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building with other elected officials and offices not involved with the court system, it removed our ability to provide adequate security otherwise.

**Q. We are concerned about all the dump trucks traveling along Pat Colwell Rd. and other rural roads on their way to a new development. It is disrupting our peace and quiet in the neighborhood and we do not feel safe on the roads when meeting the large trucks. Is there not anything the county can do?**

A. First, the Sheriff's Dept. has been made aware of the situation and is monitoring speeds of the vehicles. Second, the county is reminding the truck drivers and the developers that we know they have a job to do, but to try to be courteous to other drivers, especially by not speeding on this road. Third, they will be completing another public sale on the property in about a week and the truck traffic should slow down for a little while.

**Q. Can the county prevent trucks from using a county road?**

A. No, unless it is a road that is not rated for large trucks. While this is an aggravation for some, it is also a sign of economic recovery on the other hand. Many of these same truck drivers have lost homes, equipment and jobs as a result of the downturn in the economy in Union County and the entire country. This is the first really large construction project to come along in years in our county and the first time many of these guys have seen their bank accounts start to stabilize.

Following the land sales, there will be many additional jobs created as homes begin to be built on the property. Does this all cause increased traffic? Yes it does, but a lot of families will have their quality of life improved as well.

**Q. What can you tell us about this property and why is it being developed?**

A. This property was slated to have a multi-million dollar development built there several years ago that fell through just prior to the economic downturn.

The property was taken over by a bank and was recently sold to a group who purchases distressed properties - around 1400 acres. They develop the property and then have a large advertising budget and have periodic public sales of their property. They have been very successful in selling property in our county and several other areas.

**Q. What are the positives and negatives of this development?**

A. The positives are that it brings new people to our area that visit, build second or permanent homes and spend money here. In addition, over time several will settle here and become an integral part of our community. It also drastically improves, over time, our real estate values. This particular development will take property that has been paying minimal property taxes, with values under \$5,000 per acre, to now property valued at over \$30,000 per acre and more in the developed parts of the property. All of this provides more jobs for the entire construction industry and increases revenue for the county, helping to keep property taxes reasonable.

The negatives are obvious. There is more traffic and larger traffic because it will be a large development with construction vehicles involved. It will have an impact on the county roads and will probably require occasional extra repairs. I totally realize that some people who move here like it like it is and do not really want the county to grow. This area, if it follows the typical projection, will develop slowly after the lots are all sold. The average is about 5 years for a new owner building a new home. It is a large parcel of land so will have a larger impact in the immediate area, but the owners are doing an excellent job developing the property so far.

**Q. Will the county have the bill for maintaining the roads within the development?**

A. No. It is a gated community and the streets are all private and the county will not have any cost within the development, only roads approaching it.

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celebrate their thirty years of marriage. They got out the silver serving set and while polishing the teapot a genie came out. "Oh, thank you for releasing me, she said. I will give each of you your desire." The wife said, "I have lived with this man thirty years and he has never taken me anywhere. I want to go on a cruise." "Poof," she has cruise tickets. The man says, "I've lived with this woman thirty years and I want a woman thirty years

younger than me." "Poof," he's eighty years old!

On a more serious note... are five assurances every spouse needs to hear: 1. I love you; 2. I respect you; 3. I find you attractive and desirable; 4. You are the priority in my life; 5. I'm committed to you no matter what happens. No options - no escape from marriage.

*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12  
God - man - woman.  
Selah*

## Williams... continued from Page 4A

your budget and make sure your product is perfectly installed to your specifications. There's no doubt that their customers are satisfied, and it shows in their sales numbers. Our Blairsville store has made the Top 20 in USA gross sales 10 times in the last 13 years! They have recently opened a beautiful new showroom, so stop by and see all they have to offer.

In addition to supporting the local business community and being a very active, involved Chamber member, there are several other reasons Budget Blinds was chosen as our Business of the Quarter. Rick is a member of the local Rotary Club and has volunteered for numerous community events including the Blairsville Scottish Festival and Relay For Life. You may have seen him in a recent performance at the Blue Ridge Community Theatre or by the Licklog Players as he is active in both organizations. DeeDee is a Stephen Minister through the First United Methodist Church and is part of the

handbell choir. She and Rick work closely with the youth of the Church to make a positive impact on their lives. Finally, Budget Blinds has long been a partner of Habitat for Humanity to provide free window coverings in all of our local Habitat homes.

For all these reasons, the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce is honored to present Budget Blinds this outstanding recognition. If you would like to nominate our next Business of the Quarter, forms can be obtained at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com) or by contacting the Chamber at (706) 745-5789.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

found in the "So Easy to Preserve" publication printed by UGA or the "Ball Canning Guide".

You can find the entry form at the Farmers Market and online at [UCFarmersMarket.com](http://UCFarmersMarket.com). You can also find the form at the Cooperative Extension Office.

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kin's Lymphoma, Respiratory Cancers, Soft Tissue Sarcomas, Peripheral Neuropathy, Chloracne, Porphyria Cutanea Tarda, Al Amyloidosis, Birth Defects, B-cell Leukemias, Parkinson's Disease, Ischemic Heart Disease, Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, Laryngeal cancer, Hypertension, and Stroke. More diseases are being added to the list, as more veterans die.

Many veteran associations believe the list is woefully inadequate and should contain 32+ other diseases.

According to the Department of Defense there were 3.4 million troops deployed to SE Asia. According to numerous sources as of 2009 only 1 million were alive (approx). So as of 2009 there was a 33% survival rate after the war.

The Vietnam Veteran Association of America, Blairsville chapter 1101 will meet at the Veterans building on July 17th at 1 PM. Subsequently we will meet every third Thursday of the month same place and time.

The Veteran Building is located across from the park and ride in Blairsville. It is the old Chamber of Commerce building. Call 706-781-9350 if you need additional directions or email [vva@owltown.net](mailto:vva@owltown.net).

## Vandergrift ... continued from Page 4A

are treated at the VA in need of medical and mental treatment. I can empathize with them as I have been suffering with respiratory problems since my visit across the pond some decades ago. I am still battling to get recognized as a victim of our reckless use of chemicals over there. While it's easy to say we shouldn't have gone into Vietnam or Iraq or Afghanistan, we did. We volunteered our best brothers and sisters to help others. Why do we abandon them now? And we give aid to illegal aliens who seem to be treated better than we do.

**Gary Vandergrift**

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493

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Yes, for the third year in a row, we invite the festival goers to join the band and hum together tunes that we all know and love. Kids and adults can all join in. The Market supplies the Kazoos to the first 100 participants. So, if you want to be a part of this joyful band, come by the office around 2 p.m. to get your Kazoo for a 2:15 kazoo performance.

The "Kids Tent" will be set up again this year. Jack the Beanstalk will be part of the story telling time. Balloons will be handed out and coloring and crafts will be enjoyed by the little ones. Face Painting will also be under the tent, with our artist Brenda Lynn coming up with new designs to delight the youngsters. We'll be giving the kids some opportunity to compete with sack races and water balloon tosses, good old fash-

ioned fun! The Kids Tent will be open from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m.

There's always lots to see, shop, hear, and of course, eat at the Market. Plan on spending the day with us. And make sure you plan on getting your Green Bean T-shirt. This year our design is in full color on 100% white cotton t's. They are \$10 each.

For more information about the Green Bean Festival and the kid's pageant, please visit [www.GreanBeanFestival.com](http://www.GreanBeanFestival.com). In the meantime, this Saturday, July 19th, we'll be celebrating The Sweetest Corn Festival. As in the past, we'll be serving hot corn on the cob with butter, salt and pepper, for 50 cents an ear. The goodness starts at 10 a.m., while the corn lasts. For a list of all our events, visit [www.UCFarmersMarket.com](http://www.UCFarmersMarket.com).

### Chamber of Commerce events

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

#### Wednesday, July 16

11 am Ribbon Cutting for Black & White Antiques - UC Community Center  
1 pm Better Breather's Club - Union General Hospital 2nd Floor Classroom  
2 pm Friends of the UC Library Meeting - Community Room in U.C. Library  
6 pm Every Wednesday Bingo - Haralson Memorial Civic Center

#### Thursday, July 17

8 am Trash and Treasures Sale - Union County Farmers Market  
12 pm Rotary of Union County Meeting - 706-745-5565  
6:30 pm Good Neighbors Car Club Monthly Meeting - Meeks Park 1st Pavilion  
6:30 pm Trivia at The View - Union County Community Center

#### Friday, July 18

8 am Trash and Treasures Sale - Union County Farmers Market  
12 pm GA Mountain Fair Opens July 18 - 26 - GA Mountain Fairgrounds  
6 pm Friday Evening Tapas - Crane Creek Vineyards  
6:30 pm Live Music - Monet's Cafe 130 Blue Ridge St.  
7 pm Friday Night Concert Don Byers, Americana - Old Historic Courthouse

#### Saturday, July 19

7 am UC Farmers Market "The Sweetest Corn Festival" - 148 Old Smokey Rd  
10 am 16th Annual Butternut Creek Festival July 19th & 20th - Meeks Park  
11 am Open House @ Mountain Top Furniture & Accessories, 733 Murphy Hwy  
2 pm "Live Music" Summer Concert Series, Paradise Hills Winery Resort & Spa  
2 pm VINO & VIBES - Hightower Creek Vineyards

#### Monday, July 21

9 am Garden Tours - GA Mountain Research & Education Center  
12 pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Weekly Meeting - Steve's Steakhouse  
1:30 pm Misty Mountain Model Railroad Tours M,W,F & S, 16 Misty Mtn. Lane  
6:30 pm Shape Note Singing Practice - Old Union County Courthouse

#### Tuesday, July 22

8 am Tri-State Business Women's Meeting - Blairsville Restaurant  
10 am Ribbon Cutting-Formal Elegance Hair & Makeup Studio-UC Community Cntr.  
3 pm Union County Farmers Market - 148 Old Smokey Rd  
6:30 pm VFW Meeting - 78 Old Blue Ridge Hwy

## UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Garden Tours	<b>Every Monday:</b> GMREC (May-Oct)	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 pm
Sweet Adelines	<b>Every Tuesday:</b> United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
Masonic Luncheon	<b>Every Thursday:</b> 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
<b>Fourth Tuesday of each month:</b>		
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville UMC	12:30
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
VFW Post #7394	Veterans Center	6:30 am
Compassionate Friends	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer	Sr. Citizens Center	1:30-3:30 pm
UC Tea Party Patriots	Shawdowland Tabernacle	7 pm
<b>Fourth Wednesday of each month:</b>		
No activities listed		
<b>Fourth Thursday of each month:</b>		
UT Homebuilders	YH College	7 pm
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 pm
<b>Fourth Friday of each month</b>		
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
<b>Fourth Saturday of each month:</b>		
Youngcane Lodge #597	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm