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and its mission. He also will update the community regarding the addition of living quarters, and space to serve as headquarters for the Union County Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency.

"The cannery is a work in progress, even though we're close on it, we still have some mandatory state inspections to complete," Paris said. "We've got things that we'll continue to improve upon into next year. We're going to try to take the cannery to the next level, where it can be used for commercial canning.

"We want folks to be able to do jams and jellies for resale and different products that they can sell in the retail market," Paris said. "We want

to be in a position where we can certify certain products for retail distribution, not just for folks to put up their annual crops. We want to give them the opportunity to supplement their income with their agricultural know how."

He'll also bring residents up to speed on the construction plans for updating Fire Station 1.

"With the help of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax dollars, 6,000 square feet of firefighter living quarters, a day room, a kitchen and a training room/disaster planning room will soon be under construction," Paris said.

Also, the updated Fire Station 1 will serve as the fire department's new headquarters and headquarters for

Union's Emergency Management Agency. A decision will be made on the future of the existing facility when that time comes, Commissioner Paris said.

"I could tell you more about what I'm going to be talking about, but then I wouldn't have to give the State of the County Address," Paris joked.

Commissioner Paris also will remember the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, as he speaks on the 11th anniversary date of that tragedy.

"Sept. 11, 2001 certainly is a date that America will never forget," Paris said. "Those attacks attempted to destroy the very fiber of our being. It had a reverse impact as Americans banded together

to fight terrorism at home and abroad.

"The main thing that emerged from the aftermath of that tragedy was a proud display of American resilience," he said. "You might knock the wind out of us, but we recover very quickly. We band together; partisanships have no meaning. We hold steadfast as Americans ready to do battle to protect and preserve our freedoms.

"We have endeavored to persevere since 9/11; we have continued to be one nation, Under God, indivisible with Liberty and Justice for all," Paris said.

"The attempts by terrorists to destroy the very fabric of our American way of life did not succeed," he said.

## Byers...continued from Page 1A

were spotted out about town, fans begged for autographs and club owners stood in line to sign them up for gigs.

The Strangers even designed guitars for Japanese guitar company Guya-tone. Byers introduced the Japanese people to mountain music more than 40 years ago.

Returning home to the states, Byers hooked up with his buddy Wendell Patterson to form a group that played around the Atlanta night club scene backing up such singers as Rockabilly artist Buddy Knox. When the two friends eventually went their separate ways, Byers shifted his headquarters to Nashville, Tenn. to pursue his love of song writing. About the time of this transition, actor Tony Romano recorded two of Byers' songs.

The recordings received frequent airplay around the Southeast. Byers' songs were published by top companies that included Acuff-Rose Publishing and Tree Publishing, which has since been ac-

quired by Sony Music.

Next was a short stint at Roger Miller Music. Byers then teamed up with Tom Jennings, brother of Outlaw genre's Waylon Jennings. Together they traveled and toured the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain.

Back working in Nashville, Byers worked with artists that included Bobby Bare, Conway Twitty, Jack Greene, Jeannie Sealy, Del Reeves, Mel Tillis, Larry Gatlin, and many other Country Music greats. In the 1990s, friend Herb White, of Georgia Public Television, and mentor, songwriter Mickey Newbury urged Byers to become a solo acoustic act. His act became so popular that Byers was soon performing original music at popular music venues and nightclubs including Eddie's Attic, the Freight Room, and the Crimson Moon.

Byers has often appeared with two of his favorite acoustic artists, Gove Scrivner and the late Larry Jon Wilson. Next month By-

ers plans on attending the International Songwriter's Festival at Perdido Key, Fla. He tries to spend some time each year along the Gulf Coast doing solo acts and jamming with other musicians.

Byers currently is rehearsing with a new group of veteran performers called Leather-n-Lace. Don says, "We play geezer Rock and Country, you know, some Hag and some Clapton." The new band also plays some of Don's original compositions. Don Byers continues to do occasional solo work and duets with Leather-n-Lace band mate, Japanese recording artist Kiyoko Kahyama.

During Byers' long musical career, he has recorded countless sets of original music and is now working on a new Compact Disc with producer Sean Clyde, a nephew of Roy Clark. The upcoming CD contains all new material, some of which is written the day before recording. Byers plays all instruments on this new album, with the exception

of the drum tracks, something he has long wanted to do.

Byers likes to say, "Over 50 years in the music business and still can't get my picture on the cover of the North Georgia News" Well, Don, guess you'll have to come up with a new line from now on. Don Byers lives in the area and is a member of Young Cane Lodge No. 597. He also is a member of the Union County Historical Society's Board of Directors. His music can be purchased online at [reverbnation.com/donbyers](http://reverbnation.com/donbyers). For more details, contact Don by e-mail at [byersdon@hotmail.com](mailto:byersdon@hotmail.com).

## Blairsville-Union County's Buy Local weekend Sept 14-16<sup>th</sup>



Next week the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, the North Georgia News, and members of the Best of Union County are all coming together to offer YOU a variety of amazing sales and discounts in celebration of Union County's first ever Buy Local Weekend! Mark your calendars, and save the date. Buy Local Weekend 2012 is Friday, September 14th – Sunday, September 16th. Over 27 small businesses will be having sales featuring at least one item at a 50% discount or more! Grab your wallet, your family, and your friends. Plan to shop and save!

Business like Huddle House, Robynne's Nest, Ware Chevrolet, Antoinetta's, and the Vacuum Store are perfect examples of small businesses that have been a mainstay of our local community. When we encourage our residents to shop local, this is what we are talking about- patronizing our small businesses who are our neighbors and who have a vested interest in the success of our community. In Union County over 48 of the 545 Chamber member businesses comprised of retail, services, general merchandise, professional services, restaurants, and repair services are committed to the Best of Union County initiative. Participating

in this promotion of Eat, Shop, Stay, and Play Local will build momentum leading up to the holidays and bring awareness to the importance of shopping locally and the role small business in general plays in all of our lives.

Buy Local is more than just a mantra, it's the essence of building a strong community. We all have the chance to lift up our local economy by shopping, dining and going local for services. If you haven't already, take The Pledge today to commit to shop local, eat local and spend our dollars on local services to promote jobs, the economy, and keep our dollars in our community. You can go to [www.VisitBlairsvilleGa.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGa.com), stop by the Chamber offices in the Union County Community Center or click on this QR code to get a copy of your Pledge.

Here is a list of the small businesses that will be participating in the Buy Local Weekend September 14th – 16th:

Tres Sheep Yarn & More, Antonietta's Italian American Family Grill, The Wine Shoppe, Village Boutique 2, Huddle House, Esquire Insurance, Magnolia's Roadside Café, Ware Chevrolet, Clothes Rack, Village Country Store of Blairsville, Struts Shoes, Vacuum Store, Cowboy Custom Trailers, Ugly Mug Café, Candles by Jean, Robynne's Nest Gifts, The Par Group, Center for Wellness, Sicily's Pizza, Pasta & Subs, Essence of Rose, From Me 2 U, Oragami Owl-My Locket My Story, Blimpie, Tuckers Antiques & Gifts, Frontier Woodworks Old Country Store, and The Book Cellar.

For full details of all the discounts being offered by participating businesses,

please subscribe to our FREE e-coupon newsletter. Please visit [www.VisitBlairsvilleGa.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGa.com) and click the "request newsletter" tab then select the "Best Deals in Union County" option. If you have any questions or prefer to sign up over the phone, please call 706-745-5789. N/Sept5,C2AC