

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Staying Informed with CodeRED

Being prepared for emergencies and disasters is important. It can save time, money, property, and even your life. Part of being prepared is staying informed on potential emergencies and disasters. Staying informed is a joint effort between the emergency management who provides information and the public who receives and uses that information. One way that Union County Emergency Management Agency provides information is through the alert system called CodeRED.

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



The CodeRED system allows UCEMA to provide notifications that may require immediate action (such as a boil-water notice, missing child, weather emergency or evacuation notice). The system delivers text, emails, and phone calls to cell or home phones.

The CodeRED system 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 emergencies such as evacuations, 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 via your smartphone anywhere in the country, including 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. Please visit www.tinyurl.com/UnionCodeRed. There is no charge to register or use CodeRED and your personal information will be kept confidential.

One of the major responsibilities of UCEMA is to provide in-

See Dyer, page 5A

Send Me Home

It was a "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" story except that in this real-life adventure, Tim Keller goes to Manhattan to shake things up for the better.

He was "perhaps the most gifted communicator of historically orthodox Christian teachings in the country" per The New Yorker. The New York Times described him as a man who "performed a modern miracle of his own - establishing a theologically orthodox church in Manhattan that attracted thousands of young professional followers." After serving as pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church from 1989 to 2017, Keller changed his focus to training pastors.

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Keller enjoyed engaging skeptics and non-believers in a caring, winsome way. He believed that honest objections to Christianity should be treated with thoughtful respect. That was his approach in his 2008 book, "The Reason for God." In this book, he addresses common objections to the ultimate truth claims of Christianity.

One of those objections is, "There can't be just one true religion." Keller examines the oft-told story of the blind men and the elephant. Each blind man discovers the elephant is like a snake, a tree, or a wall, based on where he touches the animal - trunk, leg, or side. Skeptics use the story to illustrate the claim that the various religions of the world only see a part of the same reality. But Keller reveals the flawed logic. "How could you possibly know that no religion can see the whole truth unless you yourself have the superior, comprehensive knowledge of spiritual reality you just claimed that none of the religions have?"

You may be a truth seeker, like the blind men. But truth need not be "discovered" because God has revealed all you need to know. "If you continue in My word," Jesus said, "you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32). When you come to know the truth, you realize it's not a concept but a Person. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life," Jesus said. "No one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). That is the knowledge of spiritual reality you need.

Keller enjoyed repackaging ancient truths for modern ears. His oft-repeated explanation of the gospel of Jesus Christ is, "We

See Fowler, page 5A

Commissioner's Questions

Q. You hear people talking about their unhappiness about the newest Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT) put in these lanes that force traffic to go right and then turn around (make a u-turn) in order to go back into Blairsville?

A. This is a great question. Hwy 515 is a state highway.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) plans, constructs, and maintains Georgia's network of highways and bridges, while providing planning and financial support for other transportation systems ranging from airports to mass transit and bicycle trails. An agency of the state government, GDOT is overseen by a state transportation board that includes representatives from each of Georgia's congressional districts. It is important to understand that decisions such as the RCUT at Highways 515 and 325 are made by the GDOT. Beyond designing, building, and maintaining Georgia's bridges and highways, GDOT also maintains many miles of high-occupancy vehicle, or HOV, lanes in metro Atlanta, as well as park-and-ride lots to encourage carpooling in urban areas. In 2011 GDOT introduced the Peach Pass, which allows the department to collect tolls without stopping cars. For nonmotorized transportation, the department also maintains thousands of miles of bicycle and pedestrian routes. This state-funded oversight of highways includes such things as highway signage, traffic lights, mowing, and road repair. GDOT takes care of state roads and Union County takes care of its county roads. Specific questions about Georgia State roads can be directed to 404-631-1990.

Q. I have a home in two places, and one is in Union County. Can I vote in both places?

A. According to the Georgia Election Code, no. Actually, it is a felony (election fraud) if someone votes in both places. This regulation is not controlled by Union County Government; it is controlled by other levels of government such as the State of Georgia and the Federal Government. In court case Abbott v. Carter, it was determined that Georgia may require its voters to be bona fide residents to register to vote. More specifically, Georgia Election Code 21-2-217 (14) states that the address in the county

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



See Paris, page 5A

Emotional Sandbox - Part II

Everyone has an emotional sandbox. It is labeled as your personal space.

