

Paris ... continued from Page 4A

is such a waste. We spend enough on litter pickup to build a new, very nice playground every year!

Q. What is the county doing to help with the litter problem going forward?

A. This is the most frustrating consistent problem I have had since being in office for the past 16 years. I do not know if it is the way we are raised or why litter still remains the same problem it has been for years. We have had education programs in the schools for years, we have had public notices and education for years and still, we can tell no improvement. If anything, the problem is getting worse, especially if you look at the increase in tonnage of litter from last year to this year that has been picked up. I can tell you one thing, the county is willing to listen to anyone who has a good idea of how to improve this issue going forward.

Q. Does the county still have a litter hot line?

A. Yes we do. The phone number is 706-439-6025. It is anonymous and you can leave a message day or night. You simply state that you saw someone throwing out trash. Hopefully you can give us the tag number, but if not, any identification would help; i.e. time of day, location in county where you witnessed the trash being deposited, color and make of vehicle and if possible what type trash, a bag, cup, can, bag or other. We are going to start advertising this number more often in hopes people will call when they see a problem.

Q. Is it true that you picked up some trash recently?

A. Yes, I often stop and pick up trash I see. I have also been picking up trash in my subdivision for years. It is the same brand of cups, thrown out in the same place, by the same people. Periodically, I just pick them up and go on. A couple of weeks ago, I received a call of trash bags on the side of the road between the courthouse and the

transfer station. I went out and picked up three large bags. One was full of messy stuff, with a hole in the bag, and I had the privilege of cleaning out my vehicle when I was finished. However, we did find a name. When the business was confronted, they profusely apologized, were embarrassed, and had taken a load of trash bags to the transfer station without a tarp or being tied down and five bags were laying all along the highway. Funny that they did not realize that they were missing this many large bags when they deposited their trash, and even more that when they saw them laying on the side of the road on the way back to town, something did not click. I also stopped about a month ago along the side of the Old Blue Ridge Hwy and picked up trash from a busted trash bag. Unfortunately this time, we only found a Walmart cash receipt and did not find any names. We are going to start issuing large fines soon when we find this because there is just *no excuse* for anyone doing this.

Q. Why do people continue to litter?

A. That is a million dollar question. Nice people who do not intend to litter often do just by being careless. If you are carrying bags in the back of your pickup and plan on driving over 25 mph, they will blow out. If you throw a cup or lunch bag in the back of your pickup, it will also blow out at low speeds.

Q. What can we do to prevent items from blowing off our truck?

A. Just use common sense. If you throw something in your pickup bed and when you get home it is not there, realize you have littered Union County. It is the law, so please cover your load. Please be careful and thoughtful and see if we can reduce litter and allow additional playgrounds to be built in the county. That would be a wonderful outcome of simply being careful and aware.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

per traffic. Somehow the family obtained a photograph of all that traffic and sent it home to Granny's father, Clifford.

Later, the family went home for a visit and Clifford began quizzing his son-in-law about all that traffic. Clifford said, "Sha Coon. You gotta be smarter than all them other folks. What yuns need to do is pull over and let them folks by. Then you can get where you need to go without all that traffic."

In my younger days as a County Agent I had the distinct honor and pleasure of knowing a gentleman named C. R. Collins. He began his career in education during the 1930s and served as a teacher, principal and later as School Superintendent in Union County. C. R. was in the Kiwanis Club and he served as both Deacon and Treasurer at First Baptist Church. One day after church he told me about going on a visit to see his brother, Tom, down in Macon. The following is his story.

"Tom had recently moved to Macon and I wrote him a letter to inform him that I would be coming to visit him. But, during

the time the letter was traveling to Macon he had moved and the Post Office could not locate him. So, my letter to Tom was never received. This resulted in our arrival in Macon and not being able to find my brother. It was late in the evening and the place where he worked was closed. So, we had to find a hotel. We checked in and went to the room just as it was getting dark. When we walked into the room there was a bright light burning in a little globe just above the bed. We left to get a bite to eat and upon returning to the room that light was still burning. I got ready for bed and tried to figure out how to turn the wick of that bright light down to dim it a little bit. But, I couldn't find the wick. So, I stood on the bed and blew on that bright little globe for 5 minutes and it wouldn't go out. So, we finally went downstairs and got the hotel attendant and told him we couldn't blow out our light. He walked upstairs into the room and pulled a white string which turned out the light." Mr. C. R. had never been exposed to electrical lighting and had no idea of light bulbs. But, he sure liked the brightness of that light bulb.

Mattee ... continued from Page 4A

nutrients and will not be structurally compromised by other branches competing for space. However, try to avoid late summer pruning unless absolutely necessary, because this stimulates new growth that may not harden in time for the winter weather and will detract nutrients from larger branches that need to retain their strength. If snow has collected on shrubs, always sweep it off with an upward motion. Sweeping downward will only add to the stress created by the weight of the snow and ice, often causing branches to break or crack.

Runoff from roads usually contains chemicals that can have an effect on your plants, but especially when salted in the winter. Salty runoff also changes the quality of the soil by causing it to compact, restricting nutri-

ents, water and other important resources for your plants. Though salt may be applied throughout the winter, most of the damage is seen toward the end of the season when plants begin to actively grow. The primary symptom of salt damage is leaves or needles having dried or scorched edges. To prevent this, never pile snow containing salt or other runoff around plant root zones, or in an area where it will melt and run down to these zones. If you think your plants may have salt damage, flush the area around them with 2 inches of water for two to three hours and repeating this for three days. This should get rid of much of the salt buildup causing the issue.

