

# Opinions

## Everybody has one...

### Our Work

Occasionally, I get the question, "What's it like working at the fire department?" It is a mystery to most people. Our work is constant. The fire department is either responding to emergencies, preparing to respond, or otherwise working to help our community. Union County Fire Department is a group of both career and volunteer firefighters who either work for the department or volunteer their time to achieve the mission of the department. Our mission statement: The mission of Union County Fire Department is to prevent or minimize loss of life and property due to fire or other emergencies.

**Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief**

David Dyer



Responding to emergencies is our main mission. The department is considered an "all-hazards" response department. All-hazards is a fancy way of saying that the fire department responds to just about any emergency imaginable. That includes any type of fire emergency, medical calls, hazardous materials, motor vehicle accidents, searches, rescues, and many more.

To also achieve our mission, we must be ready. There are many duties that must be performed every day to ensure that we are prepared. Firefighters perform daily, weekly, and monthly checks and maintenance on every piece of equipment in our inventory. We perform annual testing of fire engines, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, and every fire hose to make sure they are in good working order.

When firefighters are not on an emergency or working on equipment, they are active in the community with several prevention programs. We have the Smoke Alarm Program that provides free smoke alarms to residential homes of Union County. Firefighters install these smoke alarms in the home. The department performs pre-incident plans on businesses in the county. These pre-incident plans help the firefighter develop action plans for emergencies in these businesses and enable them to be more aware of the buildings. We also have a Public Education Program where we teach students, residents, and business owners about fire safety and disaster preparedness.

Union County Fire Department also operates the Union County Emergency Management/Homeland Security Agency.

See Dyer, page 5A

### Same Old Questions

Oliver Anthony has joined Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix as a protest voice of his generation. Anthony's songs released a few weeks ago touch a nerve by saying what many are thinking.

Anthony feels dismissed, devalued, and angry. He turns his time into money, but it's taken away in taxes by "rich men north of Richmond" who "just wanna have total control." He works all day for low pay just "so I can sit out here and waste my life away." He concludes, "I wanna go home; I don't know which road to go."

The questions backstage of Anthony's lyrics are as ancient as mankind. What is wrong with the world? Who am I? Do I matter? Is there any hope? Anthony's intense lyrics blame politicians and bureaucrats. He's saying, "I don't know what to do, and I'm looking for a way out." But are blame and escape the only answers when life is frustrating?

Life has been meaningless to the Dalits, the lowest caste in India for thousands of years. But that is changing for them. "When a Dalit hears God created man in His own image," Dalit scholar Ram Surat explains, "it is the first time in their entire life that they feel like a human" (Gen. 1:27). Dalits are embracing identity and meaning in Christ more than any other people group in India. Each believer is "being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him" (Col. 3:10).

Psychiatrist Viktor Frankl struggled to find meaning in life as he endured the horrors of Nazi concentration camps. On entering Auschwitz, the guards forced him to exchange his clothes for the tattered garments of a prisoner who died in the gas chamber. In the pocket he found a paper with the words, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and might." This challenged him with a reason to live, regardless of his circumstances.

Jesus challenges you to look beyond proximate circumstances. "You know how to analyze the appearance of the earth and the sky, but why do you not analyze this present time?" (Luke 12:56). Consider who He is and respond by turning to Him for forgiveness and new life. An eternal perspective changes your response to people leveraging power. "When Jesus rises from

**All Things New**

Wayne Fowler



See Fowler, page 5A

### Commissioner's Questions

**Q. What is community service and just how do these individuals end up doing community service?**

A. Community Service workers have been sentenced by various courts to perform some type of community service work as a condition of their probation.

**Q. How does Union County manage these workers and ensure the hours are actually performed?**

A. Union County took the initiative back in 2018 to create a Union County Community Service Supervisor position to manage the workers and to ensure all the hours of labor were properly completed and recorded. Union County is the only county to have this position in the Enotah Judicial Circuit and as a result, it has the highest completion rate in the area.

**Q. What do the community service workers do?**

A. When someone is assigned to community service, they perform a wide variety of duties throughout the county. They might clean county buildings and facilities, assist customers at the Union County Transfer Station, provide festival parking control and set-up assistance, mow grass and maintain dog parks, assist at the Farmers Market and Cannery, provide Potete Creek Campground preparation and cleaning, assist in landscaping and mowing at the Byron Herbert Reece Heritage Farm, pick up roadside garbage, and for those with specific skillsets, perform special projects associated with those skillsets.

