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515. It arrived near the end of 2022 and was towed from the transport vehicle, down Hwy 515, up the side yard of the property, and onto the concrete pad. The tank was already demilitarized, the hatch was welded closed, and the vehicle was primed and painted by Chris Reece, who donated 80+ hours to the project.

Q. What kind of tank is on display in front of the Veterans' Center?

A. The tank is an M551 Sheridan – an Armored Reconnaissance Airborne Assault Vehicle. The combat vehicle was named after the Civil War General, Phillip Sheridan. Approximately 1,662 Sheridan tanks were built. The tanks were utilized in the Vietnam War, Operation Just Cause, Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Shield, and Operation Desert Storm. It was designed to be a true light tank with the capabilities of being dropped by parachute from aircraft. The Sheridan also had

amphibious capabilities.

Q. I have not had the opportunity to stop by and see the M551 Sheridan tank up close. How big is it?

A. The vehicle is 20.7 ft long; 9.17 ft wide; and 9.7 ft high. Its ground clearance is 19 inches, and during service, it held 4 people. They included the Commander, the Gunner, the Driver, and the Loader. It had a Detroit Diesel engine and could reach maximum speed at 43 mph. It carried a 152 mm, a grenade launcher, and a missile launcher. It also used a .50 cal M2 Browning machine gun and a .30 cal M73/M219 machine gun.

Union County Government anticipates installing large descriptive table signage near the tank to help identify the parts and functions of the displayed tank.

We are very proud of all the efforts that went into procuring and restoring the valuable keepsake.

Clyde... continued from Page 4A

ultimately believes such decisions should be made by the executive branch, not the judicial branch.

Additionally, Judge Noreika had serious concerns regarding the scope of Hunter Biden's immunity. Since prosecutors confirmed that Hunter is currently under active investigation, the judge was rightfully troubled with rubber stamping a deal that provides the President's son with blanket immunity for potential future charges.

At every turn, Hunter Biden has received suspicious special treatment — treatment no other American would

receive. Thankfully, Judge Noreika refused to turn a blind eye to the Department of Justice's blatant two-tiered system of justice.

It's simple: Our government should never tip the scales of justice, especially if your last name is Biden.

As this court battle continues, please know that House Republicans are continuing our important work of investigating the Biden family's criminal behavior. Unlike the corrupt DOJ, the House Republican majority is unwavering in our commitment to uncover the truth and deliver accountability to the American people.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

of broken tents and vendor merchandise, carefully stacking the merchandise in the area where the tents and shelving once stood. They used what was left of the tent canvas to protect the merchandise from the rain while local store owners opened their doors to allow some products to be stored overnight. Members of the Blairsville City Maintenance Department arrived within minutes to help pick up the debris. This was definitely one of those moments that we are proud to live in a community like Blairsville, Georgia.

While some of the vendors were not able to re-open, the same volunteers helped pack their belongings and salvage what they could. Others paid a visit to Walmart by purchasing every tent in stock and proceeded to prepare to open Sunday morning. Those that had extra

tents loaned them to others and the work began. If you visited the festival on Sunday, it would be difficult to tell there was a storm the night before.

I would like to give a big Thank You to all those members of the community, the first responders, and City employees for all they did in a time of need. While speaking to the vendors, they were very appreciative to all, and for several, they helped salvage their weekend, which could have been financially devastating. It's great to know that our COMMUNITY is alive and well in Blairsville-Union County, Georgia.

Remember, a kind word warms the heart, a kind gesture never goes unnoticed, and there is always time to help someone in need.

Thanks to all for helping make Life Better in Blairsville!

Brookins... continued from Page 4A

stand a chance. Who wants to fight a losing war? It seems far more reasonable to sit it out and hope for the best, but did David kill Goliath with a big heavily financed army? Some people claim they are too busy and don't have the time to take on new projects. Have you ever noticed that if people really want to do something, they can always make time for it? The question is, are you busy with important stuff, or busy with things that have no real value, like watching television, or Facebook binging? To change our corrupt political system, you have to get off the pot. Will it be easy? No! Do nothing, and accomplish nothing. Our country has gotten to the point that even doing nothing is dangerous. It's like sitting on a railroad track watching the train speed towards you. Doing nothing will get you killed. If you are just going to sit around and watch, at least become an informed voter.

