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courthouse and addition was designed and built, a security checkpoint was not an issue, so our courthouse has two entrances we will have to secure. Otherwise, it would be a tremendous problem to attempt to close either one of the entrances off to the general public creating yet additional hardships.

Q. So why are you finally going to install security check points in the Union County Courthouse?

A. Because of the new gun legislation passed as House Bill 60 this year. Director of the Georgia Municipal Association was quoted as stating about the new legislation, that it "would impose unnecessary cost on Georgia's cities and opens them and other local governments up to frivolous litigation." Even if you are a strong gun rights advocate, this new law, in my opinion, overextended its reach in taking away from local governments the right to keep weapons out of our courthouse and other county office facilities. If we do not put in a "security checkpoint" we can't stop anyone, with their weapons, from coming into our offices. This includes anyone openly carrying guns in plain sight, to possibly include long guns, and the deputies can't even ask to see their license unless there is probable cause.

Q. Are the new courthouse security system checkpoints in our new budget?

A. Absolutely not. It will probably require a property tax increase for next year as we will have to pay for the remaining half of 2014 (our budget year is Jan thru Dec) and the total year of 2015. The new gun law takes effect June 2nd of 2014, so we must start the new security now in mid year, out of budget.

Q. What will the cost to the county taxpayers be for the new courthouse security?

A. It will be significant. We are a small county and operate on a relatively small budget when compared to similar counties. We do not tax you for reserves and therefore, we do not have large reserves. So when something like this comes along unexpected and this is very rare, and we are unable to pay for it out of our SPLOST sales tax revenue, it directly impacts our operation budget. The preliminary security budget is estimated at \$175,000 just for manpower increases to include two new full time deputies and four part time deputies, and over \$ 90,000 in equipment cost, for a total of slightly over a quarter of a million dollars!!

Q. You sound upset over the impact of the new gun legislation related to the county?

A. When you are in charge of the budget, it has to be critical. My main issue is that this will be a tremendous inconvenience as well as expense, for all of the residences of the county. Since our facility is a courthouse as well as an office building, everyone comes here either for grand jury or civil jury, to pay your property taxes, to get marriage or death certificates, to early vote, to attend many different types of court held here, and to attend the many meetings we have. These people will all have a tremendous inconvenience and I am not convinced that real safety will be improved, because we have never had an issue with anyone slipping a weapon into the courthouse except for one GBI agent.

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Lower to medium heat, add the heavy cream and salt and pepper to taste. Keep mixing with the tongs. Then sprinkle the grated cheese evenly over all, and toss. Take off the burner and crumble all the bacon over the top, toss lightly one more time and serve. Double the recipe and invite Joe and Valerie Long to join you!

Do you love yellow squash but tired of the same old recipes? Here's my favorite. Cut 4 medium yellow squash (with or without skin) in about 1 inch cubes. Coarsely chop one medium sweet onion. Chop two cloves of garlic and finely chop about 5 large leaves of basil. Get a 4 quart saucepan and heat up ¼ cup of olive oil hot before adding all of the above ingredients. Keep tossing until the garlic is fragrant and the onion starts to become translucent. Now add a 15 oz can of your

favorite chopped tomatoes with liquid (or three large fresh tomatoes, finely chopped). Bring to a boil before reducing heat to medium low. Add salt and pepper to taste and a tablespoon of granulated sugar. Cover and simmer for about 20 mins. or until the squash is fork tender. This is delicious hot or at room temperature.

The Union County Farmers Market is booming. This Tuesday night I was able to get three varieties of eggplant grown here in Union County. Garlic, sweet onions, lots of squash choices, green beans, baby carrots, cubano peppers, lettuces and black and red raspberries are all local. Don't forget Tuesday's from 3 till 7pm. We've lots and lots of great produce all picked just hours before, and you can't beat that!