**Q. What qualifications does the county look for in the supervisor position?**

A. We look for individuals with a lot of experience dealing with probationers. The position requires a very good understanding of the courts and criminal justice system as well. It requires someone that knows the county really well and possesses the initiative to look for projects that will provide meaningful work for community service workers. Community Service Supervisors also need to present themselves as mentors to the workers - as mentoring is an extremely important element of the rehabilitative process.

**Q. Who is the Community Service Supervisor?**

See Paris, page 5A

**Q & A from Union County Commissioner**

Lamar Paris



### Latest Anti-2A Attack

The Left's anti-Second Amendment attacks are only getting more out of hand.

On Sept. 8, New Mexico's Governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham, issued an executive order banning open and concealed carry — even for licensed concealed carriers — in Albuquerque and the surrounding county for at least 30 days.

Folks, this is beyond unconstitutional. The move was made in response to a number of deaths, including the recent tragic murder of an 11-year-old boy. While every loss of life is heartbreaking, we cannot allow emotion to drive actions that have Constitution-altering consequences. Simply put, evil deeds do not transcend constitutional rights.

While this latest attempt to infringe on Americans' Second Amendment freedoms is unfolding in New Mexico, we can't turn a blind eye to any tyrannical tactic happening across the county. Because the harsh reality is that the Left

See Clyde, page 5A

United States Congressman Representative Andrew Clyde



### Chamber of Commerce

Five years ago, the Chamber had about 600 active members and collected about \$214,000 in Hotel/Motel tax. During the first half of 2023 the Chamber averaged seven new members a month bringing us close to 800 members. According to Explore Georgia, in 2021 tourism brought in \$102 million in visitor spending to the local economy and accounted for \$18.9 million in labor income.

Last night one of the Atlanta news stations reported that 2022 was a record year for tourism spending in Georgia. While the state has not released their statistics to its partners, according to our internal calculation, it appears tourism for 2022 in Union County was up 18% to 20%.

Thanks to all our members for what they do to help grow our economy, employing a portion of our 26,388 citizens, providing shopping, dining, and entertainment options so we

See Chamber, page 5A

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President Steve Rowe



### Letters to the Editor

#### Alert All Christians

Dear Editor,

We who have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior need to be busy telling others about God's free gift of salvation. This was not a suggestion or a maybe later, but an urgent call to God's servants to be busy in reaching those who are lost without a Savior. I believe a lot of our problem lies in the fact that we have lost our first love, meaning when we got saved by God's grace. Yes, it's easy to forget after years of being saved, but the message is still the same today as it was for the disciples in ancient times. We all

See Combs, page 5A

#### Biden's Elder Abuse Continues

Dear Editor,

Joe Biden visited Vietnam last week, where he met with the nation's communist leader and then held a press conference where he appeared, as usual, very confused. Biden stumbled over names, lost his train of thought, admitted he was just "following orders" and mumbled on to the extent where his handlers decided to bring out the hook and close the press conference before it got ugly.

As reported, the purpose of the trip was to address China's threat of regional expansion-

See Groza, page 5A

#### Good News for All

Dear Editor,

"Not MY President!" We hear this exclaimed after every Presidential election, by those of the "losing" party. However, an effective President works for the betterment of ALL the citizens of the United States, not for just one party, or only for those with whom they received votes.

In August 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act which benefits all of us in various capacities. It is clear this was necessary-

See LeGros, page 5A

#### Chamber Spending

Dear Editor,

This past week we saw a contractor and equipment installing permanent colored lights on our Historic Courthouse. This Historic Courthouse is owned by the people of Union County. The Chamber never asks for citizens' input. We allowed the Chamber of Commerce to apply permanent colored lights to our Historic Courthouse. The old way of installing classic lights for Christmas has been a tradition for years and always marked the beginning of the Holiday

See Barton, page 5A

### Self-Esteem II

Truthfully we know who we are. All of us are filled with limitations and struggles, but when we handle those conflicts in a healthy manner, our positive self-worth is enhanced. We will always have life trials, heartaches, and tribulations attempting to beat down our mental and emotional doors. We live in a horrifying world. However, our comfort and ability in dealing with such challenges come from the confidence we have in ourselves and from the faith we have in God.

