

## Paris...continued from Page 4A

have 2 utility all terrain vehicles to assist with off-road and trail rescues, the proper equipment to host a patient out of the woods via a helicopter, a mobile command center to accommodate the management of major incidents, 4 thermal imaging cameras that see through smoke and help with night searches, and much more. They are prepared to help Union County citizens with any situation that arises. Much of this special equipment has been obtained with grants. Thankfully, our Fire Department is very proactive in going after grants. We also appreciate very much the donations made by residences (full and part time) of the county to each volunteer fire station, helping them keep their personal equipment upgraded and safe.

### Q. How many structure fires and other calls does the Fire Department typically respond to in a year?

A. The Fire Department responded to 1,914 calls last year. Out of the 1,914 calls, the firefighters responded to 45 structure fires, 16 vehicle fires, 48 brush or grass fires, and 9 other miscellaneous fire calls. They responded to 1,148 medical calls to assist the ambulance. 151 responses were to motor vehicle accidents. Search and/or Rescue calls accounted for 54 of the calls. There were 241 calls the firefighters responded to which includes calls such as ani-

mal rescue, smoke complaints, traffic control, public education, and assisting other agencies. 147 calls were cancelled before firefighters arrived on scene. There were 32 fire alarm calls. There were 19 hazardous condition calls such as fuel leaks and carbon monoxide incidents.

### Q. What do the firefighters do when they are not responding to fires?

A. This may come as a surprise, but firefighting is only a small part of their job. As reported in the previous question they respond to many other situations other than structure fires. They are required to have 120+ hours fire training and 36+ hours of medical training per year. Some of their other responsibilities are pre-fire plans, which have to be updated twice a year; public safety and fire education with schools (including visits with Sparky recently seen at the Sorghum Festival Parade), nursing homes, and other businesses in the community; all yearly hose testing on each vehicle; daily equipment and vehicle inspections for readiness; breathing apparatus to assure functioning properly; smoke alarm installations, traffic control/parking at most county/city events, parades and much more. We truly appreciate all our emergency services personnel do for the citizens of Union County.

## Garner...continued from Page 4A

works to bring the people, the hearts and businesses of Union County into a circle for the greater good. We strive to bring visitors to our community to enhance tourism. We believe in small business and the opportunities that come with your small business successes. It stands to reason the mission of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce is to positively impact

our community and members by facilitating tourism, economic and cultural development. Our online presence can be viewed at [www.visitblairsvillega.com](http://www.visitblairsvillega.com). You may check for member information or phone the chamber at (706) 745-5789 for a calendar of events. I may be reached anytime at [Chair@BlairsvilleChamber.com](mailto:Chair@BlairsvilleChamber.com).

## Mitchell ...continued from Page 4A

many low-income couples, marriage means a reduction in government assistance and an overall decline in the couple's joint income.

In 2010, 59 percent of all births in the nation occurred to married couples, down from 93 percent in 1964.

I know of a woman living

in Atlanta who calls herself "The Breadwinner." She has birthed eight children from three different men. Each child increases her welfare income -- which stands at \$144,000 per year, or almost \$2,800 per week. Each new child increases her "family" income proportionately.

**George Mitchell**

## Hemphill ...continued from Page 4A

including sports. They have their place as well as work time, play time, or anything else you can think of. Solomon was very righteous in the sight of God. He told Solomon that he could have anything in the world, and he chose wisdom. Because of his choice, he also received many other things of this world, such as riches. With these riches he spent them on going places and doing things to find pleasure in this world. With that, he gained more and more knowledge. "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity saith the preacher," states another place in the Bible. Solomon figured out after spending tons of his riches that everything on Earth is just vanity and vexation of spirit. Nothing really means anything, but what you do for God. Basically, sports are just vanity and vexation of spirit.

Another reason would be people spend way too much on sports and not on other important things, like spending times with ones you love. Why would you want to keep your mind on just one thing all the time? "Practice, practice, practice," is all your coach would say if you did it for a living. People pay sports players WAY TOO MUCH. NFL players get paid 1.1 million dollars a year. The one who runs and governs the whole entire country, including the sports players, doesn't even get paid half as much. The president of the United States of America only gets paid \$400,000 a year. Also, may I remind you, that sports players only play for a season, not even for a whole year. How crazy is that?

My final reason that there

should not be much emphasis on sports is that the country needs the money. We are 16 trillion dollars in debt and we're paying each ONE of the players in every single sport at least a million dollars a year. First of all, how many sports are there? There's basketball, baseball, softball, lacrosse, tennis, golf, football, competition cheerleading, Nascar, cross country, water polo, and so much more. And to add to all of the sports, look at all the players for every sport and all the countries, states, provinces, and even continents that they come from. We're giving them tons and tons of money that could be used for hospitals and nursing homes and schools and parks so why would you want to waste all of that money to just pay someone to play a sport? If we're going to do that is there any difference in paying all of the little league players and recreational teams?

