

Paris... continued from Page 4A

tional funding also comes from the SPLOST sales tax funds. We also receive additional funding through the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) that is awarded to the county each year from GDOT.

However, there is never enough funding to provide all the money that is needed. The standard industry estimate is that to properly maintain a

paved road surface under normal traffic conditions, it should be resurfaced at least once every ten years.

The County has over 380 miles of paved county-maintained roads and it would require resurfacing 40 miles per year to adequately maintain this amount of road surface. At the most, we will generally resurface about 10 miles per year.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

pulling a 44 magnum from his pocket and after pointing the gun at the funeral director the young man said, "Yes I can".

After leaving his first wife the now dead man had moved to Florida and took up with another woman. They raised a family in the swamps of north Florida. Before the man died he requested that he be buried back home in Georgia. During the funeral my father read the obituary which listed his family and of course everyone was confused. This was especially true when his wife and very good friend were mentioned.

After the funeral my father walked down the aisle leading the family and casket to the front of the church.

Daddy opened the door of the hearse and waited for the casket to be placed inside. At this point the 6 sons of the deceased man took the casket away from the pallbearers and placed the coffin in the back of a red pick-up truck. The funeral director approached the young men and said, "You can't...". The young man pulled out the gun and the funeral director said, "Yes, you can". Daddy said that he had never seen a red pick-up truck lead a funeral procession while hauling 6 men and a casket. The family from north Florida said, "Their daddy always wanted his body to be hauled to the graveyard in the back of a red truck and no high acting funeral director was going to stop them."

Chamberlain... continued from Page 4A

their earthly voices on October 27, 1967. They did not return home and their Western Union telegram to their families read much different than mine!

At the time of the incident, I didn't know who these two American combat soldiers were but I was on the friendly side of an NVA bunker when I spotted them on the ground. These two American soldiers had encountered the full wrath of enemy NVA machine gun. I will never forget the desire to help them and be close enough to know that they were wounded so badly that their fate was most likely sealed but we stilled tried to help them. "Leave no soldier behind" was instilled in us!

In the end, try as we might to help them, they perished. They would be remembered as two soldiers that gave of themselves for the good of their combat partners and our country.

On Monday, May 25, 2015, my First Sergeant Jim Johnson emailed me, with this message that is worth repeating and passing on, "Yes, Gary, I remember that day pretty well. We had about 10 of our men hit that day including 3 medics on the (APC) armored personnel carrier behind us. I loaded Moldovan and Schmaultz on a chopper with a medic trying to keep them alive but they were probably already dead. Later, Captain Staley and I loaded

some more men from the 8th CAV-First Cavalry Division who were dead for sure. The next day, I went to the medics down at Chu Lai to check on our wounded soldiers and raised hell with the medics because they hadn't even washed your face from the previous day (now that's the kind of leader our First Sergeant was and still is!). Hope you and your wife have a good Memorial Day and God bless both of you - - - Jim."

Though I have my own memories of my Vietnam experience, I'm alive, able and willing to help tell their story. As veterans and families of fallen soldiers, we must keep their stories alive with the hope that those who live in this country somehow appreciate the sacrifice others have paid for them.

The take-away message about these two United States combat soldiers is that there were 58,220 Armed Forces members that lost their life and voices in Vietnam so the rest of us could try to make them proud of their service and our accomplishments. For me, my heart has much empathy for those that serve our country and especially our combat soldiers.

What do you do to make America worth them dying for us?

Gary Chamberlain
Chu Lai, Vietnam 1967
B Troop, 1st Squadron,
1st Armored Cavalry

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

an employee still has a grasp on job, family, home, and friends—the better the chances of recovery.

Several years ago, organizations in industry, manufacturing, the armed forces, and the civil services began to institute employee assistance programs (EAPs) based on the concept of early intervention. While these programs vary greatly, many of them have achieved high recovery rates of substance abusers.

One thing EAP programs have in common is the important nature of the supervisor's role. No one is in a better position to note significant behavior changes that affect work performance than the supervisor. And no one is in a better position to promptly, firmly, and compassionately initiate the process of treatment and recovery. A supervisor is not—and should not attempt to be—a diagnostician, counselor, or treatment expert on the individual substances of abuse. Diagnosis should be left to those who are professionally trained to diagnose.

The responsibility of all supervisors is to perform supervisory functions effectively, and to take the initiative if there is apparent work deficiency. Poor performance should not be allowed to reach a critical stage before intervention is attempted. Supervisors should be concerned with work performance and on-the-job behavior.

Making moral judgments about an individual's use of drugs is not productive in the treatment process. But that does not mean that firmness should be sacrificed. Delaying intervention only allows the situation to deteriorate further, often until there is no alternative but termination or other disciplinary action.

The decision to intervene should always be based on deteriorating or unacceptable work performance. The

key to a successful intervention is to stick to the facts as they affect work performance, and to avoid emotional involvement. This may sometimes be difficult, but it is essential.

Supervisors should never attempt to discuss drinking habits or drug use with the user. Substance abusers are expert manipulators, and an untrained person attempting this kind of debate will almost always lose. It is important instead to maintain control of the conversation and stick to what is known and can be documented—such as instances of unacceptable behavior like absenteeism, accidents, mistakes, and failure to meet objectives and deadlines. The manager should also have the documentation readily at hand. Never try to rely solely on memory.

The first interview in the intervention process should be relatively low-key, in the tone of a job evaluation, with the supervisor or executive pointing out the areas of deficiency and offering to help in solving problems. During this discussion the employee should be made fully aware of the company and departmental policies respecting treatment (i.e., if and at what point treatment becomes mandatory), the consequences of failing to meet objectives, and the consequences of violating regulations.

When the abuser finally agrees, or is obliged to accept treatment, the supervisor should make the appointment, offer encouragement, express optimism for the outcome, and schedule follow-up interviews to discuss progress. Throughout these follow-up interviews the same principles must apply. Stick to the facts about work performance. Have all the documents available; don't rely on memory. Explain all the consequences if performance expectations are not met. Be supportive, honest—and above all, firm.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

drought in 1995, catastrophic wildfires burned numerous homes. But forestry managers in the Florida Division of Forestry noted that the underlying problem was previous cessation of controlled burning, resulting from complaints by homeowners about smoke, but they found out the hard way that you can have smoke under controlled conditions or when it is raging out of control around your house. Smoke is the same, results completely different.

Controlled burns utilize back burning during planned fire events to create a "black line" to protect unburned areas from the fire. Back burning or backfiring is also done to stop a wildfire that is already in progress. It is called back burning because the small fires are designed to 'burn back towards the main fire front' and are usually burning and traveling against ground level winds. Firebreaks are also often used as an anchor point to start a line of fires along natural or manmade features such as a river, road, or a bulldozed clearing. Each year additional leaf litter and dropped branches increased the likelihood of a hot and uncontrollable fire.

Controlled burns are sometimes ignited using a tool known as the driptorch, which allows a steady stream of flaming fuel to be directed to the ground as needed. Variations on the driptorch can be used such as the helitorch, which is mounted on a helicopter, or other improvised devices such as mounting a driptorch-like device on the side of an ATV. High temperatures from fires can harm the soil, damaging it physically, chemically or sterilizing it, but controlled burns tend to have lower temperatures and will not harm the soil as much as wildfires, though steps can be taken to treat the soil after a burn. Controlled burning reduces fuels, may improve wildlife habitat, controls competing vegetation, improves short term forage for grazing, improves accessibility, helps control tree disease, and perpetu-

Harper...

continued from Page 4A

tendees at the event. Plan to attend and see first hand what our businesses and merchants have to offer. We are thankful to our sponsors, United Community Bank, Dixie Confections and Amazing Grace Catering.

Our ticket sales continue for the July 4th fire works show at Meeks Park. For a \$10 donation per ticket the holder can win \$1,000. The drawing will be held prior to the fireworks show that evening. Ticket holders need not be present to win. You can obtain a ticket(s) at the chamber office or from any board member and/or Chamber Ambassador. The tickets have been sponsored by Melissa's Custom Cakes and provides a \$5 off coupon toward any purchase of \$25 or more at the bakery.

Please visit our web site at www.visitblairsvillega.com where you can click on "Events" and obtain a list of upcoming community events. Join us on radio 95.1 FM on Thursdays at 8:45 AM with the summary of Chamber events for the coming week. You can communicate with me at president@blairsvillechamber.com or my office 706-745-5789. And you can connect with me at www.linkedin.com/in/alharpermba.

Thank you for supporting your Chamber.

Fowler...

continued from Page 4A

teaches us the opposite."

To borrow from the great philosopher Elvis Presley, God couldn't help falling in love with you. He made you to love. "Take my hand; take my whole life too," could describe Jesus' love offer to you. With the life of Christ in you, you can "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" and "your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-38). Choose love!

Brock...

continued from Page 4A
mer long.

It's hard, I know. We all have different levels of income and it's not easy all the time. It can be done, however, and it can be done well. Walking, talking, visiting, keeping an eye out. These things are good for the children, adults and seniors as well. They're good for everybody. We need each other. So many people have been hurt and we need to stop it. We can do it and we will do it. All together.

I wish you a happy week and weekend, a wonderful summer time and a bright fall and winter this year. All good things to you and yours.

Sincerely,
Alfred Brock

ates fire dependent species.

In mature longleaf pine forest, it helps maintain habitat for endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers in their sandhill and flatwoods habitats. Recently we have experienced smoke settling in our valley that came from fires in the next county or state. These fires were intentionally set by forestry professionals under the optimum conditions, so you can rest assured that the fire is doing good in some forest nearby.

Mother Nature was managing forests long before man took over and she does a much better job because she has much more experience. For more information on controlled burns contact your local Georgia Forestry Commission office or US Forest Service office in your area or Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D www.chestchattrcd.org