

Paris ... from Page 4A

ing to land development and the environment. This department serves as a liaison to federal and state agencies for environmental affairs in order to maintain our high water quality standards. Additionally, the department issues Land Disturbing Activity permits and administers the Georgia Information System (GIS) data sales program. Erosion and sediment concerns and complaints are received by this department. Inspections are conducted to enforce the following ordinances: Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, Water Supply Watershed Protection, River Corridor Protection, Mountain Protection, Wetland Protection, and Flood Damage prevention. These are all laws of the State of Georgia

that the county must enforce. In addition, Parks for Recreational Vehicles and Subdivisions are also subject to local ordinances.

Q. How many building permits have been issued so far this year?

A. January through June, 2013, 52 (residential custom & residential spec) permits have been issued. This same 6 month time period last year, 45 permits had been issued and 81 permits were issued for the entire year (2012). So people are still building, primarily custom homes with a few spec houses. Currently there are over 90 homes in Union County in some stage of construction. At the peak of the economy in 2006, we issued 299 home permits and 1300 total permits.

Leone ...from Page 4A

sausage, onion and squash. If you are gluten free or a low carb person like me, instead of starch, use ground pork rinds, ground chick peas or 2/3 cup of finally chopped mushrooms.

Now we need some herbs, salt and pepper. Herbs can be fresh – I use basil and even a little mint. When using dried herbs, I use my herbs de provence. Now you add cheese. If you want this more savory, add 1/4 cup of grated parmesan cheese. Less savory, add 1/3 cup of cheddar cheese or mozzarella. Experiment with what cheese you have in the fridge. Mix it all together. If it isn't the consistency of stuffing, you can add a little broth or some raw egg to the mixture. Now, salt the zucchini halves then stuff them with your concoction. Drizzle a little butter or olive oil over the top of each. Place in any baking dish, whether it is a pie pan or corning ware, it doesn't much matter. Bake at 400 degrees for 45 mins. After the first twenty minutes, cover the baking dish with tin foil to hold in the moisture.

Want something for the grill? Toss all your veggies and fruits (yes, I said fruits) in Italian bottled dressing and then put on skewers. This includes squash, okra, eggplant, onion, peppers and mushrooms. For fruit, use nectarines, peaches, plums, pineapple or watermelon. Skewer veggies separate from the fruit because it takes longer to

cook. Place the skewers on a hot grill. Salt the veggies, not the fruit. Grill till tender. Try using raspberry vinaigrette for something even tangier.

You see those little eggplants that many of our produce people have. Here's a recipe I tried just recently, and it was delicious, but different. Wash and dry 2 very small eggplants. Do not cut the stem off, nor do you peel it. Make 3 deep slits going from top to bottom, but without compromising the center core, the stem or base. In a small bowl mix a quarter cup of almond butter (you can substitute with peanut butter), a 3/4 teaspoon of curry powder and 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Spread this filling in each slit of the eggplants. In a deep frying pan, heat about a 1/4 inch of oil (can be peanut, vegetable or olive oil.) When good and hot, place the eggplant in pan and keep turning them until they start to become soft to the touch. Try it – you'll like it!

This weekend, I want to encourage you to make an additional stop, besides your trip to the Farmers Market. The annual Farmers Market Flower Show is being presented again at the Haralson Civic Center, just off the Square in Blairsville. For all the details visit our website at www.UCFarmersMarket.com. It is always a beautiful showing of the local growers and gardeners. Just viewing the bonsais will hold you captive!

Sims ...from Page 4A

Union County may not be anywhere near the same condition as those cities, property owners are obligated to the tune of \$6 million or more of debt. These problems come from spending future revenue projections that may not be collected.

To ask the voters to renew local special taxes should be based on real NEEDS by local governments to benefit the community as a whole, and the voters should consider whether any projects listed serves the community as a whole, or whether it serves a special few. Voters should also very carefully consider whether it is worth spending their dollars to pay interest on obligation bond debt, or spend their money to fund said projects by pressing upon the government to only spend as the money comes in. You, the voter, will have 2 choices to make when the SPLOST vote

comes in November. A choice to approve or disapprove the SPLOST tax, and a choice to approve or disapprove allowing general obligation debt.

Today there is an estimated 47 million people on food stamps. For every dollar we take away from the poor and fixed income to pay for local special projects with local SPLOST taxes, we return to them in the form of food stamps.

I only ask everyone to consider the effect extra taxes have upon the poor, the fixed income, and the unfortunates in our community. A family of 4 whose income is \$30 thousand a year will spend all of that \$30 thousand.

And with our 3 percent local option sales tax we'll pay \$900 a year in extra taxes over and above any other taxes. \$900 a year to a family of 4 is a lot of money.
Mike Sims

Parris ...from Page 4A

anger into one's subconscious is to reap bitterness. Anger that is left to fester will grow and multiply. Bitterness is the result of anger that has never been dealt with in an adequate way. Repressed anger leads to greater problems. If you think that you can put it out of your mind, you are mistaken. You must, to be free from anger, recognize your anger; realize the source from which it arises. Then you must repent of it and request Christ to forgive you. Receive Christ's forgiveness, release your anger and refuse to let it remain a

consuming force in your life. Remember that you need a supernatural power to conquer a raging emotion like anger. Let God's Spirit control your anger. Do not allow Satan to use anger to rob you of the joy of life, to destroy your family, harmony in your work place, nor the unity in your church family. Don't excuse your anger by saying, "That's just the way I am," or "I can't help it," "I have red hair," or "I am Irish." The writer of Proverbs says, "A fool always loses his temper, but a wise man holds it back."

