

Paris... continued from Page 4A

Q. We see a lot of dirt being hauled in across Highway 515 from Wendy's. Is this something the county is doing in preparing for the new road into the Farmers Market?

A. The answer is "kinda", but not exactly. As part of our negotiations on gaining road access from the Jenkins Family at the red light, the county and the Jenkins Family exchanged a couple of small parcels. The exchange made it possible for them to have some additional property that would help give them a good commercial parcel. At the same time the county received the parcel in the middle of our property plus property for access at the red light. It was a good deal for us both. The dirt is being moved to increase the elevation of the lot.

Q. Will there be a lot of dirt hauled onto the Jenkins property?

A. Yes, there will be probably close to 2000 truckloads. The entire sight will be elevated up much closer to the level of the highway.

Q. Will this construction project by the Jenkins family of filling in their property assist the county in any way?

A. Yes, it will. The Jenkins family is allowing the county to utilize their construction entrance off of Highway 515. This lets us begin the filling process out near the red-light at the intersection of the Glenn Gooch By-Pass. Then once the area is filled, we will be working with GDOT to help us tie this new access road into Highway 515 and the intersection.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

the PEFC general membership. ATFS received its positive vote for endorsement from the PEFC membership on August 8, 2008.

Affiliation with PEFC benefits certified Tree Farmers by opening doors to certified wood and forest benefits markets.

Certified Tree Farmers meet the following criteria: Own 10 acres or more; Manage the property under a written management plan that accounts for water quality, wildlife habitat, soil conservation as well as forest product production; Protect the land from fire, insects, disease and destructive grazing.

The Five Steps to Certification. You are a good steward with 10-10,000 acres of woodlands. You care about your woods and manage for the long term health of your land.

You contact us to request more information to see if you meet the ATFS eligibility criteria (between 10 and 10,000 acres and have a plan that meets our standards). All Certified Family Forest owners have a management plan that addresses air, water, soil quality, wildlife, special sites, invasive species and integrated pest management as described in the ATFS Standards of Sustainability.

Request a property inspection with one of our ATFS trained inspecting foresters. Normally this is done through the State Committee. You can find the contact information with one of our ATFS trained inspecting foresters. Normally this is done through the State Committee. You can find the contact information to request an inspection here.

An ATFS inspector will visit your property and verify that your land management activities meet the ATFS Standards of Sustainability.

If approved for certification, post your ATFS sign with pride! You have been recognized for your good stewardship and your commitment to sustainability on your woodlands. We will keep you up to date with all the latest best practices and any subsequent changes to the Standards.

Standards for Tree Farm Certification. Below are ATFS' current standards,

guidance on implementation and the top things to know about the current standards.

Standards Documents: 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification: All properties certified under the three certification options must meet these standards. This document includes examples and information on how to implement the standards on the ground.

What is Certification?; What Certification options do I have?; State Program Certification; Group Certification; Individual Certificate Holder; Is Certification right for me?

Five Things To Know About ATFS Standards.

1. Designed for small woodland owners: These standards were developed to be appropriate for the type of management practiced by family woodland owners. 2. Management plan: The management plan streamlines the process for Tree Farm owners to participate in USDA conservation incentive programs and US Forest Service forest stewardship programs. Learn more and download our template. 3. Protecting special sites: The 2015-2020 Standards require the maintenance of special cultural and environmental sites (historical, archaeological, geological, biological and ecological). Check out our website just for woodland owners, MyLandPlan.org, for tips on preserving special sites. 4. Monitoring your woodlands: The periodic monitoring requirement encourages landowners to watch their woodlands for changes that could interfere with their management objectives. Things to be on the look out for include pest outbreaks (pine beetle, emerald ash borer), invasive plants (kudzu, Canadian thistle) and indications of trespassers. Many landowners are already doing things like walking their boundaries and checking new plantings for invasive species.

5. Combating invasive species: Tree Farmers are encouraged to make practical efforts to prevent, eradicate or otherwise control invasive species using integrated pest management methods. Integrated pest management methods may include pesticides, physical removal methods and preventative methods.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

house carrying the groom above their heads while they all sang "Oh Susanna". When the group reached the west corner of the house the leader kept walking all the way to Little Bear Creek. Upon reaching the creek bank they heaved their load of groom into the cold waters of the creek. All of this happened after midnight in the winter.

They felt sorry for the boy and retrieved him from the waters of the creek, took him home and built up a nice warm fire to dry his clothes and all went home to leave the young couple to their honeymoon. What a group of friends?

Do you think you could ever experience anything like this as a result of social media?

Breedlove... continued from Page 4A

taxes raised to pay for what the ESPLOST taxes fund?

This sales tax is paid by anyone who shops or stays in our beautiful county. I would much rather see this than to see my property taxes increased to make up the needed difference.

I sincerely hope that the

voters of Union County will support the continuation of the ESPLOST and not fall victim to the advertisements of those who refuse to see the clear benefits to our students and our community from renewing this 1 cent sales tax.

J. Breedlove

Combs... continued from Page 4A

the lies we hear so too often in the media, television and radio. Sadly our society has slowly drifted from the truth of reporting the facts to spreading lies to the point that they believe a lie becomes their way of life and the devil is having a heyday in the lives of those who follow his agenda, not God's.

When I grew up as a little boy in the 40s and 50s if I told my parents a lie I paid the consequences by getting my butt spanked and not being allowed to go outside which was my playground of delight. My brother and I learned fast of telling the truth to our parents, for we respected them for their discipline on us, but now we see even in our own backyard called the government of "We The People" such corruption, greed and power be-

ing displayed like children in a sand box of lies being spread like sands of the sea with no end in sight. The truth has been covered over with the devil's lies in men's and women's hearts that have swallowed the lies of Satan, hook, line and sinker into the pit of hell where they will reside in torment forevermore, if they don't repent of their wrongdoings and accept Christ as their Savior. Jesus Christ once drew a line in the sand when the Jewish leaders wanted to stone a woman prostitute and Jesus said: Let he who is without sin cast the first stone and soon there was only Jesus and the woman in whom He told, go and sin no more. The truth of God's word will always win over evil when the hearts of humanity seek God's truth. Amen

Frank F. Combs

Harper...

continued from Page 4A

Fly tying will begin at 4:30 and the meeting will begin at 7 PM. <https://Ngatu692.com>

The Ribbon Cutting and open house for this week is at The Heart Center of Northeast Georgia. The heart center is located at 346 Deep South Farm Road, Blairsville. It will be from 4 PM to 6 PM. Come and meet Dr. Mary Frankis, Dr. James Varnell and advanced practitioners, Sharon Reynolds and Michelle Armstrong. www.heartngmc.org/bl

For additional events and details please check our web site at www.visitblairsville.com or call our office at 706-745-5789.

For events and information on downtown Blairsville go to www.downtownblairsville.com.

Thank you for your continued support of your Blairsville Union County Chamber of Commerce.

Pledger...

continued from Page 4A

are approximately 126 trees that need treatment to continue protecting them. The two areas are located on Hwy 28 at the South Carolina/Georgia border and off Warwoman Road at 919 Overflow Creek Road, Clayton, GA, respectively. Without this timely intervention, most of them will die from the adelgid infestation.

The work day will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a break at midday for a picnic lunch. These outings are always rewarding as volunteers get to enjoy a fun day in the woods, meet other good people who care about protecting our environment, and gain the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts will help preserve the beauty, environmental health, and economic vitality of our community for years to come.

And one of the best benefits of participating in a public service project such as this one is that you'll learn the safe, easy, and effective process to treat the hemlocks and then be able to apply it to save your own trees.

For details and sign-up, contact Kim Wood at kimberlyraewood@gmail.com or 706-455-2313. Please join us and other concerned citizens in the battle against the bugs – you'll be glad you did!

Respectfully yours,
Bob Pledger
Vice Chairman,
Save Georgia's Hemlocks

C. Mitchell...

continued from Page 4A

implementing effective interventions; increasing early detection and diagnosis, reducing risk and preventing avoidable hospitalizations.

Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in the U.S. costing more than \$277 billion a year!

Join me in asking Sen. David Perdue and Sen. Johnny Isakson to fight for the millions of Americans affected by Alzheimer's by sponsoring the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act.

Sincerely,
Connie D. Mitchell

G. Mitchell...

continued from Page 4A

Allow Government to presume that it should "promote the general welfare," and you might as well give an alcoholic a free, unlimited credit card to a brewery.

"Government is like a baby: It is an alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other."- Ronald Reagan

"The Constitution is a document of negative liberties. It says what the States can't do to you, says what the Federal government can't do to you, but doesn't say what the Federal government or State government must do on your behalf." — Barack Hussein Obama

Where is the line drawn between what we should do for ourselves and what Government "must do on our behalf" — with our money?

George A. Mitchell

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

far as to introduce legislation in Oregon and Washington to make testing for marijuana illegal. Both measures failed in 2017, but a return proposal can be expected, according to *Occupation Health & Safety* magazine.

The NORML strategy matters because the effort to legalize marijuana, whether for medical or recreational purposes, is just the tip of the iceberg in an effort to legalize all drugs.

Breaking down barriers for their end-goal has come with a tremendous amount of misdirection and false statements regarding drug testing that now amount to an urban legend in the workplace. Causing employers to doubt their drug testing practices has been a huge coup for pro-drug advocates, virtually undermining the federal Safe and Drug-free Workplace Act and effectively creating a national campaign that has intimidated employers into backing down from safety as the priority.

When employee substance use, regardless of its stated purpose, is placed above public health and safety concerns, we have lost our way.

Mountains of evidence show us that employees who report to work under the influence of drugs or alcohol contribute significantly to accidents, injuries, lost productivity, lost revenue, and increased workers' compensation claims.

In fact, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, workers who are not in a drug testing program have substance use rates 50 percent higher than those who are subject to mandatory drug testing.

Who is really tracking the data in your company, and how do you know what may or may not be impacting your bottom line? Maintaining a strong workplace drug and alcohol testing program can keep employees from engaging in activities that would put their safety record at risk. Not only is pre-employment testing a good way to eliminate chronic users, but random and post-incident testing can identify those who may be increasing your company risk potential.

Even better, when employers require their employees to be alcohol and drug-free to remain employed,

that same positive attitude toward safety consciousness and responsible actions goes home with the employees – and can be passed on to the next generation of workers at home. It's a win-win for every company that looks to hire quality employees.

Reed...

continued from Page 4A

who visit, along with the summer residents, would also contribute. The opposers are fond of saying "enough is enough." Enough is never enough when we are talking about educating and preparing our children for the future.

Ed Reed

Fowler...

continued from Page 4A

His conclusion? "There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful than that of a continual conversation with God." Said another way, a lifestyle of abiding in Jesus inspires prayer. "He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). As you abide, so you'll pray.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493