

## Paris ... from Page 4A

added just to try to clean out the road ditches and culverts after a spring and summer of constant heavy rains. I want to especially thank our mowing crew and our new ditch clearing crew. We are going countywide and trying to keep up with the rain in cleaning out ditches and culverts and keeping as much of the vegetation mowed and chopped down. It is a huge job, and often after we complete cleaning a ditch, the next day they are washed out again, but they keep working. The mowing crew has never had this amount of problems with fallen trees, weeds causing sight distant problems at many intersections and vegetation growing and covering county roads like never before with all the rain.

In 2012, we removed 160 fallen trees from roads all over the county. This year, we have already removed 111 trees and on pace to have nearly 200.

### Q. What are all the duties of the Road Department?

A. This is tough, but here goes. First, they take all county complaint phone calls and generate a work order for every call for service. You will find very few if any counties that maintain a full-time person on the telephone just to be available to the public for calls. Then dispatch the work out to the appropriate county crews. These include, especially this year, clearing gravel off paved roads washed from the heavy rains, cleaning ditches and culverts, improving driveway entrances, replacing the hundreds of street signs vandalized each year, and of course mowing over 1,200 miles of

road R/W and patching and paving over 10 miles of roads each year. Also, grading and improving road banks and sight distance where needed, assisting the county work crews with many projects including directing traffic at all parades and the Farmers Market and festivals, and cutting trees fallen in county roads. In times of floods or other natural disasters, the Road Department is always there to help the county residents. Many of you have your own stories of how the Road Department has assisted you in time of need and I hear them often and always pass them along to the Road Department. Union County is blessed to have so many hard working employees and you will find them in all county departments. A special thanks goes to the Road Department for all they do to make Union County one of the best counties in which to live, not only in Georgia, but anywhere.

### Q. How does the county pay for all of this extraordinary service we receive from the Union County Road Department?

A. Without the SPLOST sales tax, this level of service would be absolutely impossible.

Approximately \$1.1 million per year goes into our road department from property taxes and our general budget, and an additional \$825,000 is paid by SPLOST. In addition, we receive about \$500,000 per year from the State GDOT for road resurfacing.

Equipment purchases are also included within these numbers. Every dollar is needed and necessary to continue this service.

## Parris ...from Page 4A

was necessary to have her lower body raised to keep up with her face.

It's a little different when you start slipping mentally. You are more embarrassed about that than you are your appearance. You really don't want to admit that to yourself and you surely don't want anyone else to know it. For over 50 years, I have preached about the hereafter and warned folks about the hereafter. But you know I am more occupied with the hereafter, as I grow older. Everywhere I go I ask myself – "What am I hereafter?"

My wife, Regina and I have devised a plan as we travel. She remembers where we are going and I remember who we are. Well, I hope you can laugh

or at least smile about life, as you grow older. We don't need to look back so much at things as they used to be, but look forward to things as they are going to be.

Praise God, someday, we will be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, we shall be changed. We will have a new body, and a new life in a new land where we will never grow old.

Thank God I have heard of a land on a far away strand where we will never grow old. You can read all about it in the Book called the Bible. It's the only Book in the world that tells us how much better life is going to be for all of those who trust Christ as their Savior. Read all about your future in the Bible.

## Leone ...from Page 4A

them gnawed like a 1,500 amp hedge trimmer, equipped with a silencer, assaulted them in the middle of the night.

"Whistle pig" is the Appalachian moniker for a groundhog. Levitt Homes hasn't a clue as to how to build a housing development in comparison to the ground hog. These monsters of ground excavation can take a 25-acre property and convert it into a condominium for marmots in a matter of days. They have no deed restrictions, and they let you pay the property taxes, even though they have squatter's rights to the land. Why didn't our founding fathers address this issue in the Constitution?

One year, I had set up lavish flower boxes over the railings all around my deck. I say "one year", because it was only a single season of dealing with a plant predator before I gave up trying to make Jessie, at Basket Barn, independently wealthy. Someone was taking the plants out of the box and then leaving

their excrement in the box. The feces were equivalent to the size dispensed by my 25-pound dog. So, what creature am I dealing with here? I took pictures of the poop. I then Googled images of wildlife butt packaging and discovered it was a family of raccoons that were having a heyday at my expense. No more window boxes the next year.

I think I need to just watch my wildlife on National Geographic, and read Birds and Blooms each month to satiate my need to observe the most vibrant colors of feathered friends. And yes, I'm well aware that we don't have yellow crested cockatiels visiting our feeders here in the North Georgia Mountains. I was just checking to see if you were skimming my column this week.

This coming Saturday we will be celebrating the great Squash and Watermelon Extravaganza at the Farmers Market. Free watermelon for all! Well, all except the wildlife. Please don't invite the bears.

## Boling ...from Page 4A

have never even been in a fist fight! But I do fight for the underdogs, the abused, the bullied, the weak, and the hated.

I apologize for showing disrespect to veterans of the Vietnam conflict! Some of my loved ones are Vietnam vets and tak-

ing up for Jane Fonda is not worth hurting their feelings. In their honor, I won't go see *The Butler!*

Charlie Sowers, will you forgive me for watching *On Golden Pond* and *Barbarella*? Sincerely,  
**Janice Boling**

## Riley

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and future (or current) demands are identified, the Council will determine which water and land use management practices should be employed to ensure there is sufficient water and assimilative capacity to meet future needs. EPD will use computer models to test the ability of the recommended practices to close any identified "gaps."

