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tion, including curbs, sidewalks, and street lights; Parks, recreational areas, facilities, and programs; Storm-water and sewage collection disposal systems; Water utilities; Public housing; Public transportation; Libraries, archives, and arts/sciences programs and facilities; Terminal and dock facilities and parking facilities; Codes, including building, housing, plumbing, and electrical codes; Air quality control; Planning and zoning.

Q. At one of the Public Hearings you read from a long list of mandated and supplemental services the county must and can provide according to state law. Can we get a copy of that document?

A. Yes, we have provided that to you on our county website, www.unioncountygga.gov. On the home page on the left hand side you will see "Recent News" and County Services: Mandated and Discretionary. Or you can come by our office and pick up a copy. There are over 70 different services that counties provide to you, as per Georgia Law.

Q. What elected officials are counties required to have?

A. Counties were created by a rural society that looked to government to keep the records straight and the justice swift. To

help counties administer state programs and conduct state courts, the state constitution originally created four elected county officers: the sheriff, the tax commissioner, the clerk of the superior court, and the judge of the probate court.

In 1868 the state began creating the position of county commissioner to administer the general operations of the county. Today every county has a commissioner; many have a board of commissioners (BOC). As part of general county operations, the BOC must finance all county programs and pay the salaries of constitutional officers and their office operation cost.

Q. What powers does the BOC (or Sole Commissioner) have?

A. Beyond the powers assigned to the constitutional officers, the commissioner (BOC) is the county governing authority. It has the power to adopt ordinances, resolutions, or regulations relating to county property, county affairs, and the operation of local government. Larger, more urban counties distribute governmental responsibilities among many departments, whereas smaller, more rural counties of 10 employ only a few officials, each of whom serves several functions.

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Paul and Bud were awakened the next morning by the familiar booming voice of Old Man Newell screaming out the words, "Your boys put my wagon on top of my barn". Papa called his sons into the kitchen for breakfast and asked them about Newell's claims. The boys couldn't lie to their daddy considering the fact that they had not cleaned the wagon grease from their hands which was acquired during the escapades of the previous evening. The boys confessed their crimes to their daddy and explained why they had committed them. Their daddy listened and stated that he understood. However, they were told to go and take the wagon down from the top of the barn. They were also told to go and get the other boys to help the old man.

When the boys drove up the old man began screaming. He stood at the bottom of the barn and watched to make sure the job was done to his satisfaction. Tommy Trapp asked the other boys, "How are we going to do this?" The old man screamed, "The same way you got it up there". So, Tommy

shrugged his shoulders and began taking apart the buggy. He pulled the iron wheel from the axle after the hub was removed and said, "Watch this". Tommy let go of the wheel right above Old Man Newell and it rolled down the sloped roof of the barn. The wheel came within 6 inches of Old Man Newell's head. He must've got the message because he left the boys alone to finish the job and Old Man Newell never again screamed at the boys from Trapptown.

The Apple Dumplin' Festival will be held at the Farmers Market on Saturday, Sept. 20. You will be able to purchase apples, apple sauce and apple butter at the Farmers Market on that day. Come on to the market and try our locally made apple butter. Also, please remember the Union County Canning Plant will be open each Tuesday and Thursday through Oct. 16. During the months of November and December we will open on two Tuesdays each month for greens and meat and other items you might wish to process.

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way! He had built a trellis that stretched from building to building across the alley, upon which meandered dense leafy vines and low-hanging grapes, sheltering us from the oppressive rays of the sun. To this day, I don't know where they were planted; they seemed to just miraculously flow out of the concrete, brick, and asbestos shingled sides of the buildings.

I was familiar only with Long Island's large potato farms and corn fields with their sweet and bountiful harvest that we purchased at roadside stands. My mother decimated all other vegetables, simmering them to their deaths, so they were never high on my list of favored foods. Moving in later years to Florida and Texas, always working outside the home with little time for or interest in great cooking, I was unfamiliar with the variety and great tastes of home grown fruits and vegetables. Mr. D'Angelo's grape vine was the only first-hand knowledge I had ever had of a "home garden." I hate to admit it, but, until moving to Blairsville in the 1990s, I was completely unaware that so many people grew their own vegetables! I had thought Mr. D'Angelo was the last of a dying breed, unable to relinquish the traditions of the "old country."

