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23 – May 27.
Q. How do I start? What do I do?
 A. First, decide the location where you would like to pick up trash. What road; what portion of the road? Next, go to www.unioncountyga.gov/litter and review the step-by-step instructions provided. Participants will complete a BEFORE CLEANUP form and an AFTER CLEANUP form. Photos showing before and after cleanup will be uploaded – demonstrating the effect of the effort. We are excited to see how great the road looks when you are done!
Q. Are there prizes?
 A. Absolutely! The contest offers cash prizes based on the length of roads picked up by one person/group. First place will receive \$300; second place will receive \$200; and third place will receive \$100. To quote Shawn Jarrard of the NGN, “Each place comes with bragging rights and a profound sense of accomplishment for

having contributed to a cleaner environment.” All residents will benefit from the contest by experiencing a cleaner and thus more beautiful Union County.
Q. When will the prizes be awarded?
 A. The contest ends May 27, 2021. Therefore, all forms/photos should be uploaded by 5 p.m. on May 27. That evening, the database of submissions will be downloaded, and mileage will be calculated for each person/group participating. Winners will be notified, and Facebook articles will be posted on the Union County Government Facebook page. Additionally, the winners will be featured in the North Georgia News.
Q. If I have an unusual situation or circumstance concerning this contest, who can I talk to?
 A. If you have questions or concerns, or if you have special circumstances that need to be addressed, please call Jennifer Mahan in my office at 706-439-6000.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

this should not have surprised me. I can still hear all those favorite hymns of mine ringing in my ears while we worshipped at the Blue Springs Missionary Baptist Church. And I can still hear Delph singing those wonderful old songs. None of her grandsons acquired the gene that allowed us to tickle someone’s ears with the melodious notes of “I’ll Fly Away,” but, that didn’t stop Maw maw from sending us to “Singing School” each summer. Actually, the only thing I remember learning was how to smoke. Another cousin of ours stole some of his Dad’s Lucky Strike cigarettes one morning and brought them to Singing School. A bunch of us boys slipped out of class and hid out at the outhouse trying not to get sick from inhaling those Lucky Strikes. Maw maw never spanked us. She didn’t even talk sternly. All she said was that she was disappointed. I never tried another cigarette.
 One day for some reason she took me fishing at her brother’s catfish pond. I didn’t know it at the time but, Uncle Rufus’ pond was a pay to catch fishing pond. I remember catching enough for supper, four 3-pound catfish, and was told that it was time to go. I begged to just catch one more. She didn’t have the heart to say no and Uncle Rufus only grinned. By the time I had caught nine, I only wanted one more. I was using a cane pole longer than my short body and wanted to reach out as far as possible. So, I drew the pole toward me in an effort to sling the bait far out into the lake. The only problem was that I caught my lower lip.

Uncle Rufus had to cut the hook out of my lower lip. I was so embarrassed. Here I was nearly a man at 12, and yet my uncle and grandmother were having to cut a hook from my lip. But they turned my embarrassment into pride because I was told, “Mick, you didn’t even cry. You’re a tough old nut.”
 Later in life Maw maw came to my house for a visit. I invited her to travel with me to Helen, Georgia. A 4-H Rewards Trip was scheduled that day and I wondered if she might be interested in going. I really didn’t think she would because we were going to float in tubes down the Chattahoochee River. My 72-year-old grandmother jumped at the opportunity. The water was cold, and the rocks were sharp, but she had a ball. Later that same week I asked her about the time Dad Baker caught her dancing. She smiled as she remembered. Then I prodded her a little and told her I had never witnessed anyone doing the Charleston. Immediately, she jumped to her feet, and in my living room at 72 years old, she demonstrated the dance that nearly resulted in getting her spanked 60 years prior.
 Another thing about Delphia Adams is that she felt she was never too old to learn something. When she was 70 years old, she went back to school and received her High School Diploma. Next, she enrolled in Northwest Alabama Community College as a student at the age of 72, which resulted in my belief that Delphia Adams never grew old. She only wore out.

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rienced this when forming our procedure for the commissioning of a nominating committee and proposed slate of officers for the new year. There were multiple documents to consider in the process, and we were fortunate to have guidance from a Georgia Department State Representative to assist in the process.
 Some of the other challenges that nonprofit Veteran Service Organizations face are aligning mission, methods and resources. Fundraising immediately comes to mind. How does an organization fundraise so that the function aligns with the mission statement of the organization? We certainly would not consider selling ant farms at an exterminator’s convention. Some would contend that the reputation of the organization in the public eye has a direct bearing on their effectiveness, their ability to survive. Others

would contend that organizations should be looking at moving beyond charity to a mantra of everlasting and systemic change. For Veteran Service Organizations whose mission is outreach to veterans, often with health (both mental and physical), perhaps they might come to see that battling the stigma might be a good idea. It’s a very lofty goal, an enormous task. But how do you eat an elephant, I ask? One bite at a time.
 So for all of y’all out there that are members who have not been at the top of your game in participation, or for those who are looking for a place to serve with and for your fellow veterans, please take a look at your local Veteran Service Organizations. You may not change the world, but we darn sure give you a place to start.
 Until we muse again, I bid you “At Ease!”

