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and two vendors donated over 500 tomatoes (7M Farms and Dean Smith Farms). The sandwiches were cut in half and approximately 800 people were served. Thanks to everyone for the extremely successful event and if you did not get a sandwich, you really missed something delicious.

Q. You wrote about the new Northshore Development on the Pat Colwell Road in your Q & A a couple of weeks ago. Someone told me that you have a financial interest in this development. Is that true?

A. Rumors never cease to amaze me. That is completely false. I have met the developer one time in person, but that is a long way from a partnership. I have a more than full-time job as commissioner and do not have the time, or interest to be getting in the real estate business.

Q. Does the county government work with the Northshore Development located on the Pat Colwell Highway?

A. Of course we do. They have now taken several distressed developments within the county that were repossessed and bank owned, and redeveloped them and had several public sales over the past few years. On this particular tract they recently developed, they are responsible for raising the tax values of these properties by hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars. The most recent sales event they conducted took property valued at around \$4,000 per acre and lots were sold for probably an average of \$30,000. They must have soil and erosion development permits and building permits. In addition, they post a cash bond with the county to as-

sure the purchasers that the water and power lines will be installed immediately after the property sales.

The developers are building high quality, private paved roads that the county will not have to deal with in the future. While I know some of the truck traffic has been a burden for those living in the area, these are all local truck owners and haulers who have not had this much work in years. Almost all of the construction people are also local, and we know how negatively their business has been impacted because of the poor economy for the past few years. This project has given an economic boost to the area.

Q. Will the truck traffic using the Pat Colwell Road have a negative impact on the county roads?

A. I am sure there will be some impact on the road from that much truck traffic, but we have no way to prevent this traffic. We have urged them to drive slower and the Sheriff's Office also will keep an eye on them to make sure they are driving safely and within the posted speed limits.

Q. Will there be more real estate development in this area of the county along the Pat Colwell Road?

A. I am sure there will be. This company has developed and sold about 400 of the 1,400 acres they purchased, leaving about 1,000 acres undeveloped. The Building and Development Office has not received any new plans yet, so we are not yet aware of when they will begin construction of their next phase. However, traditionally they do not hold on to their property very long prior to developing it.

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bath water, I get mad. Mad at myself because I didn't take the time to keep knocking to find the right melon.

Years ago, an old South Florida Farmer took the time to make me "hear" the ripeness of the melon. I got pretty good at it for a while. Then I started to become self conscious, spending better than a half hour at a stand, thumping on all these melons as if I was playing a concerto of sorts. People also shopping for them would ask my advice, and that was the kiss of death for me. I will take on responsibility for some outlandish things in others lives, but not their \$5 investment in a watermelon. Says a great deal about my character, doesn't it?

Before you even ask me,

when you see me at the Market next time, know now that I will not help you "hear" the ripeness. But I will encourage you to look for the butter yellow bottom, first. Then only knock on those. When you hear the most hollow sound, take your chances on that one.

In the meantime, visit the Union County Farmers Market this Saturday, August 23rd, for the Great Squash and Watermelon Extravaganza. You'll get to try our locally grown watermelons for free starting at 10 a.m. There will be watermelon seed spitting contests for the young and old. And as in every celebration at the Market, there will be happy folks, meeting, greeting and sharing. I'll see you there, but don't ask me to thump, OK?

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

rope around Clay while Denver and Granny pulled him from the well. Papa and Clay told and retold this story for years. No, Clay never held any hard feelings toward his brother due to this event.

The next event at the Farmers Market is our Watermelon Day on Aug. 23rd. We will be having watermelon tasting and samples as well as a watermelon seed spitting contest. Samples will be given out beginning at 10 a.m. and the seed spitting contest will begin at 11 a.m.

Also, remember the Canning Plant is open each Tuesday and Thursday from 6 a.m. until noon each day. Please bring your items to the Canning Plant and process them on location. Each

food item must be hot when it goes into the pressure retorts. For example, green beans must be heated before they can be cooked under pressure. So, storing the jars containing the beans in the refrigerator overnight and then bringing them to the plant will not work. The lids will not seal properly and the product will be unsafe to eat. Certainly, you can break and wash the beans at home. But, all the processing must be done at the Canning Plant.