In your sandbox are your dreams, hopes, and plans for the future. We are responsible to protect our sandbox in order to keep our sandbox the way we want. However, there are times when people wander uninvited into our sandbox (space). We get an uncomfortable feeling when an uninvited person gets into our sandbox. We may feel as if the air is being sucked out of us.

When anyone gets too close to us in our space, it is as though that individual has trespassed into our imaginary sandbox. We didn't ask the person to enter but alas! The person is there. The individual may feel that we need our lives straightened out, and the uninvited guest has decided that it is his or her mission in life to enter into our sandbox to become our mentor.

There will be times when we need to invite someone into our sandbox. It is a genuine re-

See Ashurst, page 5A

Successful Mental Health

Dr. James Ray Ashurst, PH.D.



NO MAN STANDS TALLER THAN WHEN HE STOOPS TO HELP A CHILD
- ABRAHAM LINCOLN

J. Keller © 2023 HELIXARTS.COM

Chamber of Commerce

I would like to thank Russell McMurry, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation, and Jason Dykes, GDOT Assistant District Engineer for Northeast Georgia, for being our guest speakers at this quarter's Eggs and Issues. Did you know that Georgia's transportation system is the 10th largest in the nation? We are not only named one of the best states for doing business in the country, but we are also becoming the leading state for manufacturing electric vehicles. This has resulted in the expansion in the Port of Savannah which is helping to reduce the country's supply chain issues.

Commissioner McMurry addressed various questions regarding local projects by stating the request for bids and that many of these projects came in double the original estimate. With that being the case, several local projects have been scheduled to be completed in phases beginning with the Young Harris bypass. Other projects that were discussed included changing

See Chamber, page 5A

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President

Steve Rowe



Letters to the Editor

Very Bad Idea

Dear Editor,

Well, two of the "volunteers" for the commissioner change petition have been writing letters to the editor recently. Good public discussion.

One discusses the constitutional right of people to have this petition; he goes down the garden path of "we have the right to do this." I agree, we have a constitutional right to petition and have citizens vote on the proposal.

No one is disputing that. I have been trying to tell people the illogic of the very bad idea of having five commissioners, and what will happen with five commissioners.

I have tried telling people what happened in the counties I lived in that were really nice places before the extra commissioners were added, before the chaos and the mess that a five-member board created.

I have been trying to tell people about the chaos - please listen. If you are unhappy with the current commissioner, do a recall petition. Don't add four more people.

And so, the letter writer proves my point, to quote his letter: "The five-member Board of Commissioners of Camden County, Georgia, gave Spaceport special privileges and approval

See Lausier, page 5A

Happy Father's Day

Dear Editor,

As we approach Father's Day 2023, I would like to share something about mine.

It has been nine years since my father Murray King passed away here in Blairsville. Prior to his passing he was a Christian, hard worker, being on time always and helping others.

Before he passed away, the Orlando Sentinel offered for citizens to write a story about their father for a prize of \$1,000 to Shoot Straight, which I am happy to say I won!

After he passed away, my mother Kendra



See King, page 5A

Smoke Can Affect Health

As we approach wildfire season here are some reminders for how we can protect our health when a wildfire puts smoke in the air. We are not immune to wildfire here in the east because it can happen here!

The following is information put out by the CDC. Smoke is made up of a complex mixture of gases and fine particles produced when wood and other organic materials burn. While not everyone has the same sensitivity to wildfire smoke, it's still a good idea to avoid breathing smoke if you can help it. And when smoke is heavy, such as can occur in close proximity to a wildfire, it's bad for everyone. The biggest health threat from smoke is from fine particles. These microscopic particles can penetrate deep into your lungs. They can cause a range of health problems, from burning eyes and a runny nose to aggravated chronic heart and lung diseases. Exposure to particle pollution is even linked to premature death.

