss with you our resources and opportunities. Then Charlotte will gather necessary information and volunteers that have offered to help with Helping Hands projects. Then Habitat volunteers and employees come out to your home and get the job done.

Some of the home repairs we have done but are not limited to, include ramps, floor repairs, roofing repairs, siding and wall repairs, heating unit installations etc. If some of these needs sound applicable to you or someone you know please stop by for an application, and if you’re not sure contact us we can answer questions you have on the Helping Hands program and the process.

We are located at 225 Wellborn St. Blairsville, and you can contact us at 706-745-7101. We look forward to hearing from you!

Rains... continued from Page 4A

soning, that Democrats, since they aren’t rubber stamping everything he wants to do, aren’t patriotic.

Then the writer goes on to talk about his “Facts.” He addresses The Border Crisis, or as many of us see it, The Illegal Invasion of Our Country. Here’s his assessment. “Our ‘border situation’ has never been perfect, but it was severely ‘damaged’ during the Trump administration. Contrary to what the responding letter writer wrote, Joe Biden did ‘inherit’ a ‘mess’ from Trump, and he’s currently trying to make it better.” REALLY? I apologize, but at this point I have to ask, Are You Out Of Your Cotton-Picking Mind? Border Crossings were at historic lows under Trump’s Presidency. An article in The Washington Times from 12/10/17 entitled “How Donald Trump turned the tide of Illegal Immigration in first year: Border Crossing Hits 45-year Low.” It states: “Illegal border crossing tumbled to a 45-year low and interior arrests of illegal immigrants soared in 2017, according to data released Tuesday that showed President Trump’s enforcement crackdown netted tangible results during his first year on the job. The numbers, released by the Department of Homeland Security, reflected a stunning turnaround from the nearly nonexistent interior enforcement of immigration laws under President Obama. U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported 310,531 apprehensions nationwide in fiscal 2017, which ended Sept. 30, a decline of 25 percent from a year earlier and the lowest level since 1971.”

So, sir, it appears your “FACTS” on the Border crisis aren’t facts at all. They are merely your opinion.

Then he moves on to the Keystone Pipeline. He says, “Biden only co-sponsored a necessary move years ago, to help ‘monitor’ the flow.” Either you have been under a rock or you’re just not paying enough attention. Once again, this was not years ago, it was last year on his inauguration day. An article from docs.house.gov/meetings is entitled “With a pen stroke, President Joe Biden cancels Keystone XL pipeline project.” That article was dated 01/28/21. Not years ago, as you stated. Once again, it would appear that your facts aren’t facts.

Next, he tackles Putin and his current War on Ukraine. He says that “the Putin War didn’t happen because of ‘a perception of weakness’; it was caused by

an overly ambitious, probably deranged dictator and anarchist. Biden and his coalition have been anything but ‘weak’ on Putin’s Russia.” Firstly: Putin is not an anarchist. He is a Totalitarian Communist, and it has long been stated by him that he wishes to reestablish the Soviet Union with its former borders as they were at its demise. Secondly, everyone should remember former President Obama’s comments on an open microphone where he told the Russian PM at the time that he’d have more “flexibility” after his next election. So, what did Putin do after Obama’s second and last election? He seized Crimea from Ukraine. Obama did nothing. Funny thing is, after Trump was elected, Putin stopped seizing Ukrainian Territory. Well, that is, until Biden was elected and Putin realized that after the debacle of the withdrawal from Afghanistan that this president was as weak as they come. This writer says: “It’s fairly clear that Trump would have probably supported Putin’s War, as he stated during a number of his ‘rallies.’” I don’t think Putin agreed with you on that one, and I’m curious which one of his “rallies” was that tacit agreement given? You never back that statement up now, do you?

The writer then goes on to talk about fuel prices. He gives various reasons, but here’s a FACT. Last summer under the COVID restrictions, I was paying \$2.39 per gallon for 93 Octane Non-Ethanol gas. It’s not even summer yet, and I’m now paying \$5.49 cents per gallon. Biden could change that, but since he’s owned lock, stock and barrel by The Eco Crowd, Biden, since he’s done nothing to stop the rise in prices, owns it all!

One last thing. Dear Sir, you call yourself “Still Concerned & Patriotic.” If I were you and fostered the lies and narrative you foster, I would be concerned. As for being “Patriotic,” you support a president who has done nothing for this country as a whole. In fact, it’s quite the opposite. He’s only done things that have made this country weaker through inflationary policies. You speak of “Made Up Alternative facts?” I find that hilarious, since your Op/Ed was made up of nothing but.

Remember, people, do your own homework, and question everything!

Those who would subvert you don’t think you’ll do that.

God Bless
Claude Rains Jr.

McCarter ... continued from Page 4A

a period of time as the tax revenue is generated. The match of money coming in versus money going out will allow our school to stay out of debt to pay for these projects, thereby saving the community money on needless interest expense.