The Coosa-North Georgia water planning region borders other regions or shares surface or groundwater resources with other regions; therefore, the Coosa-North Georgia Council will communicate and coordinate with adjacent, upstream and/or downstream councils as well as EPD to ensure the appropriateness of the recommended management practices.

EPD and the Coosa-North Georgia Council will use an iterative process of recommendation and modeling, to arrive at a set of management practices to meet the Region's future needs. The Coosa-North Georgia Council submitted the Initial Recommended Regional Water Plan for the Coosa-North Georgia Region to EPD, which was available for public review and comment May - July 2011. The Coosa-North Georgia Council considered comments made on the plan, and made the necessary and/or appropriate changes. The plan was re-submitted to EPD on Sept. 30, 2011, and was officially adopted by the director on Nov. 15, 2011. Now that the Regional Plan is adopted, all EPD water permits and Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) grants and loans for water projects will be guided by the Plan.

For more information on the Coosa-North-Georgia Water Council's plan, contact Frank Riley at (706) 894-1951 or go to the Coosa-North Georgia Water Council's web site <http://www.coosanorthgeorgia.org>.

## Cummings

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they saw Pickens approaching. Remember, the events during next couple of weeks at the Farmers Market. On Aug. 24 the Farmers Market will host a chef showdown. A few local chefs will be cooking our local produce to determine which of them is the best cook. The following weekend we will be inducting some new candidates into the Union County Agricultural Hall of Fame. The same Saturday, Aug. 31, we will have a Tractor Parade and Show at the Farmers Market. This parade is sponsored by the Union County Farm Bureau. Also, on that day Bethel Buchanan will be playing harmonica at the Farmers Market for our entertainment. Finally, beginning on September 4th, the Trash to Treasures Sale will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Farmers Market from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on both days. Remember the Trash to Treasures Sale allows yard sale items, flea market items and crafts to be sold at the Farmers Market. Flea market and craft items will be housed in the first building and yard sale items will be held in the second building. For more information give me a call at (706) 439-6030.

## Williams ...continued from Page 4A

and assume an upset customer has come to you to voice a complaint. The best thing to do is to be quiet and listen. You usually stand to learn a thing or two. I know I have! Oftentimes allowing someone the opportunity to talk is enough to make them feel better. However, interrupting them or quickly becoming defensive is a sure way to cause bigger trouble.

Here are few easy tips for improving your listening skills.

Stop what you are doing and give your undivided attention to the person speaking.

Look at the person as they speak. Make eye contact. Watch their non-verbal cues

and body language; it often says more than their words.

Zip your lips! Avoid the temptation to interrupt, offer an opinion, or come back with a story of your own that is bigger and better.

Implementing these simple techniques into your daily life will help you better connect with others and literally transform your relationships. I wish you all the best. If the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce can better serve you, please contact us at (706) 745-5789, or me directly at [President@BlairsvilleChamber.com](mailto:President@BlairsvilleChamber.com). You can visit us online at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com).

### Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events see events calendar at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com)

#### Wednesday, August 21

2 pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane  
2 pm Friends of Union County Library Meeting - Community Room Library

#### Thursday, August 22

8 am Mountain Networking Referral Group Meeting-Cooks Country Kitchen  
12 pm Rotary Club Monthly Meeting - Cadence Bank 2nd Floor  
5 pm Trivia Night - The Union County Community Center View Grill  
6 pm Blairsville Cruisers Car Club General Meeting - BlairsvilleCruisers.com  
6 pm Union County Lions Club - Steve's Steakhouse

#### Friday, August 23

8 am Trash and Treasures - Union County Farmers Market  
2 pm Flip Varney, Edward Jones Open House - 178 Brackets Way, Ste. 2  
7 pm Paul Constantine - The Copperhead Lodge  
7 pm Third Degree - Union County Historical Courthouse

#### Saturday, August 24

7 am Union County Farmers Market - 148 Old Smokey Rd  
11 am Rockfest - The Copperhead Lodge  
2 pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane

#### Monday, August 26

9 am Garden Tours - The GA Mountain Research & Education Center  
12 pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting-Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant

#### Tuesday, August 27

8 am Tri-State Business Women's Meeting - Cooks Country Restaurant  
11:30 am VFW Monthly Meeting-Chamber Old Building 78 Old Blue Ridge Hwy  
3 pm Union County Farmer's Market - 148 Old Smokey Rd

#### Wednesday, August 28

2 pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane

## UNION COUNTY

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Monday:		
Garden Tours	GMREC	9 am - 1 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Every Tuesday:		
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Every Thursday:		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Rotary Club	Cadence Bank	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Fourth Tuesday of each month:		
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville UMC	12:30
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
VFW Post #7394	78 Old Blue Ridge Hwy.	11:30 am
Compassionate Friends	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer	Sr. Citizens Center	1:30-3:30 pm
Fourth Wednesday of each month:		
No activities listed		
Fourth Thursday of each month:		
UT Homebuilders	YH College	7 pm
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 pm
Fourth Friday of each month		
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
Fourth Saturday of each month:		
Youngcane Lodge #597	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm