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that speak to me, I think it would be accurate to say that you appreciate what Union County has to offer. We have one of the lowest property tax rates in Georgia out of 159 counties, (currently fourth) we have exceptional county facilities, employees, and infrastructure. Our county has one of the best rural hospitals in the state, we have the Top 5 rated school system in the state of Georgia, and our quality of life for a rural county is second to none. Hopefully you will want to continue with our leadership that has worked so effectively for our county and continue that progress for the next four

Q. When will the next election be held for commissioner?

A. Most county official elections in Georgia are held the same year as the Presidential election. The exact date of the Primary election is yet to be determined, but it will probably be in May 2016, about a year from now, with the general election being in November 2016. While it is early, I want to ask for your vote next year for commissioner and I will always continue to work very hard to earn that vote and your respect.

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political person most of my life, but I have attended a few meetings of the Tea Party, and last week the presentation was by a most qualified and concerned professor, Dr. Mary Kay Bacallao, with an update on Common Core in Georgia. Her facts and dedication to making this issue known throughout the state, often at her own personal cost in both resources and career, made me realize the scope of the problem. Anyone willing to give up one hour's worth of TV can learn a lot from her message which is now on youtube.

com by typing in the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OKZfeKACXw>. I promise you will see the incendiary agenda that Common Core is leading our children—and even more scary—our grandchildren and those not yet born. If you think that socialism/communism is dead because the Berlin Wall is down—you will see that ideologies do not die that easily. The Government wants our children!! I beg you to watch the video. Respectfully submitted, **Arlene M. Gray**

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know Lon was the smartest son I ever raised.” Recently, I was reminded of this story because I was visiting Farmers Market Vendors. One stop was at Logan’s Turnpike Mill. As I looked at the bags of grits and cornmeal I thought of Lon Cummings. This year at the Market you will notice some differences in how we operate. Last year we allowed vendors to bring in tomatoes until our local ones were harvestable. This caused a lot of confusion, so, there will be no outside tomatoes at the market anytime. Tomatoes you see will be locally produced. We do allow producers to bring in outside strawberries, watermelons, cantaloupes, apples, peaches, pecans, peanuts, blueberries and muscadines. The melons can only be brought in until ours are harvestable (mid-August).

The reason behind this policy is we do not grow many of the above crops and people want them. The past couple of weeks I have visited and inspected many of our vendors and will continue to inspect them throughout the growing season. For example, I have been to Freddie Collins Farms, 7 M Farms, Annie’s Dream Alpacas, Joe Long Farms, Gary Long Farms, Rock Hill Farms, Jay Tipton Farm, and Logan’s Turnpike Mill. And yes, I have seen strawberries, ripe tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers at 7 M Farms. Freddie Collins will have lots of beans very soon, Jay Tipton has some fresh ground cornmeal and it will not be long until we have some sweet corn at the Market. The Farmers Market opens this weekend June 6th at 7 a. m. See you at the Market.

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We are excited to announce John Thomas Auctions will be conducting an auction in Building 3 every Tuesday beginning at 5 p.m. and ending around 8 p.m. Auctions are fun for all ages, and John Thomas has been conducting this regions finest auctions for nearly twenty years. Most of the auctions will be “general merchandise” auctions. Items for the evening will be on display before the start of the auction. You can register and get your number, just in case you get caught up in the bidding process. We encourage you to bring a lawn chair to sit and enjoy the evening (there will be limited seating provided), and some pocket change or your credit cards, as well.

offered a themed event each Saturday. This Saturday we kick off the season with “Beef It Up” Day. The Blue Ridge Mountain Cattlemen’s Association will be there giving away beef samples, educational literature and beef recipes. Local cattle producers will be on site to discuss their operations with visitors if they want to find out more about the local beef markets and production practices. Our new rack cards are also available at the Market, and on the backside, you’ll find a complete calendar of the events this season. If you’d like a list of our vendors, their Booth number and their products, visit our website at www.UCFarmersMarket.com. On the home page, in the left column, you’ll see a place to click for a downloadable/printable list.