The Union County tractor parade will be held on Aug. 30th. If you are interested in participating, please go to www.ucfarmersmarket.com for more information.

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and try, and door prizes that you have excellent odds of winning. Ribbon cutting attendees have a great time and likely leave with their hands full of goodies!

3. You will meet new people. New to town? What a great way to meet a group of fun and active people. Looking to form a relationship with a potential client? Ribbon cuttings are the perfect scenario. Looking to rub elbows with community leaders? Here is where you will often find them. Want to build the foundation of a partnership with a local business? This is a great way to show your support and stand out from the crowd. Whatever your reason for wanting to meet new people, ribbon cuttings offer a comfortable setting to do just that.

4. They are quick. No

really, I promise. The ceremonial portion is usually complete within 15 minutes and it is up to you how much longer you wish to stay, browse, eat, and socialize.

5. You will make people happy. If for no other reason, please know that if you decide to join us at an upcoming ribbon cutting, we will be very happy to see you. The business owners love new faces, the attendees love to meet people, and the Chamber staff loves to see the community come together to support small business.

If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter to receive notifications of our upcoming ribbon cuttings, you may do so online at www.Visit-BlairsvilleGa.com or by calling our office at (706) 745-5789.

Dillard ...continued from Page 4A

erupted in gleeful cheers from all the G.I.s on board. Unfortunately, the last of the friendly welcome home folks we saw other than our families were the stewards on board of that North West Orient Airlines we arrived in Seattle on. From that point on the welcome home I thought I would receive turned out not to be so great. I had no idea I was thought of as "baby killer" or some kind of freak because I was in the military. Things only went down hill from that point. I was so thoroughly disgusted with what I saw that I did something I had sworn not to do. I re-enlisted! I wanted nothing to do with the people I encountered on a daily basis as I left my station and went into the public outside the house. Those folks inside the base were my brothers and sisters and that is who I wanted to associate with. This is where I was treated human and didn't get a strange look or sneer from those I encountered.

I am so glad for our troops today. They are treated with dignity and respect, I am right there to wave the flag and welcome them home as a Patriot Guard rider. Where were these kind of folks in 1968? No welcome home was afforded the Vietnam vet. Although he or she was no different than the veterans of today. They also did their country's calling and served with pride in the fact that they were defending the wonderful thing we call "Freedom." Never, never, never again will one generation of veterans abandon another. God help us if we do! Freedom is not free. It will be fought for many times over during this century. Just remember to stand for your troops as they stand for you.

Wes Dillard (MSGT, USAF Retired)

V. Pres., Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #GA1101

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ebrate Recovery program at First Baptist Church.

The sad part is, the bad choices and behavior of one's past life, can have long lasting problems for many years in the future. This is occurring now in our family. Without going into a lot of details of events going back several years and due to poor legal counsel, she ended up in our local Drug Court program. You can do your own research about the program and see the pros and cons.

I would like to relate to the community what's happening in our case. This program has very strict rules and regulations which affect every area of one's life. She was trying hard to follow them, but she recently made a mistake, absolutely not about drugs, but a human error we have all made--she forgot to do something. Here's the explanation: She had a job at a personal care home as cook. She was responsible for planning, preparing and serving their meals. This job, at times is very stressful, requiring total concentration on the work. This was the situation on that morning. Therefore, she forgot to make the 8 AM phone call to see if there was a random drug screening that morning. When she remembered later and called, she was informed she had missed the test. Of course, she was very upset and sorry and they did agree to send someone to her workplace to test her. The test was clean, of course, proving she had not used any drugs. They have a hard time getting people to do this job. But she has a tender, kind heart toward the elderly and handicapped and considered it like a ministry and loved the people there.

