

Paris...continued from Page 4A

A. Absolutely not. Union General Hospital is not only fully capable of providing the same degree of healthcare it always has, but in addition, the facility is financially sound with very little debt and will continue the successful operation the public has come to expect.

Q. Does Union General Hospital have any debt and if so is the county liable for the debt?

A. Union General Hospital, Inc. has a very nominal debt, with enough current assets available to pay it off, if necessary. Any debt accrued by Union General Hospital has been secured without the backing of county government, therefore the county would have no legal obligation to fund any debt. The successful operation and management of the hospital over the past years has been such that it is one of the few rural hospitals that is practically debt free and in a stable and excellent finan-

cial condition.

Q. How is the county involved with Union General Hospital operation?

A. The county has no role in the operation or management of the hospital. We have always cooperated with each other and if there was a need, we have always been able to work together in working on surrounding streets, assisting in funding of the ambulance service, lease of the Day Care property and occasional repair of adjacent property, but the county does not operate the hospital.

Q. Are the Authority or Corporate Board members paid for their service?

A. No, they do not receive any pay or expense reimbursement for serving on the Boards.

If you have other questions please let me know at unioncounty@uniongov.com or by calling the Commissioner's office at 706-439-6062.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

off the frost from the quilt. All the boys split up and went their separate ways. Harold and Jim went up toward the Homer Place. Just before the gap Old Jim peeled off toward Old Blue Mountain and began easing around the face of that mountain. Soon the old man spotted a pair of individuals coming toward him. The pair called out to Jim identifying themselves as Game Wardens and asking to see his Hunting License. Jim turned and looked at the face of the mountain. The top was at least 1/2 mile up and as steep as a mule's face. So, he took off at a moderate lope straight up the mountain.

Jim never stopped until he reached the top. Meanwhile the pair of Game Wardens stopped after 50 yards and watched in amazement as the old man ran up the face of the mountain. Meanwhile Jim turned around at the top to make sure he wasn't being followed. Then he walked down the ridge through Wide Gap toward Ruth Gap then over Cass Mountain to the Mitchell Fields and Hicks Cove. He was sitting back at his house by the fire before 1. The old man did bust the wind of the much younger pair of Game Wardens.

Many of you have asked about next year's dates for things at the Farmers Market. First of all the reservation process for the Farmers Market will be held as follows: Farmers and AG related vendors can register March 7 - 11 from 9 a.m. until 12 each day at the Canning Plant.

Last year's vendors who are not AG related can register March 14 - 18 from 9 a.m. - 12 each day. If you have never

been a vendor and wish to become a vendor you can register March 21 - 25 at the Canning Plant. The cost will be \$209 for the season. You must go to our website and print the registration form and fill it out. Then this registration form must be completed, then signed and notarized by a notary before you bring the form to the Canning Plant.

The annual Blue and Gold Auction will be held at the Farmers Market on March 12th.

This event is a fundraising effort by our Union County FFA Chapter. The funds generated at the event are used to fund agricultural education activities of our Future Farmers of America Chapter. If you are interested in selling something at the auction I suggest you contact Mr. Pettit at Union County High School.

Our Trash and Treasures Yard Sale will be at the Farmers Market beginning on April 15th. If you have items you wish to sell at the Yard Sale mark that date and come on out. We will be open longer this year, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. each Friday. You will be hearing more about Trash and Treasures at a later time. The Festival of Christian Unity will be held at the Market on April 16th. Then on April 23rd a group of local sponsors will be hosting an antique Tractor Show and Swap Meet. Finally, on April 23rd we will be holding our annual Ramps and Plants Day at the Farmers Market.

For more information you can go to our website at ucfarmersmarket.com or call us at 706-439-6043.

Mattee ... continued from Page 4A

area, clear away leaf litter and pine straw. Never sample your soil with tools that have been used for fertilizer or lime, as this could skew your soil test results.

4. If your soil sample is very moist, you should let it air dry overnight before packing it in a sample bag. Removing the moisture also helps prevent inaccurate results.

Once you've collected your soil sample, you can bring it to the extension office and we will ship it to the UGA Soil Test-

ing Lab for you. We charge \$10 per soil sample bag to cover lab fees and shipping, and we can send your test results by mail or e-mail. When you get your results, call me with any questions or concerns you may have and I'll be happy to go over your soil profiles with you!

Don't forget about the Apple Grafting Workshop Friday, February 26th! It's going to be at 10 a.m. at the GMREC in Blairsville. Registration is \$15, and space is limited! RSVP to GMREC, (706) 745-2655.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

the hands of the settlers. When the Cherokees were expelled from their villages, they were forced into "removal forts," one of which was located in what is now Hiawassee, the county seat.