In conclusion, I'm hoping that all of my persuasive points about this topic will change your mind. I also will remind you of my three points. They are that you could be spending your time on other things, paying them way too much, and you could be using the money for much more important things. You could be finding a cure for cancer and other diseases instead of paying people for playing. Why would you want to let innocent people die just because you're using your money on selfish things? What's the difference in letting one of your children starve while you pay for the other one to play sports? It's just the same, so let's do something about it.

**Brittany Hemphill, Student**

## S.C.V. ...continued from Page 4A

passed stating, among other things, that "the misuse of the Confederate Battle Flag by any extremist group or individual espousing political extremism and/or racial superiority degrades the Confederate Battle Flag and maligns the noble purpose of our ancestors who fought against extreme odds for what they knew was just, right, and constitutional."

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is a nonprofit Historical Preservation Society, which operates under Section 501(c)

(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. We hold our meetings the second Thursday of every month (except December) at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the United Community Bank on GA 515 in Blairsville. Our meetings are always open and the public is always invited - - no robes or hoods allowed.

**Deo Vindice, Darryl Moler – Commander, Ronny Benfield – Lt. Commander, Harold Levi – Adjutant, Pete White – Treasurer, Ed Massengale – Chaplain.**

## Bradford

...continued from Page 4A

My wife worked at a hospital for over 15 years and I have to say that she is very familiar with their operation. She has nothing but praise for your staff and facility. You have the cleanest hospital we have ever been to and we have seen many of them. It is obvious that the people working in your hospital, from the surgeons to the janitors, take pride in working as a team and providing the best patient care that is possible. Together, they turned an away from home emergency into a very positive healing process. Please share this letter with all those I mentioned and thank each one of them for the contribution that they make every day. They are the BEST! God Bless you all!

**Dane Bradford**

## Kruger

...continued from Page 4A like many other uninsured people.

What you will not receive in the ER is just as important. You will not receive follow up care, adjustments to your meds, a stress test etc. You will not receive preventive health screenings. You may be told to see a specialist who may or may not see you if you have no insurance. You may find yourself back in the ER.

The Affordable Healthcare Act or Obamacare seeks to protect families by ensuring they can access the healthcare system. With less uncompensated care to cover hospitals will not have to inflate bills for everyone to make up for the costs of uninsured patients.

Early detection of illness and consistent treatment saves lives, decreases disabilities and saves money.

**Ruth Kruger**

## Cummings...continued from Page 4A

tonished that anyone could sell that many candy bars. Mr. Fischer announced Billy's success over the intercom. Everyone but Mr. Keebler was impressed.

The next week Billy's total was up to 158. All the teachers and the staff were rubbing Billy's blonde hair and patting him on the back. I believe that Billy was enjoying his new image. He was no longer viewed as a trouble maker. All the teachers treated him with respect and admiration. That is everyone but, Mr. Keebler. By the end of the month of candy sales Billy had sold \$350 dollars of candy bars. At .50 cents per bar it is easy to calculate that Billy had sold 700 candy bars. But, if you knew Billy and watched him closely you to tell he had gained weight as well.

The announcements about the winners of the sale were made on the final day of the sale. During lunch everyone was rubbing Billy's head and congratulating his success. Everyone except Mr. Keebler. As Billy walked by him in the hallway, Mr. Keebler's only comment was, "Billy, I think you have gained some weight". For the first time in weeks I noticed a troubled look in the eyes of Billy.

I guess he was worried about the next day. That day was Friday and we were to bring our money from the sales back to the school. The next morning I walked into school and noticed Billy standing in the office as his Dad sat in a chair waiting for Mr. Fischer. I learned later that Billy could not sit down. Sitting would be very painful for Billy for a while.

No one ever determined the number of candy bars Billy consumed. But, he only turned in \$48.50 of the \$350 he should have turned back to the school. Billy's 1 month of fame went to his head and now the only people that still admired him were myself and a handful of 4th graders from Osborne Elementary School. That day at lunch Mr. Keebler grinned and asked Billy if he had a belly ache. Billy grinned back and said, "No sir. I have a butt ache".

Remember, the Canning Plant will be closed next week. We will open back up on November 12 and 13 for our annual meat days. So far we have canned nearly 4,000 items at the new facility. It is a great facility and we appreciate your business. That facility if for you to use and we are at your service.

## Parris ...continued from Page 4A

be called the "Lawn Ranger?"

Laughter is like changing a baby's diaper – it does not permanently solve any problems, but it makes things more acceptable for a while. Proverbs 15:15 says "He who is of a merry heart

has a continual feast." Let me encourage you to laugh more, pray often, serve faithfully and love fervently. What a privilege to serve the Lord with gladness and to use our gifts for His glory.

## UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Monday:		
Garden Tours	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
Every Tuesday:		
Mtn. Woodcarvers	Senior Center	6 pm
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Every Thursday:		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Rotary Club	Cadence Bank	Noon