

Paris ... from Page 4A

built out of concrete blocks, with tile floors, but because it was to promote economic development in our county which we hope will also mean more jobs, we determined that we needed to build something very nice and long lasting.

Q. Why do we have to vote on the SPLOST?

A. State law requires that every five or six years the public must vote on continuing the sales tax. The idea behind this is that if the pub-

lic feels like they have gotten their moneys worth and the county has successfully managed the projects and selected good projects, then the voters would reward the county and themselves with a continuation of the sales tax. Likewise, if there was bad management and projects were built that were not in the best interest of the public, then the voters could vote to discontinue the sales tax.

Duncan ...continued from Page 4A

general counsel for Blue Ridge Mountain EMC.

Larry, I'm sorry if I hurt your feelings for calling a walnut a walnut.

You chastised me for reporting that you said that the customer charge on all EMC bills is the cost of doing business.

Larry, it is what it is.

I didn't have space to explain your well thought out, calculated and compassionate response to a question from an EMC customer.

Larry, I'm an EMC customer as well. I understand the

customer charge. What I don't understand is your defensive posturing over a simple answer.

Larry, I respect you as a human being and as an outstanding attorney.

I simply didn't have 500 words of space to print your response to the questioning EMC customer.

Please forgive me. Next year, we'll save a little more space for your calculated, compassionate and well thought out responses.

Have a nice day.

Cummings ...continued from Page 4A

If you enjoy greens (collards, mustard, turnip, and kale) and soup beans plan on spending the day with us at the Farmers Market.

Also, you can bring your favorite recipe to the cornbread recipe contest.

Have your cornbread at the Farmers Market Office by 9:30 a.m. to have it judged in our contest.

The Canning Plant continues to roll on through the

summer.

To date we have processed more than 11,000 jars of food.

Let me remind you that this hasn't been the best summer for produce.

The Canning Plant will remain open each Tuesday and Thursday until Oct. 17th.

After this date we will open for a couple of meat days on Oct. 29th and Nov. 12th.

Have a great week.

Leone ...from Page 4A

Lucca was Puccini's hometown, where he wrote his first compositions, and played organ in the churches before finding his fame. The Puccini Festival is the longest running festival in the world.

It is 365 evenings a year, every year. We went one night to hear divas perform from both Puccini and Verdi's finest works. I was blessed, growing up, to be exposed to such art.

But this was a different experience. Attending the performance in an intimate setting, in a 14th century church, 10 yards from the performer, elbow to elbow, knee to chair with the audience, with no artificial air mechanics purring in the background, magnificent art gracing the walls and the scent of a good wine still on my breath from dinner, it was an experience for all the senses.

I am learning to appreciate what isn't obvious. I am learning to feel the layers, see the depth, inhale and exhale slowly and not only hear, but identify the rhythms of my

heart. I embrace the aging process, at this stage of my life. I am in my golden years, and I know that they will eventually turn to the rusty ones, sooner than I'm ready for that transition.

In the meantime, I'm going to experience my 58th autumn season with a more astute attention to my senses. I want to see more than the colors change before me. When I smell fire, I want to decipher the difference between leaves burning and that of a wood fireplace.

Last week at the Farmers Market, I tried two types of apples I had never even heard of before. Each had a different texture, earthy smell and degree of sweetness. I want to try cooking turnips, beets and cabbages different ways this year. I may even try making a pumpkin pie from a pumpkin, instead of out of a can.

I'll still be missing the cooing of the pigeons, though. But that's alright. I'll be back to Italy.... that I know.

Sorgen ...continued from Page 4A

BRMEMC in having the electric power distribution system and all its components up and running so that power is available at the meter of each customer at any given time.

There is a cost incurred in having electric power distributed to each home and business whether or not the owner turns on the switch in order to consume the power.

In other words, the electricity is there ready to go when the switch is turned on, and the cost of getting it there is something that is shared by all the members.

Each member pays a "customer charge" to have the power delivered to their meter in addition to the charge for the actual power used by the member.

In determining the "customer charge," BRMEMC considers all the overhead expenses of operating and maintaining the system, including the costs of materials and wages, the costs of acquiring, installing and maintaining the

components of the system, as well as insurance and regulatory compliance costs, most of which expenses are incurred regardless of the amount of electric power any particular customer uses at any particular time.

