

## Paris...continued from Page 4A

**playground when we have heavy rains?**

A. We have drastically improved the playground surface. We have added extensive drainage under the surface, a thick layer of gravel covered with a special fabric material, and an extra heavy thickness of new special wood mulch that is designed for this purpose. We have also added concrete curbing along the front of the playground to keep the surface water in the parking lot from draining through the playground area.

**Q. Did you also work on the drainage problem at the smaller playground for the younger kids?**

A. Yes we did. We completed the same improvements with extra underground drainage, gravel, fabric, and then covered it with a new thick layer of mulch. Because of all the use, we have already ordered our third load of mulch to keep the playground area fresh.

**Q. What is located just below the playground area that is now having a fence built around it?**

A. For the first time ever at Meeks Park, we are installing SWINGS! Five swing sets, including one for very small kids are under construction. The fencing, drainage, gravel and support posts are already

completed and I hope by the time you read this, that the swings will be completed. We are waiting on additional fencing material and mulch, along with pads to be placed under the swings. We have been hesitant in the past to utilize swings because of the safety issues. We have installed fencing and the new swings have shorter support post, which means the swings will not swing as high as the older swing sets that used to be on playgrounds.

**Q. What all does the county now have at Meeks Park for the kids?**

A. There is so much at the park that I will not go into it all right now. In just this small area of the park, there is the new playground for older kids, then there is the smaller playground for the tots, and adjacent to that are two swings for handicapped children. Just below that is where the new swing sets are located. Hopefully, all of this will be functional next week. I want to thank the staff and detainees from Carlton Colwell Detention Center for all the work they have done in trying to have all this completed by the end of March. There are several additional exciting things I will talk about later as we discuss Meeks Park's future improvements.

## Chief... continued from Page 4A

So, when you receive a letter from your volunteer fire stations, we ask that you read it to stay informed. We also ask you come to the open house of each fire station. But most im-

portant, we ask that you please make a donation to your local volunteer fire station.

Union County Fire Department - *Our Family Protecting Your Family.*

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what is necessary for all."

Tolstoy begins the story with an epigraph on love from 1 John 3.

In this passage we encounter what can be quite uncomfortable demands, such as "Whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart

against him, how does the love of God abide in him?"(17).

We are to follow "His commandment that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us"(23).

As each believer lives this Christian ethic, so the world experiences the love of God.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Sure, I thought it was a great idea. But, never in my wildest imagination would I have predicted that the SPLOST would pass by such an overwhelming

majority of voters.

So, as you know the Farmers Market and the Canning Plant were completed and here we are today. The Canning Plant serves 300 different persons per year who can more than 17,000 jars per year saving Union County families a total of \$75,000 - \$80,000 per year. The impact of the Farmers Market is staggering. Our Market generates close to \$400,000 per year for our vendors. Since we began operation about 400,000 people have visited the facility.

I am very thankful for the Canning Plant. It has been a blessing in more ways than one.

For example, in the old canning plant we had to arrive an hour early each morning to start the machine before we could begin cooking. There was a 3 step process for starting the boiler.

Three buttons had to be pushed in a specific sequence to start that old boiler and you had to go into the boiler room with a flashlight to do so. One morning at 5 a.m., Patrick went into the room and pushed the first two buttons. Upon pushing the final button the boiler backfired and a ball of flame shot out of the boiler room. Patrick walked back into the canner with a dazed look on his face and a hole in the brim of his cap. I have never seen any hint in the eyes of Patrick Fix. However, that day he looked a mite confused.

Now all we have to do to start the boiler is to push one button and our new boiler has never backfired. We are extremely thankful for the new canning facility and excited about the impact of it and the Farmers Market have upon our community. Do not forget that Trash to Treasures opens up on April 15. Also, we will have an Antique Tractor Show and Swap Meet on April 23rd.

Please visit our website at [www.ucfarmersmarket.com](http://www.ucfarmersmarket.com) for more details.

## Duncan ... continued from Page 4A

my recovery process.

The National Day of Prayer means many things to many people.

Though we all have different faiths, we can agree on one thing, prayer is the strongest ingredient in the recovery process.

Let us come together on May 5th and pray together for our community, our state and for our nation.

I'm living proof that the power of prayer works. Again, without prayer, I wouldn't be writing this column.

God Bless us all.

## Mattee ... continued from Page 4A

a snake climbing the post. Houses should be placed about six feet above the ground and at least 100 yards apart because bluebirds are very territorial when nesting. The entry should also face southeast to protect the nesting birds from winds. Once nesting and breeding season has ended, it is important to clean out the box to ensure the return of our beloved little blue friends. Bluebirds will not return to a house if they think it is occupied, so in the winter make sure to remove any nests left-

over from the previous year.

While the appropriate shelter will encourage bluebirds to come to your yard, providing ample amount of food for them to eat when insects are scarce will help to make sure they stay there and return again to nest the next year. Bluebirds, and most other songbirds for that matter, love any sort of berry bush. Blackberries, blueberries, hackberry and numerous other native shrubs provide food that will keep bluebirds happy and healthy.

## Chamberlain ... continued from Page 4A

gun. I will never forget the desire to help them and be close enough to know that they were so riddled with bullets that their fate was most likely sealed but we still tried to help them. Leave no soldier behind was instilled in us!

In the end, try as we might to help them, they perished on that day only to be remembered as true "Heroes" that gave of themselves for the good of their combat partners and our country.

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 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**  
Vietnam veteran 1967

## D'Angelo... continued from Page 4A

and attention to fragile children can do more than make a difference. It can save lives.

CASA volunteers - court-appointed special advocates - also put their passion for the well-being of children into action. Assigned to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children, CASA volunteers make sure kids don't get lost in the overburdened legal and social service systems or languish in unsupportive foster homes. Volunteers stay with children until their court case is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home.

For many abused children, their CASA volunteer is the one constant adult presence in their lives.

A CASA volunteer's intense advocacy can break the cycle of abuse and neglect. When children grow up in homes where their only adult role models respond to them with violence and disregard for their needs, they repeat that cycle with their own children. When a CASA volunteer intercedes, it not only changes the course of one child's life, it makes an impact for generations.

Not everyone can be a CASA volunteer - although Enotah CASA certainly welcomes more caring adults into our volunteer ranks - but everyone can be an advocate. Here are a few steps you can take to make our community safer for our children.

**Be mindful of the signs of abuse and neglect in children, many of which appear before an obvious physical mark: lack of adult supervision, extreme passivity or aggression, poor hygiene, or watchfulness, as if waiting**

**for something bad to happen.**

**Also be aware of warning signs in parents: showing indifference or rarely touching or looking at their child, constant verbal criticism, demands for perfection, blaming the child for family problems, or other irrational behaviors.**

**If you think a child is being abused or neglected, report your suspicions confidentially to our state's toll-free child abuse hotline at 855-GA-Child.**

**Take new or stressed-out parents under your wing. Offer to baby-sit, run an errand or share your own challenges and insights about being a parent.**

**Volunteer your time and/or donate to community programs that support children and families.**

Your advocacy for children not only will help end child abuse, it will improve our community for everyone who lives here. Children who are abused and do not get the support they need to heal are more likely than other kids to drop out of school, end up homeless, turn to crime, and rely as adults on social welfare programs. When we work together to protect vulnerable children, it saves lives and tax dollars.

There are many life-threatening and incurable diseases that sadly afflict children. But we have the cure to child abuse. It lies within each of us. Now is the time to act.

Linda D'Angelo, is executive director, of Enotah CASA, Inc. Find out more at [www.enotahcasa.org](http://www.enotahcasa.org).

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR		
Children's Story Time	<b>Every Monday:</b> Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
A Course in Miracles	298 School Circle	2 pm
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Tri State Bus. Women	<b>Every Tuesday:</b> Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
MMQG Tues. Strippers	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
BINGO	<b>Every Wednesday:</b> Civic Center	7 pm
Butternut Ladies Golf	<b>Every Thursday:</b> Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
MMQG Sewcials	<b>Second Monday of each month:</b> Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 am-3 pm
Blairsville PTO	UC Primary School	6 pm
Enotah Chapter #24	Masonic Lodge	7:30 pm
Disabled Am Veterans	Veterans Center	7 pm (Jan-Oct)
FPL Retirees	<b>Second Tuesday of each month:</b> Hole in Wall Rest.	9 am
Historical Society Bd.	Old Courthouse	9:30 am
Mtn Laurel Arts/Crafts	Union County Library	10 am
Active/Retired Fed Emp.	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer	Sr. Citizens Center	1:30-3:30 pm
Mountain Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
Blairsville PTO	UC Primary School	6 pm
Blue Ridge Mtn Jeeps	Steve's Steakhouse	6:00 pm
Beta Sigma Phi	Kappa Alpha Chapter	7 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
Band Boosters	UC Middle School	7:30 pm (Aug through May, except Dec)
Parkinson's Sup. Grp.	<b>Second Wednesday of each month:</b> Cabin Coffee Co.	3 pm
UC Interagency Grp.	<b>Second Thursday of each month:</b> Civic Cntr. Conf. Rm.	12 noon
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Appalachian Shrine Club	Shrine Building	6:30 pm
Democratic Party	UC Senior Center	6:30 pm
Trout Unlimited	So. Bank & Trust	6:30 pm
Sons Confederate Vet.	UCB Community Rm	7 pm
Knights of Columbus	Marian Hall	7:30 pm
Eastern Star #471	<b>Second Friday of each month:</b> Location not listed	7:30 pm
His Victory Riders	<b>Second Saturday of each month:</b> Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
PFLAG	<b>Second Sunday of each month:</b> Call 706-389-5269 for Info	