

Paris ... from Page 4A

with the new regulations?
A. Absolutely! I searched out and found Randy Day, our firector and he found Gavin King and Nora Lawn, and they have done an exceptional job. I think if you talk to any builder or new homeowner, you will find that they have been dealt with fairly and reasonably, although firmly when

needed. There are always some national regulations that sometimes go overboard and our employees do an excellent job of applying common sense to the International Building Codes.
In addition to a fine staff, we have many great builders in the county, for which we are very fortunate.

Leone...continued from Page 4A

as we silently walked through the restaurant. She saw her family and walked me over. I asked her what her name was and she told me "Sareefa, what's yours?" I asked her how old she was and she held up four tiny fingers. "How old are you?" she asked. I told her I was a lot older than four and she giggled, telling me "I know that" in a tone that wanted to assure me she was at least as bright as she looked. I thanked her for sharing her soap with me and bid her a good day. As I walked away I heard her grandmother ask her who I was. She said "that's my new friend." And you were mine, Sareefa.

The next morning, I was sitting at an IHOP with a notepad, making lists of things that I wanted to accomplish in 2014. Across from me at the next table was four year old Paulie. He was staring at me, trying to engage me in conversation, not quite satisfied that I was dealing with matters of business instead of paying attention to him. I'm easily distracted, especially by the likes of a good looking pre-schooler that is batting his eyes at me. He offered me the following unsolicited information. "I'm going to be a fireman when I grow up."

OK, I give. I'll chat. "Is that all you want to be?" I inquired. "Maybe a soldier, too," he added. With that the waiter brought Paulie his breakfast. His eyes were huge and he was dancing a chair jig with the prospect of eating the pancakes laden with large red gooey strawberries and whip cream. He sang a joyful "thank you" to Eric, his amazingly cheerful server, who sang "you are welcome" back in the same childish tone.
Paulie looked up at me

as he was taking his first bite and realized I had no food in front of me at my table. With his eyebrows raised, he pointed his filled fork towards me, as if to offer me this miracle of manna. When my food arrived, he stretched to see what I got. He let me know he was a little perplexed that I didn't have pancakes, but added, "I hope you like your sausage." I was wishing Sareefa had been there too. I think we all would have had a great time becoming "new friends."

At the end of my journey, standing in line for my coffee at Mickey D's in Ocala, Fla., my cell phone rang. "We regret to inform you..."

My sweet friend, Loretta Honea, had passed away that morning. Loretta was my "old friend," having known her for the 15 years I've lived here in these mountains. We couldn't have been more different in our sensibilities, our approach to life or our convictions. Yet, we were such kindred spirits of the heart. She loved the Farmers Market, and though she hated to cook, and did not prefer eating healthy to a good old fashioned plate of mac and cheese, she found the jams, jellies, pickles, crafts and most of all, Mary's peanut brittle, totally irresistible. When she was healthy, she was devoted with energy, and then in thought, when she was aging and ill, to the Union County Historical Society.

I will miss you, my friend. Memories of you devouring a container of brittle, with your child-like grin, as you knew how naughty you were being, will warm my heart every time I meet a Paulie and a Sareefa. I promise to travel for us both, making new friends along the way.

Duncan ...continued from Page 4A

today and he's keeping me in high gear.

I'm in good hands with the Ronnie Green Heart Center. If not for those dedicated professionals, I wouldn't be here.

They are No. 1 in my book, and I still trust them with my life. You should too.

Hey, I'm still here, so, yes, there is proof in the pudding. I wouldn't put my life in anyone else's hands.

Elliott...from Page 4A

what was right and good. I wish I knew who this person was, as I would love to meet the person that gave me yet another reason to be grateful that I live in this

wonderful, caring community.
**Pat Elliott
Towns & Union Foster Children's Christmas Program**

Gibson...from Page 4A

someone's house, yard or vehicle). We reluctantly concede that there are cruel, perverse sub humans roaming these mountains who care little or nothing about other people, much less about dogs. However, we know from experience there are also many kind, compassion-

ate persons and we hope you are one of those. Call us at (706) 745-5388 if you have any details about Lucky's whereabouts. When we have safely recovered Little Lucky, we will offer you a generous cash reward in the hundreds of dollars.
Ron & Carol Gibson

Parris ...continued from Page 4A

for the new year.

"Be careful of your thoughts, for your thoughts become your words.

Be careful of your words, for your words become your deeds.

Be careful of your deeds, for your deeds become

your habits.

Be careful of your habits, for your habits become your character.

Be careful of your character, for your character becomes your destiny."

-Anonymous

Cummings ...continued from Page 4A

ter the Grissom brothers broke out of the Franklin County Jail I met and became good friends with Curt Grissom.

In the future I wonder what people will say about our lives today. Will our lives and efforts be relevant? One of the goals of the Canning Plant is to serve as an incubator to the local foods business in Northeast Georgia.

