

**Paris...continued from Page 4A**

ever, in most cases, those who have smaller incomes often have smaller and less expensive homes whose values have often depreciated down helping make their property taxes much lower. This is not to say many do not struggle, but in trying to help a very few, it is very difficult if not impossible, to be completely fair other than the way it is currently done.

**Q. Do you think this senior property tax exemption is a bad idea?**

A. When you ask me what we will accomplish in 2015, which will be a lot as

you can tell from the past couple of articles, and at the same time want to consider removing a major part of our tax base, I will admit to you that it is troubling.

If we start "tax shifting" it could completely change what our county is doing and would be able to do in the future. What makes Union County such a special place is that everyone pulls together and that is the only way our school taxes remain relatively low and the only way the county taxes remain low.

*Part 3 Con't next week...*

**Leone... continued from Page 4A**

up to a rolling boil quickly then cook uncovered for about 15 minutes. Drain and cool. When room temp, cut the ends off and cut into chunks, skin and all.

Take the cubed squash (or messy smashed squash) and using a stick blender or your food processor, puree the squash. Place the pureed squash back into a saucepan and add the following ingredients. Three cups of half and half. (No, not low fat. YIKES!). One cup of almond flour (this is the natural thickener, high in protein and gluten friendly). One and a half tablespoons of sugar (I used 3 packets of Splenda), one teaspoon each of salt, ground pepper, cinnamon and nutmeg. Bring to a soft boil and then add two tablespoons each of butter and grated parmesan cheese. Simmer for three minutes and serve.

I couldn't help noticing this week that the grocery ads were boasting green cabbage specials, trying to unload what they didn't move for the New Year tradition. Here's my favorite Italian Cabbage Soup recipe that uses that ham bone (or turkey carcass) that is left over from the holidays. Dice a medium size cabbage and one large yellow onion. Throw them into a pot with 8 cups of cold, salted water. Add a bag of either lentils or split peas, whichever is your preference

and that meat bone. Bring it to a boil, then cover it and leave it on a very slow boil for at least an hour, maybe two. Remove the bone and scrape off whatever meat is left on it and throw the meat back in the soup. Add a cup of wine. Doesn't matter. Something left over from the holidays that didn't pass muster after you opened it. Now add your seasonings. Salt and pepper to taste. I like to make it simple and I add about two tablespoons of Herbs of Provence that I've crushed in the palms of my hands before tossing them into the pot. The cabbage in this recipe makes a heartier tasting soup than carrots and celery do. Less prep and cheaper, too. Simmer it for another 30 minutes and serve. I prefer it with either a large dollop of sour cream or a healthy pinch of grated cheese on top. Stick to your bones kind of warmth.

I want to give a special shout out to Pamala Kelly who rescued Pebbles, our calico cat that made a home at the Farmers Market this year. We are all happy to know she now has a warm, loving home. Kristy and Morgan Peney were awesome caretakers until a home could be found for this sweet feline furball. As winter reaps its havoc on our fuel budget, remember to save energy by giving warm hugs. Sending one to all my readers now. Caio!

**Williams... continued from Page 4A**

tions, watch your actions, for they become habits, watch your habits for they become your character, watch your character for it becomes your destiny."

**3. If you could choose to stay a certain age forever, what age would it be?**

A few years back I crossed over into the "dark side" of fifty. This has been a very liberating age - full of changes, challenges and growth. Something happens when you hit the half century mark: you realize that it's none of your business what other people think of you. When you get that, you're free to think about other, more productive, things. I'm really enjoying my fifties.

**4. If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?**

I'd get my private pilot's

license - something that I'm planning to do in 2015.

**5. Have you ever met a famous person? Who and where?**

About fifteen years ago I met Joan Rivers. She was speaking at a fundraiser for the Orlando Coalition for the Homeless. Many people don't know what a great motivational speaker she was. And she kept saying that no matter how bad today is, you will wake up tomorrow and it will be different. And she was right. You've got to wake up every day and start anew. Otherwise you might miss something wonderful.

To reach Tommy Drake, your local Allstate agent, call (706) 745-4400 or email tommydrake@allstate.com. His office is located at 44-B Town Square, Blairsville, GA 30512.

**Miller ... continued from Page 4A**

Weekends," student theatre, band and choral performances, athletic events, Commencement, and other special events that feature our students. These families stay in local hotels, shop in local businesses and eat in local restaurants.

The College also hosted the WinShape summer camps sponsored by Chick-fil-A for the fourth year, bringing 1,300 young girls to the campus for a great summer camp experience - along with 1,300 families who likewise came here to visit, shop and often vacation. Similarly, we hosted the Carhart Bassmaster College Series National Bass Fishing Championship, bringing 89 teams from college campuses all over the United States (and their families and support crews) - along with ESPN-U worldwide coverage of Lake Chatuge - for a week of great fishing and vacationing. Additionally, YHC hosted other summer camps for bands, athletic programs, and specialty programs that bring campers and their families to the area on a regular basis.

Young Harris' outstanding Men's Soccer Team captured the Peach Belt conference championship this fall, our first conference championship since gaining full membership last summer in NCAA Division II athletics, and catapulted to a Number 1 ranking in the nation.