There will be days when our get-up-and-go has got-up-and-went. Our energy level and enthusiasm are drained absolutely dry. However, we still can utilize our positive self-worth. It cannot be destroyed or diminished unless we allow it. It is based on what we know about ourselves, not on what others think.

Our thought patterns can empower us in a strengthening way. Rather than allowing life situations to bend us to look like a pretzel, our attention needs to center on knowing who we are and what we are capable of.

Whatever traumatic situations we face can be handled effectively as human and spiritual beings. The situations may not end up the way we want, but we can still keep intact our integrity and dignity. Maintaining a healthy self-esteem, self-image, and self-worth will enable a person to "get up again" after he or she have been "beaten down."

Sometimes the human will in us may wish to tangle with those individuals who are creating havoc in our lives and who are attempting to destroy our self-image. However, we are instructed to leave that person to God—Matthew 7:1-2.

A man and wife were flying above a much traveled highway. Suddenly the wife gasped and pointed down to a car passing another on a hill. "There's another car coming on the other side. The driver passing can't see it." As she covered her face in horror, the husband-pilot grimly remarked, "Now we know how God feels." God has planted a purpose in our lives. We just need to see it.

*Love yourself first and everything else falls into line.*

---Lucille Line

There will be times when we are worked to a frazzle, emotionally spent, and weak as a kitten, but yet we can thrive due to our fortitude, our heightened self-esteem, plus our faith in our Creator who knows every single thing we are facing.

*People are just about as happy as They make up their minds to be.*

---Abraham Lincoln

Successful Mental Health

Dr. James Ray Ashurst PH.D.



### I Remember

This past spring, summer and especially the month of September have brought significant changes to my life. Losing your parents will bring back a flood of memories which help you in the process of grieving. Then couple those losses with the fact that you turn 65 and you enroll in both Medicare and Social Security, which means that you are now fully retired. I get up each morning and feel like there is something I must do until I realize that most of my responsibilities are now the responsibility of someone else. So now I am spending more time reflecting on my past, which brings to mind many happy memories.

I remember and have a photograph of me trying on my first pair of cowboy boots purchased for me by my Uncle Bud. I have had many pairs of boots over the years, but those little black cowboy boots have a special place in my memory.

I remember living in an apartment in Chicago with my parents and looking out of our window and seeing really large cars with ornate fins on the back and big round headlights on the front.

I remember walking to the store with \$1 and being able to purchase 1 gallon of gasoline for the lawn mower, 1 cold drink and 1 candy bar and bringing the change home to my Mom. Specifically, in the '60s and '70s you could buy a gallon of gas for 33 cents. Each Friday during school we would take a dime to class and around 1:30 p.m. someone from our class would go to the office to purchase drinks from a coke machine. The drinks were in 6 1/2 ounce bottles and nothing ever tasted better on a hot fall afternoon than one of those Coca Colas. The day it was my turn to go and get the Cokes for our class I placed 1 dime in the machine and received \$26 in change. It was my lucky day. Just so you know I turned all the money back in to Mrs. Morrison.

Going to Eb Trapp's country store is one of my favorite memories. I could get any kind of soft drink I wanted for a dime. There were Cokes, Dr. Pepper, Nehi Belly Wash (Nehi Grape), Peach or anything else a little boy could want. Late one rainy afternoon my grandparents had an argument after which Papa told me to come with him and we left to go to the store. As we were leaving Granny reminded us that it wasn't long until supper time and that we should be back soon.

A few miles later we were sitting on coke crates at the store while I enjoyed a Nehi Grape with peanuts poured into it. I finished and tried to remind Papa, in front of his friends, that Granny

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



### A Time to Plant

Fall brings a change in the weather and the growing season slows down. A lot of people will put their gardens up for the winter, but there are still some tasks that are better done when temperatures are down. Lower temperatures means less water loss from plants. This makes it an ideal time to start putting perennials in the ground.

Trees that have been grown in a pot or are balled and burlapped that have a well-developed root system can be planted at any time of year. However, the ideal time of year to plant them is in the fall. This is because the top portion of the plant has gone dormant and temperatures are lower, which means the tree will lose less water to evapotranspiration. During this time the roots below ground are still active. That means they will still be growing through fall and the winter. This gives you a more established plant come summer time. It also means that planting in the fall results in you spending less time watering your new plants.

