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couple didn't say they were from Union County. They were upfront about being from Fannin County, Chief Carroll said. However, Chief Carroll said that the couple told the city that they just enjoyed Union County a lot.

The startling truth is that Union County isn't enamored with the KKK.

Also, another startling truth is that April Chambers said no one in her group told the Atlanta Journal and Constitution that they were from Blairsville. She believes that the newspaper that broke the story about the Adopt-A-Highway permit application apparently got that information off the Georgia Department of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway application filled out by the couple.

It listed an address of P.O. Box 253 Blairsville, Ga. The North Georgia News has learned that the State Office of the KKK has a post office box here and it just happens to be P.O. Box 253, Blairsville, GA.

Of course, the rest of the story is that the AJC put the story on the Associated Press Newswire. And now, the entire nation, heck, all over the world, judging by the number of news sites and TV stations carrying the story, believe that Blairsville, GA, county seat of Union County, is a hot bed for KKK activity.

You see, on first and second reference, almost all of the stories written about this listed Harley Hanson and April Chambers as being from Blairsville. They asked what he did for a living, he obviously told them he was an electrician. Did they ask him or her where they lived? April Chambers said they didn't.

April and Harley, I drove through Fannin County just last week. There is plenty of trash to be picked up from along the roads in Fannin County. If you're feeling civic-minded, that feeling should begin at home.

Your home is in Fannin County, home of the Rebels.

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of Union County or our citizens. This question was posed to me last Tuesday by a UCHS class reunion group.

Q. Can we apply for this section of highway in Union County on Hwy 515 to pick up the litter?

A. According to the GDOT press release dated June 12, that section is ineligible for adoption due to its posted speed limit exceeding the program maximum of 55 mph. But you can check with GDOT to see if there are other sections of 515 that are eligible. To find out about the State's program go to www.dot.state.ga.us and look under "Information Center".

Q. What is involved in choosing a section of a county road or state highway to Adopt a Mile on?

A. You are required to pick up the litter at least 4 times a year (hopefully more) and the County will provide the trash bags, gloves, and pay the fee to deposit the bags at the transfer station.

Q. Who do we contact at the County level to volunteer for the Adopt a Mile program?

A. You can contact my office at (706) 439-6000 for information. On county roads, we will install an "Adopt a Road" sign. (For the County we call the program Adopt a Road not to confuse it with the State's Adopt a Mile program.) We reserve the right to deny an application if it is not a group in good standing with a well established civic and community minded reputation. If an individual, we require that you live in the County at least

part-time. If we do not have evidence that you have picked up trash on your designated road the required amount of time, we reserve the right to remove you from the program.

Q. How many people are involved with the Adopt a Road program in Union County?

A. There are approximately 40 miles adopted and we want to thank all of our volunteers who work so hard making this a better place to live. We should all be proud of our County and try to educate those who litter to understand that littering hurts us all. Keeping our roads clean in our County is an economic development tool, as well as a pride issue.

I just had a visitor at the Highland Games last week compliment me on how clean and neat our County looked. It was a prideful moment. Part of the reason our county looks so good as you enter along Hwy 515 from the West is that our Road Dept. makes a special effort to mow part of Hwy 515 and pick up the litter along the highway leading into Union County on a regular basis, even though it is a state highway. The way our county looks can play a major role in attracting tourist, business and industry. So if you, or a family member or friend need a job or a better paying one, doing all you can to help keep our county beautiful by not littering, is an easy way to start the process.

Thanks again to all that care so much about Union County and help make it the very special place that it is.

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County to make others adapt to us, but to join in and be a part of the Union County that is. We have been openly welcomed by many life-long Union County residents who have worked hard to help us feel completely at home there.

Because of my background in county government (36 years), I felt it important to meet the Union County Commissioner to learn more about the county that we had become a part of. Having worked for Boards of Commissioners for most of my adult life in Peach County, Clarke County, and later Athens-Clarke County, I had concerns about how the sole commissioner form of government could work. My personal knowledge of working with multiple commissioners included periods of significant delays and conflict over a number of issues which I do not believe were always beneficial, and in some cases the conflict and delays were counter-productive. However, I still had a great deal of concern about having one single individual holding a position of such high authority. Therefore, I called the Commissioner's office, and Mr. Paris very graciously agreed to meet with my husband and myself one afternoon, and it was an extremely enlightening meeting. His knowledge and deep understanding of the issues surrounding county government were very impressive.

Even more apparent was his commitment and love for the county that he serves. His hard work to make Union County the best it can be is evidenced in the positive changes that have occurred during the years that we have been enjoying the beauty of Union County. I left that meeting knowing that the key to having a successful sole commissioner form of government was to have the right person holding that position, and I felt that Union County had gotten it right when they chose Lamar Paris to hold that position.

For those that are not aware, Commissioner Lamar Paris is a past-president of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, which is a very honored and prestigious appointment among County Commissioners. In speaking with my own Commissioners, I have learned how highly respected Mr. Paris is among his fellow commissioners and how he has honorably and positively represented Union County across the state. I am not personally a registered voter in Union County and will not be able to cast a vote in this election. However, I do have an opinion, and that opinion is that should Mr. Rich be elected to serve as Union County's Commissioner, he will have massive shoes to fill if he is as successful as Mr. Paris has been during his tenure as Commissioner. **Marcia Johnson**

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dressings room. Later I asked him why he had gone into the dressing room and he said he just wanted to see what was on the other side of the door.