Do your own research. If you don't look for reliable information, you will become an influenced voter. Do not depend on the state-controlled news media, or on friends and relatives that can't tell you why they dislike, or like, a particular candidate. Don't be a lemming and blissfully jump off the cliff. Go to County Commissioner meetings, City Council meetings, county political par-

ty meetings, go to other group meetings, (especially if they have guest speakers that will give you ideas of what you can do), network with other like-minded people, use the internet to research the issues that are most important to you so that you will KNOW what you are talking about!

One of the greatest concerns right now is election integrity, and this interest is growing at an exponential rate, among ALL voters - right, left, Libertarian, independent, etc. If we can't trust our voting procedures, then you know that we don't have a government Of the People, For the People, or By the people. Do you care if the ruling elite, of both parties, are controlling the vote? Are you so unconcerned that you will let the train run over you? The reason our country is in the shape that it is in is because for decades we have ignored what we know is happening. It's my fault. It's your fault. It's the fault of about 300 million Americans.

America, Georgia, and Union County need informed, activist voters. Yes, we have numerous problems, but they are not going to fix themselves. So, are you going to be a part of the solution, or a part of the problem? Time is running out. Do something now, or get run over by the train.
David Brookins

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

fellow opened the door, and as Alfred walked through the door the man latched the door from the outside. Immediately the bull charged Great Grandpaw West. The man and the bull went round and around in the stable. The bull nearly got the upper hand at one point by butting Alfred and knocking him into the wall of the stable. His body hit the wall hard enough to crack and break one of the rough-sawed planks into two pieces.

Alfred nor his daughter ever panicked. Each had a job to do. He eventually worked his long bony fingers into each nostril of the bull and twisted its nose until the bull stopped and began emitting a long, low and pitiful groan from its throat. When the bull stopped, Laura opened the door and walked into the stable with her father. She reached into his doctor bag and handed him the instrument he needed to correct the bull's problem. When she and her father finished the job, Alfred let go of the bull and the pair walked out of the stable.

Ashurst...

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the negative ones can be re-directed. And the positive ones need to be enhanced and self-promoted on a continual basis.

Dyer ...

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us to perform the walkthroughs and for all the assistance that they provide to the department.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Vickers ...

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The extra revenue from sales taxes, even if it were directed at infrastructure, cannot possibly keep up and repair our roads and bridges, add additional law enforcement and EMS personnel to keep up and meet the needs of the people. The same could be said about life flights when required to transport patients to larger facilities.

The huge influx of people may increase revenue in the form of sales taxes collected, but at some point, the wear and tear on our infrastructure, and the strain put on our First Responders, will leave its mark, and everyone living in our beautiful area will suffer because of it.

Gene Vickers

Williams...

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Seeds should be stored in a cool, dark place. Storing seeds in a refrigerator can add several years to how long a seed lasts.


Seeds that have been dried down to 5-7% moisture and are frozen will give the best viability. Minimize temperature and moisture fluctuations as much as possible. Pests like rodents and insects will also feed on seeds if they are able.

The oldest seed to germinate is a date palm from Israel that was about 2,000 years old! You should not expect your saved seed to last anywhere near that long. Plant your saved seed the following season for best germination.

If you have questions about saving seed contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

There is also a seed saving starter guide on the UGA Extension website that has a lot of great information.

**Bell Ringing Union
County Old Courthouse**




August 2, 2023
In memory of
Charlie McGraw
on his birthday
by Allyson McGraw

August 14, 2023
In loving memory of
Robert Larry Ashley

August 26, 2023
In memory of
Dr. William T. Meeks Sr.
on the occasion
of his birthday
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

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



**2023 Miss Georgia
Mountain Fair
Pageant**

The Georgia Mountain Fair is looking for young ladies 17-24 to participate in the 2023 Miss GMF Pageant. The Pageant will be held Thursday, August 17 in the Anderson Music Hall at the fairgrounds in Hiawassee. Entry forms and Pageant rules are available on the Georgia Mountain Fair website. Deadline to enter is August 3. Great experience and cash prizes!