Gray... continued from Page 4A

we mighty, strong women with convictions of righteousness, or are we mere wimps? Are our beliefs founded on God’s word; are we Worthy of His promises? Will we stand up, or just curl up and let the “inevitable” unfold, changing our beloved God-endowed principles in the founding of our great country to all be for naught. Before the United States, NEVER in the history of the world was there ever a country founded upon a Constitution and Bill of Rights, by men who pledged their lives and sacred honor to such a quest! And any woman over the age of 60 can vividly recall the freedoms so dear: Freedom of Speech, and not freedom to cancel others; Freedom of Religion, and no state regulations against it, like California, which recently tried to ban religious gatherings in private homes!
 Ladies, girls, women of all ages – and for those of you who have compassionate husbands who would join us

– NOW is the time to rise up, refuse to be cancelled, and let the whole world see what we can do (particularly if joined by like-minded men who will help to save our nation). Don’t let this Letter to the Editor be just an “interesting” letter, to end up in the recycled newspaper bin. I’ll be looking for responses of what, how and when you will make your God-given voices effective. Will you join me at the Meeks Park Pavilion past the pool on Tuesday, 5/4 at 5 p.m. (or the following Tuesday if rain) to see how our various voices and talents can make a positive impact on our country? Joined together and trusting in God, I know He will empower our efforts, because His Hand was on our Country from its founding, and He’s been waiting for our response and involvement.
 No one can do it all; but all of us can do something! Let’s find out how.
 Respectfully submitted,
Arlene M. Gray

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

footprints.” I hope many will join the effort.
 Speaking of our outdoors, there’s still time to get the fourth of our 12 hikes from the #hikethe12 challenge in before the end of the month. April’s hikes are Wolf Laurel Top, a 4.2 mile out and back via the Appalachian Trail that takes you through the National Forest in Raven Cliffs Wilderness from Tesnatee Gap west over Cow Rock Mountain all the way to the Wolf Laurel Ridge-line. There are incredible wildflowers in spring and even a great camping spot with a view. If you’re needing a shorter trek, consider the alternate hike, Sosebee Cove, an easy walk through some of the most biologically diverse woods in the entire state. Clocking in at under half a mile, this is the perfect trail for bird watching and plant identification. Visit the blog on our website for more details.
 We’re gearing up for our Annual Shoot for the Stars golf tournament at Butternut Creek Golf Course where we raise money for scholarships for our graduates. Also, we are so excited about our upcoming

May Photo-Op Hop, Buy Local Extravaganza--June 17, Blairsville BBQ Cook-Off--July 30, and the Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In--July 29-31. Stay tuned to our website, visitblairsvillega.com, for continued community updates, and remember to tune in to our Friday, Live at 8:45, What’s Up, Blairsville on Facebook for the weekly Community Calendar.
 There’s lots happening in these beautiful mountains, and I’m thrilled to share it all with you.

Dyer... continued from Page 4A

unhealthy. Trees are stressed by overcrowding; fire-dependent species disappear; and flammable fuels build up and become hazardous. However, the right fire at the right place at the right time helps maintain healthy forests, communities, and watersheds.”
 Prescribed burning has many benefits to the ecosystems of the forest and to the safety of the community. Union County Fire Department is thankful that these burns are performed in order to reduce the fuel loads and the fire danger in our area. For more information on prescribed burning or burns in our area, visit www.fs.usda.gov/conf.
 Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

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Bears that are relocated might be moved to an area that another bear has already claimed, leading to territory fights, or the bear may try to return to its home and be struck by a vehicle. Relocation is a last resort.
 If you do encounter a bear in the open make yourself look big and wave your arms and shout while backing away slowly. Do not get between a mother bear and her cubs. If you are attacked fight back aggressively with anything you can get your hands on. Bears can be dangerous but know that there are no recorded fatalities in Georgia.
 If you have questions about bears in our area contact your local Extension office for more information or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

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scures the knowledge of the Creator and does wrong to people. Political posturing has infiltrated education, business, entertainment, and media. Yet we continue to endure the illusion that politics gives meaning and solves all problems. I borrow aviation’s emergency “Mayday” to appeal to heaven to deliver us from the crushing grip of that political illusion.
 May Day is also a holiday about spring renewal and the release from winter’s grip. May it be a time to renew your love of God and neighbor. Invest less energy in politics and more in your neighbors’ well-being. Support your church’s efforts to engage the local and global community. Put your trust not in government, but Providence who holds the nations in His hands.



Union County School System Title I Input Meetings
UCPS May 12 at 11:30 a.m.
 Contact: pwallace@ucschools.org for a code to join
UCES May 12 at 3:15 a.m.
 Contact: juhughes@ucschools.org for a code to join
UCMS May 13 at 12 p.m.
 Contact: aorxbury@ucschools.org for a code to join