We had the opportunity thereafter to host the first two rounds of the NCAA national tournament here in Young Harris, bringing teams from throughout the Southeast to campus for two weeks of tournament activity, with teams, families and guests coming into the area to lodge, eat and

shop in late fall. Although we lost in the quarterfinals to the team that ultimately won the national championship, our Mountain Lions finished the season ranked No. 5 in the nation, and our team member Ilija Ilic was named the National Player of the Year for Division II, as well as the National Scholar Athlete of the Year for all three NCAA divisions. Our coach Mark McKeever was named the Southeastern Coach of the Year.

The College and its auxiliary physical plant/dining service Sodexo now employ more than 358 people on the Young Harris campus every day, making us one of the largest employers in this region. Our \$11,767,000 payroll - not including benefits - provides direct economic benefits that are expended right here in Towns and Union counties and surrounding areas.

Young Harris also provides a wealth of great entertainment and fun throughout the year for this community as its Mountain Lion athletic teams take on great competitors, and I hardly ever miss a basketball game. I hope your readers will come out and join us in the beautiful Young Harris Recreation Center this winter for some first-rate basketball.

Thank you for giving me the chance to highlight one of the major economic engines of this area. The College has had a strong year, and when it flourishes, those benefits flow outward to our community. I'm proud to have attended and graduated from Young Harris, taught at Young Harris, and continue serving as one of its Trustees.  
**Zell B. Miller**

**Cummings...continued from Page 4A**

Hubert heard these acorns hitting the ground and he exclaimed, "Boys, they's a painter out there and he's a huntin' us". William told Tommy it was his imagination. Bud recollected that he'd heard that Old Man Landers over at Dime had seen a black "painter" last week. Paul told Hubert that if he thought something was in the woods he should go out there and "stob" it with his Case Knife. None of his friends' words helped to relieve Hubert of his anxiety.

Finally, it was suggested that Hubert take the canteens over to the stream to refill them for their morning coffee. The stream was in view of the campfire, so, Hubert picked up the canteen and walked to the spring. Unknown to Hubert, Tommy was on top of the bluff directly above the spring and was climbing down a slick, tall poplar. He came noiselessly while Hubert was filling the canteen. The other boys knew what was about to happen. Paul, with

an urgent voice said, "Hubert, I think I hear something to the other side of us". Hubert looked away from the spring and toward the fire. Tommy, who was bigger and taller than Hubert, wrapped his arms around his friend's waist and let out a blood curdling yell. Hubert's feet went into hurry up mode. They were not touching the ground. But, they were running just like you would see in a cartoon. When, Hubert realized he was not moving any closer to the fire he cried out, "Hit's got a hold of me. Run boys and save yourselves. Whaaaaaagh" he also used other indiscernible words.

The annual UGA Ag Forecast will be held in Gainesville at Brenau College on Wednesday, Jan. 14th from 10 a.m. until about 1 p.m. If you are interested in attending please call me at (706) 439-6030 and I will help you get registered. We will be hearing from experts on the agricultural economy for the year 2015. Don't miss it.

**Duncan... continued from Page 4A**

County communities.

I too am amazed at the growth of my birthplace (Young Harris), and the community where I was raised (Blairsville-Union County).

As a journalist, it sometimes amazes me that these communities have become so diverse economically, and personally.

I stand back sometimes in awe of my surroundings. It makes me proud that one of the greatest leaders in America (Zell Miller) is from my neck of the woods. It amazes me that I know a former U.S. president, am friends with the governor, lieutenant governor and Georgia's House Speaker.

I'm also a friend of YHC. I love Young Harris College, my mother and my oldest sisters are graduates.

YHC is a part of my personal makeup. I hereby amend the 2014 Year in Review.

Thank you Zell for bumping my elbow.

**Radcliff... continued from Page 4A**

Additionally, I believe that our First Amendment rights give us "all" the right to free speech, expression of our beliefs and freedom of, not from, religion. I am so thrilled that you defended those rights by the printing of that letter.

This is still the greatest nation in the world, but we are on a slippery slope, created by the great division that has been increasing exponentially, due to the constant disagreement and consternation among our own people.

This country was built on equal rights and on God; it should continue valuing equal rights and God, not competing for superiority of one group over another. When we choose to put one group's rights above another, we are simply exacerbating the current decline of the country. Let us put the entire country back on track by giving everyone "equal rights", not one above the other...

Thank you again for your decision to help protect our rights.

**G.L. Radcliff**

**Fowler...continued from Page 4A**

gone before and who finished well. We are a community that spans time and geography, bound by our common heavenward gaze upon the One who authored our faith.

"Since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus..." (Heb 12:1-2).


It is a difficult world we live in, but we are not without hope. We know Who to trust, and how to have an enduring faith.

**Luca...continued from Page 4A**

telligent men. It is a Government of the People, by the People and for the People! The Government is supposed to provide conditions where people can enjoy Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness! The only requirement to make sure it happens is that the People must be involved in their Government by telling their elected representatives what they want!

**Chuck Luca**

Bell Ringing Union  
County Old Courthouse



Bell ringing information  
at 706-745-5493