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tennae/cell service suppliers in order to limit the total number of towers located throughout the county and thereby limiting the viewshed impact. Prior to this ordinance, the standard tower built by contractors was 250 feet in height and was built with a latticework still frame, making a much greater visual impact than the monopole towers now in use. Because the tower was taller than 200 feet, the FAA required that strobe lights had to be installed in the daytime and red blinking lights at night. This was definitely a negative visual impact.

Q. What are some of the requirements for cell towers?

A. All telecommunications facilities must meet or exceed current standards and regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and any other agency of the state or federal government with the authority to regulate telecommunications facilities. All towers must be equipped with an appropriate anti-climbing device or other similar protective device, to prevent unauthorized access to the tower. Illumination is not permitted on cell towers, unless required by the FCC, FAA or other state or federal agency or unless such illumination is necessary for air traffic safety. Advertising is not permitted on cell towers.

Q. Are there requirements related to the viewshed and landscaping?

A. Towers must maintain a galvanized steel finish or be painted to match the existing surroundings so as to reduce visual obtrusiveness. Equipment shelters or cabinets must be screened from public view by using landscaping or materials and colors consistent with the surrounding backdrop. Towers disguised as a tree are also acceptable, although a little strange sometimes.

Q. Must surrounding property owners be notified that a cell tower is going up?

A. The applicant for the tower must notify all such property owners by registered

mail 30 days prior to the public hearing of the intent to erect a tower and must supply the county with proof of such mailing. The applicant must place a sign facing the nearest street or road indicating that an application for the placement of a tower on the site has been filed with the county. The sign must be readable from the street or road. The applicant must also publish a notice in the county legal organ of the intent to construct a tower and give the address of the proposed site. This notice must appear four consecutive times in the newspaper prior to the public hearing to approve or deny the application.

Q. How many cell towers are in Union County?

A. There are 12 cell towers in Union County with two of the towers being the "pine tree" looking towers, four being the latticework towers installed prior to our ordinance, and the remainder being monopoles.

Similar to billboards, when I took office, without any regulations for billboards or cell towers, the companies were taking advantage of the county. Another example of the problem with no regulations is when you cross Young Harris Mountain there are two cell towers adjacent to each other on top of the mountain. Both are 250 feet latticework towers, both require lighting, and it was cheaper for the two companies to each build their own tower than to have to negotiate with the other company, so all the equipment could be consolidated on one tower. Our ordinance requires co-location and it was a long hard process, but with the help of the committee and many public hearings and meetings, an exceptional ordinance was enacted that others have emulated in part of their ordinances in several counties throughout the state. I am very proud of this ordinance and the billboard ordinance, both of which still allow commerce, protect property rights, but also help protect the very beauty that people move here to enjoy.

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"squeaky cheese." Reindeer milk is among the most rich and nutritious of milks, at 22 percent butterfat and 10 percent protein; however a reindeer can only be milked for about 1.5 cups per day.

The most expensive cheese in the world is Pule cheese, valued at \$600 a pound back in 2013. It is made from the milk of Balkan donkeys in Siberia. It is so expensive because of its rarity: there are only about 100 jennies in the landrace of Balkan donkeys that are milked for pule-making, each jenny must be hand-milked thrice daily, it takes 6 gallons of milk to create 2 pounds of cheese.

It is on my bucket list to one day (or preferably a week) attend a cheese making seminar, ideally in a foreign land, on a farm, where I've had the opportunity to pet the ears of the animal or milked it for the milk we use as our base. Maybe in Ireland. Yes, the Emerald Isle is a very prolific cheese producing country. There are 59 different types of

cheeses produced in Ireland that just begin with the letters A, B or C. I found a course to learn how to make a semi-hard cheese in Cork at the Ballymaloe Cookery School Dairy. I can even come back to Ireland after three months to collect the cheese I made.

It has been my wish for the past 5 years to see a regional cheese maker sell their product at the Union County Farmers Market. If you read Mickey Cummings column this week, you'll get details on how to become a vendor for the upcoming season. You can also visit our website at UCFarmersMarket.com for details.

As a final note, I wanted to share with you that I did look into traveling to Siberia to make Pule cheese. Flights out of Atlanta are only \$1,800 round trip to Uruktsk, Russia, with a flight time of 27 hours. I'm still tossing around the idea, though milking a donkey three times a day might be more than I bargained for at this stage of my life.

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media coverage; although, one can use one's imagination, of course.

The Walmart "greeter's" supporters made much to-do about his Constitutional right to free speech; and, as could be expected, Walmart caved in. However, if "free speech" is the real issue here (not religion), as the public is meant to believe, then I offer the following "suppose:" Suppose the "greeter" was a Muslim instead of a fundamentalist Protestant. Would his "Have a blessed day" be equally acceptable to Walmart customers? And, would the public be equally supportive of his right to "free speech?" I choose to think not.

In the extensive media coverage of this incident, I was surprised that no one ventured to question the actual value of Walmart's "greeters" - apart from my religious issue. If "greeters" are seen as a customer relations asset, why don't other retail establishments employ them? Personally - and I speak only for myself - I find them to be a momentary distraction, an interruption to my train of thought, polite though they may be.