This season the Market Café (our on site food trailer) will be open for breakfast and lunch every Thursday and Friday for Trash and Treasures, on Saturdays and now on Tuesdays, as well. Chef Brenda Hull has taken over the Café and is offering a mouth watering “Localvore” menu, bringing you fresh food from the local market. Now Tuesdays, families can come after work, enjoy a great sandwich, salad or a different chicken plate Tuesday special, shop our vendors and stay for the auction. What a delightful summer night you can spend every Tuesday with us. As we have done every season at this location, we’ve

Our goal at the Market is to exceed your expectations each and every time you visit. I, like all of our visitors, feel the amazing heartbeat of our community resonating throughout this gathering place, situated along Butternut Creek, in the valley of these gracious mountains. It’s again time to share in the fruits of the farmer’s labor, the art of the crafter’s hands and the goods by local bakers, canners and beekeepers. See you soon.

Duncan... continued from Page 4A



Reid Watson

The recruits included Michael Norton, Lauren Sutton, Zachary Hoye-Albietz, Reid Watson, Rusty Ward, Mark Smith, Warren Cole, and Tincher.

If you were lucky enough to attend Saturday’s Open House at Station 4, you met some of these new firefighters.

And it was clear, they were proud to be a part of this tight-knit group.



Zachary Hoye-Albietz

Chief Dyer and the department are very proud to welcome these firefighters to the Union County Fire Department family.

The community appreciates the dedication, sacrifice and commitment these recruits have given to the department.

Union County and the *North Georgia News* are pleased that these new recruits are now full-fledged firefighters.

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the devils workshop. Always keep busy doing something good. Love you mom & dad!

4. What is your favorite time of day/day of the week/month of the year?

My favorite times of the year are the holidays. I love, love, love decorating the store with beautiful decor, sweet smelling candles, and gifts that reflect each season.

5. If you could choose anyone, who would you pick as your mentor?

Not just one but two of the most important people in my life would be my parents. They are the root of all things good. They showed us that material things do not matter but being kind, loving all, working hard and having integrity is all you need.

If you have never been to visit Jenny at her great store, please plan to do so soon. She has a wonderful selection of gifts for others and for yourself. Let’s help her celebrate 10 years by supporting her great business and thanking her for her long term investment in Blairsville-Union County. Jenny Rebecca’s is located at 209 Hunt Martin Street, Blairsville, Georgia near the public library. Jenny can be reached by phone at (706) 745-2220.

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In our community you will find Omega Buckner’s kin providing food and financial help to the needy, helping mothers with unplanned pregnancies, assisting with medical needs, reaching out to jail and detention center inmates, and providing counseling and rehabilitation therapy. You will find Christ-followers serving in government, education, business, and civic organizations.

What becomes of Western culture is beyond our control. T.S. Eliot wrote, “For us there is only the trying. The rest is not our business.” That we are here and trying is the evidence, hope, and victory that God is accomplishing His plan. Whatever the future, everyday people will still be part of the great work of God, loving and reconciling people to Himself.

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the poor and those on fixed incomes. I feel for them, but I also feel for the people that we have underpaid for the past years and I fear it will continue without support for these workers. The time to act for our school employees is now.

Jim Hughes

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse

Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Monday:		
Children’s Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve’s Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Every Tuesday:		
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
Every Thursday:		
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Second Monday of each month:		
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Hayesville	10 am-3 pm
Disabled Am Veterans	Veterans Center	7 pm (Jan-Oct)
Second Tuesday of each month:		
FPL Retirees	Hole in Wall Rest.	9 am
Historical Society Bd.	Old Courthouse	9:30 am
Mtn Laurel Arts/Crafts	Union County Library	10 am
Active/Retired Fed Emp.	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer	Sr. Citizens Center	1:30-3:30 pm
Mountain Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
Blue Ridge Mtn Jeepers	Steve’s Steakhouse	6:30 pm
Beta Sigma Phi	Kappa Alpha Chapter	7 pm
Mtn. Reg. Arts/Crafts	Library - Young Harris	7 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
Second Wednesday of each month:		
GA Mtn Writers Club	So. Bank & Trust	10 am
Parkinson’s Sup. Grp.	So. Bank & Trust	3 pm
Second Thursday of each month:		
UC Interagency Grp.	Civic Cntr. Conf. Rm.	12 noon
Lions Club	Steve’s Cookie Jar	6 pm
Appalachian Shrine Club	Clubhouse, Industrial Blvd.	6:00 pm
Democratic Party	UC Senior Center	6:30 pm
Trout Unlimited	So. Bank & Trust	6:30 pm
Sons Confederate Vet.	UCB Community Rm	7 pm
Knights of Columbus	Marian Hall	7:30 pm
Second Friday of each month:		
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
Second Saturday of each month:		
His Victory Riders	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am