

Paris...continued from Page 4A

everyone to pay their fair share. On the other hand, sales tax is often referred to as a regressive tax, meaning that if you pay \$ 1.00 tax on a hundred dollar purchase, that \$1 will impact a poor person more than some others. I certainly do not argue with this point.

Q. Someone told me that they would not vote for the TSPLOST and the SPLOST both and I should choose which I thought was more important for the county. Which is more important?

A. They are both important. Please do not confuse your anger with the federal government when thinking about local government. We utilize your taxes wisely and conservatively and will continue to do so, as we always have. Whatever revenue we have to work with is what we will utilize. So whether TSPLOST passes or not, we will make the best of it. However, our county could never do without our SPLOST, as it is the backbone for making us one of the best counties in the state.

Q. If we vote for TSPLOST in Union County will it pass just in our county?

A. No. It has to pass region wide for it to pass

here. Even if we voted for it and the majority of the folks in the other 12 counties voted against it in our region, it would fail and likewise, if we voted against it and it passed by a majority of the other counties, then it would pass for all counties in our region.

Q. Are you not concerned that by letting us know that you will vote for TSPLOST that it could hurt you politically in this election year?

A. I always try to make my commissioner decisions based on what is best for Union County, not what is best for me. That was the case in deciding on changing every address in our county and that was the case in making the decision to build the farmers market, horse arena and community center. My decisions are never easy. However, this is not my decision alone, but your decision. I am just one vote out of thousands and it is truly a personal decision for every voter to make.

To see all the questions on TSPLOST, go to our website at www.unioncountyga.gov. Click on Commissioner and then click on "TSPLOST QUESTIONS". It is also addressed in a radio interview accessible from the same page.

Garner...continued from Page 4A

able to newcomers moving to the area. The Chamber also provides its membership directory on its website, offering members 24/7 exposure worldwide. Members are kept up-to-date on all Chamber activities and recent business developments through Chamber Matters, our weekly e-newsletter.

There is strength in numbers. A unified voice is much louder than that of an individual. By being a member of the Chamber, you are part of one of the largest collective pro-business voices in the county. We work for you behind the scenes every day in the areas of economic development and government affairs to ensure Blairsville-Union County remains a great place to live, work and play.

Consider a positive change in your future by becoming one of our 550+ members if you have not yet joined. Membership is worth the investment. In the meantime, should you have questions about membership, please contact Robin Story,

Membership Coordinator, at Membership@BlairsvilleChamber.com. Or you can call to speak to her at (706) 745-5789. I can be reached anytime at Chair@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

Following are a few of my favorite quotes relating to change:

"Become a student of change. It is the only thing that will remain constant." ~ Anthony J. D'Angelo

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." ~ Leo Tolstoy

"The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress." ~ Charles Kettering

"It behooves every man to remember that the work of the critic is of altogether secondary importance, and that, in the end, progress is accomplished by the man who does things." ~ Theodore Roosevelt

"Life is about change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely." ~ Karen Kaiser Clark

Chamber of Commerce events	
For details and future events see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com	
Wednesday, July 25	
2pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad
2pm	Friends of Union County Library Meeting – Union County Library
Thursday, July 26	
12pm	Rotary Club of Union County – Cadence Bank
5:30pm	Coupon Class – Beginners @ GnG Bakery & Café
6pm	Blairsville Cruisers Car Club General Meeting – Call for Meeting Location 706-897-2501
Friday, July 27	
8am	Union County Farmers Market - Trash To Treasure Sale
10am	Ribbon Cutting for Esquire Insurance
10am	Free Seminar: Thrifty Person's Guide to Flower Arranging – GA Mt. Research & Education Center
7pm	Friday Night Concert, Cedar Grove Grass - Historic Union County Court House
7pm	You can be the Star Karaoke – Lodge at Copperhead
8pm	Green Bean Square Dance – Downtown Blairsville on the Square
Saturday, July 28	
7am	3rd Annual Green Bean Festival
4:30pm	Go in Low Country for a Cure to Benefit Alzheimer's – Union County Farmer's Market
6pm	Evening in Italy – fundraiser for Castaway Critters - Moschetto's Continental Café
Monday, July 30	
9am	Garden tour – GA Mt. Research & Education Center
12pm	Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting – Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
6pm	Free Texas Hold 'em Tournament – Lodge at Copperhead
Tuesday, July 31	
8am	Tri-State Business Women's weekly meeting – Cooks Restaurant
3pm	Union County Farmer's Market

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Garden Tours	Every Monday: GMREC	9 am - 1 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	Noon
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Mtn. Woodcarvers	Senior Center	6 pm
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Rotary Club	St. Francis of Assisi	Noon
First Monday of each month:		
Volunteers/Handicap	Church of Christ	7 pm
Union County DFCS	Conference room	8 pm (Feb, May, Aug, Oct ONLY)
Allegheny Lodge	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
CERT	St. Francis of Assisi	6:30 pm
Lockheed-Martin Ret.	Blairsville Restaurant	9 am
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group	Cadence Bank (Except holiday months)	6 pm
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	Antonietta's Rest.	Noon
Exercise class	Senior Citizens Center	10:30 am
First Thursday of each month:		
Jaycees	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

Parris...continued from Page 4A

clearly." For God's sake won't someone just honestly say, "I committed a terrible sin?"