We family felt sure, on their coming court day appearance, with her explanation, and the fact she is drug-free and being a good citizen involved in a good community service job, that her excuse would be acceptable. We believed the purpose of the Drug Court program was to help people get over their addiction and become good citizens. She had accomplished those goals! Our worst nightmare became a reality on the court date when she was sentenced to 30 days in jail. Apparently, the only acceptable reason for missing a drug screening would be if you are no longer breathing. Our family was absolutely devastated and heartbroken. The fact is she is a wonderful single mother raising a beautiful little seven year old daughter. It is so heartbreaking to have to see and endure the emotional trauma and sadness of this precious child... Having her mother suddenly taken out of her life, hurts us all deeply. In her mind... her mom is the very best, and jail is a place for bad people, and 30 days is like an eternity, so how can she understand?

We are blessed to have

Duncan...

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to suggest any determination has been made as to any criminal action," Langley said.

We're not an alarmist news organization. Our stories are based on facts.

Once again, we're shooting straight and bringing you the news as we complete the gathering process. Thank you for your patience.

Stapp ...

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few of the distinguished governors who are now serving time). I have developed a pretty good nose for malfeasance and this reeks to high heaven. I watched with interest while the EMC built themselves a Taj Mahal as their new headquarters, while never paying dividend to their ignored members although most of the other EMCs in the state do so. How the board can justify paying an outside investigator \$30,000 to figure out how Taylor and Taylor was allowed to run up an electric bill in excess of \$40,000 and agreeing to take payments of \$1,000 a month and then ignoring the failure to live up to even that ridiculous agreement until your paper called them on it is malfeasance of the first degree. It is like paying a 5-year-old to figure how the sand got in the sandbox. Then they add to that mess by giving and then denying they gave, an additional stipend of \$62,354.90 to Taylor.

In conclusion, I am happy that the GBI is investigating this whole sordid episode. If Taylor and Taylor is the only wrongdoer that they find in this self-created disaster, I will be amazed.

Arvil Stapp

P.S. The current Board is certainly, at least, guilty of willful ignorance and should be thrown out and replaced with people that take their responsibilities seriously.

Nolan ...

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– with this exemplary record of stewardship of taxpayers' money anywhere in the country; 2. Look in the mirror and ask themselves if they have managed their personal finances as effectively as Commissioner Paris has managed those of the county. Then join me in thanking Lamar Paris for the great job he is doing giving us such great value for our money and then thank the good Lord that we have a man of his caliber willing to endure the challenges of the job of running this county.

Harry Nolan

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Atlanta and brought him to the plantation. She told the artist that she wanted a portrait of herself that looked like she did when she first married. He agreed and told her to dress in her best. She decked herself in her finest. The artist positioned her in her best pose with her hands gracefully holding a fan so that her 5 carat diamond ring was very prominent. She instructed the artist to paint her forty years younger and to paint her ring 10 carats larger! He agreed that he could do both but he wanted to know why she wanted him to paint a 15 carat

diamond that she never owned. She explained to the artist that when she died she knew her husband would immediately marry a younger woman and that he would give the 5 carat diamond ring to her. But she said, "I wanted her to go crazy searching the big house trying to find this 15 carat diamond."

Certainly, we ought to so live that we would be a positive influence in this life. Even when we are not here, we will continue to be here if we have lived our lives in the will of God. Being dead, yet speaking.

Gibson... continued from Page 4A

love and be kind to each other. So why would anyone want or need to carry a gun to church? I cannot imagine attending a church where people are so hateful and hostile that a gun is needed to defend oneself against them. Still I will not be surprised to see church signs reading, "Sinners and Guns Welcome." However, remember that Jesus never owned a gun.

Knowingly taking a gun into a bar where alcohol can destroy whatever judgment drinkers

have is insanity. Remember the last verse of a popular Johnny Cash song from long ago:

"He was brave and Billy Joe reached for his gun to draw, but the stranger drew his gun and fired before he even saw, as Billy Joe fell to the floor the crowd all gathered 'round, and wondered at his dying words, 'Don't take your guns to town son, leave your guns at home Bill'..."

Wm. Ronald Gibson Young Harris, GA