Some of the most common issues when planting new trees is planting too deep, planting too shallow, and over or underwatering.

If you are planting in a poorly drained soil creating a raised bed will help improve drainage. Raise the soil level 8-12 inches using native soil. Plantings at new construction sites may need an addition of organic matter to improve soil health. You will also need to till deeply around the planting site to alleviate soil compaction.

The hole that is dug should be 2-3x wider than the size of the root ball. If you are planting into a well-drained soil the depth of the hole should be the same as the height of the root ball. In a poorly drained soil the depth of the hole should be 2-4 inches less than the height of the root ball, then build up the surrounding soil to be level with the root ball. Planting a tree too deep leads to poor drainage and not enough oxygen getting to the roots. Planting a tree too shallow leads to the tree roots drying out too quickly.

Once you have placed the tree in the hole refill the hole. You want to mostly use native soil. Break up any clods and remove stones. You can add compost to the hole, but don't put more than 20% compost in the hole. Tamp the soil down with your foot and construct a 3-inch-high ring around the edge of the root ball to hold water. Apply 2-4 inches of mulch over the planted area. Do not put mulch up against the trunk of the tree, as this leads to rot. For the first few months after planting you want to maintain constant soil moisture in the root ball. The soil does not need to be saturated, but there should be water avail-

See Williams, page 5A

Watching and Working Jacob Williams



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## Paris...continued from Page 4A

A. Initially it was Sgt. Richard Griggs, who retired from the Carlton Colwell P.D.C. after serving 30 years with the Department of Corrections. His extensive experience easily transitioned to set up the current program framework and put it into action. Currently, the supervisor is Stuart Stovall. He retired from the Department of Community Supervision as the Enotah Judicial Circuit Chief of Felony Probation and Parole after serving 31 years with the Department of Corrections and Department of Community Supervision. He is also a combat veteran and continues to fulfill the dynamic expectations Sgt. Griggs initiated in the program.

### Q. On average how many active workers are there, and how many of these complete their sentences?

A. In 2022 the monthly average was 45 workers. Eighty-four (84) probationers completed their court-ordered requirements in 2022. We are bouncing back in 2023 from the COVID restrictions in the courts and are now averaging 61 workers per month. For 2023, as of July, 60 workers have completed their court ordered hours.

### Q. How many hours were performed in 2022?

A. A total of 6,726 hours were performed by community service workers. Of those, 709

were skilled labor hours the county would have had to contract out at the current economy rates. As of July 2023 workers have completed 5,551.75 hours, of those 575 hours were skilled labor hours.

### Q. Is it really worth it in the long run?

A. Absolutely! First of all, it provides the courts with a resource for community service locations. Secondly, it enables those community service workers with a supervisor to manage their location and hours so they can stay in compliance with their probation conditions. Community service provides general and skilled labor to the county at no cost. The data shows that if you don't have someone to manage a community service program, then the community service work does not get completed.

Probably the greatest value achieved with community service is with the change in the actual worker. The sense of satisfaction many of them have in themselves and the jobs they complete is extremely beneficial. It helps them develop a sense of giving back to their community while becoming a productive part of it. Some even offer to volunteer to help after their probation sentence is completed. Those positive outcomes are what we are aiming for.

## Clyde...continued from Page 4A

will stop at nothing to achieve their ultimate goal of an unarmed and vulnerable America. Every inch we give in this fight, even silently, brings their unlawful efforts closer to our own doorsteps.

Notably, Governor Lujan Grisham's brazen executive overreach comes just days after the Biden Administration issued its newest assault on our Second Amendment liberties. Under the ATF's latest unconstitutional rule, any American who sells even a single firearm for profit — including to a family member — can be considered “engaged in business”

of selling guns, subsequently forcing these individuals to obtain a federal firearms license, conduct a background check, and complete gun registration paperwork under federal law.

The Second Amendment is abundantly clear: Shall NOT be infringed.

In response to these wholly unconstitutional efforts, I will continue to do everything in my power to protect and preserve our unalienable right to keep and bear arms through my work in Congress. After all, an armed America is a more safe — and more free — America.

## Barton...continued from Page 4A

Season. Now they say we can light the Historic Courthouse in any color we choose for all occasions, including ball games. The last thing I want to see on a Historic site is sports colors.