Astronomically, our present situation tells me that if we don't stop listening to loony star-gazers and start listening to the ONE who created the stars, the sky is going to fall.

Theologically, our situation tells me if America doesn't quit looking for sedatives from star-gazers and soothsayers and begin seriously seeking solutions from the bright and Morning Star, America's flickering light could be extinguished by the ONE who holds the seven stars in His right hand (Revelation 2:1).

Meteorologically, it tells me that America has gotten off course by listening to these wandering stars (Book of Jude v. 13).

Furthermore, if there is going to be many more beautiful tomorrows, we must be-

gin at my house, your house, the school house, the court house and up to the White House seeking wisdom from the real Star that the wise men sought in Jerusalem. May the Day Star, who is Christ the Lord, arise in our hearts. I know some of you will say, "Preacher Danny has grown old and has become pessimistic, paranoid and senile." Well, you would be right about old, (above 70) but I may see with a sharper conscience (to know with) than ever. The prophet Amos was asked by Jehovah God, "Amos, what do you see?" What he saw was not a beautiful tomorrow, but judgment at the door. Mr. & Mrs. Reader, What do you see???

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

their 4th child was born Zed and Sue quarreled over his drinking. Zed lost his temper and struck Sue in the face and on her head many times. Zed left Sue lying on the floor, unconscious and bleeding. Late that evening her sister came for a visit and found her battered sister still on the floor.

Later that evening word got around to the brothers about what had happened to their sister. The boys all met at their Daddy's house. After supper they waited until dark and then slipped down to the local bootlegger's place. The Baker brothers knew that Zed had been drinking all day. The 8 brothers slowly surrounded the still and raised their guns. My great grandfather, Dad Baker, was the leader. So, he called out to his brother-in-law, "Zed, come out of there. I aim to talk with you". Zed staggered out from the still house with his hands on his head. The Baker boys tied Zed with leather tongs and forced him to walk 3 miles back to Dad's home place at Gray Rock. Upon reaching the home place they locked Zed up in a corn crib made of chestnut logs. Zed stayed locked up in the corn crib for 21 days and was fed nothing but corn bread and water.

About the incident my grandmother was asked, "Why didn't the boys call the sheriff?" Grand maw said, "Back then the law wouldn't come to Ray Mountain. So, we took care of our own". So, the next time you hear someone say the people of Appalachia are clannish or they talk funny remember

there is a reason for that. Next Saturday, July 28th, the Green Bean Festival will be held at the Union County Farmers Market. We will be open from 7 Am until 7 PM. Please come out to be with us during the day. Also, it is not too late to enter the Green Bean Recipe Contest or the Canning Contest. Go to Greenbeanfestival.com to find out more information about these two contests. We will also have crafts, food, ice cream, exhibits and even a dunking booth at the festival. Yes, I am planning on being in the dunking booth.

Paris letter continued from Page 4A

Signs are installed so that vehicles know to go slow over this area of pavement. After about one week when the tar has cured, the Road Dept will come back with a street sweeper and remove all the extra gravel and soon you will barely notice the patched area except for the different look.

This patching process is done every spring and early summer and we receive a few complaints each year, but normally they are not accusing me of "election shenanigans". I can assure the gentleman that if we could afford to simply resurface every road in the county that had weak spots in it, we would certainly do it. However, this patching method helps maintain the road in a better condition until the county can afford to come back and resurface the entire road. Contrary to his suggestion that we "unnecessarily wasted taxpayers money", it is just the opposite, as we are saving hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayers funds by using this method. We apologize for the inconvenience to this gentleman and our other citizens impacted, but this has been going on for several years and will continue. In the future, we will try to place an article in the newspaper each spring reminding folks of this process.

Lamar Paris
Union County Commissioner

Cosner continued from Page 4A

ey to local libraries today than they did 10 years ago. What can we do to help our Library? Contact our State Rep. Steven Allison and State Sen. Steve Gooch let them know the library is important to you, your family, and your community. Email, write, or call. Contact information for Rep. Steven Allison, 103 Blue Ridge St., Blairsville, GA 30512, Phone (706) 781-3929, e-mail: allisonga08@gmail.com

Contact information for State Sen. Steve Gooch, P.O. Box 600, Dahlonega, GA 30533, Phone (404) 656-9221, e-mail: steve.gooch@senate.ga.gov

Encourage Commissioner Paris to increase his support to help keep our library open and maintain vital services. Contact info: 65 Courthouse Street, Blairsville, GA 30512, Phone, (706) 439-6000, Fax, (706) 439-6004, e-mail, unioncounty@uniongov.com

Lorne Cosner