Contact your local extension office if you would like more information on dealing with winter injury.

Hunter ...

continued from Page 4A

Religion like England has but it goes on to say "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof". I would like someone to explain how a teacher reading a Bible in school or a manger scene in the town square or the Ten Commandments in a court house equals Congress passing a law; banning someone does however "prohibit the free exercise thereof". The letter writer pointed out that a survey showed 23% of Americans claim no religious preference, which is not surprising seeing that the fastest growing churches in America are non-dominational "Christian" churches.

Keith Hunter

Allison...

continued from Page 5A

work! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the meal and the service was excellent! Thank you also to Lindsay Beth Harper for providing the wonderful music for everyone to enjoy. Scott Michael Anna, thank you for all your hard work photographing the event and attendees. We really appreciate it!

We appreciate so many being a part of making this event such a great success; Marcie Culpepper of M-Design and Larry Culpepper and Darren Harper for all their assistance. The Chamber Team, Board Members and Ambassadors; thank you for all that you do. We want to welcome our New Board Members: Belinda Anguelo, Chris Collins, Jason Karnes and Dr. Fred Rayfield. I also want to thank our entire Board for their service: Chris Wadle-Chair; Joseph Swanson-Immediate Past Chair; Steve Rowe-Treasurer; Tony Dyer-Secretary; Mayor Jim Conley; Marcie Culpepper; Doug Davenport; Dr. Renee Deibert, Mitch Griggs, Darren Harper, Kathryn Nelson, Commissioner Lamar Paris, and Rick Siefken. Thank you to our retiring Board Members for your years of service to the Chamber: Rita Gunter, Amy Harper, Chad Lariscy and Dr. Jeremy Williams. We will miss you. Thank you for your leadership and guidance and service to the Chamber and our community.

Congratulations to Mrs. Althea Cantrell-Woody Gap Star Teacher, Payton Elizabeth Gooch-Woody Gap Star Student, Mr. Mark Donahue-Union County High School Star Teacher and Madison Leigh Horinek-Union County Star Student. Mr. Donahue and Madison Horinek were also selected to receive the honor of being the System Winners from Union County. Congratulations to all of you! It was wonderful meeting you and your families. We wish you all the best!

Fowler ...

continued from Page 4A

now almost 150 years later, you could be influenced by that old woman by reading this. So Boreham's life illustrates his thought that "We are living in a world in which no person can do one thing without doing a million things." Life is a treasured gift. Invest it wisely.

Trussell ...

continued from Page 4A

and through February 22.

In 2017 the country will celebrate both Washington's 285th birthday and the 85th anniversary of the rebirth of the Purple Heart medal. We, the Sons of the American Revolution, salute and honor our first President, George Washington, for his lifelong service to our country. For more information about SAR, go to gassar.org and for our sister organization, DAR, go to dar.org. We welcome all eligible citizens to join our organizations. Readers needing info on local chapters my call me at 478-953-9320. May God continue to bless the United States of America.

John Trussell, PR Chairman, Georgia Society of Sons of the American Revolution, Warner Robins, GA 478-953-9320

Adams ...

continued from Page 4A

fans, the overtime should have continued until the Falcons won! Sayings it's just not fair, because we were supposed to win. Falcons fans did not need crying towels, safe rooms, aroma therapy and hot cocoa to deal with the outcome. The Falcon fans were extremely disappointed, but they licked their wounds, congratulated the Patriots put on their big boy pants and went back to work the next day. The Falcons team picked themselves up, dusted themselves off and vowed to train and play harder next time. Without winning the game, they showed the world that they were still winners. Democrats could learn a lesson, but I dare say they won't. In the 1860s we learned that a divided nation led to a civil war. Do we learn from history or will we repeat it?

John Q. Adams III

Beal ...

continued from Page 4A

to US law and policy. First, the Democrat-enacted Hart-Celler Act of 1965 dramatically increased the total inflow of legal immigrants, from 11% of US population growth between 1950 and 1960, to 39% of total growth between 1980 and 1990. Second, recent Administrations have thought it politically expedient to turn a blind eye to illegal immigration and overstayed visas.

"Extreme vetting" may be a short-term fix for the extreme risks inherent in our broken system, but our long-term policy must include a return to foundational concepts of admitting lesser numbers of immigrants, and only those who are willing and ready to assimilate.

Roger Beal

Dyer ...

continued from Page 4A

dential Emergency Declaration or Major Disaster Declaration. If approved, the community is now available to request Public and Individual Assistance to recover from the disaster.

Another aspect of the recovery phase is to evaluate the disaster and determine ways to prevent or mitigate the disaster. Prevention involves any way to keep such a disaster from happening again. Mitigation involves finding ways to reduce the impact of certain types of disasters.

Emergency Management is a community effort to prepare for; respond to; and recover from disasters and emergencies. It involves the entire community through staying informed; individual preparedness; local response; and working with private, state and federal assistance resources. Union County Emergency

Mixson ...

continued from Page 4A

right thing.

Oh, and a special note to the letter writers in the January 25 *North Georgia News*, especially the writer who is "certain" about all the political positions Jesus would take. The Bible contains little, if any, discussion by Jesus concerning most of the issues you listed. Jesus does, however, make clear through his teachings that we are indeed our brothers' keepers. I suppose these scriptures have been deleted from "baby Christian" Trump's Bible, which he undoubtedly keeps on his bedside table next to all the other books he doesn't read.

Mike Mixson

Management Agency is committed to work with the citizens of Union County to better prepare and respond to local

disasters.

~Union County Fire Department – Our Family Protecting Your Family~