Williams ...from Page 4A

ness is involved with its local chamber. For example, if respondents know that a small business is a member of its local chamber, the business enjoys a 49% increase in its consumer favorability rating, a 73% increase in consumer awareness, a 68% increase in its local reputation, and an 80% increase in the likelihood that consumers will patronize the business in the future.

With survey results like these in addition to a long list of member benefits, it is easy to see the value of being

a member of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce. If you are a business owner and would like to learn more about how you can benefit from membership, contact our Chamber at 706-745-5789 or me directly at President@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

Don't forget that our Eggs & Issues Breakfast with Secretary of State Brian Kemp is coming up on Tuesday, August 20th. Everyone is invited to attend. Contact the Chamber for details and reservations.

Cummings ...from Page 4A

citizens of Alabama.

me at (706) 439-6030.

One of the objectives of the Home Guard was to encourage the enlistment of young men into the fighting ranks of the Confederate Army. At first the Home Guard was a decent group of people and they protected local interests. But, soon the Home Guard became infiltrated with less desirable men. In Winston County the Home Guard began to terrorize the very people they were supposed to protect.

Wyatt's neighbor was a man known only as Uncle Billy. One day the Home Guard came to his house and told him he needed to enlist in the Confederate Army. Uncle Billy refused. So, the Home Guard hung Uncle Billy and left him for dead. Soon Uncle Billy's son found him and cut him down. Somehow Uncle Billy lived through the ordeal. A few months later the Home Guard came back and found Uncle Billy still alive and still adamant about not joining the war. Uncle Billy was hung a second time and lived through the hanging again. After the second hanging Uncle Billy lived another 30 years although he always had a crook in his neck. The men who hung Uncle Billy were later killed while Uncle Billy lived to a ripe old age.

The Farmers Market will soon hold its annual Hall of Fame inductions. If you know of a person who is deserving of the honor please come by the Extension Office to get a form. Complete the form and return to me by Aug. 23rd. We will make the inductions on Aug. 31st.

Also, the same weekend we will have a tractor parade at the Farmers Market. This parade is for antique tractors, new tractors, big tractors and small tractors. If you have a tractor please bring it that day. For more details, please call

Ramsey

...continued from Page 4A

their lives as a result. Sometimes, it would seem that a simple toss of the coin would be infinitely fairer.

We are now hearing from jurors in the shameful George Zimmerman trial; some second-guessing themselves. Well, they had their chance and they blew it. Shame on them. "Impartial jury" as the Bill of Rights specifies? Not hardly.

Then, of course, memory takes us back to the equally shameful O.J. Simpson trial, where a racially sympathetic jury found Simpson not guilty of the horrendous murder of two people. In no way could they be described as an "impartial jury." It does not help matters to learn that, while 70 percent of blacks agreed with the not guilty verdict in 1995, only 40 percent do now. Too late, much too late for justice.

In the perhaps not too distant future, the U.S. Constitution will be rewritten to reflect the mores of the day; keeping the relevant parts while rewriting or replacing others. Perhaps, the imperfect "impartial jury" provision will be replaced by a panel of judges, while cognizant of the need to follow applicable laws, will temper justice with mercy. That they will do so without prejudice, we can only hope.
Sincerely,
Ruth Elizabeth Ramsey

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

| | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------|
| Garden Tours | Every Monday: 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 |
| Sweet Adelines | Every Tuesday: United Methodist Ch | 6:30 pm |
| Get Fit | First UMC | 5:15 pm |
| Masonic Luncheon | Every Thursday: 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 |
| Misty Mtn Quilt Guild | Second Monday of each month: Hayesville | 10 am-3 pm |
| Disabled Am Veterans | UC Annex, Rm 116 | Noon (Jan-Oct) |
| Historical Society Bd. | Second Tuesday of each month: Old Courthouse | 9:30 am |
| Band Boosters | UC Middle School | 7:30 pm |
| Beta Sigma Phi | (Aug through May, except Dec) | |
| Eastern Star #304 | Kappa Alpha Chapter | 7 pm |
| Mtn Laurel Arts/Crafts | Location not listed | 7:30 pm |
| Mtn. Reg. Arts/Crafts | Union County Library | 10 am |
| NARFE | Library - Young Harris | 7 pm |
| FPL Retirees | Grinds & Glazes | Noon |
| Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer | Hole in Wall Rest. | 9 am |
| | Sr. Citizens Center | 1:30-3:30 pm |
| Parkinson's Sup. Grp | Second Wednesday of each month: Cadence Bank | 3 pm |
| UC Interagency Grp. | UC Civic Center | Noon |
| GA Mtn Writers Club | St. Francis of Assisi | 10 am |
| Sons Confederate Vet. | Second Thursday of each month: UCB Community Rm | 7 pm |
| Appalachian Shriners | Allegheny Lodge | 6:30 pm |
| Knights of Columbus | Marian Hall | 7:30 pm |
| Lions Club | Steve's Cookie Jar | 6 pm |
| Democratic Party | UC Senior Center | 6:30 pm |
| Trout Unlimited | Cadence Bank | 6:30 pm |
| UC Tea Party Patriots | UC Civic Center | 7 pm |
| Eastern Star #471 | Second Friday of each month: Location not listed | 7:30 pm |
| His Victory Riders | Second Saturday of each month: Blairsville Restaurant | 8 am |