Case ... continued from Page 4A

129 from Cleveland and Hwy. 19 from Dahlonega come together there. Also this is a popular bicycle ride. The number of cars is huge because of attractions in the area such as Boggs Creek, Desoto Falls, the Appalachian Trail at Blood Mountain, Helton Creek Falls, Vogel State Park, and Brass-town Bald. When you drive from Turner's Corner to the Lumpkin/Union line you will pass many crosses showing sites of wrecks.

We can only suggest the Lumpkin and Union police try

to visit this area once on Saturday and once on Sunday. We can also suggest that the police visit the areas where these people gather such as Turner's Corner Restaurant and Mt. Crossings at the Appalachian Trail. They will find that many do not have license tags and probably no insurance because they only use their racing motorcycles on weekends. We wish we could find a better solution so we could enjoy this area in peace!

Colley Case

Priven... continued from Page 4A

Troop locations were seemingly not considered.

Many of VNV were informed that they might experience medical problems in later life from this chemical, but most ignored the warning. Nothing to do but wait and see!

A few years after the war ended VNV started to develop sicknesses uncommon for such a diverse young group. Many started to die well before expectations. Between 2000 and 2007 nearly 500,000 died. Well above what is statically probable?

It is now almost 40 years after the end of the war, and as predicted veterans are in the midst of an Agent Orange epidemic. The diseases are count-

less; the VA only recognizes 14. The VA tries to help but many times they are callous and demeaning with responses that can only be called comical if not so serious. One veteran was told that the war was over in 1967, claim denied.

Through all of this the VNV is still among the most patriotic members of our society. Most would still die for flag and country if called upon. When a VNV sees current troops being welcomed back with open arms, they are happy for them, but deep inside their gut knots up from the past. The motto of the Vietnam Veterans of America; "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another". Speaks volumes.

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

plained that they should have told her about the old hen and they should never lie to her or their daddy. Anyway, the boys enjoyed their popsicles and later in the evening the boys had chicken and dumplings for supper. My daddy still doesn't like chickens. But, he loves eggs most any way you cook them.

Next Saturday, July 5th, is "EGGSTRAVAGANZA" at the Farmers Market. Volunteers will be cooking about 220 omelets using local eggs and vegetables at the Market. Cooking will begin around 10 AM and will last as long as the eggs hold out. We are trying to pro-

mote the Poultry Industry and local egg production in Union County. Did you know that the state of Georgia is tops in the country in Poultry Production? Did you know Union County's Poultry Production is worth millions of dollars? Come on out to the Farmers Market next Saturday and try some of our local eggs.

The Union County Canning Plant will open next Tuesday, July 8th and we will be open each Tuesday and Thursday from 6 AM until 12 noon. The price for processing pints is .25 and quarts is .35. See you at the Canning Plant.

Hunter ... continued from Page 4A

The Constitution also provides us free speech and the pursuit of happiness which I argue in light of the Second Amendment also gives us the right to self protection and freedom from fear. I don't see where the letter writer gets the idea that people will be walking into McDonalds with an AR-15 and even if they did, businesses still have the right to post restrictions. As a combat veteran who has witnessed men bleed and die for our country I will not give up my rights. It saddens me to see those who would, because history proves when one free-

dom is lost or taken others follow. I myself have a license to carry a concealed weapon and have for years but the writer would never know it if he saw me and no doubt he would be surprised if he knew exactly how many he encountered on a daily basis that were in fact armed. Nobody can argue the fact that areas of the country which restrict individual rights like the right to be armed have the highest crime rates because criminals (like government) have no fear of defenseless people which goes to show gun control is not about guns but about control.

Keith Hunter

Parris ...

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steps that we have made in the past thirty or so years. Have not many of our spiritual leaders and public officials become stumbling blocks rather than stepping-stones? The Psalmist said, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord" (Psalm 37:23). Do not be deceived by false leaders who want to direct our steps. Only let your steps be ordered by God's Word (Psalm 119:133). Again I say, "Watch your step".

Williams...