These expenses, cumulatively, are the cost of doing business that are shared by all members.

After responding to the question, I was sure to ask the questioning member whether or not the answer was clear and if she had any further questions about the matter.

I regret that your staff writer chose to report the answer to the question as only the terse and flippant phrase

"It's the cost of doing business," leaving the impression that BRMEMC did not take the question seriously nor provide an appropriate and complete response.

**Larry Sorgen,
General Counsel for
BRMEMC**

Parris ...from Page 4A

tend second night --- if there is one."

Mark Twain is my favorite author in using words of wisdom with words of wit. It is reported that he said to a friend once, "Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" He reportedly made this statement about a funeral: "I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."

Clarence Darrow used words like speeding bullets that hit the brain before you could dodge. He once said, "I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure."

I like what Oscar Wilde once said: "Some people cause happiness wherever they go; others -- whenever

they go."

When I cease to write this weekly column for the *North Georgia News* and the *Towns County Herald* I am sure that someone will say of me what William Faulkner said about Earnest Hemingway: "He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." Or someone might say of me what Abraham Lincoln said of someone: "He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know." Groucho Marx once left a party and said, "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it."

Have you read the Words of Jesus recently? No one has ever spoken like Jesus. He is the Master of Words for He is The Word!

Williams ...continued from Page 4A

fect autumn meal. Contact the Chamber for a list of old time general stores where you'll find the perfect ingredients to complete your recipe. Or if you are like me and prefer someone else do the cooking, try one of our many delicious restaurants including our newest Farm To Table restaurant, The Sawmill Place. Stock up on Sorghum Syrup to enhance your morning biscuit or make your way to our local winery or craft beer shop for a sip of the season.

Smell -- Stop by a local retailer and pick up your favorite scented candle. The smell of apple or pumpkin pie will lift your mood. Step foot into one of our local bakeries and inhale autumn yumminess!

Hear -- This is a great time for music in the mountains. Visit one of our many upcoming festivals -- the Indian Summer Festival in Suches, the Sorghum Festival at Meeks Park, and the Fall Hoedown at Vogel State Park. There are concerts each Friday night at the Historic Courthouse on the square or check

Barnes

...from Page 4A

the person behind to slam in to me.

Luckily, after describing the vehicle to an officer, at times the animal was reunited with the owner, but many times also not. I also remember a time where a dog was taken in to a local store and kept while trying to contact the owner because it jumped out as he started out of the parking lot but never noticed. I don't know if this dog was ever reunited or not with its owner.

I have also encountered having vehicles park next to me while coming out from grocery shopping and the dogs growling or making an effort to leap out on me. I have often either had to wait for them to come out and leave or call an officer or some one to assist me in getting in my vehicle. I love animals and have a few pets of my own. But I love them enough to leave them at my home where they are safe and in their own environment and atmosphere.

The only time they travel with me is when I take them for their vet check ups and exams and then they are enclosed in a carrier and in the cab of my vehicle. I just feel that if human beings are no longer allowed to ride in the back of open vehicles like this, neither should an animal.

**Thank you for your time,
D. Barnes**

Malone

...from Page 4A

9th District and as such when he has the opportunity to reach a broader audience across the U.S. I would expect him to take it. Especially when Congressman Collins was trying to prevent us from engaging in war with Syria and stop the train wreck known as Obamacare at that time.

I would suggest that your reporter and editor owe our Congressman Collins an apology and that the Mountain Movers and Shakers reschedule the Congressman's appearance as soon as possible.

Patrick Malone

Fall Hoedown at Vogel State Park

Saturday, Oct 19, 2013 12 PM to 8 PM, celebrate autumn's arrival with neon chili, hotdogs and drinks for sale, followed by a 3 p.m. cake-walk, 4 p.m. hayrides, 5 p.m. bonfire and square/line dancing, 6 p.m. trunk or treats, and 7 p.m. professional storytelling. A \$3 fee will be charged per person, per hayride for 13 years and up. \$5 parking. 706-745-2628. N(Oct2,215)gg