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few if any rural counties can compare to Union County for the quality of life, the services and facilities available to everyone, excellent public safety personnel and equipment, and outdoor recreation opportunities offered here. We want this to continue.

### Q. How are property tax exemptions given?

A. They are usually introduced as local legislation through the Legislature which has to figure out what options to use. Then the general public has to vote on the exemption in an election, usually in November of a given year, and any changes would take place the

following year.

### Q. Why would changing the property tax system be an issue now when it has never been an issue in the history of Union County?

A. Normally, political pressure of some type is applied or political favor can also be sought. Sometimes it may just be because someone wants to help a certain group because they think they see a need. I do not disagree with being sympathetic for those in need, but once you start the tax exemption process, you never know where it will end and who will be left out and most of all, who will determine what is fair.

## Cummings...continued from Page 4A

across an African American who had been wounded. The man could not walk so he lifted the man onto his shoulder and carried him back to the American lines, 400 yards away. As he and the man came to the American line they had to go up a steep but short hill. So, D. T. lifted and pushed the man over the hump and into the fox hole. As he pulled himself over the hump D. T. was shot and fatally wounded. Uncle Dan and Aunt Rosie's son gave his life so another man could live. But, that is not the end of the story.

After the war was over

an African American man came to Phil Campbell, AL to visit Uncle Dan and Aunt Rosie. It must've been sometime around 1955. This was the man which D. T. had carried to safety during the battle in which he died. This African American man ate supper with Uncle Dan and Aunt Rosie. After which they sat around the fire and cried. Then they all laughed at the stories Uncle Dan told about D. T. Like a family the three people came together to grieve and celebrate the life of D. T. Hyde. And they didn't care about the color of their skin.

## Williams... continued from Page 4A

and delicious meals prepared with the freshest ingredients while supporting local farmers. If you have not experienced their menu, I encourage you to taste the difference! Even the décor in the restaurant has been altered to feature photos of local farmers, a new farm house line of tableware, and new fixtures and equipment that enhance the customer's experience of this local treasure.

The Sawmill Place has established a core value to exist as a family-oriented, faith-led business. This is evidenced most by their loyal staff, over 80% of whom have been with them for over 8 years! For those who frequent the restaurant, you feel like part of the family upon entering as you're always greeted by name. For those who are experiencing it for the first time, a warm smile and friendly faces are always welcoming and eager to serve you.

Giving back to the local community is also part of the belief and practices of The Sawmill. As an organization, they have supported a broad area of educational programs including Special Olympics, Early Education Learning Lab, and Union County Schools'

sports, band and teachers. They have worked closely with Family Connections to meet individual needs of parents including a recent donation of a new washing machine for a local family.

Their slogan, "A Gathering Place for Locals, a Destination for Travelers," sums up the atmosphere at The Sawmill. Their friendly service and outstanding food quality has gained them recognition in numerous local, regional, and statewide publications. These efforts have helped to further expand the reach of our tourism marketing efforts.

Congratulations to the team at The Sawmill Place and thank you for the positive impact you are making on Blairsville-Union County! The restaurant is located at 1150 Pat Haralson Memorial Drive in Blairsville and is open for breakfast and lunch. They are also taking reservations for a special Valentine's Day dinner. Those interested can call 706-745-1250 for information and to make reservations. If you would like to nominate someone to be our next Business of the Quarter, please contact the Chamber at 706-745-5789.

## Allen... continued from Page 4A

A little gun history: In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun control. From 1929 to 1953, about 20 million dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

In 1911, Turkey established gun control. From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Germany established gun control in 1938 and from 1939 to 1945, a total of 13 million Jews and others who were unable to defend themselves were rounded up and exterminated. China established gun control in 1935. From 1948 to 1952, 20 million political dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Guatemala established gun control in 1964, from 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Uganda established gun control in 1970, from 1971 to 1979, 300,000 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated. Cambodia established gun control in 1956, from 1975 to 1977, one million educated

people, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Defenseless people rounded up and exterminated in the 20th Century because of gun control: 56 million. You won't see these data on the US evening news, or hear politicians disseminating this information. Guns in the hands of honest citizens save lives and property and, yes, gun-control laws adversely affect only the law-abiding citizens. Take note my fellow Americans, before it's too late! The next time someone talks in favor of gun control, please remind them of this History lesson. With guns, we are 'citizens'. Without them, we are 'subjects'.

During WWII the Japanese decided not to invade America because they knew most Americans were armed! If you value your freedom, please spread this anti gun control message to all of your friends. The purpose of fighting is to win. There is no possible victory in defense. The sword is more important than the shield, and skill is more important than either. The final weapon is the brain. All else is supplemental.

**Don Allen**

## Leone... continued from Page 4A

these like goods, I discovered that I had a small arsenal of human cleansing products. Actually, there were 18 bottles of hand soap, alone. From Mango-Pineapple sparkle gel to foaming stress relief Eucalyptus-Spearmint. I could wash my hands continuously for the next 15 years and never run out of soap. My favorite is the one I had out through the holiday season. When you pump it just once, the dispenser plays a few notes of a Christmas song. The soap is scented just like a chocolate mint candy. What's not to love about this soap?

I was also storing six bars of unused soap, including one from Croatia and another from The Blackhills, travel souvenirs from friends who just wanted to let me know they were thinking about me when they toured halfway across the world. I don't use bar soap much. It has more to do with a line that was delivered between Joey and Chandler on the show "Friends", years ago. The two roommates were having a disagreement because Joey had used Chandler's toothbrush. It went something like this.

Joey: Hey, why can't we use the same toothbrush, but we can use the same soap?

