

Leone ...continued from Page 4A

compliments of Judy Carpenter, administrative assistant at the Union County Extension Office (better known as the right hand of Mickey Cummings and the 4-H Club).

Judy whipped up a chilled ramp pesto that took my breath away. Actually, it made my breath more obvious than usual, but I didn't care.

I left the Festival with that pungent mix of wild garlic, cheese, nuts and olive oil oozing from my pores. People were spooning it on their dogs, their potatoes and Ritz crackers. I choose to eat my weight in it scooped onto warm, delicious deep fried pork rinds that Loy and his family serve up each week.

To say that everyone, vendors and attendees alike, were overjoyed to be back under the green metal roof would actually be an understatement. Greetings and hugs abound.

It was a warm-up of the full family reunion to come on June 8th. Many of our crafters were there with their favorite products and new ones added to their line.

Dot Patterson had her new jams introduced (hint.... mango). Lots of veggie plants as well as flower plants were available for sale.

Roger, our resident garlic aficionado, had lovely small heritage tomato plants. One person came and wiped him out of over 4 dozen of

one variety.

Mickey Cummings was smiling ear to ear while getting writers cramp from signing more than six dozen copies of his newly published book.

If you didn't make it to our first day of spring training, don't fret. We've got more dates to warm up the batter box before opening day.

The Saturday (May 11) of Mother's Day weekend we will be celebrating with our Farmers Market Spring Fling (flower, veggie and native) Sale.

Then on Saturday, May 25th (Memorial Day weekend) we will be have our third Strawberry Jubilee Festival.

In between those dates are lots of other wonderful community events being held at the market and open to the public.

This weekend is the Blairsville Garden Club's annual plant sale.

May 18th the Tri-County Women's Business Expo will be drawing folks from all over the region. And coming back to this location for a second year is Union County's Relay for Life on May 31.

There's no need to wait six more weeks to get your full Market experience.

Join us on any of these dates the curtain rises! We guarantee you'll feel like you hit a home run and then received a standing ovation!

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corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power distributors serving 9 million people in parts of seven Southeastern states. TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving virtually all of its revenues from sales of electricity.

In addition to operating

and investing its revenues in its electric system, TVA provides flood control, navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation.

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cooperation in our advertising efforts. Therefore, we have named the stretch of road from Ellijay to Hiawassee the Georgia Mountain Parkway. Previous efforts included a tear off map of a variety of attractions along the Parkway. From those discussions, we have begun work on the next phase of promotion which focuses specifically on agritourism.

The North Georgia Farm Trail will highlight agritourism attractions along the Georgia Mountain Parkway. Union County alone has over 25 sites and events to be listed. Our listings will include places like the Union County Farmer's Market, Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center, Southern Tree Plantation, Logan Turnpike Mill, the Union County Horse Arena, Chattahoochee Forest

National Fish Hatchery, horse-back riding stables, alpaca farms, and roadside markets. We will also feature overnight farm stays and festivals that celebrate Appalachian food and heritage. Promotions of the trail will include the creation of a pocket guide for distribution throughout the State as well as many online promotions. The anticipated launch of the trail is scheduled for Summer 2013

If you have any questions regarding the North Georgia Farm Trail or other offerings by the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, you may contact me directly at president@blairsvillechamber.com or contact us at 706-745-5789. You may also interact with us online at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com.

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sweat and toil and will be preserved by the same. The current battle in our local governments and in the White House is not about "gun control" or the "public safety." It is about

controlling you. It is about removing your right and ability to defend yourself against tyrants and dictators.

Sincerely,

Richard Paolillo, Blairsville

Cummings ...continued from Page 4A

Years later I was once again visiting with my grandparents in Alabama. It was late February and my Papa and I were planning to go coon hunting every night for a week. I had some young dogs and we wanted to hunt in the 30,000-acre Sipsey Wilderness. This area was only open for a couple of weeks each year. We were really excited about the hunts.

The first night we walked around the side of a ridge and sent our dogs in toward the Thompson Creek. My young pair of pups was not gone 15 minutes when they struck a track and trailed it about 20 minutes before giving their tree barks. We walked to the tree and sure enough the pups (at 6 months old) had their first coon up a tree. I was proud of my dogs and went home that night well satisfied with the hunt. The next day we woke up to three days of a cold rain.

We stayed at home with Granny the next evening due to the rain and prepared to watch Granny's favorite show. That evening "Hulk Hogan" was to wrestle "Andre the Giant" on "Wrestling" as Granny called it. Papa and I began to poke a little fun at Granny. I tried to explain to her that wrestling was not real. Papa winked and said that nobody the size of Hulk Hogan could beat a man like Andre the Giant that weighed more than 450 pounds. As the wrestling match began Granny pulled up her seat in front of the TV.

The match began and quickly Hulk Hogan was on the offensive pounding on the Giant's head. But, soon Andre got his hands on Hulk Hogan and threw him on the ground and with his 450 pounds jumped right on top of Hulk Hogan. We all knew that Hogan was finished. However, all of the sudden Hogan got this wild look in his eyes. He slowly pushed the Giant off the top of him. Hogan stood and ripped his shirt off his body and slowly beat the stuffing out of Andre the Giant. Hogan pinned him to the mat and won his championship wrestling match.

