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**Q. Are there any Health Department "rules" that apply to non-service dogs/pets in places that serve/sell food?**

A. Yes. In the State of Georgia, you cannot have any type of pet, service dog or emotional support dog in any public or permitted venue area where food is being prepared. It is strictly against the law and prohibited. You can call the Union County Health Department or any other law enforcement agency to report this abuse, because it could negatively impact the public health. Remember, this is only the food preparation area, not the seating area. It is up to the restaurant whether to allow pets in the dining area, except for "service dogs" that are allowed in all areas except the food preparation area.

**Q. I have seen little and big fluffy dogs in Home Depot and other stores including grocery stores and Walmart in the shopping carts. In my mind, this is a public health issue. Several of my friends find it alarming that pets are allowed in grocery stores and restaurants that are obviously not "service dogs." What are the regulations?**

A. Most of this has been covered in the above answers. However, in researching for this column, it is up to the food service store or grocery store to decide if they will or will not allow pets in their facility. Walmart has a grocery store within their regular store, and it should be obvious that if you have your dog in a shopping cart, whether in an enclosure or not, the germs that could be passed along from the pet to the basket in the shopping cart, and subsequently passed along to the next user of the shopping cart, could be a serious problem.

**Q. What can we do if we do not feel the way a store is handling its pet issue is sanitary?**

A. It is a personal decision for you as a shopper. The obvious answer is to contact the store operator if you see what you think is abuse. In the case of Walmart, you would need to contact their corporate offices since those decisions related to pets in the stores come from above.

**Q. Are their any regulations for non-food stores regarding pet access to their stores.**

A. No, it is strictly up to the store owner or operator.

## Chamber... continued from Page 4A

on Wednesday, Sept. 19, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$12 and includes lunch, which is a fajita bar with chicken or ground beef, all the condiments, chips, rice, refried beans and a drink. Members wanting to attend but who have not registered should call the chamber at 706-745-5789 to make certain there is still availability.

**Family Hike Day:** Please join the Blairsville Appalachian Trail Community for a Family Hike Day in celebration of National Public Lands Day. Family Hike Day will be on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Byron Herbert Reece Farm. Admission is free!

The hike will be from the new Reece Farm/Vogel Connector Trail and back. The BHR trail is about 1.45 miles one way, so round trip will be about three miles. If you include a stroll around the lake in the middle, it would be a bit longer. After the hike, the Reece Farm will be open to explore their great exhibits. This year, they are also going to have live animals on site!

**Corner Concert:** Also on Sept. 29, the Downtown Development Authority will be having an event called a Corner Concert from 7 p.m. through 10 p.m., featuring the Blues/Classic Rock trio Vintage Axis. Admission for the concert is free, and it will be located on the square in Downtown Blairsville.

Power Lunch: Be sure

to mark your calendar for the Annual Chamber Power Lunch on Oct. 3. This year's lunch will be held in the ballroom of the Union County Community Center from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are excited to have Barry White as our speaker for this informative event. Mr. White spent over 30 years in the Marketing Department at Chick-fil-A and helped start the licensing program with colleges and universities. This is sure to be an afternoon well spent! Admission for Chamber members is \$20, while general admission is \$35. Please call the chamber at 706-745-5789 to secure your seat today!

**Run Above the Clouds:** Grab your running shoes and head for Suches on Oct. 6 to participate in this annual event that awards scholarships to graduates and alumni from the Woody Gap School in Suches. Runners can choose to participate in either a 10K or a 5K race through beautiful mountain scenery, and they may even spot a curious bear or two.

For those wanting an easier pace, there is a one-mile Fun Run and Dog Jog over primarily flat land; baby strollers and well-behaved dogs are welcome! This event also kicks off the start of the Indian Summer Festival, which features local artisans and crafters. For more information or to register, please visit [www.runabovetheclouds.org](http://www.runabovetheclouds.org), or call the event organizer, Jim Miner, at 678-617-2934.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Lon Cummings and Clifford Hyde. Then her Daddy asked Paul which daughter did he wish to take on a date. Dad smiled and said, "Shirley." Bill told the young suitor it would be fine if he promised to be home by 10. The young man added a little more to the conversation by asking the man if he knew Rod. Pawpaw never said a whole lot, but he nodded his head yes, to which the young man replied, "I think Rod wants to date your daughter as well, but he has a bad reputation. That old boy took a girl out the other night and made her walk home because she would not give him a kiss." The older man told my Dad, "Thanks for the information, and if that boy comes by here, me and him will have ourselves a little talk."

Those two young people did go out to the Roxie, and not long after, my Dad was invited to a family dinner with the Baker family, which were the grandparents of Shirley. The young couple walked into the home of Dad and Mommy Baker. Mommy greeted her granddaughter's boyfriend with a smile. She then told her granddaughter to fetch some eggs

from the henhouse.

