

Millage Rate...from Page 1A

year's property tax bills before they arrive in the mail.

Provided the fair market value of a person's property remains the same between 2017 and 2018, a taxpayer can accurately calculate their 2018 property taxes by multiplying their 2017 tax bill by 1.0186.

Using the above method, taking the 2017 tax bill in the amount of \$1,405.28 and multiplying it by 1.0186 gives a 2018 tax bill of \$1,431.42 for a non-homestead property worth \$200,000, which is just two pennies off from the total arrived at using a more

complicated calculation.

Concerning his rationale for raising county property taxes this year, Paris said he really has no choice, citing decreased revenues and increased costs across the board.

Those cost increases include: health care for county workers; the need for competitive wages, especially at the Union County Sheriff's Office; jail housing; provisioning for E-911 and public safety equipment; higher materials costs for roadwork; etc.

"We're looking at ways to cut our budget, but we are not going to sacrifice quality of life for you or for our children if at all possible," said Paris previously. "We have and will continue to do our very best at operating Union County in a practical and resourceful way, now and in the future."

"Please stand with us as we all work together to continue making Union County to be one of the best and safest counties anywhere in which to live, work and play."

Initially, the commissioner had hoped to bring in an additional \$1.19 million in 2018 revenues with this year's property tax increase.

However, cutting the proposed rate by 0.473 mills will

result in a levy of \$7,755,944, which is only \$597,587 more than was levied in 2017.

There are still three remaining public hearings

on the proposed tax increase, two on Wednesday, Sept. 5, at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., and one on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 4:30 p.m., all inside the Union

County Courthouse.

The millage rate will be set in a called meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 5 p.m. inside the courthouse.

Alpharetta man dies in motorcycle accident on mountain

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Matthew Cohen, 41, of Alpharetta, died in a motorcycle accident on Aug. 28, about a mile south of the Union County line in Lumpkin County, according to the Georgia State Patrol.

Cohen was headed north

on Georgia 11/US 129 when he lost control of his Kawasaki motorbike and slid on its right side into oncoming traffic, according to GSP.

The driver of a GMC van occupied by a Blairsville couple heading down the mountain did not have time to react and struck the bike as it entered the southbound lane, according to

GSP.

Union County Fire and EMS responded to the scene but were called off by Lumpkin County emergency officials, according to authorities.

The Blairsville couple did not sustain injuries, but Cohen died at the scene of the accident, according to authorities.

Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation signed

Whereas, Young people are key to Union County, Georgia's future success, prosperity, and quality of life. While our young people are our most valuable resource, they are often forgotten in between childhood and adulthood. Young people have a right to opportunities to discover themselves and their purpose in environments that allow them to create relationships, find wholeness, and strengthen others; and

Whereas, Suicide among our young people can be prevented through awareness and an increase in the value of the individual life. With the increase in population and modern technology making it easier to not need physical interaction, an emphasis on relationship building is necessary in suicide awareness and prevention, thus allowing young people to grow into successful, contributing members of our community; and

Whereas, Effectively intervening in the lives of our young people is a shared responsibility. Union County, Georgia's citizens must work together so that the voices of our young people are heard by all. We grow and shape our future for the better by successfully growing and reaching out to our young people, and letting them know we see them,



(L-R): Commissioner Lamar Paris and Rebecca Brendle

and we will not let them be alone or forgotten; and

Whereas, By providing safe and guided environments for our young people, free of judgement, alcohol and drugs, we can ensure that Union County, Georgia's young people have the opportunity to grow into the next generation of leaders, workforce, and parents who consequently secure the future of our county, state, and nation; now

Therefore, I, Lamar Paris, Sole Commissioner of Union County, do hereby proclaim September 2018 as "SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH" in Union County, Georgia and urge citizens to become proac-



tive in shaping Union County, Georgia's future. Given under my hand and the Great Seal of Union County, Georgia, this 27th day of August in the year two-thousand eighteen.

District 2 Public Health: Choose the flu vaccine that is right for you.

Every individual is unique. This means that each of us may respond differently to the things that we are exposed to. Our immune systems are complex and how our individual bodies respond to vaccines vary from person to person. Some people may develop a higher immunity than others from the same vaccine.

However, it is still important to be vaccinated and build some level of protection against illness. Your healthcare provider can help you decide which vaccine may be right for you.

Influenza vaccines, like many other vaccines, have evolved over time to better protect us from illness. Today's flu vaccines include trivalent (three component flu shot), quadrivalent (four component flu shot), high-dose flu shot, egg-free flu shot, and nasal spray vaccine. All of these vaccines are effective in protecting against influenza.

For most of the population, the three-or-four-component seasonal flu shot will be the best option. The difference between these two vaccines is the quadrivalent vaccine includes an additional B strain component. If a person has egg allergies, there is a vaccine produced without any egg products. The trivalent, quadrivalent, and egg-free vaccines are available for every age.

High dose vaccine is

made for people age 65 years and older and some people with chronic health conditions. Your healthcare provider can advise if you need the high-dose vaccine. This vaccine is designed to help increase the effectiveness of the vaccine in more mature or weakened immune systems.

The nasal spray vaccine is made from a weakened live virus. It is specifically made for healthy individuals from age 2 to 49 with no contraindications. For the 2018-19 flu

season, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has reaffirmed its recommendation for this vaccine. Issues in the past concerning the effectiveness of the H1N1 component have been addressed.

District 2 Public Health strongly encourages everyone who can to get vaccinated against influenza. For more information ask your healthcare provider or visit www.pdhdistrict2.org and www.cdc.gov.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



September 6, 2018

In memory of
John Gurley
Amazing Grace
by Jeannie Gurley

September 17 - 23, 2018

In Recognition of
United States
Constitution Week
by Old Unicoi Trail Chapter
Daughters of the American
Revolution

Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493