

PDC...from Page 1A

assortment of vegetables for meals in the detention center kitchens.

Beans, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage, collard greens, peppers, corn and other home-grown veggies are now served during chow time, allowing the state to allocate those funds elsewhere.

Along with saving money, providing the inmates with another tool for life on the outside, like gardening skills, reduces recidivism rates statewide.

"We're on track now to save (taxpayers) over \$5,000, and that's very conservative," said Colwell PDC Detail Ser-

geant Richard Griggs, who is also responsible for the garden program. "Plus, if you have a well-fed detainee, they don't get into as much trouble."

"We're trying to instill in these guys a really good work ethic, and they're seeing the results from their efforts and they're really starting to take ownership of it. Also, when they work in this garden all day, they're too tired to get into trouble in the evenings."

According to Sergeant Griggs, some detainees work full-time in the garden, while other works two to three days per week, with numerous others who have requested a spot in the garden.

"It's a win-win situation," Sergeant Griggs added. "I've had (detainees) tell me, 'My mother has always wanted a garden, but I didn't know how. Now when I get out, I can help her put a garden in.'"

The garden began five years ago and has grown each and every year since, and according to PDC Food Service Manager Tammy Bracken, the detainees begin planting in early spring and will harvest up until mid to late autumn when the frosts hit.

In fact, the production is so great that many of the vegetables will be frozen and stored, and won't be eaten until the winter. Last year, the PDC had such a tremendous surplus of cabbage that the extras were donated to Lee Arrendale State Prison in Alto.

"The guys harvest it from the garden, then bring it to the kitchen where the kitchen detainees cut it, prep it, then bag and freeze what we're not going to use so we don't lose anything," Bracken said.

The man who oversees the garden, Sergeant Griggs, also volunteers his spare time

to work in the garden, driving the tractor and plowing the earth - but it's his work with the detainees on a personal level that is most fulfilling.

"This man (Sergeant Griggs) is the magical catalyst of this whole event," said Young Harris College Professor Dr. Meg Gring-Whitley, who is one of the detention center's community volunteers. "He knows how to garden, he teaches these boys how to garden, and when working with him, these men have said, 'I have learned more from (Sergeant Griggs) and have been loved more by him than I have my own father.'"

"He's a father figure, he's an educator, he's an instructor, he's a guide, he's a supporter, he is everything to these men. I was here a few weeks ago, and this one detainee was leaving in a week, and he said he was going back to his wife and kids and going to get his old job back. But he said, 'I'm going to miss Sergeant Griggs. He taught me more about life than anyone else that I've ever known.'"

Flag pole dedication July 29th at Veterans center



On July 29th at 11 AM the combined Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) in Union County will dedicate to Union County 7 flag poles and 8 flags. The poles are located in front of the Major Leon Davenport Veterans center. The poles and flags represent the 5 branches of military service, the state flag, the POW flag, and the US flag. Maintenance of the flags will be the responsibility of the VSOs.

They present an awesome site upon entering Blairsville and we believe they will become a landmark to the entrance to the city.

All veterans are welcome as is the public. It should be a memorable event for the county. One you will not want to miss.

Due to limited parking I suggest you park in the Park and Ride (behind McDonalds) and walk, or take the (hopefully) provided tram to the ceremony across the street.

Handicapped and VIP parking is behind the Vet center. If additional parking is needed you can park at the DFACS building (sign in front of building). From 515 turn south onto Blue Ridge Hwy, pass the Veterans Center driveway on right and Park and Ride on left. DFACS building is the first large brick building on the left on Blue Ridge Hwy. about 100 yards past the Park and Ride which is behind McDonalds. A tram hopefully will be available. Limited seating will be available with priority to handicapped and honored guests. Some additional seating will be available but it is suggested you bring your own seat if you feel you need one.

The Presentation will be 30 to 45 minutes long. Refreshments will be provided by the American Legion Auxiliary unit 121 after the ceremony.

Organizations participating in this event: Ira Weaver American Legion Post 121; DAV Woodrow Wilson Chapter 11; Brown-Davis-Elliott-Woody VFW Post 7394 Blairsville; Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1101 Blairsville; Unicoi Detachment #783, Marine Corps League; North Georgia Honor Guard; Navy Seabee Veterans Of America Island X-3 Blairsville, GA; Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1101 Blairsville; American Legion Auxiliary Unit 121; Old Unicoi Trail Chapter, DAR; and Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter, SAR.

A special thank you to Woodmen Life and its local Chapter 1180 for their assistance and support on the project, and to Union County officials for their support.

Submitted by Mike Priven

Cruisers' meeting



This is just a reminder that the Blairsville Cruisers general meetings will now be held at the Farmers Market on the 4th Thursday at 6 p.m. starting Monday, July 28th.

County & City Reports

Local law enforcement provide the following information for publication. Names are spelled as they were received from the law enforcement agencies. It is important to remember that the following individuals have been charged only and are presumed innocent until such time as they are found guilty by a court or enter a guilty plea.



