

Paris ... from Page 4A

Q. Do you like the current insurance industry ISO rating system for counties and cities?

A. No. I think it is grossly unfair to rural counties like ours, who go above and beyond what most similar counties do, yet we are given no special considerations for the extra mile and expense we go to. I think the fire equipment industry must be heavily involved with this rating system. The more equipment required to lower the ISO ratings, the more equipment that will be sold.

Q. Why do you think the system is unfair to Union County?

A. The main ISO ratings are based on the fire department being able to reach a home within five miles receiving a lower ISO rating. In a rural county, especially ours, with full-time firemen, we can reach a location six, seven or eight miles out often in the same time a city fire engine could only travel five miles, but yet we both have the same requirements. We have less traffic, less traffic lights and don't have parallel parking on or beside county roads to create additional obstacles. No credit is given for the fewer number of fires occurring in our county as compared to other similar counties. No

Cummings ...from Page 4A

farm again. They were going to turn the old cat loose, eventually. But, the boys forgot about one thing: the mailman.

The boys had shook and pounded the mail box so much the cat was in a complete state of terror by the time the mailman arrived. Dad heard the mailman coming down the road and in a panic the boys ran and hid. The mailman opened the box and the cat shot out of the box and into the old car. The cat made at least three laps in the car and tore up the mail, the interior of the car and the mailman before exiting the car. Nobody ever found out how Old Tom got into the Cummings Mailbox. But, the boys were remorseful.

Later in the winter when the weather turned cold Uncle Bud suggested to Gran-

ny, "Why don't we put some big rocks by the fire place and when the mailman comes we can give them to him to place them in his wagon under his feet to help stay warm." The mailman was very appreciative and the boys never saw Old Tom again.

Don't forget about the canning plant being open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 a.m. until 7 p.m. Also, remember the Canning Plant will be closed on July 23rd because I will be attending the National Wildlife Judging Contest with 3 Union County 4-H members. Also, just to let you know the Farmers Market now has local tomatoes, sweet corn, green beans, cucumbers and squash for sale. We are open Tuesdays from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Gray ...from Page 4A

trustworthy department heads who have run Union County admirably for the past several (eleven, I think) years.

I don't always agree completely with Commissioner Paris, but I have found him willing to sit patiently with me and explain the reasons for a decision. Sometimes I wish the reasons weren't so logical—because I may still have a strong opinion about my stand on an issue. But hearing the

reasons has always convinced me that much thought has gone into decisions he makes, and I have had to agree- to-disagree at times. Therefore, I will continue to support his decisions because I trust his thinking, and I believe that is the consensus of the majority of residents in Union County, based on his overwhelming support in past elections.

Arlene M. Gray

Malone ...from Page 4A

ity back to the vendor, where it belongs.

E-fairness is about closing a tax loophole, not creating a new tax.

The online sales tax loophole is hurting small businesses across America. E-fairness legislation would give states the ability to enforce their existing state and local sales and use tax laws on online-only retailers in a manner that does not infringe on or overly burden e-commerce.

E-fairness legislation could actually help lower taxes.

Many conservative governors have spoken out recently about their states' own budget shortfalls. They have mentioned e-fairness legislation as an effective way to enforce existing tax laws rather than raising taxes in other areas.

E-fairness is not a tax on businesses.

Businesses don't pay sales tax; consumers do. The MFA or MEA doesn't create a tax for online-only businesses; it simply allows states to require them to follow the same rules as their brick-and-mortar counterparts

Secondly this legislation will actually strengthen State Rights – something that is solely needed given the ongoing federal power grabs through Executive orders and bureaucratic federal agencies. Again here are the facts.

Federal e-fairness legislation would empower states.

The MFA or MEA would help states enforce their own existing sales tax laws on out-of-state, online-only retailers, giving states more authority over their own fiscal matters. Additionally, it would not impact intrastate sales.

E-fairness would help states cut taxes or forego future increases.

Passing e-fairness legislation would empower states to

close their budget gaps by collecting taxes that are already due, rather than forcing states to increase taxes to meet their shortfalls. Furthermore, some governors have indicated their support for cutting corporate and individual taxes once this loophole has been closed.

E-fairness is not a national mandate for states.

Instead, it simply gives states the option to decide whether or not to require online-only retailers selling within their borders to collect and remit sales their own sales tax.

Third much of the opposition is being ginned up by EBay under the guise of protecting small business. In response to the growing momentum behind e-fairness legislation to address this problem, eBay has now come out against the Marketplace Fairness Act. In doing so, they claim their sellers are wholly opposed to this important legislation.

Finally, as the facts become widely known, more and more conservatives at the State and Federal level are supporting this much needed legislation including Governor Deal. See www.standwithmainstream.com for quotes from other prominent conservatives.

So I have personally contacted our Congressman Doug Collins' and Senators Isakson and Chambliss' Washington and District offices to express my support for this legislation.

I would suggest each of you to familiarize yourselves with the facts and then determine if you can support the Marketplace Fairness Act. Whatever you decide, let your representative and senators know where you stand so that they can make a well-informed vote that is in the best interests of the majority of constituents they represent.