It's especially important for you to pay attention to local air quality reports during a fire if you are: * a person with heart or lung disease, such as heart failure, angina, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema or asthma. * an older adult, which makes you more likely to have heart or lung disease than younger people. * caring for children, including teenagers, because their respiratory systems are still developing, they breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults, they're more likely to be active outdoors, and they're more likely to have asthma. * a person with diabetes, because you are more likely to have underlying cardiovascular disease. * a pregnant woman, because there could be potential health effects for both you and the developing fetus. Hot High concentrations of smoke can trigger a range of symptoms. * Anyone may experience burning eyes, a runny nose, cough, phlegm, wheezing and difficulty breathing. * If you have heart or lung disease, smoke may make your symptoms worse. * People with heart disease might experience chest pain, palpitations, shortness of breath, or fatigue. * People with lung disease may not be able to breathe as deeply or as vigorously as usual, and may experience symptoms such as coughing, phlegm, chest discomfort, wheezing and shortness of breath. It's important to limit your exposure to smoke - especially if you are at increased risk for particle-related effects.

Here are some steps you can take to protect your health. If you have heart, vascu-

See Riley, page 5A

RC&D Executive Director

Frank Riley



Clyde Collins

From time to time I feel the need to write about people that have impacted my life or the lives of people within our county. Such is the case today with Mr. Clyde Collins. I first met him while I was still serving as County Agent in Union County many years ago. He and his son Bill farmed and lived on a piece of property on Collins Road in the Choestoe District. They produced a few head of cattle along with a lot of produce including tomatoes, beans, pumpkins, greens, corn, beets and okra which was marketed in a fruit stand on the Nottely River not too far from their home. The family was close-knit and I always enjoyed visiting their farm and talking with Clyde and his wife of many years Roma Sue.

The more I visited the Collins farm, the more I learned about this man and the more I appreciated and admired his background. He was born to William Harve and North Maybell Dyer Collins on November 7, 1921, on the same piece of land on the Nottely River which he farmed for most of his life. He graduated High School in 1938 after which he attended Young Harris College. His first teaching job was at Harmony Grove Elementary School with 23 students in grades 1-7 in 1940. During the summer he worked for the TVA on the construction of the Nottely Dam. That fall he returned to teaching at Town Creek Elementary School.

Also, in 1940 he met Roma Sue Turner of Blairsville whom he married in 1942. The couple raised four children on the same family farm that he was raised upon. Also in 1942 Clyde entered the Army Air Corp as a team leader and mechanic serving in a number of stateside locations. During his service he obtained the rank of Sergeant.

Upon returning home Clyde attended the University of Georgia and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1949. He came home to Union County and taught history at Union County High School. Then in 1964 he obtained a Master's Degree in School Administration from Western Carolina University and became principal of Town Creek and Ivy Log Elementary Schools. Then in 1968 he became principal of Union County High School. In 1976 he was elected as Union County School Superintendent where he served until 1981. He retired in 1981 after having served the students of Union County for more than 41 years in the field of education.

Sometime around 2007, I and Patrick Fix began working in the Canning Plant. I soon learned that Clyde and his family were regulars in the Canning Plant. And I heard many stories

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Tomatoes

Tomatoes are probably one of the most common garden plants. They are great to have in your garden because there are so many different varieties. Tomatoes are usually pretty low maintenance, but let's talk about a couple of things to be on the lookout for to make sure you have the best tomatoes that you can.

By now most people have their tomatoes in the ground already. Even so, I want to talk about spacing plants a little bit because if plants are well spaced, it will help reduce the problems that you have later on. Plants should have 2 feet between them in the row, and 4 to 6 feet between the rows. Proper spacing will reduce the amount of disease that you have later on. If plants are touching there is less airflow between them. This creates a situation that is ripe for disease.

Except for wildlife, disease is going to be one of the main issues when growing tomatoes. It is almost impossible to keep tomato plants disease free for an entire season. Once we get to the end of the season plants will inevitably start to decline. What you want to do is keep them healthy enough for long enough to make your some good tomatoes.