As the match ended Papa and I once again began poking fun at Granny for believing the events of that wrestling match. Once again I explained the match was staged and that Hulk Hogan was supposed to win. At this point Granny became angry. She looked at Papa and me and said, "I'd like to see you both in that ring with Hulk Hogan."

Parris

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wisdom. I am thankful for my preacher brothers; for the intimate, joyful fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ.

I thank God for a faithful companion that grows more beautiful each day and for my children and grandchildren's love that makes little changes seem insignificant.

Come to think of it I am grateful that I am not what I used to be.

I am a new creature in Christ. Praise God I am not what I will be. Someday I shall be like Him - totally conformed to the image of God's Son.

When I become fully like Him I will change no more because He changes not. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Brasstown Ringers "Swinging Through the South" spring concerts

Do you think Spring has finally sprung? Do you remember the anticipation of the ground finally warming enough so you were allowed to go "barefoot" in the grass?

How about some musical oldies but goodies? You are cordially invited to come hear Brasstown Ringers, now celebrating its 21st season as a community handbell ensemble. Comprised of ringers from western North Carolina and north Georgia, Brasstown Ringers will present three concerts featuring Songs of the South in May 2013. This Spring's program opens with seasonal music including one song that features a rare set of made-in-Holland Petit and Fritsen hand bells. Then the program takes us on a lazy journey around the South with a medley of Steven Foster songs. As a special treat,

local musician Steve Holcomb has arranged a medley of favorite songs made famous by Al Jolson in the early to mid-1900s. A bit of blues (think Birmingham) and a bit of jazz (think Dave Brubeck) thrown into the mix and there's something for everyone to enjoy!

This Brasstown Ringers opening concert is Friday, May 10th at 7 p.m. at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC followed the next week by a Friday evening performance at Mountain Presbyterian Church in Blairsville, GA at 7 p.m. The final performance is at St. Andrew Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 19th at 4 pm. There is no admission fee but donations are appreciated.

For additional information, call the Director, Pat Meinecke, at 828-837-8822.

Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com

Wednesday, April 24

2 pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane

Thursday, April 25

8 am Mountain Networking Referral Group Meeting - Cooks Country Kitchen

12 pm Union County Rotary Club Meeting - 2nd Floor Cadence Bank

5 pm Trivia Night & Tacos - The Union County Community Center View Grill

6 pm Union County Lions Club - Steve's Steakhouse, Cookie Jar Restaurant

6 pm Blairsville Cruisers Car Club General Meeting - www.BlairsvilleCruisers.com

Friday, April 26

8 am Trash and Treasures - Union County Farmers Market

9 am The Hamilton Rhododendron Gardens Open - GA Mountain Fairgrounds

12 pm Chamber Ribbon Cutting Sign Makers of FA/GA, Inc. -32C Town Square

Saturday, April 27

2 pm The Mountain Home Show - North GA Technical College

9 am The Mountain Home Show - North GA Technical College

10 am Good Neighbors Auto Club Event - call 706-835-9010 for location

2 pm The Bankers Hour presents "The Big Show at the County Fair"

GA Mountain Fairgrounds

2 pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane

3 pm Smokie Mountain Melodies - Jukebox Saturday Night Show - Young

Harris College

6 pm Downtown Blairsville Block Party - Downtown On The Square

7 pm Audio Alliance - The Copperhead Lodge

Monday, April 29

12 pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting-Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant

Tuesday, April 30

8 am Tri-State Business Women's Meeting - Cooks Country Restaurant

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:		
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 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
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
First Monday of each month:		
Volunteers/Handicap	First Baptist, H Bldg.	6 pm
Allegheny Lodge	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
CERT	St. Francis of Assisi	6:30 pm
Lockheed-Martin Ret.	Blairsville Restaurant	9 am
First Tuesday of each month:		
UC Amer. Red Cross	Red Cross Office	Noon
Blairsville City Coun.	City Hall	6 pm
Brownie Scouts	United Methodist Ch	3-5 pm
Enotah Ch. #24 RAM	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
Gaddistown Hmakers	Woody Gap	7 pm
Business Women	Cook's Restaurant	8 am
Knights/Colum. #2563	place TBA	7:30 pm
Amateur Radio Club	Branan Lodge	7 pm
First Wednesday of each month:		
Tri-Cty Wom. Lunch	Monet's Rest.	Noon
Exercise class	Senior Citizens Center	10:30 am
First Thursday of each month:		
Blairsville Sorghum Festival, Fort Sorghum		7:30 pm
Open Road ORV	Civic Center	8 pm
First Friday of each month:		
UG Hospital Aux	UC Nursing Home	Noon
Cruisers Block Party	Walmart	5 pm (Apr-Oct)
Feel Good Friday	Wellness Center	7 pm
"Nailed" Book Club	G-N-G Bakery	10:30am
Firefighters Bkfst.	Hole in the Wall Rest.	9 am