

# Shucks...continued from Page 1A

sample what was thought to be a "mild" green pepper.

"It's not hot is it," Commissioner Paris inquired. "No, not at all," Totherow said confidently.

Commissioner Paris took a big bite of the bright green pepper and took off in a dead run for the sweet tea stand.

"The lady next door to Charles promised me it was mild," a smiling Commissioner Paris said. "I've gotten a lot of vegetables from Charles over the years. I'm a little leery now."

A tall glass of sweet tea, a piece of homemade pie and a small tub of Ronnie Dyer's homemade ice cream later, Commissioner Paris discovered that you had better pay attention to those little locally grown, green

infernos.

It took all three Market favorites to somewhat take the sting out of Commissioner Paris' unfortunate up close encounter with a habanero chili pepper.

"My mouth was on fire for two hours straight," Commissioner Paris said.

Of course, a smiling Totherow said Commissioner Paris chose the wrong pepper. Totherow later blamed the pepper mix up on his wife.

The episode was the equivalent of a Dunk Tank at a carnival. That's a story that will be remembered for years.

However, Commissioner Paris said he actually thought the pepper was mild. Live and learn.

It just goes to show how

much fun The Market and its organized events really are.

The festival wasn't just about corn shucks and hot peppers.

There was grilled and boiled corn on the cob to choose from.

Don Deyton and his wife Peggy of the Farmers Market Committee, prepared the sweet, yellow maize for the enjoyment of Market patrons.

Tubs of butter, precisely 32 ounces each, were a necessity to accompany the locally grown treat as each sampler spread the butter on thick.

Every where you looked there was hot butter running down chins as folks enjoyed the delicious offerings of the Sweetest Corn Festival.

Sweetest Corn Festival committee coordinator JoAnne Leone, would like to thank all those who contributed in the preparation work for the event and she sent out a special thank you to all the local farmers who donated the sweet corn.

It is obvious that through these efforts the Sweetest Corn Festival was a huge success for The Market's shoppers and for the county as a whole.

Make plans now to attend next year's festival.

Always be leery of free pepper samples and remember to practice your corn shucking, because who knows, your efforts may be good enough to get you crowned "Fastest Cornshucker" of 2013.

See you next year.



Blairsville's Trent Kerr outshucked his competitor from Titusville, Fla. He finished with 10 shucked ears of corn. Photo/Joe Collins



All roads led to the Farmers Market on Saturday for the Third Sweetest Corn Festival. Photo/Joe Collins

# Checkpoint...continued from Page 1A

ton said. Lt. Deyton then turned the meeting over to Marty Duncan, Pastor of Fellowship of the Hills Church in Blairsville.

Duncan, a retired police officer from Florida, blessed the food and prayed for the safety of our law enforcement as they put themselves in harm's way.

After the meal, Lt. Deyton introduced the evening's guest speaker, Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley.

Langley spoke to the officers about recent changes in the laws regarding searches of vehicles, adjustments to drug laws and domestic violence issues related to spousal immunity, and the distinction between residential and commercial burglaries.

His main objective of the evening was to assist the officers

in building their cases and mounting enough evidence, before turning their reports over to the District Attorney's Office.

At the conclusion of the meeting and just a few minutes shy of 8 p.m. a checkpoint was set up across from Red's Country Store where Highway 325 crosses Highway 515.

Despite rain moving in, the checkpoint continued well past 9:30 p.m. with the assistance of the Georgia State Patrol and other local agencies that attended the meeting.

Before the license check, Langley spoke about the importance of cooperation between different law enforcement agencies and the need for highway checkpoints.

"The cooperation is vital and traffic enforcement is



Union County Investigator C.J. Worden talks with a member of the Georgia State Patrol during last week's license check. Photo/Todd Forest

so important to our safety, to our families and the traveling public," Langley said. "It cuts down on DUIs, deaths, and accidents," he said. "Many

more serious cases are made and prosecuted because the evidence arises out of a routine traffic stop. These meetings help our officers be up to date on the laws and the best practices and strategies to use during a routine traffic stop."

# Drug Court...continued from Page 1A

pointed Drug Court Judge on a weekly basis and submit to random drug testing. The offender must also complete counseling sessions and attend Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meetings on a regular basis.

Langley asked the officers from the surrounding counties for a show of hands if they disliked the drug court system.

Nobody raised a hand. He then asked for a show of hands of those who liked the drug courts and was met with the same response.

"So you're indifferent," Langley told the group of law enforcement officers.

Langley laid out the pros and cons of the program.

He added that he has attended many graduations from Drug Court in Lumpkin and White County and said that it always touching to see someone who has turned their life around and escaped the cold, dark grasp of drug and alcohol addiction.

Although, those who choose not take advantage of this second chance will suffer the consequences if they con-

tinue to relapse.

"They must prove over and over again that they are clean," Langley said. "Some may use the Drug Court as a get out of jail free card, but if they choose not to get clean, they will go back to jail."

With the lonely road of addiction leading nowhere except for death or incarceration, Union County Probate Court Judge Dwain Brackett gave his endorsement to Langley's Drug Court plan.

"It's a good idea and we need it," Judge Brackett said.

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The Sons of Confederate Veterans, David W. Payne Camp No. 1633 presented a \$1,000 check to Jacob Franklin, the son of SSG Bobby C. Franklin, who was killed in Iraq Aug. 20, 2003.

"This should jump start fund raising for this memorial," said Pete White of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "It's our hope that individuals, businesses and organizations will follow and come forward with contributions to this glorious cause. We ask that they give just a portion of the amount that we have given and bless this community with a memorial to the Iraq War veterans."

On behalf of the memorial to Iraq War veterans, Jacob Franklin accepted the check that will help pay for the addition to the Union County War Memorial that recognizes the fallen and those who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Jacob's father, Bobby Franklin paid the ultimate sacrifice in that war, one of 4,409 service men and women who died for Freedom during the ongoing War on Terrorism.

"It's special for me to be a part of this today," Jacob Franklin said. "We all know that Dad did pay the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq. It's special to be with family here today, the people who

knew my Dad and were with him during his time here on this Earth.

"I'm proud to be a part of this war memorial that pays tribute to Iraq War veterans," he said. "I know Dad is looking down today and he's got a big smile on his face."

Bobby Franklin, who worked in Union County as a detention officer, was killed when the security patrol vehicle he was driving was impacted by a detonated improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq.

His gunner, Blairsville's Chuck Honaker also was severely injured during that explosion. Honaker and former Veterans Services Director for Union County, Roy Hamby, have spearheaded the drive to include a memorial to Iraq War veterans at Union County's Veterans Memorial Park on School Street.

"Bobby's looking down today, he's probably saying 'nothing but love bro,'" Honaker said. "I know Bobby is proud of his family he left behind. Jacob is a fine young man, I know Bobby's proud of the man his son has become, he's proud of Jacob's family, he's proud of his grand-baby Aubree. "I also think he's proud of our effort to remember him and all those that have given the ultimate sacrifice," Honaker said.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, who has been an integral part of helping to make the Iraq War Memorial a reality, said all he could think about on Sunday was Bobby Franklin.

"I know that Bobby was from Fannin County, but he was a big part of Union County," Commissioner Paris, said following the donation ceremony at the Union County War Memorial. "Bobby was an integral part of this War Memorial in Union County. He personally made sure it was taken care of the right way. He'll always be remembered."