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Union County. This additional penny is used as a property tax rollback on the county millage rate. This means that this money goes toward offsetting the millage rate each year. For instance, this current millage rate that was set at 6.144 mils, would have been 8.709 if we did not receive the revenue from LOST. So, because of LOST sales tax your millage rate was 2.565 mils

lower and your property tax was 41% lower than it would be without LOST. The great thing about this is that LOST comes from sales tax revenues that are paid by anyone who buys something in Union County. This means that people passing through, tourists, renters and other visitors help lower your property taxes each time they make a purchase here.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Wyatt's neighbor was a man known only as Uncle Billy. One day, the Home Guard came to his house and told him he needed to enlist in the Confederate Army. Uncle Billy refused. So, the Home Guard hung Uncle Billy and left him for dead. Soon, Uncle Billy's son found him and cut him down. Somehow, Uncle Billy lived through the ordeal. A few months later, the Home Guard came back and found Uncle Billy still alive and still adamant about not joining the war. Uncle Billy was hung a second time and lived through the hanging again. After the second hanging, Uncle Billy lived another 30 years, although he always had a crook in his neck.

Uncle Billy became the poster boy for resistance in Winston County. Although the Home Guard was in control, most of the men of Winston County enlisted with the north. Wyatt and his brother, Absolom, enlisted with the 2nd

Tennessee Mounted Infantry in Savannah, Tennessee. Absolom never came home from the war. He died not from a wound received in battle, but, from dysentery, while Wyatt was wounded during a battle around the Duck River. After recovering from his wounds, he came home to a community torn in half as a result of the war.

The men who hung Uncle Billy were hunted down and killed in horrid fashion. Other men who sided with the South were tracked all the way to Oklahoma and killed. Of course, all these killings were without judge or jury.

Wyatt came home and found his wife and young family struggling. When he seen what had happened to his community, he moved his family to western Tennessee, where he lived out his days. However, his oldest son John never forgot Winston and Franklin County, and he came home to the hills of north Alabama in the late 1870s.

Chamber... continued from Page A4

out on upcoming programs.

Please join us for our upcoming Monthly Mingle on November 20 featuring Amy McCombs with Union County Schools. Amy will be speaking about the GA BEST Program, which is designed for Pre-K through Post-Secondary teachers to facilitate discussion in their classrooms. Union County High School will begin implementation of GeorgiaBEST in the 2019-20 school year and hopes to partner with local businesses to grow our students in employability skills. Also, the Georgia Department of Labor's Southern Highland Employer Committee in conjunction with the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Workforce Challenges Symposium. A carefully selected panel of experts

will be discussing workforce challenges including wages, benefits, drugs, and retention of employees in a question and answer format. This Monthly Mingle is free and includes lunch, but you must register as there is limited availability. Sign up online or call 706-745-5789.

Finally, if you have not reserved your Christmas tree for our "Tour of Trees" display, be sure to call the Chamber today. It is estimated that between 2,500 and 3,000 visitors will view your custom decorated tree—and you may win the prize for Fan Favorite! The large trees are going fast so call today! So, give Sheila a call at the Chamber, and start making plans for your tree. We can't wait to see them all on display from December 1-31.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

most important conversations you may ever have with your children about underage drinking. The app provides parents and caregivers of children and teens ages 9 to 15 with the tools and information they need to start talking with their children early about the dangers of alcohol. It includes a suite of materials that helps reinforce the underage drinking prevention campaign's messages.

If you are interested in using the "Talk. They Hear

You." App, it can be downloaded from <https://store.samhsa.gov/apps/talk-they-hear-you>. I hope you take the time to explore this easy to use and free resource. Talk. Your children do hear you.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493

S.A.F.E. Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of S.A.F.E. (Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc.) will be November 19, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Call 706-379-1901 for location.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Children's Story Time	Every Monday:	Union County Library	11 a.m.
Civil Air Patrol		Blairsville Airport	6 p.m.
Boy Scouts #101		United Methodist Ch	7 p.m.
Tri State Bus. Women	Every Tuesday:	Cabin Coffee	8 a.m.
Tuesday Strippers		Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30 p.m.
Smoky Mtn. Melodies		United Methodist Ch	6:30 p.m.
Hi Country Harmonizers		Branan Lodge	6:30 p.m.
Kiwanis Club	Every Wednesday:	Skillet Cafe	Noon
BINGO		Civic Center	7 p.m.
Masonic Luncheon	Every Thursday:	Cook's Restaurant	11:30 a.m.
Rotary Club		NGTC	Noon
Shape Note Music	Third Monday of each month:	Old Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
High Country Artisan		U.C.Bank Com Room	6:30 p.m.
Allegheny Lodge #114		Masonic Lodge	6:30 p.m.
Exp Aviation Assoc #1211		Blairsville Airport	7 p.m.
UC Homemakers	Third Tuesday of each month:	Dooley Chapter	Noon
Healthy Hearts Support		UGH 2nd Floor Class	2 p.m.
Am. Legion Post 121		Veteran's Center	6:30 p.m.
American Legion, Aux		Veteran's Center	6:30 p.m.
Chatuge Gun Club		Senior Center, Hia.	7 p.m.
Compassionate Friends		UCB Community Room	7 p.m.
Quilts of Valor	Third Wednesday of each month:	Coosa Methodist Ch	9:30 a.m.
GA Mtn. Writers Club		Appalachian Reg. Library	10 a.m.
Blairsville Garden Club		Location not listed	1 p.m.
Beta Sigma Phi, Iota Iota		So. Bank & Trust	7 p.m.
Kinship Care	Third Thursday of each month:	Civic Center	Noon
Commissioner's Meet.		County Courthouse	6 p.m.
Good N'bers Auto		Rib Country, Murphy	6:30 p.m.
Cub Scouts Trp. #101		United Methodist Ch.	6:30 p.m.
Beta Sigma Phi		Civic Center	7 p.m.
Tip-off Club		UC High School	7 p.m.
UC Saddle Club		Arena Clubhouse	7 p.m.
No activities listed	Third Friday of each month:		
Joshua's Warriors	Third Saturday of each month:	The Skillet Café	8 a.m.
UC Republican Party		The Skillet Café	10 a.m.
Goldwing Road Riders		Daniels Steak House	11 a.m.