Chandler: Because soap is soap. It's self-cleaning.

Joey: Alright, well next time you take a shower, think about the last thing I wash and the first thing you wash.

You see where I'm coming from? With this in mind, I usually use shower gel. I have different scents for different moods. But since I'm not really a "moody" kind of per-

son, I could get by with just one scent. I am now storing eight bottles of this stuff with fabricated bouquets from Pink Grapefruit to Lavender Spice. And I'm going to bare my "sole" here and share with you that I don't wash my feet in the shower.

There. I said it. I shower every day and the soap all runs down through my toes. Then three days a week I spend an hour in the Wellness Center pool, feet immersed in H2O that has been chemically balanced. I never walk barefoot, unless I'm in sand at the beach, and I rarely wear sandals. So why take a chance on falling over while trying to soap up my soles in the shower?

So, I'm calling a moratorium on all gifts of a sudsy kind. Let's add to that body lotions and also mugs, wine glasses, coffee thermos and night socks. Now I know how my grandmothers felt every year when they opened the talcum powder with the pretty pink puff. Enough, already. Just give me your love. A gift of a little extra time. Share with me a joke and let me hear your laughter. Read me your favorite quote and let's discuss what it means to you. Give me a mirror that reflects a little of your soul, and stop worrying about the cleansing of my soles.

Great news. The dates have been set for our pre-season events at the Farmers Market. Be the first to know that the Ramp Festival will be held Saturday, May 9th and Strawberry Jubilee will be celebrated on May 23rd. Mark your calendars!

## Mitchell ... continued from Page 4A

Impressionists are no longer safe for white Christians.

The day might come when Sacre' Coeur might hear the Islamic Call to Prayer resonating from its towers and domes. That's what happened to Hagia Sophia.

The yelping of the "politically-correct," "tolerant," Humanist, anti-Christian, "diversity"- hungry curs grows louder with every passing week to reduce, limit, curtail and, perhaps, to eventually eliminate Christianity from the United States.

Perhaps such as they favor Sharia Law and all that it implies, entails and involves — from massacres to beheadings to the beating and stoning of nonconformist women and children to the censoring of

anti-Islam publications, shows, plays and broadcasts.

I have to wonder: Is the Progressive strangling of the Judeo-Christian Ethic in America what you Progressives / Liberals / Democrats at the AJC seek?

**George Mitchell**

## Fowler... continued from Page 4A

for those who persecute us, then a kind act, generous gift, encouraging word shouldn't be too hard to muster. It lights the world when a Jesus-affected life displays the love of God to the human condition.

We say we want to be like Christ. Well, consider that his ministry was incarnational, (he touched people personally), and sacrificial (it cost him). Missional living can be no less, can it?

## Combs... continued from Page 4A

ous over all things happening. Trusting in the sovereignty of a Holy and Pure God will bring us the peace and yes even the joy we need to face life's ups and downs. God never said life would be easy, but when He sent His Son Jesus to us, Jesus said I have come that you might have life and life more abundantly, so it's a choice we all must make each day to live for Christ and to reach as many folks as possible with the good news of salvation, only found through the words of Jesus Christ in the book of John 14:6- Jesus is speaking: I am the way, the truth and the life, No one comes to the Father (in heaven) except by me.


Put your faith and hope in God and live the abundant life He promised you.

**Frank F. Combs**

# UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

|                        |  |              |
|------------------------|--|--------------|
| Children's Story Time  | <b>Every Monday:</b>                   | 11 am        |
| Kiwanis Club           | Union County Library                   | 11 am        |
| Civil Air Patrol       | Steve's Steakhouse                     | Noon         |
| Boy Scouts #101        | Blairsville Airport                    | 6 pm         |
|                        | United Methodist Ch                    | 7 pm         |
|                        | <b>Every Tuesday:</b>                  |              |
| Get Fit                | First UMC                              | 5:15 pm      |
| Smoky Mtn. Melodies    | United Methodist Ch                    | 6:30 pm      |
| Hi Country Harmonizers | Branan Lodge                           | 6:30 pm      |
|                        | <b>Every Thursday:</b>                 |              |
| Masonic Luncheon       | Cooks Restaurant                       | 11:30 am     |
| Rotary Club            | Cadence Bank                           | Noon         |
| Get Fit                | First UMC                              | 5:15 pm      |
|                        | <b>Fourth Tuesday of each month:</b>   |              |
| Compassionate Friends  | Grinds & Glazes                        | Noon         |
| Misty Mtn Quilt Guild  | Blairsville UMC                        | 12:30 pm     |
| Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer   | Sr. Citizens Center                    | 1:30-3:30 pm |
| VFW Post #7394         | Veterans Center                        | 6:30 pm      |
| UC Tea Party Patriots  | Shawdownland Tabernacle                | 7 pm         |
| Eastern Star #304      | Location not listed                    | 7:30 pm      |
|                        | <b>Fourth Wednesday of each month:</b> |              |
| No activities listed   |  |              |
|                        | <b>Fourth Thursday of each month:</b>  |              |
| Lions Club             | Steve's Cookie Jar                     | 6 pm         |
| Cruisers Club Meeting  | Sr. Center pavilion                    | 6 pm         |
| UT Homebuilders        | YH College                             | 7 pm         |
|                        | <b>Fourth Friday of each month</b>     |              |
| Eastern Star #471      | Location not listed                    | 7:30 pm      |
|                        | <b>Fourth Saturday of each month:</b>  |              |
| Youngcane Lodge #597   | Lodge Hall                             | 7:30 pm      |

**Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse**



**January 21st in memory of Dolly C. Meeks Anniversary by Ginger & Terry Meeks**

**Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493**