The Union County Farmers Market broadened my culi-

nary horizons dramatically, not only by allowing me to question the patient growers as to how to cook many of the vegetables and how best to freeze and preserve them, but also by introducing me to vegetables I had never tasted or, in some cases, even heard of. Who eats kale? Multiple varieties of garlic? Who knew? While it still embarrasses me, I get a kick out of the look on their faces when I ask the farmers to please tell me which squash is which. Is this butternut? No, that's acorn. And this... oh, that's a turnip? I love that multi-generational family members in the booths who share their time-tested recipes and tips to make it "come out right." I am actually having a love affair with okra.

My husband and I tried our hand at a small (tiny) vegetable garden a few years ago and were relatively successful, but not so much so that we rushed to do it again. Now we don't need to. With the rich and colorful bounty available to us each week in the growing season, not to mention the generous and kind advice, I so look forward to going to the market each week and preparing and eating more delicious vegetables than I have eaten in my entire life!

I probably should have spent more time talking to Mr. D'Angelo!

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("61 Hours") to have his protagonist, Jack Reacher, inform readers that this drug has been around for a long time. Originally named Pervitin, it was a German refinement of a Japanese discovery; later named Desoxyn.

During World War II, as Major Reacher points out, certain situations and certain operations called for what the field manuals described as alertness, focus, motivation and mental clarity for extended periods. To serve this desired end, methamphetamine was in such widespread use by the Allies that Reacher makes the laconic comment that he was surprised anyone ever slept during that time. Understandably, the drug was a favorite of bomber pilots on long bombing raids where it was imperative that they stay awake and alert. Not to worry, Reacher assures readers: "They had morphine for sleeping."

Major Reacher makes the unsettling comment that

the demand for Desoxyn was very strong; that it was general issue like boots or ammunition, and that medics carried it in their kits. The method of delivery was up to the medical officers: some made it up into pills, some preferred drinking it dissolved in water, some recommended inhaling it, some preferred it in suppositories. One of the obvious side effects was increased sexual desire.

Perhaps what we are now seeing as the scourge of methamphetamine is the "unintended consequence" resulting from the actions of those who should have known better. We are reaping what we sowed and it is a bumper crop. If the military was largely responsible for the acculturation towards the use of drugs when there is no real physical or mental need, then it owes the American people a huge apology.

Ruth Elizabeth Ramsey

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than the sea, salt, sand and the sun. You were exposed to skin. I truly believe that some of the women (and men) on the beach could carry their swimsuits in a band-aid box. If some folks believe that beauty is only skin deep, they must believe more skin shown, more beauty seen.

I suppose that by now I have gotten under some reader's skin. Those of you who have a thick skin will keep on reading but those with a thin skin may take exception. There may not be more sea, more salt, more sand and more sun but there is definitely more skin. What's even more amazing to me is what people are doing to the skin. Why, some have poked, punched, pinched, peeled, pickled, pulled, plugged and painted their skin until you couldn't recognize them if they were your blood kin. Some have inserted rocks, stones, gold, silver and metal in every

conceivable area of the skin so that it would be impossible for them to slip up on anyone. You can hear them coming. They sound like wind chimes with all those rocks and metal clanging together. And have you noticed the scenes that some people have painted on their skin? Someone has said that some families don't have to go on vacation. Dad just puts all the family in the car parked in the driveway, pulls off his shirt and runs around and around the car flashing scenes of national monuments, mountains, oceans, parks and lakes. They don't have to leave the driveway to take in historic sites.

According to Job 19:26, worms will destroy the skin, but do you suppose that some people's skin won't be appetizing even to worms? Pray that I am not skinned alive over this column. Anyway, it's been on my mind.

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forts to clean up Union County might be premature as those cases remain untried. While you are entitled to your opinion, perhaps knowing more facts would be helpful prior to forming one. But, I do agree that this paper spending its space and ink to publish that article the way it did is, at best, of questionable repute.