Union County Jail Arrest Report

Mack Mason, Union County Sheriff

- 07/19/16 Jeff Decalve Aston, age 31, Hunt, TX Possession of controlled substance
 - 07/23/16 Scott Dean Bates, age 46, Murphy, NC Public drunkenness
 - 07/20/16 Debby Ann Bostick, age 37, Cleveland, GA Probation violation (felony)
 - 07/22/16 Casey John Cain, age 21, Blairsville, GA Manufacturing methamphetamine, possession of controlled substance, possession of marijuana less than 1 oz.
 - 07/22/16 Thomas Dewey Duckworth, age 40, Blairsville, GA Manufacturing methamphetamine, distribution of controlled substance, possession of controlled substance, possession of firearm or knife during certain crimes
 - 07/22/16 Joseph Levi Farist, age 21, Blairsville, GA Manufacturing methamphetamine, distribution of controlled substance, possession of controlled substance
 - 07/19/16 Billy Gene Ferguson, age 46, Murphy, NC Failure to appear
 - 07/19/16 James Robert Gooch, age 39, Blairsville, GA Possession of controlled substance with intent to distribute, distribution of controlled substance (5 counts) possession of controlled substance
 - 07/22/16 Amber Mitchell Graham, age 19, Blairsville, GA Manufacturing methamphetamine, possession of controlled substance, possession of firearm or knife during certain crimes
 - 07/19/16 Phillip Ward Hughes, age 36, Murphy, NC Probation violation (felony)
 - 07/22/16 Jason Eric Matias, age 41, Murphy, NC Probation violation
 - 07/19/16 Jamie Marie Nash, age 24, Hiawassee, GA Possession of controlled substance
 - 07/18/16 William Scott Norton, age 54, Saute Nacochie, GA Hold for family court
 - 07/21/16 Fredy Felix Perez, age 29, Blairsville, GA Battery/simple battery - family violence
 - 07/20/16 Mark Anthony Reynolds, age 37, Blairsville, GA Aggravated child molestation, child molestation
 - 07/18/16 Joshua Allan Wasko, age 23, Blairsville, GA Possession of controlled substance
- There are 67 inmates now being housed in the Union County Jail. 11 inmates housed outside county.**



Blairsville Police Department ARRESTS AND INCIDENT REPORT

Chief Johnny Carroll

- 07/20/16 Kevin James Lavigne, age 46, Carrollton, MI Interference w/custody (Interstate, Intrastate)
- 07/18/16 Business alarm, private property accident, suspicious person
- 07/19/16 Private property accident/awning, accident, assist other agency, assist motorist, private property accident
- 07/20/16 Welfare check, private property accident, serve warrant/interference w/custody, private property accident, business alarm
- 07/21/16 Business alarm, bank alarm, 911 hang up
- 07/22/16 Suspicious activity
- 07/23/16 911 hang up
- 07/24/16 Business alarm, domestic



Union County Fire Department Incidents

Union County Fire Chief David Dyer

- 07/18/16 Medical Call, Smoke Detector Installation
- 07/19/16 3 Medical Calls
- 07/20/16 4 Medical Calls
- 07/21/16 Motor Vehicle Accident, Smoke Detector Installation, 3 Medical Calls, Structure Fire
- 07/22/16 3 Medical Calls
- 07/23/16 Public Service at Farmers Market, 2 Medical Calls
- 07/24/16 4 Medical Calls

UCHS Student Parking Permit Information 2016-2017

Parking permits for the 2016-17 school year will be available for purchase August 1 - 3, 2016, from 9 AM until 1 PM in the UCHS Media Center. The schedule for parking sales is as follows: August 1st -- permits sold to Seniors only; August 2nd -- permits sold to Juniors and Seniors; August 3rd -- permits sold to all students, Sophomores through Seniors.

Parking permits will cost \$25. To obtain a permit, students must have a valid driver's license, current proof of automobile insurance, and vehicle registration (tag receipt) for the student's primary vehicle.

Permit decals for additional vehicles will cost \$10

each. Students must have an insurance card and vehicle registration for each additional vehicle.

Students purchasing a parking permit must be present to read and sign all documents on the day of registration.

Cash and personal checks will be accepted. Campus parking will be suspended if a check is returned due to insufficient funds. Additionally, a \$10 charge will be added to the cost of the permit and cash will be the only form of payment accepted.

Students without the proper documents or with out-of-date documents will not receive a campus parking permit.

NOTICE OF SEX OFFENDERS



Freddie Joe Howard
73 Carla Cove Road, Blairsville
Sex: male Race: white
Height: 6' Weight: 150
Hair: Other Eyes: Brown
Year of birth: 1954
Offense: Child Molestation
State of Conviction: Georgia
Date of Conviction: 7-22-2010

For additional information regarding the sexual offender registry visit the GBI website at gbi.georgia.gov/georgia-sex-offender-registry