Without ESPLOST, we will be 100% reliant on the Property Tax, and there will be a more erratic “stop and go” budget process to deal with items when they can no longer be delayed. The out-

come of that scenario, in the long run, will yield an inferior product at a higher overall tax PLUS interest. The cost of NO ESPLOST will be shouldered by the taxpayer and ultimately the children of our community. Please pass ESPLOST so that we can continue to build toward our children’s future while conservatively budgeting for our community’s growth.

Jason McCarter
UCHS Class of 1995

Fowler...

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in My name receives Me,” Jesus said. “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matt. 18:5-6).

While the millstone factory is working overtime, you have a better option. Receive a child. Train him in the way he should go. Give her hope and opportunity. And some day a man in his 60’s will reflect on his life and remember that you did, and he’ll credit you with why he did the same.

Williams...

continued from Page 4A

keep for about three weeks if they are unrefrigerated. If they are refrigerated they can last up to 15 weeks. They should be refrigerated below 45 degrees. Eggs should be washed with water that is warmer than the temperature of the egg. If the water is colder it causes the egg white to shrink potentially drawing in bacteria like salmonella. Don’t wash eggs with dish soap or scented cleaners as this can affect the taste of the egg.

If you have questions about chicken eggs contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

North Carolina and walking up Loggy Branch toward the 4,000 feet+ Hightower Bald. There are no trails so we had to use a series of old logging roads to gain a lead up the mountain. We began walking this lead toward the top of the mountain covering 3 miles and gaining 1900 feet in elevation before reaching the ridge-line. We were using GPS units of our smart phones, which placed us within 75 feet of the marked 30-mile post. But, look as we did, we could find no sign of our goal. It did not help that we were crawling through an Ivy thicket.

But, then someone remembered that our friend, Sheldon Henderson, had been to this location 20 years prior and remembered the rock post was located in a boulder field. We walked another 20 feet and heard a roar like a waterfall. Then we found the boulder field. There was no waterfall. The sound was coming from under our feet. Although we could not see water, we could hear and feel the water as it rushed under the rocks on which we were standing. All of us were looking for the post and were about to give up when Tom Starret said, “What is that weird looking rock in front of us?” We walked 30 feet north of our location and found the rock post with an NC and G carved into the rock. We stood in the exact place where Ellicott and his crew stood 202 years ago. I wonder what went through the minds of these men?

We had found the 30-

Paris...

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an Adopt-a-Road sign placed at the beginning of the section of road you are picking up, that states your name or organization name and explains that you are keeping this section of road clean of litter.

Dyer...

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cluding Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Alaska.

If you have not registered for notifications, we strongly encourage you to register with CodeRED to receive weather and emergency notifications. There is no charge to register or use CodeRED and your personal information will be kept confidential. For more information about CodeRED please visit www.unioncountygga.gov/codered or call UCEMA at 706-439-6091.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Chamber...

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more information on becoming an event sponsor and how you can be a part of the festivities.

With the overwhelming response to our first Success in 60, the next secession “Google My Business” scheduled for April 27th is SOLD OUT. Be sure to call the Chamber and reserve your spot for the June 15th social media-Creating Video & TikTok for your Business. Be sure to check the Chamber events calendar or visit us our Facebook page to see what’s coming and see how you can be a part of all the great events coming Blairsville-Union County.

We are SOLD OUT on golf teams for the Shoot for the Stars Golf Tournament but there are still opportunities to be a hole sponsor or donate a door prize. A portion of the proceeds goes to raise money for scholarships for local students, call Ashley for more information.

Thanks to all that help make Life Better in Blairsville!

Trlica...

continued from Page 4A

bris. Lastly, has he considered donating to the city? I’m sure his CPA, could assist with getting some type of tax write-off. As a full time resident and having watched the ongoing lack of clean up, it’s time something be done. The thought of waiting another two years before this goes to a judge... NOT acceptable. Surely there are other concerned citizens who could step in and make this go away.

Janet Trlica



Union County Middle School Title I Event “The Art of Literacy” Tuesday, May 3, 2022 6 PM - 7 PM UCMS Cafeteria

in the Courtroom of the Old Union County Courthouse on Monday evening, May 2. Our speaker for the evening is Mr. Jerry Taylor. Mr. Taylor is a native of Towns County, having lived in the shadow of Brass-town Bald all of his life. He graduated from Towns County High School and Young Harris College. He holds degrees from the University of Georgia, North Georgia College and University and Lincoln Memorial

University. Jerry retired after 32 years of teaching at Towns County High School. He is a member of the Towns County Historical Society and is Towns County’s official historian. His home, known as the “Organ Loft,” features his collection of antique reed organs. The topic of the lecture on Monday, May 2, is “Place Names of Union County.” So, please come out and find out about how local places received their names.