There are several different leaf spot diseases that tomatoes can get. Septoria and Alternaria are some examples. Septoria is a fungal disease that creates small round spots on the leaves. Alternaria is also called early blight. These spots are more angular. Phytophthora, also called late blight, is another disease that tomatoes can get. This one tends to be more common for us because it likes cool nights and warm days with high humidity. Late blight will make large lesions on the leaves and the fruit. Late blight is commonly known for causing the Irish potato famine in the 1840s (You are welcome to impress your trivia friends with this tidbit).

There are also a few wilts that can damage plants. At the end of July, in the heat of the day it is not uncommon to see some wilting. However, if plants are wilting in the morning while it's still cool and they have plenty of water, you might have a wilt problem. Fusarium wilt affects the vascular system of a plant. If you have had fusarium wilt in the past it is best to plant resistant varieties in that spot. Bacterial wilt will also cause the tomato plant to wilt. Cut the stem and place it in a clear cup of water. After a few minutes you will be able to see the bacteria oozing out of the stem that is milky colored. If you see that don't plant tomato, pepper, potato, or eggplant in that spot for at least 4 years. Southern blight causes a white mold at the soil line that will infect the

See Williams, page 5A

UGA extension watching and working

Jacob Williams



North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

Kenneth West Publisher/Owner **Shawn Jarrard** General Manager/Editor **Derek Richards** Advertising Director **Todd Forrest** Sports Editor **Lowell Nicholson** Photographer

Website: www.nganews.com • Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com • Mail: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514

The North Georgia News is an independent and nonpartisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

Publication No: 001505

Advertising, News deadlines Friday at 4 p.m. • Mail Service for all subscriptions except 30512, 30514 & 30572 (Union County) - One Year \$45 INCLUDING UNION COUNTY CUSTOMER REQUESTS MAIL SERVICE. In county, carrier delivered subscription is \$10. All subscriptions must be paid in advance. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is published weekly by NGN/TCH, Inc., 266 Cleveland Street, Blairsville, Georgia, 30512. Entered as Second Class Matter as of Dec. 24, 1988, at the Post Office in Blairsville. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

Phone: 706-745-6343 Fax: 706-745-1830 • P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514

Paris... continued from Page 4A

or municipality in which a person has declared a homestead exemption, if a homestead exemption has been claimed, shall be deemed the persons residence address. Therefore, if someone owns two homes, one address must be deemed primary and thus be the residence address for the purpose of voting. Anyone with questions about this topic can call 706-439-6016.

Q. Recently, I have attempted to put my boat into Lake Nottely at one of the public boat ramps. A private company appeared to be putting a dock together – using much of the parking space. I may have even gotten a nail in my tire from it. Why does Union County allow private companies to use this valuable space?

A. Each boat ramp on Lake Nottely is controlled/

managed by a different entity. Furthermore, the boat ramp and the attached property can also be controlled/managed by totally different entities. For example, the Deaver's Boat Ramp itself is controlled by TVA; the attached property is owned by the Department of Natural Resources; and Union County tries to help maintain it so that local residents have a nice place to load boats. Oftentimes, private companies will obtain a permit from TVA to build and float docks at Deaver's Boat Ramp. When this happens, Union County Government has no authority to say otherwise. As I mentioned, each boat ramp/facility is different. If you need to know who manages a certain boat ramp, you can call our offices at 706-439-6000, and we can refer you to the correct authority.

Ashurst... continued from Page 4A

quest. All of us need someone to vent to, to examine our issues, and to seek guidance. There are also times when we just need to get issues off our chests but not necessarily needing any advice, suggestions, or directions. Therefore, we MUST establish our boundaries with those who come into our sandbox. They need to know when it is venting time or when it is desperate-for-advice time. But we have to make the situation clear of what we expect when we have someone visit our sandbox. It is not their decision to establish the boundaries. It is our sandbox! Sometimes it is difficult to find someone who will just listen. But keep searching because God is faithful to provide you with the right person at the right time.

So how do we handle that uninvited person? We have to make a decision: Do I allow this person to remain uninvited in my sandbox, creating havoc, or do I ask the individual politely to leave? This is the point where bruised feelings may occur. Offended feelings can certainly take place if we ask the person to vacate our sandbox. In their minds, "How dare you give me such an ultimatum of remaining silent or of leaving? After all, I may have all the solutions to your problems."

Again, there are times that we invite an individual into our sandbox with the expressed idea to vent. We need to set the boundary: "I need to get things off my chest, and I just need someone to listen. No feedback, advice, or suggestions. Just listen." Even if the person is a good friend, we still must establish our boundaries: "Please just listen or offer suggestions when I ask."

Our personal feelings and thoughts may be tender because of the ultimatum we presented. With the uninvited guest, our sandbox may have a litter odor of uninvited advice. Don't worry about your dilemma because the more you set your boundaries, the more comfortable you become with them. If you can locate someone in your personal arena who is comfortable just listening (without the need of advice-giving), then hang on to that person with all your strength and might—they are a rare species and as good as gold.

Don't attempt to become a therapist to your kinfolks. There are plenty of good therapists for them in whom to select. It is fine to be an attentive listener but be very, very cautious when you find yourself in the advice-giving category.

Next week: Dealing with Irritability.

Riley...continued from Page 4A

lar or lung disease, including asthma, talk with your health care provider before fire season to make plans. If you are in a fire prone area, discuss when to leave the area, how much medicine to have on hand, and your asthma action plan if you have asthma. Have a several-day supply of non-perishable foods that do not require cooking. Cooking - especially frying and broiling - can add to indoor pollution levels. Consider buying an air cleaner. Some room air cleaners can help reduce particle levels indoors, as long as they are the right type and size for your rooms as specified by the manufacturer. If you choose to buy an air cleaner, don't wait until there's a fire - make that decision beforehand. Have a supply of N-95 or P-100 masks on hand, and learn how to use them correctly. During a fire - pay attention to local air quality reports. As smoke gets worse, the concentration of particles in the air increases - and so should the steps you take to protect yourself. Air quality reports are available through local news media, your local air agency or on airnow.gov.

Use common sense to guide your activities. Even if you don't have a monitor in your area, if it looks or smells smoky outside, it's probably

not a good time to mow the lawn or go for a run. And it's probably not a good time for children - especially children with asthma - to be vigorously active outdoors, or active outdoors for prolonged periods of time. If you are active outdoors, pay attention to symptoms. Symptoms are an indication that you need to reduce exposure. Dust masks aren't enough! Paper "dust" masks or surgical masks will not protect your lungs from the fine particles in wildfire smoke. Scarves or bandanas (wet or dry) won't help, either. Particulate masks known as N-95 or P-100 respirators will help, but they must fit well and be used correctly. If you are advised to stay indoors, take steps to keep indoor air as clean as possible. Keep your windows and doors closed - unless it's extremely hot outside. Run your air conditioner, if you have one. Keep the filter clean to prevent bringing additional smoke inside. Open windows to air out the house when air quality improves. When smoke is heavy for a prolonged period of time, fine particles can build up indoors even though you may not be able to see them.

For more information on smoke effects on your health, check out www.cdc.gov.

Lausier... continued from Page 4A

to build a spaceport there in Camden County without approval of the local 'electorate.'"

I read that the people in Camden County had to go out and get a referendum, and hire an attorney to stop what the commissioners did. Is that what you want? The chaos of five commissioners?

The other letter from the commissioner volunteer brigade speaks about the right to vote on this petition. No one disputes the fact that we have the right to vote on this petition. I agree we have the right. I am stating it's an awful idea having lived the results of adding commissioners.

I am simply trying to inform people what happens when a bigger government gets in control.

If you think bigger government is better, look at the leech on our nation, which is Washington, D.C.

In this country fewer and fewer people have the rare

commodity of common sense; more and more people are duped by "it sounds good"; and more and more people are not able to discern the truth or the endgame of their actions.

I hope people in this county will have the common sense to reject this bad idea of a five-commissioner board.

Eva Lausier

Dyer...

continued from Page 4A

formation to the public about potential emergencies and disasters that may affect the community. The CodeRED system is a great communication platform that can inform people of these potential incidents. Having this information can help everyone prepare and make better decisions. For more info about CodeRED, please visit www.union-countyga.gov/codered or call UCEMA at 706-439-6091.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

about his career as an educator from many different people. For example, Patrick Fix was one of his students. So, one day I asked him if he'd ever had to give Patrick a whipping during his time as his Principal. I was told that he'd set a record on Patrick. Even Patrick admitted that Mr. Collins had whipped him three times in one day.

As you may know, Patrick worked with the Natural Resource Conservation Service during his career, and as a part of that work, he was surveying the Collins Farm for drainage ditch construction. Patrick and Clyde were walking across the area where the ditches were being dug one day when Clyde fell into one of the ditches. Patrick was about to help his former Principal up out of the ditch when he stopped and asked, "Mr. Collins, do you remember all the whippings you gave me as a student all them years ago?" The elderly Mr. Collins responded, "Yes, I do, and if you don't help me up I

am about to give you another one."

I also learned that sometime around 1976 the Canning Plant boiler broke down and the School Board found out it was not worth repairing. Instead of shutting down the Canning Plant, the School Board and Mr. Collins found a used boiler and had it installed in the Canning Plant.

This boiler lasted until 2013 when the present Canning Plant was constructed at the Farmers Market.

Another time, Clyde and Roma Sue were in the Canning Plant to process tomatoes. The family had some little salad or Tommy toe tomatoes. Roma Sue asked if I happened to know the variety name of this particular tomato. I looked at Clyde and grinned. Then responded, "This variety is a real old tomato called an Outhouse Tomato." She turned to walk away and then turned back and pointed her finger at me and laughed.

I have had many good times in the Canning Plant with Clyde and Roma Sue Collins. I know that they have canned close to 1,500 jars each and every year I have been associated with the Canning Plant.

I also must say that she and Clyde taught Patrick and I much of what we know about canning. There are a few others that taught us a lot as well. But, I will never forget Clyde and Roma Sue Collins.

Fowler...

continued from Page 4A

are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."

Among Keller's last words were, "I'm thankful for the time God has given me, but I'm ready to see Jesus. I can't wait to see Jesus. Send me home."

For him, this has become true: "Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face" (1 Cor. 13:12).

In 2023, Tim Keller left for the land of the living. He was 72.

Williams...

continued from Page 4A

plant. If you have had southern blight in the past you can wrap the bottom 3 inches of the plant with aluminum foil to reduce infection.

If you have questions about what might be affecting your tomatoes during the growing season, contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Chamber...

continued from Page 4A

the timing and turning signals at several intersections. The Commissioner was clear to point out that until the contracts are let, all projects are subject to change. You can go to the GDOT website at www.dot.ga.gov to learn the status of any project of interest.

Congratulations to Seasons Inn Motel & Plaza for being named this quarter's Business of the Quarter and Makayla Fairless being named Ambassador of the Quarter. Collen and Chris go above and beyond to welcome our visitors and to help make everyone feel a part of the community. Makayla was our first student ambassador and surely not our last. In addition to representing the Chamber at numerous local events, she stepped in and delivered over 20 boxes of Community Guides to Chamber members. Please congratulate these individuals when you see them out and about.

Thanks to all our Members, Ambassadors, and Board of Directors for helping make Life Better in Blairsville!

King...

continued from Page 4A

King created the Murray King Award. It recognizes outstanding service to Union County by performing Emergency Medical Services.

This award coincides with the membership my dad had in the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was involved in SAR and enjoyed learning about our family history.

Since his passing in January 2014, through more discovery of genealogy, I am proud to say we are related to President Zachary Taylor, Jefferson Davis - who was married to Taylor's daughter - and President James Madison.

With our legacy, I want to share with my three nephews the importance of family, American History, and to encourage others to do their genealogy. For me it has been a rewarding experience since 1996.

In closing, I want to say how proud I am to be his daughter. He is missed and loved. On a side note, Blairsville became like a home to him in many ways.

Happy Father's Day!

Melanie King