The gravest concern I have is in the formatting of the original article. Nowhere else on the front page of that issue is any other individual's or organization's proper name given in bold print when it appears in the body of an article. No. Only under this headline are the names of people, even those not associated with the titular indictment, given the dubious honor of bold typeface. A fact that might cause one to wonder what purpose would be served in doing so, unless that purpose was to garner reactions such as

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of his pen and disconnect his phone, there's no telling what he might do or not do in his last two years.

We have a president who thinks he can by-pass other branches of government which according to Thomas Jefferson is "tyranny."

Lastly, Thomas Jefferson was also quoted as saying, "Politicians are like diapers. They should be changed often and for the same reason." See, I give it to both parties.

Chris Crawford

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our country from yet another evil force to be reckon with and this is why our beloved nation stands in the gap, on guard watching and waiting for the next fight to begin clothed with the armor of salvation, the power of the word of God marching onward into battle. Alas the war has ended and all is quiet on the home front once again.

Oh, Lord when will it all be over. Come quickly Lord, Jesus we pray. Amen

Frank F. Combs

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security personnel. A license holder who enters or attempts; 209 to enter a government building carrying a weapon where ingress is restricted or screened; 210 by security personnel shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if at least one member of such; 211 security personnel is certified as a peace officer pursuant to Chapter 8 of Title 35; provided; 212 however, that a license holder who immediately exits such building or immediately leaves; 213 such location upon notification of his or her failure to clear security due to the carrying of; 214 a weapon shall not be guilty of violating this subsection or paragraph (1) of subsection (b); 215 of this Code section. A person who is not a license holder and who attempts to enter a; 216 government building carrying a weapon shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

In that subsection, there is no requirement, no mandating, no obligation, to institute, impose or create "courthouse security."

In that subsection, there is a clear distinction between those who are licensed for concealed carry and those who are not.

Again, \$250,000 worth of "courthouse security" hasn't been forced upon or required of Commissioner Paris by HB 60. To do so was his interpretation of that bill and his decision.

To raise the property tax millage rate to fund that additional cost was also his decision.

Has Commissioner Paris had reason to believe that there is a "risk of courthouse violence?"

Let's be sure of where the responsibility lies for that decision and for its subsequent cost — which is certain to increase. - It is government, after all.

George Mitchell

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is well-spoken, talented, and genuinely interested in becoming an active part of this community. Maybe that's what impressed me the most. Sandy did not just ask about a job. She asked how she could be involved. She asked how she could help. She proved that she is willing to put in the work to find the perfect fit for her and for her future employer. In a world where individuals who demonstrate a strong work ethic, profound courage, and a desire to build valuable relationships are often difficult to find, I couldn't help but share my observations.

So here's my call to action. Together, let's find the perfect employer for Sandy and put to use her wonderful talents in Union County. If you or someone you know is hiring for a position which you think Sandy might enjoy, please call me at 706-745-5789 or email me at president@blairsville-chamber.com. I will be happy to share her resume and make an introduction for you. While not every job will be perfect for Sandy, nor Sandy perfect for every job, there is certainly one out there that is, and I'm convinced that employer will be most fortunate.

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so divided that they rarely compromise on anything! Sadly our Democratic president, the Senate and the current White House staff are so opposed to working with Republicans on anything that they will go around them when they can or demonize them publicly. There is no compromise in Obama's "my way or the highway" thinking which filters down through his staff resulting in grid lock and executive orders designed to undermine our Constitution, which he sees as an impediment to his plans of fundamentally changing America.

I am not a Republican but, I too question the thinking of anyone who would place a bumper sticker on their car sup-

porting anyone in a party that supports Obama's vision of America, but I would not damage their car or beat them up over their political views just as I would not place a Republican sticker on my car in Atlanta. Maybe I am a coward in that respect but cars are expensive and I am not stupid.

I wonder how people would vote if the "D" or the "R" were removed from the ballots? It would be very confusing for the low information crowd if they had to actually pick a candidate rather than a label. Do these people even know the issues or their representatives voting record? I doubt it! I wish we had a Constitution Party.

John Q. Adams