The employees at the Chamber, a nonprofit 501c, said that the new lights did not use taxpayers' money, it comes from a different fund. They are wrong! Our county government for years has funded a nonprofit agency, the Chamber, using our taxes and has given them a lot of money, each and every year, under the guise of Hotel/Motel tax revenue. The local Chamber is not a government entity or any part of the county government. The money our county so graciously gives them is taxpayer money and should be accounted for just like any other funds, but that is not the case.

Here is what we have given the Chamber over the last few years: 2021 — \$601,228; 2020 — \$373,713; 2019 — \$210,732.

The State of Georgia has rules on how the County uses the 5% Hotel/Motel tax: 40% of that tax must be used for promoting tourism, 60% of that fund can be put into the general fund. The 40% for tourism is not required to go to the Chamber. It can be used by the County government to fund our own advertising programs for Tourism. It does not have to go to the Chamber. It is a very simple process, but we have decided to completely fund the Chamber with 90% or more of those funds!

In 2021, the County collected \$632,872 in Hotel/Motel Taxes. We gave the Chamber \$601,228, which is 95% of the Taxes collected. The County has no oversight into how the money was spent. Reporting to the state by the Chamber as required did not start to happen until the 2022 year end. Before this time the Chamber did not submit any reports on where the money was spent.

The only reporting by the Chamber was sent to the state for year ending 2022, stating (I quote exactly from the PCIS report sent to the Georgia Government): Digital direction signage \$39,392; Website Design/Development/Hosting \$10,898; Digital/Social Media/Targeted Advertising \$124,732; Marketing/Festival and STR software \$45,000; Wedding Trade Show \$2,078; Membership directories \$4,002; Tourism/salaries/festivals \$56,683; Tourism/salaries/marketing \$90,880; Digital/Social Media/Targeted Advertising 30,468; Total \$404,133. This left a remaining, undocumented amount of \$197,095.

The county gave the Chamber through the end of the

budget year 2022 \$523,314 of Hotel/Motel revenue. The remaining 2022 payments were sent in 2023, for late tax records.

The Chamber also sent a Memo with their budget report as they are required to do, on a proposed Budget for 2023. Here is what the Chamber said in this Memo: “All projects will be funded using the 2022 fund balance.” That implies that the Chamber will use the remaining \$197,095 for 2023 and does not need/expect funding from the county for their 2023 budget. Yet, so far in 2023, we have given the Chamber through July 2023 \$520,022. The County has only collected \$223,000 in Hotel/Motel taxes for that same period. In 2021 we gave the Chamber \$601,228 of the \$632,872 that was collected.

We as taxpayers have no idea where our tax dollars are going. If you had a business and you were giving someone over half a million dollars to promote your company, would you not want a detailed record with receipts to show what they actually did with your money? Unfortunately, with the Chamber, the county has no interest in asking for any records.

The Chamber actually bought the Short-Term Rental software that the county uses to track Short-Term Rentals that are not compliant with the new Tax system. Why would we allow the Chamber access to citizens' records? This program feeds the Chamber more money each and every year, so they have skin in the game to make sure they get the maximum dollar out of all our Short-Term Rentals in the county. Ask yourself how much access does the county give the Chamber to citizens tax information? Ask yourself what presence of mind would think that having a nonprofit organization with no legal ties to our local government be allowed to buy and have access to a taxing program and a search program that has ALL the information on our citizens that have Short-Term Rentals in Union County?

Ask yourself is this good stewardship of our tax dollars? The citizens have no voice on how the Chamber is spending our tax dollars once it leaves the county. The county seems to have no desire to make sure the Chamber is spending it according to Georgia Department of Community Affairs, which provides a very clear and detailed presentation on what and how the Hotel/Motel tax can be used on.

We need to take back our county government and make it again “For the People, By the People.”

**Diana Creek Barton**

## Cummings...continued from Page 4A

wanted us back home for supper. He interrupted me and told me to get another drink and candy bar. I found a king-sized Butter Finger and a Mountain Dew. I finished those and was told to get another drink. So I found bag of Peanut M&Ms and Dr. Pepper. It took my grandfather 1 hour to calm down after his argument with my grandmother. This hour enabled me to drink four soft drinks and eat one bag of peanuts with three candy bars. As we pulled back into the driveway Granny was placing supper on the table. That night we were to have my favorite meals which included nothing but fresh vegetables. Fried potatoes, fresh okra, creamed corn, black-eyed peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions and a hot steaming pan of corn bread. All of which was supposed to be topped off with apple pie. I took one look at the spread and ran out of the house. I lost everything I had consumed at the

## Williams...

### continued from Page 4A

able to the roots.