After she left, Mommy Baker seated Paul and began to ask him some questions. First, she wanted to know if he was a "heathern," to which he replied, "No, ma'am, I am a Cummings." The kindly old lady smiled and asked where he went to church. He told her that his family went to Union Hill Church. She asked him about his salvation and had he been baptized? This was all very confusing to the young man, though it made him think about his spiritual awareness and would change his life in years to come. But at the time, Mommy Baker was satisfied with his answers, and a couple of years later, the couple was married. She told my parents years later that she had prayed that her granddaughter would marry a Baptist Preacher. My great grandmother had a profound effect upon my family through her prayers. Oh, and one other bit of information: Old Rod lost that bet and his \$10. He also lost his job as point guard and shortstop.

## Schilling... continued from Page 4A

true word of god, which might lead you to believe that its messages would be pretty straightforward. I assume god can write fairly clearly, and yet drive down any road, even in Union County, where every half mile you encounter another of a multitude of different denomina-

## Fowler...

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"Those who make them will be like them." (Psa. 135:1-18). Worship changes you, and everyone worships something or someone. Joshua sounds the clarion call of the ages. "Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve!" (Josh. 24:15).

St. Augustine famously said, "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You." He who is revealed as one God in three Persons has formed you for Himself. As you worship Him with your life, He molds you into the image of the Son, fills you with His Spirit. Find your rest as you worship God alone.

## Dyer...

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turn off the electricity to the home.

These are a few ideas on how to better prepare for emergencies by learning a life-saving skill. Visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) or follow our Facebook page for more information.

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

## Harwood...

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Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) helps to advance the mission of The American Legion. With nearly three-quarters of a million members, it is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization and one of the nation's most prominent supporters of veterans, military, and their families. ALA members volunteer millions of hours annually, with a value averaging \$2 billion each year. From helping to draft the GI Bill in 1944 to advocating for veterans on Capitol Hill, The American Legion Family has been instrumental in advancing legislation that improves the quality of life for our nation's veterans. To learn more and get involved, visit [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) or our local website [www.legionpost121.org](http://www.legionpost121.org).

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## Celebrate the Harvest art show

Celebrate the Harvest, an indoor Arts&Crafts Show, will be held on September 22 from 9-4 and September 23 from 11-4 at the North Georgia Technical College Blairsville. Regional and local artisans will be showcasing their handcrafted items which will include soap, jewelry, rustic signs, candles, fall decor, dog treats, and more. Admission is free, and this will be a great opportunity to start your holiday shopping.

## Class of '60 annual picnic

Class of '60 and friends will have the annual picnic at Meeks Park, Pavilion #1 on Saturday, September 22nd, the 4th Saturday, at 12 noon. Barbecue by Jim's Smokin' Q. Please bring a side or dessert. 706-745-5057.

## Williams... continued from Page 4A

around their leaves. All leaves have a thin coating of wax that is used to protect them from drying out.

On evergreen trees, the wax coating is thicker and can protect the leaves through the winter. Evergreens will still lose leaves, but they don't lose them all at one time. They'll completely replace all of their leaves over a period of two to four years.

If you have agricultural questions, please contact your local county Extension Office.

You can also send me an email at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu). Enjoy the leaves this fall!

Towns & Union County Extension are having a Master Gardeners training course that will begin Jan. 29.

This is a 10-week course that will teach about horticultural practices and includes volunteer opportunities.

The cost is \$175.

Contact your local Extension office for more information or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

difficult. If an employee is causing problems in the workplace, other workers could potentially file charges of a hostile work environment, or they might quit. If the problem employee angers or, even worse, injures a coworker, customer, or client, the business owner or manager will have to deal with the fallout.

Employers have an absolute obligation to provide a workplace that is safe for other employees, customers, and clients, and to provide a workplace that is not a hostile working environment. But even if there are no injuries or ill will caused by a substance abuser, when an employee is not producing as expected, company profits suffer.

Employers have a right to require performance at an acceptable level, and workers can of course be fired for not doing their job. If a supervisor can show that a terminated employee was insubordinate, violated a work rule, was excessively absent, disobeyed a reasonable order, or engaged in any number of behaviors which indicate that the employee was willfully disregarding the employer's interest, most terminations under these circumstances would be upheld. However, if a positive drug test is added to the reasons for termination, then the employer's position is

even stronger. Obviously, drug use is a violation of the company substance abuse policy and constitutes willful misconduct.

But what about a case in which the employee has been a good worker and has received excellent performance reviews in the past, and has only recently become a "problem employee" due to substance abuse or other issues? If the supervisor can show that work performance deteriorated (regardless of how quickly the deterioration occurred) as evidenced by well-documented verbal and written warnings, the company should be protected in its actions.

For a drug test to be justified, reasonable suspicion checklists and procedures should be documented to show that the employee: engaged in unacceptable work performance and/or had not been working to the best of his or her ability; was indifferent to whether or not he or she performed his/her job well and in a consistently safe manner; and showed intentional disregard to his/her obligations and duties under company policies. Preferably, any reasonable suspicion documentation would include counseling the employee on the violation(s) that led up to the drug test before the test was performed.