

Paris...continued from Page 4A

Q. How many calls do you receive directly as commissioner?

A. That is hard to say because phone calls are only part of the issue. My staff is very good in trying to assist you to find answers without always needing to speak to me directly. But probably 1/4 to 1/2 the callers ask to speak to me.

Q. Do people have any other way to speak to you?

A. Oh my gosh, yes. In fact there are so many ways now that one of my problems is keeping up with which medium I need to respond to, as some come through my office and some directly to me. I can be reached through email and Facebook as well as the phone. Five years ago, I always tried to keep my phone calls answered within the week, but that is impossible now. I must prioritize the contacts now and it can sometimes be a couple of weeks or even longer, depending on how many out of town meetings I must attend and how much time I have in the office. That is why my staff tries to handle all calls they possibly can.

Q. What are the different ways the public has to receive information from you?

A. First, I have provided these questions and answers

each week for the past 13 or 14 years to help inform the public. It takes a lot of time and I am almost always late in getting them to the newspaper, as I am this week. I have responded to over 4000 questions. There are phone calls to the office, there are personal visits to the office, there are emails of which I receive over 10,000 per year, there are Facebook private messages, there are cell phone messages, there are voicemails, there are questions at the Farmers Market, church and the restaurant each week in person, and I am probably missing some. So anyone that says they can not get in touch with me is simply mistaken.

Q. Is it hard to keep up with all the questions and different forms of correspondence?

A. It can be difficult sometimes. Trying to keep up with the different questions from different mediums and then following up takes a lot of time, but I enjoy it. I do not think any Commissioner in the state is any more responsive and accessible to the public than I am. That does not mean that occasionally someone will not fall through the cracks, but if they do, I hope I will hear from them again.

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

the house to the other searching for the dog". Papa was running around while Granny directed him to a spot where she thought the dog could be safely shot. She said, "The story is funny now. But, back then if a man got bitten by a rabid dog it was a death sentence". Finally, Papa was able to shoot the dog. Papa said, "Your Granny told me to get doors hung on that house and I did".

Your imagination can cause you some severe problems. In the first story Papa was scared of a sound. Little

did he realize the sound was nothing but his old milk cow. In the second story Granny was so stricken with fear for Papa's safety she couldn't give him proper directions.

Remember our dates for the Kris Kringle Market. We will open on December 4 at 3 and close that evening at 8. We will open Saturday, December 5th at 10 a.m. Come on out to meet Santa Claus and buy some locally made crafts. We should have a little produce as well.

Entz ... continued from Page 4A

church or the government was considered "heresy" and "treason."

It was "conform or be killed"; sounds a lot like ISIS, doesn't it? But because truth cannot be killed, since it is part of God's character, even though it may be suppressed and restricted from time to time, it always reappears, because it is eternal. So country after country began to experience an "awakening" by the citizens who were compelled by a yearning to know Bible truth and to be free to think for themselves, be creative, and follow their convictions of truth, justice, and morality.

When they learned about the discovery of the "new world", they saw their chance to escape the tyranny of church and state and be free, and they were willing to risk everything in order to achieve it. And that is why groups like the Puritans and Pilgrims came to what is now called "America". Even though it was a wilderness, they gladly left the old world behind and set their sights on the dream of a new life and freedom.

In just a little over three hundred (300) years they built the greatest country this world has ever seen. Its progress has been phenomenal because there was no king or church system to stifle their creativity and genius and drain them of their resources to support the system. They developed a Constitution like none other, which guarantees freedom for all, and which limits the powers of government and puts the people in control instead of a king or a single church system.

It is a government "of the people, by the people, for the people", and people can read the Scriptures in their own language for themselves, and be guided by the Holy Spirit. It is a country of one government, one language, and one currency. The Church was separated from the government, and this arrangement has worked very well. It was part of an "experiment", remember?

Another thing I'm thankful for is that every time we elect a new president, we don't have to change our religion to

Leone... continued from Page 4A

nation), Niagara Falls is more than just the place my parents got hitched in August of 1954. Well, actually it has also been dubbed the Honeymoon Capital of the World, with an average of 50,000 couples annually, celebrating their nuptials at this water world since 1804. The Falls draws another 12 million visitors a year to watch in awe as every second, 750,000 gallons of water spews over rock at a rate of 68 miles and hour.

I had been to the Falls many times growing up, but until this trip had never ridden "The Maid of the Mist". I'm not sure where the Maid moniker derived, but the mist of 200,000 tons of water flowing a minute is quite obvious; with even that thin metallic blue garbage bag they give you to cover up, one still manages to get very wet. While on the ride, cozying up to hundreds of travelers from around the world, straining to get a glimpse of the rainbow that is nearly perpetual across the Falls, I couldn't help but notice that "oohs and aahs" are the pronounced the same in any language.

On the boat ride, another thought crossed my mind. What is the morphed configuration of the DNA of the wingnut that not only contemplates a ride over the Falls in a barrel, but actually acts on that imaginary glimpse into insanity? The first person to survive a joy ride over the Falls in a wooden

Fowler ...

continued from Page 4A

a nice, decent person needs a Savior just as much. "All have sinned," which surely we already knew (Rom. 3:23). There are no degrees of being a Christian; either you are, or aren't. Faith in Jesus Christ changes your being. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away" (2 Cor. 5:17).

Tom Tarrants is a trophy of God's grace, a new creature indeed. One evidence that God exists and the gospel of Christ is true is a changed life. May your life testify to that truth.

Williams ...

continued from Page 4A

ticipate in the Jingle Bell Buys event: Glow a Hair & Nail Salon, S.A.F.E. Thrift Store, Paradise Hills Resort & Spa, American Catch Seafood Exchange, Huddle House Restaurant, Blimpie Subs & Salads, The Bearding Bottle Shop, North Georgia Zoo & Farm, Reflexology by Kathryn, In Sister's Kitchen, Beautiful Things, Green Healing Beauty, Candles By Jean, Sage Wax Boutique, Formal Elegance Hair and Makeup Studios, The Vacuum Store, Jeræ's Unity Alpacas, Mary Kay Cosmetics - Roberta Ford, Logan Turnpike Mill, Origami Owl - Sharon Penner, Bagel Barn, Pat's Hallmark Shop, and Alpha Drug Testing Services.

As you are out and about, be sure to stop by the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce located in the Union County Community Center at 129 Union County Recreation Road. During the entire month of December, you will be able to enjoy approximately 40 beautiful Christmas trees and wreaths that are decorated by our local Chamber members as part of our annual Tour of Trees presented by Union General Hospital, Inc and Union General Wellness Center. There is no admission fee to this event. Additionally, on Saturday, December 12 from 3-6 p.m. we will host our annual Holly Jolly Christmas event at the Community Center with musical performances, photos with Santa, train rides, and lots of activities for the kids!

Lamar Paris ...

continued from Page 4A

tax. Maintaining our property tax mil rate as one of the lowest five in the State of Georgia is how we manage keeping our property taxes reasonable for everyone. I do not want to do anything in our county that would contribute to our property tax rate possibly doubling over the next few years as is happening in some counties. That would not help industry looking to move to our area, it would not help property owners who wanted to invest in our county, and it would definitely have a negative impact on our school and taxpayers who were just starting their lives here.

Commissioner Lamar Paris

Hope House

Hope House is a faith-based, non-profit benevolence center to help Union County residents and homeless in times of critical need. Hours of operation: Monday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & Thursday 1 p.m.-4 p.m., located at 178 Brackett's Way, Blairsville, (706)781-3090. NOV18Z1CA

intention of ever collecting her Social Security benefits, succeeded.

Tomorrow morning I will travel the 18 km over the Rainbow Bridge, back into the USA. The Customs officer will inquire what I am bringing back with me. I'll admit that I bought a loaf of raison bread that was too delectable to pass up, along

with the souvenir hooded plastic bag monogrammed with the dried mist of the Falls. And I'll share with him that I carry with me the warmth of hospitality bestowed by the Village of Virgil and I'll share it with others when I return to the wonderful mountainside community that I'm fortunate to call home.