Towns County was formed by territory taken from Rabun and Union counties. Organized in 1856, the county honors George Washington Towns, Georgia governor from 1847 until 1851. Hiawassee borrows a Cherokee name meaning "meadow." The region's eastern border follows closely the Appalachian Trail as it weaves through lush forests from Fannin County to the State of Maine.

Hiawassee was incorporated on May 17, 1956. The city and its Hiwassee River have long been popular tourist areas. From the 1800s through the 1930s, wealthy families from the lowlands would "summer in the mountains" (they still do today) to escape the heat of more populated areas.

The Fred Hamilton Rhododendron Garden is a Hiawassee attraction that features 2,000 rhododendron and azalea

plants and wildflowers.

The other city in Towns County is Young Harris, incorporated in 1895; Young Harris honors Judge Young Loftin Gerdine Harris and is home to Young Harris College. Young Harris College is a 4 year liberal arts college.

Because of the terrain and abundant forests in the county, Towns County has become a leader in the fire safety education program called Firewise to help residents protect their property and the surrounding areas from wildfires.

Because of the dedicated citizens of the county, Towns proudly boasts 19 Firewise communities out of the total of 88 in Georgia. This emphasis on wildfire education has led to a 75% drop in wildfire calls in the past 5 years. Our citizens know what a good thing we have here and they want to protect it from destruction by a wildfire.

For more information on Towns County or any of the programs provided by Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D contact Frank Riley, Executive Director at: info.cccrd@gmail.com.

Iwo Jima Program at Towns County Recreation Center

On February 19, 2016, on the grounds of Towns County Recreation and Conference Center at 10 a.m., a program about the Battle of Iwo Jima will be held. It will be a short program with comments from three Iwo vets. Following the program, there will be a Dutch treat lunch at Daniel's Steak House. For more information call: Bud Johnson 706-970-0195 or Walt Scott 706-897-9610.

Malone ...

continued from Page 4A

This sequence when used with conversational rapport helps determine another person's perception of the facts, increases your own awareness of their needs, generates the data on which customized and personalized solutions can be formed, and leads to well-informed and committed decisions.

Once you really understand another person's perception of a problem, you will have a much easier time responding with a solution that will satisfy them. This is an essential ability for internal and external customer service, teamwork, sales and any other situation in which your people need to gain the commitment or support of others.

Fowler ...

continued from Page 4A

"We believe it is far more effective to light a candle than to curse the darkness." She observed that America is divided by race, religion, and politics. Her challenge is that each one find a dividing line, and build a bridge of peace. Jesus guides us in this with, "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Downey closed by asking us to pray that "with God's help our world can heal some of the hurts that wound us and the confusion that divide us." A good place to start is to see the image of God in everyone you meet.

Gray ...

continued from Page 4A

ter that concerns voters who see the Senate's rules allowing "unrecorded votes" as a means of shielding the public from knowing their full and true voting record.

We need to know which Senators are attentive to the issues about matters much higher on the public's priority list, including knowing how they are voting on controversial issues, so we can have complete facts before election time—which comes up in just nine short months. And will this issue be tabled until the vote is too late to have recorded some votes? Attention—all concerned citizens: Call Sen. Gooch at 404-656-9221 and tell him this is still a hot-button issue for his constituents.

Constituents do not appreciate any Bill being tacked on to a vastly controversial bill in order that we have to swallow the gulp of poison in order to receive what is rightfully ours. Nor will delays assuage our strong feelings for the need for accountability. This is already mid-February — why has this not been called for a recorded up/down vote, when nearly six months have passed since this became a hot-button issue for voters?

I cannot recall the furor about upcoming elections as strong as it is in 2016. "We The People" are becoming more educated and involved, so that our state and our country will regain the semblance of law and order upon which it was originally designed. The public is recognizing that some people run for office and consider their win as job security for the rest of their lives. It is important to not allow that misconception to continue.

Our valuable and trustworthy elected officials deserve our support for following the issues they promised to uphold; the others need to have a back-up plan for employment.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene M. Gray

Mitchell ...

continued from Page 4A

especially since we will be asked in about a year to vote to give the School Board more SPLOST money to play with.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: The only way for We, the People, to regain control of our elected officials is for the Assembly to replace the current "Fair Market Value" system (whatever that means) with a uniform, state-wide sales tax.

Elected officials can't spend money over which they have no direct control.

Last summer, Rep. Stephen Allison tried to convene a committee to study the possibilities. Gov. Deal quashed his efforts and put off any discussion of a uniform, state-wide sales tax until 2017.

Elections create strange bedfellows while taxpayers are left in the lurch and are soothed with platitudes and misrepresentations.

George A. Mitchell