Thanks for your consideration,
Patrick Malone

Scottish Festival ...from Page 4A

per behind us in our efforts to present this annual event that brings so many out-of-town folks to our area while they spend money here to help our local economy. We really appreciate you and your publication.

Joe Satterfield, Chairman, Debbie McGregor, Publicity, Linda McAfee, Program Editor, Jim McAfee, Coordinator and all the other Board Members of the Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Madison ...from Page 4A

citizens. It didn't take long for funds to be appropriated to install a traffic light at that intersection.

Let's hope funds can be "found" this time to install a light at the US 129 and Pat Colwell intersection.

If you agree with the comments expressed in this letter, please express your opinions to the officials that have the power to make things

happen.

If not, please approach this intersection with extreme caution....you may be the next victim.

How does one equate value of the life that might have been saved with the cost of an approach flashing caution light or, even more effectively, a traffic light at the intersection?
Larry Madison

credit is given for providing free smoke detectors to any home that does not have them, or free inspection of those in a home. The list can go on and on.

Q. Is the Fire Department funded out of regular tax dollars?

A. No, it is not. It is predominately funded from life insurance premium tax proceeds. Each time you make a purchase or payment on a life insurance policy, a portion of those funds goes to the State of Georgia, which is returned to counties from where the payments originated. Last year the Fire Department's budget was \$935,000 and the insurance premium tax revenue was approximately \$850,000.

Q. You said we have more than 80 volunteer firefighters. How much training are they required to obtain?

A. They are required to obtain a minimum of 95 hours of firefighting training. Any other medical training the volunteer wishes to obtain is on top of the firefighting training. Volunteers are required to obtain 60 hours of firefighting training annually thereafter. This takes a tremendous amount of time and we owe a large debt of gratitude to our volunteers. That is why donations to their individual stations are so important. It insures that the lifesaving equipment they have works properly, is up to date, and is available to save you or a member of your family or friends in an emergency. These gentlemen and ladies are also involved in search and rescue and may be out all night at times for no pay other than a small \$15 stipend to help cover their gas expense.

Williams ...from Page 4A

like Friends of the Union County Library.

Mr. Scerbo is a proud founder of the Mountain Networking Referral Group which is a lead generating business group which has pumped thousands of dollars into the local economy since it began in 2012.

If you haven't stopped by their shop recently, located at 23 E Murphy Highway next to Pat's Hallmark, be sure to do so as it has been totally renovated in the last year.

Congratulations to our friends at The Hair People and to Mr. Joe Scerbo who encompasses all things admirable in a community partner.

Chamber members are invited to attend the July 11 Business After Hours celebrating The Hair People as Business of the Quarter at the Union County Community Center from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Do you know a business that is worthy of consideration for future recognition? If so, I encourage you to nominate them today. Forms can be obtained at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com. Click on Chamber Programs, fill out the application, and submit to the Chamber. You may also contact the Chamber of Commerce at (706) 745-5789. I can be reached any time at President@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

Parris ...from Page 4A

mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3). The next time fear

knocks at your door let faith answer and fear will flee with a fast farewell.

Leone ...from Page 4A

can at least sullen the racking of your mother's nervous system over her USB rat's nest. I

think of other tangled messes, and solutions I've had to such.



The Sweetest Corn Festival arrives at Farmers Market

This Saturday, July 13th, at the Farmers Market, we are celebrating our 4th Annual Sweetest Corn Festival. Not only can you travel up and down the booths picking out your favorite variety to purchase to take home, but you'll have the opportunity to sample it right there at the market. We'll be boiling and grilling up corn that our great local farmers bring us and selling them (11 a.m. until they are all gone!) with your choice of butter, salt and pepper for 50 cents an ear, with proceeds going to the local Food Pantry.

We'll also be having our corn shucking contests earlier in the morning. This is always a highly competitive sport and a crowd favorite. There's a kids competition at 8:30 and one for the adults (9 a.m.), too. Then we invite folks of all ages to come up and tell your favorite corny joke. It's good old fashioned fun for the whole family, so please don't miss it.

Visit our website for an events calendar for the season and to become more familiar with opportunities for you, your family and your guests to meet and mingle at one of the most enviable resources in Union County. www.UCFarmersMarket.com.

Farmers Market looking for local talent

There will be two opportunities to showcase local talent at upcoming events at the Union County Farmers Market. On July 27th, the 4th Annual Green Bean Festival will be featuring the talents of youth under the age of 21 from the surrounding communities, including Union, Towns, Fannin, Gilmer, Pickens and Raben counties in Georgia, Ducktown in Tennessee and Cherokee and Clay counties in North Carolina.

Anyone with a talent, from vocalist to juggler, dancing to drummer, please email your information, including your talent and your best contact phone number to UCFarmersMarket@gmail.com or call JoAnne Leone at 706-781-3306.

On Saturday, August 3, the Farmers Market will be holding its first music talent competition. Called "The Garden Song", talent of all ages are encouraged to enter. There will be a cash prize for the grand prize winner and other