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

## Fowler...

### continued from Page 4A

the dead, it means that human power never has the last word,” writes professor Justin Bailey. “There is something deeper and more definitive: grace.”

Mr. Anthony could learn from the Casting Crown lyrics, “I am a wave tossed in the ocean, a vapor in the wind. Still, You hear me when I'm calling, catch me when I'm falling, and You've told me who I am: I am yours.” To belong to God by identifying with Christ Jesus is to find truth and answers.

## Combs...

### continued from Page 4A

know family members who are still on the fence about these issues, and yes, we have to be careful how we handle this issue so that we don't drive them further from the Lord. When we express our heartfelt concerns it must always be in a loving way; even folks we meet on our journey who don't know the Lord need to be informed about the truth of God's word, not condemning them, but encouraging them to ponder what you have conveyed in love.

As the old saying goes from God's word -- Today is the day of salvation, for tomorrow is promised to no one. Time is growing short as we see our world falling into darkness each day, for the fields are ripe, but the harvesters are few. Let's strive daily to spread the good news of the gospel of Christ, before the Lord returns. Lord Jesus, we don't know who will and who won't accept you, but you do. Our task is to go tell and leave the rest to the power of Almighty God.

**Frank F. Combs**

## LeGros...

### continued from Page 4A

sary as we have all experienced the financial stresses affecting us from the pharmacy to our utility bills to the gas pumps. Even using Ingles points, it's always a shock to our wallets when filling up our cars!

Here are a few examples of the Inflation Reduction Act: It allows Medicare to negotiate drug prices and caps out-of-pocket costs to \$2,000; lowers ACA health care premiums for millions of Americans; and the gas prices are down from the summer peak a year or so ago, to name just a few items of the IRA where we, as hard-working Americans, are positively affected.

To summarize other benefits coming from this Act: There is a clean energy tax credit program; it has created good jobs through domestic manufacturing; it is transforming climate action in the USA. Of course, these examples are in simplified form, but the bottom line is that we all benefit in there somewhere.

Certainly not all problems can be solved with the Inflation Reduction Act, nor will there ever be a perfect President. However, most of us can agree that the political division in our Country has grown tiresome and as citizens of this beautiful, strong, diverse nation, we are seeing positive growth as we move forward, and this Administration is striving to make all of our lives better, one Act at a time.

We are, THE UNITED States of America!

**Trish LeGros**

the space to do so. But, we do need to cherish these memories and we need to let others know about them.

The Union County Historical Society will host a lecture on September 30th at the Historic Mock House just south of the downtown Square at 11:00 a.m. Tony Dyer will be speaking about “The History of Making Sorghum Syrup” and we will be providing samples of biscuits smothered with sorghum syrup. Come out to the Mock House and learn about Sorghum Syrup with us on September 30th.

## Groza...

### continued from Page 4A

ism. However, Biden stated, “I don't wanna contain China.” Say what? What a disaster. Biden then flew off to Alaska in order to commemorate the victims of 9/11.

For the record, this was the first time the sitting president failed to show up to any of the 9/11 crash sites to commemorate the victims of America's worst terror attacks. However, given Biden's press conference disaster in Vietnam, the reason for his no-show seems rather obvious. Apparently his staff simply can't trust him to be able to appropriately attend to such matters.

**Tim Groza**

## Dyer...

### continued from Page 4A

This agency is responsible for preparing, mitigating, responding, and recovering from disasters or major emergencies that occur in Union County. This involves informing and educating citizens about disasters and preparedness; coordinating available resources to respond; and assisting with the recovery efforts.

The fire department performs many activities every day to stay prepared and to be able to respond to any emergency. We are determined to live up to our motto.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

## Chamber...

### continued from Page 4A

can stay here in Blairsville instead of having to drive to another community. The Chamber is committed to helping promote our businesses, both industrial and hospitality related, and promoting tourism that drives a portion of our local businesses, accommodations, and attractions. While many small towns struggle to survive, I want to thank Union County for their support in helping grow our community and making Life Better in Blairsville.