

Lilacs...from Page 1A

Gray has lived in Union County through several commission administrations. She approached each administration asking them to beautify the county by planting lilacs.

In 2007, she approached Commissioner Paris about the same issue.

"I didn't really know him that well back then," she said. "I invited the Commissioner

and the facilities manager to lunch. I had been up to Rochester, NY where they had just had the 30th Annual Lilac Festival and it drew a crowd of 100,000 people.

"Martha Stewart had been there about three days before I got there," she said. "On her show, she talked about how everybody ought to have lilacs."

During the lunch with

Commissioner Paris and Larry Garrett, Gray exposed them to written materials harvested from the festival in Rochester.

"Lamar and Larry were sitting there and I started telling them about this and Lamar said 'how much do you think that is going to cost?' I told him around \$2,000 to \$2,500 would suffice," Gray said. "He said 'okay,'

"I was shocked, but that's

the kind of commissioner that we have, he can make a decision and see the future," Gray said.

In 2007, an 18-wheeler arrived from Canada with more than 200 lilac plants in tow.

In 2007 and 2008 those precious plants were put in the ground at Meeks Park, behind the Senior Center and at the Golf Course.

"It's been sweet memo-

ries of lilacs blooming ever since," she said.

The lilacs consist of 30 varieties and seven colors, and the plants range in three categories: early, mid, and late blooming, Gray said.

"Next time you are in the area of Meeks Park or the Senior Center, let your nose lead you to the fragrant blossoms, even before your eyes spy

them," Gray said. "Look for the lilacs on both sides of the road to the main parking lots at Meeks Park, and in the park opposite the Nursing Home."

Commissioner Paris said the lilacs are a beautiful reminder of spring in Union County.

"I want to thank Arlene for bringing lilacs to my attention," he said. "They certainly are beautiful."

Art Show...from Page 1A

Show, Middle School art students have been very busy this year.

Eighth grade students: learned handbuilding techniques through a clay portrait bust unit; created mosaics using common construction materials and up-cycled broken or chipped plates, bowls, and mugs (in cooperation with the Humane Society Mountain Shelter's Thrift Store).

They also made metal repousse' based on Appalachian Trail theme, and learned the technique of glass fusing.

Seventh grade students studied facial proportions through a clay relief project, explored basic color theory. They also experimented with the principle of movement via painting.

Sixth grade students learned drawing techniques (strengthening observation skills), clay handbuilding techniques by creating a utilitarian birdhouse or pitcher; and clay draping to create a utilitarian tray or bowl.

They also have pieces demonstrating these techniques to be displayed in the Art Show.

UCMS 6th grade students also participated in the annual "Puttin' on the Dog" fundraiser for the local Humane Society's Mountain Shelter. Students restored an old bench and painted it using many State of Georgia symbols. Garner said, "The students were surprised to learn about some of our more unusual state symbols and

seemed to enjoy painting them on the bench, which was auctioned for over \$200. This money went to the Humane Society's Mountain Shelter to help care for animals waiting on a new home."

"The Spring Fine Arts show held each May is a wonderful way for teachers to showcase Union County students and their wonderful creative talents," Garner said. "Our students are excited to show parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and friends what they have been learning in their art classrooms this year.

"This is a very busy time of year, but we hope that you will all take a few minutes to visit this year's show and share our appreciation for

what your children can do."

As in the past, there will be a silent auction to benefit the UCHS Art Department. The auction will feature works by high school pottery and two-dimensional visual art students.

Works will include drawings, paintings, prints, pottery and sculpture. Hours for the silent auction are 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, and the minimum bid for items is \$5. All proceeds from the auction will be used to help buy materials and supplies for high school art classes.

Throughout the day, attendees will be entertained with videotaped performances of the Middle School and High School Music Departments.

Rabies Clinic...from Page 1A

because of the rabies that we're able to do this by the state, because typically we have to have an exam in order to be able to give vaccines, but in this case, they're forgoing that because of the need for rabies vaccinations," Dr. Barnes said.

This is Dr. Barnes' 20th year participating in the Rabies Clinic, but she says it has been going on longer than that. She is also president of the Rotary Club of Union County, and enlisted the help of the Rotarians last year in

operating the clinic.

"They had so much fun they all asked to come back again this year," said Dr. Barnes. "We have a good time doing this. We see a lot of the community, we're able to be doing something good for the community and for the health of pets and humans."

Rotary Club members helped to coordinate the event, entering data on computers and directing traffic for those who had pets in need of vaccination.

Last year, the Union

County Pet Hospital vaccination sites were responsible for 1,000 vaccinations, not including the numbers for Blairsville Animal Hospital, and Dr. Barnes was optimistic that those numbers would remain strong.

In conjunction with the Blairsville Animal Hospital, Dr. Barnes and her staff, as well as volunteers, like Union General Hospital Physician Dr. Debora Quigley, were able to vaccinate animals at five sites around the county on Saturday, including the Union County Primary School.

"In most cases, we're able to vaccinate directly in their own vehicles, which means that this helps older

clients who are uncomfortable standing in line for several hours," said Dr. Barnes. "It helps the patients because they're not exposed to other animals and they don't get into fights. It helps with the cats, who are always nervous when traveling, except for very few cats.

"Staying in a car for several hours in air conditioning if needed is a whole lot better than standing out in the hot sun, so that's why I think this thing has really taken off. We call it a drive-by shooting because it does make people smile when we say that, but this is the one time a drive-by shooting at the school is a good thing."

UCHS students tour local industry



Students learn the dairy process

Union County High School students enrolled in the Union County Enrichment Center toured another one of Union County's industries, Mountain View Dairy Farm of Blairsville. UCHS graduate, Mrs. Jennifer Kerr, led the students through the process from feeding, to milking, to proper storage, to sales of the dairy products. One student found it interesting that the milking is done by machines, not by hand. The students would like to thank the Dyer family and their employees, Mr. Stanley Garrett, Mrs. Patti Konkell, and the Union County Schools leadership for this opportunity. NMay6,25/CA

ACCG...from Page 1A

grams. Formed in 1914 when county officials came together to help fund the state's first highway department, ACCG today serves as a catalyst for advancing Georgia's counties.

"It's an honor to be reappointed to the Board of Managers," Commissioner Paris said. "The public just has no idea how strong a group this is and how much money is saved by the local taxpayers because of the hard work this board and the members of ACCG does.

"That includes the lobbying to prevent harmful bills in the legislature from being passed, to offering tremendous savings to counties for insurance of all kinds, providing education courses offered

through the Carl Vincent Institute of Government, and ACCG staff is always there to assist counties with any problems they may have," Commissioner Paris said.

Commissioner Paris was first elected to office in 2001 and has been a very active commissioner, not only locally, but, at the state level.

He realized by being active there, Union County would always be on the mind of those providing grant funding, highway funds, educational opportunities, and always knowing who to go see in Atlanta when a problem or issue needed special attention.

"Good government is about having good relationships," Paris said.

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