And, there is a more practical point to consider. Walmart shoppers should not forget that "greeters" naturally receive a salary; and, this expense is factored into the price of everything that you buy at Walmart.

I find myself wondering how many of those Walmart customers wished "Have a blessed day" actually ended up having a pretty lousy one.

Williams ...

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tainment.

- Take a donut, lunch, or coffee break - Made from scratch donuts and pastries, farm to table menu selections, and the best coffee in the mountains can be found right here! Call the Chamber and we will be happy to make suggestions.

- Get a massage - Relax your cares away at one of our great spas!

- Sip Wine or Craft Beer - Visit the tasting room at our local craft beer shop or one of our two local wineries.

- Shop 'til You Drop -

Discover quaint shops on the 22 mile Artisan Corridor full of arts and craft shops, galleries, and boutiques.

It's fun to be a tourist in your own hometown. Get out and enjoy the fresh air and all that winter in the mountains has to offer. For more ideas or winter activities stop by the Chamber offices at 129 Union County Recreation Road, call (706) 745-5789, or go to www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com.

Elder ... continued from Page 4A

added to the oil to make it thin enough, plus it must be kept hot. The Koch brothers have a lot of money invested in this project and had pressured their employees in Congress to pass this bill. The President wisely vetoed it! Had the pipeline become reality and a rupture occurred, which it certainly would have, the results would be beyond comprehension. However, there is a fund for spills and \$.08 of every barrel of oil pumped through a pipeline is set aside for this fund... but this type oil doesn't qualify as oil so the \$.08 isn't required. Go figure!

Luther Elder

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

and responded that her husband asked that she come to the bank and get some money. Obadiah asked, "What is your name?" The lady responded, "Jesse James."

All the color left the face of Obadiah Allman and he looked toward the vault and realized the door was standing wide open. Allman grabbed his chest like he was having a pain and ran toward the vault door. He grabbed the door from inside the vault and pulled the door closed locking himself inside. The tellers sent for a locksmith and two and a half hours later the door was unlocked. Obadiah Allman nearly suffocated just because of his reaction to the name of Jesse James.

Soon it will be time for vendors to RSVP for the 2015 Farmers Market Season. If you sell produce, nursery plants, or any other agricultural products and wish to RSVP for 2015 you can sign up at the Farmers Market Office beginning on March 9 until March 13. Someone will be at the Farmers Market Office from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. each day during that week. If you were a monogricultural vendor last year and wish to RSVP for 2015 you may register for a reserved spot at the Farmers Market from March 16 until March 20 from

9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Market Office.

If you wish to reserve a spot for the 2015 year and have never been a reserved vendor before you may come to the Market Office from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. March 23 through March 27 or until our RSVP Spaces are depleted. So, if we run out of spaces on Monday those names received afterward will be placed on a waiting list. The cost to reserve a spot for the 2015 year is \$209 and the registration form can be found on our website at UCFarmersMarket.com or you can email us at Farmersmarket@uniongov.com.

Fowler ...

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Trust cannot demand that God be your fixer, but it does accept that He is near and personal. He may not move the mountain but will walk with you over it. Seeking God and pondering the treasures in his Word leave little room for worry.

Don't be that jokester that says, "Worrying must work for me! Most of the things I worry about never happen!" But stuff happens, so don't make yourself sick worrying about it.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Children's Story Time	Every Monday:	
Kiwanis Club	Union County Library	11 am
Civil Air Patrol	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Boy Scouts #101	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
	Every Tuesday:	
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
	Every Thursday:	
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	Cadence Bank	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
	Second Monday of each month:	
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Hayesville	10 am-3 pm
Blairsville PTO Mtg	UC Middle School	6:30 pm
Disabled Am Veterans	Veterans Center	7 pm (Jan-Oct)
	Second Tuesday of each month:	
FPL Retirees	Hole in Wall Rest.	9 am
Historical Society Bd.	Old Courthouse	9:30 am
Mtn Laurel Arts/Crafts	Union County Library	10 am
Active/Retired Fed Emp.	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer	Sr. Citizens Center	1:30-3:30 pm
Mountain Coin Club	N. GA College-Blv.	6 pm
Blue Ridge Mtn Jeepers	Steve's Steakhouse	6:30 pm
Beta Sigma Phi	Kappa Alpha Chapter	7 pm
Mtn. Reg. Arts/Crafts	Library - Young Harris	7 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
Band Boosters	UC Middle School	7:30 pm
	(Aug through May, except Dec)	
	Second Wednesday of each month:	
GA Mtn Writers Club	Cadence Bank	10 am
UC Interagency Grp.	UC Civic Center	Noon
Parkinson's Sup. Grp.	Cadence Bank	3 pm
	Second Thursday of each month:	
UC Interagency Grp.	Civic Cntr. Conf. Rm.	12 noon
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Appalachian Shriners	Allegheny Lodge	6:30 pm
Democratic Party	UC Senior Center	6:30 pm
Trout Unlimited	Cadence Bank	6:30 pm
Sons Confederate Vet.	UCB Community Rm	7 pm
Knights of Columbus	Marian Hall	7:30 pm
	Second Friday of each month:	
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
	Second Saturday of each month:	
His Victory Riders	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am