Heil... continued from Page 4A

keeps going up regardless of how conservative I am. That new heat pump did me no good whatsoever pertaining to my electric bill.

I also found it interesting that only one board member had questions of Mr. Mitchell's presentation. And, ironically, the questions had nothing to do with those customer fee increases.

Turning to the Annual Membership Meeting, I previously wrote an Opinion Letter to The Clay County Progress regarding the meeting. I expressed that the meeting was held on a Thursday at three in the afternoon, which did not allow a significant part of the BRMEMC membership to attend – those who work and those with families and children needing to be picked up from school. I also passed on that Mr. Nelms made a statement that employee overtime pay was a significant part of the decision to hold the annual meeting on a Thursday at three in the afternoon. At the Oct. 22 Board Meeting, Mr. Nelms gave a report on the cost of the annual meeting.

The cost associated with holding the Annual Meeting was \$56,267. According to an article in the Towns County Herald and North Georgia News, the meeting expenses were \$23,000 under the allocated budget. In addition, this was said to be a \$13,000 savings in the overtime expenses since the meeting was held during business hours, denying a large percentage of members from attending. No overtime was paid.

Doing the math with these numbers, the actual cost of the meeting was \$56,267, which was \$23,000 under bud-

Fowler...

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Who knew that an Italian atheist philosopher and an American rapper would agree that Christian truth is good for people today? It is the means to the much sought-after hope. West's "Selah" lyrics say, "They say the week start on Monday but the strong start on Sunday. Won't be in bondage to any man. John 8:33. We the descendants of Abraham. Ye should be made free. John 8:36. To whom the Son set free is free indeed. He saved a wretch like me." If you believe that, you have found hope and Truth.

Schilling...

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of corruption in the country? And is Ukraine the only country corrupted enough to come to Trump's attention? Oh. How naïve of me. Hunter Biden was making too much money at Burisma, and that in Trump's view had to be corrupt. That could convince Putin that Trump is still his preferred choice as American lapdog, even though Trump, under duress, had to finally release the aid. Reelection, here we come!

So, maybe the actual corruption related to Burisma was a little closer to home. For instance, the White House, home to some rather corrupt officials, such as Mick Mulvane, Stephen Miller, his fiancée (Pence's press secretary), and many others, who seem to escape Trump's purview. Pay no attention to how much money Ivanka and Jared have been making since Papa became our homegrown autocrat/president. Fiddle-de-dee.

Post Script: As I write this, I hear the rapt audience as Pence writes in Trump's name as candidate for the New Hampshire primary election. "Four More Years" they chant, and I wonder: are they brainwashed or masochistic?

David Schilling

Williams...

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would need a unique soil sample done. When you receive the results from the lab they will have recommendations for you based on the types of plants that you have or plan to have.

Bring soil samples into your local county Extension Office. If you have questions regarding the soil sampling or the results you can call your local Extension office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Dyer...

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to heat, make sure that you have your systems inspected and cleaned. It is also a good time to inspect your smoke alarms and a carbon monoxide detector.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

I do not know who is benefiting from these decisions, but it certainly is not you and me.

I hope this is helpful. Visit us online at FAIR-BRMEMC.org.

get. If \$13,000 in overtime costs HAD been paid to hold the meeting on a Saturday, then BRMEMC would still have come in UNDER BUDGET by \$10,000.

BRMEMC Management would have been able to hold the Annual Meeting on the second Saturday in September as the bylaws state, while still being \$10,000 under the allocated budget for this meeting.

I requested a breakdown of the \$56,267 spent, but the request went unanswered by Mr. Nelms.

The question that remains is, where was that exorbitant amount of money spent with no entertainment, no overtime pay, no venue costs and considerably less in door prizes?

Only 61 people showed up. Eleven of those folks, or roughly 20% of attendees, were members of the new group called F.A.I.R., which is speaking up, giving the power to be heard to you, the members of BRMEMC.

The letter sent to Mr. Nelms addressing these concerns about the Annual Meeting was not responded to.

The Annual Meeting was a failure, with only 61 folks in attendance compared to about 300 in previous years. That is a 70% reduction in attendance compared to previous years. Mr. Nelms simply stated at the Oct. 22 Board Meeting that attendance has been decreasing over the years, and maybe next year they need to hire entertainment and give away more door prizes, rather than considering moving the meeting back to the second Saturday in September as the bylaws state.