My youngest son, Wade, came along and I noticed that he was the inquisitive one. He was always asking questions. One morning I was awakened at 3:00 AM by someone shaking my face. I thought something was wrong and jumped from the bed trying to figure out what do. I came to myself by looking into Wade's eyes. He grinned at me and asked, "Dad, why are green beans green"? I took a deep breath and thought to myself, "I'm a County Agent. I can answer this question". So, I carefully explained the process of photosynthesis to my 5 year old son. He carefully listened to all I had to say and when I had finished he said, "Okay" and went back to bed.

The next fall my boys and I went camping with some friends. We camped out at Little Rock Creek within a short distance of a waterfall. Wade has always loved waterfalls. I explained to him about the importance of avoiding slick rocks watching where he walked. I told the boys to stay away from the waterfall until I finished unloading the truck. As I was setting up our tent I heard a scream and ran to the waterfall. Not only had Wade been at the waterfall he was in the creek above the waterfall

and was swept over the ledge. The waterfall was only few feet high, but, Wade was only a few feet tall. He was soaking wet but unharmed. As I was drying him off I looked into his big brown eyes and thanked the Lord for his safety.

This past weekend Wade and I went rafting on Section IV of the Chattooga River. Our first white water was a waterfall called Seven Foot Falls. As we went over the falls the raft tipped and guess who went out of the raft. As I came back to the surface of the river my head hit the bottom of the raft. I worked my way from underneath the raft and looked up to notice a big rock fast approaching. I turned to pull myself into the raft and there extending his arm was my youngest son. I noticed the same grin and the same look in those big brown eyes I had noticed nearly 20 years ago as I had dried him off after he was washed over the waterfall.

The Farmers Market is in full swing. We should have sweet corn and green beans at the Farmers Market on Saturday. But, also remember the Tuesday evening Farmers Market from 3 PM until 7 PM. Finally, please make your plans to attend the Grand Opening of the Union County Farmers Market on June 30th.

Leone

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The Union County Farmers Market is open every Tuesday from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Trash and Treasures is every Friday from 8 a.m - 1 p.m.

For more details about the Market visit us online at www.UCFarmersMarket.com.

HRWC

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refer to the lake(s), stream(s) or river(s) near their home as "our" lake/stream/river when first having visitors. Have you seen our lake or check out 'our lake' is something I often say when my wife and I have visitors/company that's new to the area. I've asked this question to many people all of which admit that they do in fact refer to the Lake as 'our Lake' and the stream and rivers as theirs as well.

In order to improve the quality, and maintain the availability, of water in our watershed a great deal of work is needed to fix existing environmental problems due to erosion, storm water runoff, faulty sewage systems, and pollution caused by overuse of chemicals. These solutions require money. HRWC has spent over 6 million dollars in the past. Most of this money benefits the local economy as the people, equipment, and materials used are mostly available from local sources. The projections for the future projects needed will continue to require millions of dollars. If this money is not available to HRWC I believe that many of these projects will eventually require local government resources and the money needed will undoubtedly come from taxes.

In my opinion, it's a pay now or pay later situation, the pay me later option of higher taxes has often proven that what goes up doesn't always come down!

If everyone in our watershed would join our organization or just send a tax deductible contribution they will be able to continue the work needed. Tax deductible contributions may be made by calling the HRWC office at 828-837-5414 or going on-line @ www.hrwc.net.

Dave Hering


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Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



June 15th
in memory of
Paula Paris Johnson
by Ginger & Terry Meeks

June 19th
in memory of
Bill Meeks
by Ginger & Terry Meeks

Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493

Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com

Wednesday, June 20

2pm Ribbon Cutting for RE/MAX Around The Mtns Enotah/REMAX Highlands
2pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane

Thursday, June 21

12pm Rotary Club of Union County - St. Francis of Assisi Church
6:30pm Shape Note Singing - Old Union County Courthouse on the Square
6pm All You Can Eat Lobster! - The Lodge at Copperhead - 706-835-7433

Friday, June 22

8am Union County Farmers Market - Trash To Treasure Sale
3pm Ribbon Cutting for Dr. Floyd M. Beil, Chiropractor
7pm Friday Night Concert, Alex Thomlinson - Historic Union County Court House
7pm You can be the Star Karaoke - Lodge at Copperhead

Saturday, June 23

7am Union County Farmer's Market
8am Union County Republican Meeting - The Lodge at Copperhead
4pm Cruise - In On The Square - Downtown Blairsville

Monday, June 25

9am Garden tour - GA Mt. Research & Education Center
11am Summer Reading Program - Union County Public Library
12pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting - Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
6pm Free Texas Hold'em Tournament - Lodge at Copperhead
6pm Nutrition Class & Weight Loss Challenge - Monday Evening Challenge - Beil Chiropractic Clinic

Tuesday, June 26

8am Tri-State Business Women's weekly meeting - Cooks Restaurant
3pm Community Massage Clinic - Paradise Hills, Resort & Spa

Wednesday, June 27

11:30am Ribbon Cutting for Celebrating Home - Shelia Crawford - U.C. Community Center