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month banner advertisement on the Chamber website, and one e-newsletter advertisement. Contact the Chamber for details!

The Chamber would like to say a special thanks to Woodmen of the World, a not for profit organization offering a variety of insurance and investment options, who is helping sponsor this year's event. We also thank the Union County Commissioner's Office, Union County Sheriff's Office, Union County Fire Department and Union County Recreation Department for providing event support in the form of fire and public safety, traffic control, and parking.

For additional holiday events and celebrations, check out our website at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com or call the Chamber at 706-745-5789.

Fiser...

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an eastern high school about a year ago. He asked for permission to wear his uniform at graduation rather than his cap and gown. The school denied permission. Now that he is dead they are extolling his virtues as a heroic member of the military. Not much consideration there. Since Nixon we have an all volunteer military. Now more than ever a person in military uniform should be honored, not scorned. Statistics say less than one percent of our population serves in the military. Any person wearing a military uniform absolutely implies, "I am prepared to die if necessary to protect my comrades and that remaining ninety-nine percent of my country's population." For this they are ridiculed. It would be well if our people from the White House on down began to appreciate the potential ultimate sacrifice these special men and women are making. To say the least, without them sooner or later those comfortable ninety-nine percent would find themselves in a world without comfort. If in doubt, take a look at a film of the Nazi concentration camp liberations. It couldn't happen. Not by Christian people. But it did! And as anyone can see from current events in Africa and the Middle East, there are those if not contained by military force or the threat thereof they will gleefully take anything you may have including the lives of you and your family. They will even go so far as to kill themselves to kill you and yours. Ask yourself, "if you had been president on September 11, 2001, what would you have done?"

Richard Y. Fiser
Captain, USAF 1956-1967

Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events

see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com

Wednesday, July 2

1 pm Better Breather's Club - Union General Hospital 2nd Floor
5:30 pm Women & Wine Series - Paradise Hills Resort & Spa
6 pm Every Wednesday Bingo - Haralson Memorial Civic Center

Thursday, July 3

8 am Trash and Treasures Sale - Union County Farmers Market
11:30 am Living Will Workshop - Union General Hospital 2nd Floor
12 pm Rotary of Union County Meeting - 706-745-5565
6:30 pm Trivia at The View - Union County Community Center

Friday, July 4

8 am Trash and Treasures Sale - Union County Farmers Market
8:30 am Independence Day Events - Vogel State Park
11 am 4th July Lake Nottely Boat Parade - Nottely Marina
12 pm Independence Day Celebration - Paradise Hills Resort
2 pm Cruise In & Bike Show - Union County Farmers Market
5 pm Live Music - Cherokee Cellars, downtown Murphy
6 pm Friday Evening Tapas - Crane Creek Vineyards
6 pm Stone Cold Country - The Copperhead Lodge
6:30 pm Live Music - Monet's Café, 130 Blue Ridge St.
7 pm Friday Night Concert, William Graff - Old Historic Courthouse
9:30 pm Independence Day Fireworks - Meeks Park

Saturday, July 5

7 am UC Farmers Market "EGG-stravaganza" - 148 Old Smokey Rd
2 pm Summer Concert Series - Paradise Hills Winery Resort & Spa
4 pm Cruise In On The Square - Downtown Blairsville
6 pm Danny Rhea - The Copperhead Lodge
7 pm Hot Summer Nights @ Goldhagen Art Glass - 7 Goldhagen Studio Dr. Hayesville

Monday, July 7

12 pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Weekly Meeting - Steve's Steakhouse
1:30 pm Misty Mountain Model Railroad Tours M,W,F & S - 16 Misty Mountain Lane
6 pm Alzheimer's Support Group - Cadence Bank 2nd Floor

Tuesday, July 8

8 am Tri-State Business Women's Meeting - Blairsville Restaurant
3 pm Union County Farmers Market - 148 Old Smokey Rd

Wednesday, July 9

11:30 am Ribbon Cutting for American Security Shredding - UC Community Center