For example, the Georgia Cooperative Extension Office will host a Better Foods Processing Training and Certification at the Community Center on Jan. 22-23.

The training session is designed to certify Food Processors in the manufacture of acidified foods (pickles, relishes, etc.). Why is this training needed? Any person who sells these kinds of foods must be trained and certified by UGA and the FDA to sell the foods. It is the law. People have been eating these types

of foods for years with no adverse reactions, including me. But, when someone begins mass producing items for sale there is always a chance something could go wrong.

Someone told me the other day, "Well, I can always open the jar and smell if something is wrong with the food."

That is incorrect; your nose cannot detect botulism. You can only detect spoiled food which does not kill. So, in an effort to help people be safe and become certified processors we will hold the training.

The cost is \$275 which covers all supplies, testing procedures, two meals and breaks. After you take and pass the tests you will become an Acidified Foods Processor. For more details please call the Extension Office at 706-439-6030.

DiMartino... from Page 4A

course problems arise but I see that the Sheriff and other community organizations are aware of their responsibilities to the community.

I am compiling a scrapbook of my grandchildren's activities, not to mention the Georgia Mountain Research Center, the concerts at the courthouse and at Vogel State Park.

Did I miss anything? The Farmers Market and the wonderful people that produce our fruits and vegetables that we can enjoy during the winter months.

Happy and healthy New Year to you all.

Aina DiMartino

Folmer... from Page 4A

Eighty years ago Adolph Hitler assembled a machine that was responsible for the most disastrous social disruption in the history of mankind. At first, a majority of Germans didn't "buy into" Hitler's concept of world domination. To implement the plan, Hitler named Joseph Goebbels as Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda. Goebbels instituted a cunning program that included deception, lies, intimidation, racism, and violence. It worked as evidenced by the horrific human tragedy that followed.

One of Goebbels' favorite techniques was to construct an alternative reality. This allows you to transfer your own shortcomings and untruths to someone or something you wish to discredit. By inventing your own "facts" and repeating these lies often enough it is possible to mold public opinion.

Hitler and Goebbels are long gone, but their message of hate and deceit seems to live on. How else can we justify an explanation of death panels, Obama is not an American, Obama is a Muslim, the widening disparity of income, the influence of corporations on legislation, the unfounded attacks on the IRS, the attacks on the Environmental Protection Agency, opposition to any governmental attempt toward meaningful progress, gerrymandering as a tool to restrict voting rights, and on and on.

Thomas Jefferson maintained that the success of democracy is dependent upon the level of education and participation of its citizens. Our country has been a bold experiment in governing that offers great promise. Democracy must be continually nurtured. If we should lapse into anarchy because of neglect, we will have only ourselves to blame. I encourage you to become well-informed, study issues from all points of view, and participate fully.
Happy New Year 2014!

Bucky Folmer

**Bell Ringing Union
County Old Courthouse**



**Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493**

Chamber of Commerce events	
For details and future events	
Wednesday, January 15	
1 pm	Knitter's Knitch Class-64 Bracketts Way, Ste. 6
2 pm	Friends of Union County Library Meeting-Union County Library
Thursday, January 16	
8 am	Mountain Networking Referral Group Meeting-Cooks Country Kitchen
12 pm	Rotary Club of Union County Meeting-Upstairs Cadence Bank
5:30 pm	Blairsville Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours-Union County Community Center
6 pm	Knitter's Knitch Class-64 Bracketts Way, Ste. 6
6:30 pm	Trivia at The View-Union County Community Center
6:30 pm	Good Neighbors Auto Club Meeting-Brothers Restaurant in Young Harris
Friday, January 17	
Saturday, January 18	
10 am	Knitter's Knitch Class-64 Bracketts Way, Ste. 6
Monday, January 20	
12 pm	Blairsville Kiwanis Club Weekly Meeting-Steve's Steakhouse, Cookie Jar Restaurant
1 pm	Knitter's Knitch Class-64 Bracketts Way, Ste. 6
6:30 pm	Shape Note Singing Practice-Old Union County Courthouse
Tuesday, January 21	
8am	Tri-State Business Women's Meeting-Blairsville Restaurant
4pm	Kids Night at Waffle House-Hwy 515, Blairsville
Wednesday, January 22	
1pm	Knitter's Knitch Class-64 Bracketts Way, Ste. 6

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Monday:		
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:		
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Every Thursday:		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	Cadence Bank	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Fourth Tuesday of each month:		
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville UMC	12:30
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
VFW Post #7394	78 Old Blue Ridge Hwy.	11:30 am
Compassionate Friends	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer	Sr. Citizens Center	1:30-3:30 pm
Fourth Wednesday of each month:		
No activities listed		
Fourth Thursday of each month:		
UT Homebuilders	YH College	7 pm
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 pm
Fourth Friday of each month		
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
Fourth Saturday of each month:		
Youngcane Lodge #597	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm