

Paris ... from Page 4A

Q. Who maintains the county grounds for all these buildings?

A. The county contracts with the Carlton Colwell Detention Center for five separate crews of supervised state probationers that average seven to nine members per crew.

These crews help maintain the Butternut Creek Golf Course, Meeks Park, Potete Creek Campground, courthouses, both historic and new, pick up roadside trash and several other facilities including the grounds at the Byron Herbert Reece Farm and Heritage Center.

Q. Does county staff work alongside the state probationers?

A. Yes. We estimate that these probation crews plus county staff maintain approxi-

mately 200 acres of grass and grounds, as well as five miles of trails.

In addition they work on many special projects such as the Civic Center remodeling and other building projects.

The total tab for these five crews is \$39,500 per crew per year. So for less than the price of an employee with benefits, we get an entire crew.

What they do would cost the county in excess of well over \$500,000 if done in house or privatized, plus it allows us to do many things we could not afford otherwise.

We really appreciate the staff of the Carlton Colwell Detention Center and the detainees for the great job they perform for Union County. *Continued next week.*

Leone ...from Page 4A

late chipper.

One day Alan and I burst into his Mom's kitchen from the back door. Alan took one whiff of the pot that was on the stove and he started to dance. His nose knew exactly what his Mom had been concocting. She assured him that he'd have to wait till evening, but he wasn't going to hear of it. He wanted what was in that pot, now. So, Mrs. Dolce placed two small plates on the table, a napkin for each of us and a tiny two pronged fork, the likes of which I had never seen before. She then ladled three hard little shells, covered in a tomato sauce onto each plate. Alan started right in on extracting his treat from its shell. I was not sure what to do. I remember Mrs. Dolce squatting down and putting her arms around me, gently guiding my hands as she showed me how to release the snail from its home.

As Alan sucked down the sauce coated meat, I witnessed the look of pure epicurean satisfaction settle across his cherub face. I followed suit, and to this day, I have an affinity for escargot, though I've never had it quite as satisfying as that memory.

I saw Alan last month at my high school class reunion. He lives in the same County where we grew up, a successful businessman, and an adoring father. He has been mar-

ried for years to Nunzia, the wife he met when traveling to Italy. She seems to be the perfect lid to his pot. That evening, we spoke of this gourmand memory, and shared many more. On my birthday last week, he posted a picture on Facebook of the two of us that was taken on a chance meeting in California while we both were visiting there two years ago. It was a sweet, "dolce" act of friendship.

I've never been of the ilk where I wished I was young again. I like the wisdom that comes with having lived each and every one of the 21,183 days I've been on this earth. I wouldn't trade them in to do it over again. But if I ever live long enough to experience time travel, I will choose to be back for a warm summer day in that foxhole, with Paul, Mickey, David and my sweet Alan.

For most folks, escargot is an exotic food. This Saturday, Aug. 17th, at the Union County Farmers Market, Mickey Cummings and I will be putting our chef aprons back on and fixing our own Market produce and meats, but with an exotic flair. Come taste free samples of some of the dishes that we'll be bringing from all over the world, cooked by the two of us. We'll be at the helm at midcourt between 10 a.m. and noon. I'll look forward to seeing you.

Cummings ...from Page 4A

the Voting Delegates Session. During that speech I told the stories of the escape of the Grissom brothers and about my grandfather purchasing a new Ford Truck from Grissom Ford in 1967. I like to think our ancestors would be pleased that the Grissom Family and Cummings family

are still acquainted through 3 generations.

The Farmers Market will host a Tractor Parade on August 31st beginning at 11 AM. You should be in place that morning by 10 AM. The event is sponsored by Georgia Farm Bureau. Each participant will receive a t-shirt. The

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knees that we would someday become communists." On July 7, 2000, according to *The Washington Times*, while giving a speech Fonda said, "I, a socialist, think that we should strive toward a socialist society, all the way to communism."

In 1972 when Fonda traveled to North Vietnam along with Tom Hayden and others, she was not a young person who did not know what she doing was wrong. This 34-year-old woman was warmly greeted by soldiers of North Viet Nam. I ask the readers to look back on the photos of her proudly sitting on the command seat of anti-aircraft guns used to kill young American airmen. Study the photos of her lovingly gazing at the North Vietnam gun crews as she did what she claimed her mission to be, that was to give support to the North Vietnamese government.

Upon her return to her country of birth, Fonda assured the media that our POWs were well treated and were not being tortured. A year later in 1973 when our POWs began returning home with the stories of the horrible treatment they had suffered, Fonda called them liars and hypocrites.

On Aug. 3, 1995, the

Wall Street Journal published an interview with a Mr. Bui Tin, who was a high-ranking member of the North Vietnam Army general staff.

When asked if the anti-war movement was important to Hanoi's victory, he replied, "it was essential to our strategy."

In 1975, after the fall of South Vietnam, Fonda returned to Hanoi for a celebration in her honor for the work she had done for North Vietnam.

When I am asked to forgive someone who has spent most of her life trying to destroy the way of life that many have died and served to protect, I just cannot find it in my heart to do so. And honestly to be asked to forgive her for the sake of a "movie" is ludicrous.

In closing, I would like to remind those who may have forgotten, after the fall of South Vietnam, some 80,000 South Vietnamese were murdered by Fonda's friends. And most important of all, there are 25,493 names of true Americans on the Vietnam Memorial Wall who were under the age of 21 when they paid the ultimate price for the country Fonda wants to destroy. **James Derflinger**

Parris ...from Page 4A

you feel like I do, sometimes you may want to read the riot act to some newscasters and politicians. Sometimes I catch myself standing in front of the TV saying, "Read my lips, dumbo!" I know that reading is not enough. Sometimes you have to practice what you read. One intellectual fellow loved to read. He read everything he could find about philosophy and became a philosopher. He read everything about math and became a mathematician. He read everything he could find out about swimming and

he drowned. If you want to get the truth, the whole truth, absolute truth without reading between the lines try reading God's Word, The *Holy Bible*. Read it every day. God said it and He means what He said. A little boy, after hearing a missionary tell about reading all the Bible through from Genesis to Revelation asked her, did you read all the "begets?" She said, "Yes." He said, "What lesson did you learn?" She said, "Patience my dear", "patience." I hope you read into this all that I intended. Do you read me?

Cheves ...from Page 4A

recently cut food stamps from the farm bill which benefits wealthy agricultural corporations. Now Republicans in Congress are unscrupulously trying to cripple or eliminate affordable medical care for all the people, something that

has been available to all other western industrial nations for many years.

Mr. Collins should be ashamed of himself. And he used your tax dollars to print and mail those letters.

Charles Cheves

Williams ...from Page 4A

employees. It is estimated that absenteeism, increased health-care costs, and decreased productivity due to alcohol and other substance abuse can cost a company \$1,000 per employee per year.

It is easy to see the benefits of a drug free workplace in terms of employee health, performance, satisfaction, and safety. It is also easy to understand the positive impact on a company's bottom line when implementing a drug free workplace program. Therefore, let's take a look at the State components required of companies who are interested in becoming a certified drug free workplace and will therefore save 7.5 percent on their Worker's Compensation.

There are five simple steps required to achieve certification: Have a substance abuse policy; conduct limited drug testing; complete employee education; complete supervisor training; have an Employee Assistance Program or a free list of counselors. Many of these tools can be provided to you by the chamber at no cost which makes implementation very manageable.

Many companies in Union County are already reaping the benefits of certification. The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Com-

merce in partnership with the Council on Alcohol and Drugs is available to assist companies meet the above requirements.

If you would like to learn more, please contact our office at 706-745-5789 or me directly at President@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

parade is open to any piece of farm vehicle including old trucks, old tractors, old lawn mowers, new tractors, combines, ugly tractors and restored tractors. The event is designed to highlight our local farmers and the day will conclude with our Ag Hall of Fame Inductions sponsored by the Union County Historical Society.

Mitchell

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"guidelines" sent down from Mount Washington via the Department of Education. Where "federal money" flows, control surely follows.

The DoE employs 4,500 people. During 2010-2013, Obama doubled the DoE budget. During those three years, the DoE spent \$205 billion. Had the DoE been defunded, those funds, returned to the 50 states, \$4.1 billion comes home for each state to spend on local schools, managed by each State instead of controlled by Washington bureaucrats.

That \$4.1 billion would have been more than enough money to fund Obama's mythical "100,000 teachers." There would have been more than enough money for each state to create and to fund "safe schools" and teachers' salaries and benefits and books and chalk and crayons and computers and buses and college tuition.

Five times over the past two years, I've phoned and e-mailed Sen. Isakson to ask, where, in the Constitution, does the authority fall to Congress for the existence of the Department of Education?

Article 1, Section 8, contains the 13 - only 13 - "enumerated duties" of the federal government. Education doesn't appear on that list.

I have yet to receive any response from him.

Every time that Johnny Isakson votes to support the DoE, he votes against local control of schools and admits that "We, the People," are incapable of educating our own children.

Each year, the DoE budget increases and their influence over the children of Georgia widens. The DoE is bureaucratic Kudzu gradually engulfing Georgia's children. **George Mitchell Blairsville**

Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events

see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com

	Wednesday, August 14
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
	Thursday, August 15
12 pm	Rotary Club Monthly Meeting - Cadence Bank 2nd Floor
5 pm	Trivia Night - The Union County Community Center View Grill
6:30 pm	Woodmen of the World Lodge Meeting - Steve's Steakhouse
6:30 pm	Good Neighbors Auto Club Meeting- Meeks Park Building #2
7 pm	Shape Note Singing - Union County Historical Courthouse
	Friday, August 16
8 am	Trash and Treasures - Union County Farmers Market
10 am	Cherokee Leaf Pounding Hands On Workshop - GA Mountain Research & Education Center
7 pm	Buzzard Mountain Bats - Union County Historical Courthouse
	Saturday, August 17
7 am	Union County Farmers Market - 148 Old Smokey Rd
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
7 pm	Neighbor's Hand "The Gathering" - 307C Cleveland Street
	Monday, August 19
9 am	Garden Tours - The GA Mountain Research & Education Center
12 pm	Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting-Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
7 pm	American Legion Monthly Meeting - Haralson Memorial Civic Center
	Tuesday, August 20
8 am	Tri-State Business Women's Meeting - Cooks Country Restaurant
3 pm	Union County Farmer's Market - 148 Old Smokey Rd
	Wednesday, August 21
2pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane