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Military Marker adorns his gravestone. I remember going to Duncan Cemetery on many occasions with Daddy when I was a boy.

He would look at Woodrow's gravestone, stare at the date he died, and wipe away tears.

I would learn that since

Dec.16th, 1944, my Daddy dreaded birthdays. From that Day Forward, his birthday was a painful reminder of the death of a cousin who was more like

a brother.

For Daddy, Memorial Day was his birthday. He never stopped remembering his brother Woodrow Wilson.

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the vile of "wake-up gas" under my sleeping father's nose. My assumption was the "wake-up gas" would wake my father from his sound sleep. The stuff worked better than I had anticipated. The "wake-up gas" invigorated Dad. I can remember being chased by my barefooted, half-dressed Daddy down a road for a half mile.

Another great memory involves my Papa and Granny. Papa and I were out squirrel hunting in late November. We were walking around the top of a bluff when Papa said, "Come over here I want to show you something." Papa was standing next to a massive Beech Tree. As I walked closer he pointed

to the following initials, "CBC + GMC" (Columbus Bueron Cummings + Glenna Mae Cummings). Papa had carved these initials into the tree sometime in the late 1930s. I found my Dad and Uncle's initials carved into another Beech Tree about 25 feet from the first tree. So, I carved my initials into the same tree and when my sons were born I carved their initials into the same tree.

Other memories involve farming of crops and livestock. Papa was a cotton farmer and the very first money I ever earned was by picking cotton. The bag was bigger than I was at the time. I picked 4-5 pounds and at the end of the day we all weighed

our bags. My Papa paid me five cents for my bag of cotton. I remember being disappointed. But, I learned that you get out of life what you put into it. Another time I helped Granny dig a bunch of potatoes in her garden. It was a bumper crop and those potatoes were some of the largest I had ever seen. Over the next few weeks Granny canned potatoes and made soup with potatoes. We enjoyed those potatoes all winter long.

I must say the Good Lord has been gracious to me. I have many wonderful memories. But, I hope to make many more. They should start next Saturday, June 2, at the Union County Farmers Market. I en-

joy working at the Farmers Market because I get to meet so many people. I like to look at all the produce and crafts being sold and Dot Patterson keeps me supplied with buttered biscuits and jam. The Farmers Market reminds me of going to town on Saturdays when I was a little boy. Everybody is there and you can catch up with the latest news. And there is always something good to eat at the Farmers Market. For example, Ronnie Dyer will be there with his "hit and miss" engine selling homemade ice cream. We'll open at 7 a.m. and close at 1 p.m. So, ya'll come to the Farmers Market on Saturday, June 2nd.

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man rights" are for everyone but decent, law abiding, normal, tax-paying citizens. There are many leaders, movers and pushers in modern America that are bent on

brain washing us into believing that every depraved, reprehensible, and sordid sin imaginable should be tolerated and accepted as normal.

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counties. We are both members of the District 2 Public Health County Boards that sets budgets for our local health departments. So working together, even though we may not agree on everything, is essential and we do it well.

**Q. What about property taxes for Sole Commissioner forms of government? Are they generally less?**

A. Yes. Most Sole Commissioner governments do have lower property tax rates because operating our government is so efficient. Union and Towns Counties are always two of the lowest property tax rates in the State of Georgia. Walker County also has one of the lowest mil

rates in the state as well.

**Q. What are some problems with commissioners who serve part time?**

A. What we find is that many commission boards, because they are part time and paid very little, do not attend all necessary meetings, and if they have full time jobs, often have not read and researched all the agenda items prior to the county meeting. This can cause the item to be held over until the next month until they can go, for example, look at a driveway for an access variance. So not only are the cost higher, but the time to get something accomplished is much longer, which also has a cost. New commissioners are all usually

God has already burned down Sodom and Gomorrah once and we have people who are attempting to restore and rebuild it. Graduates remember as

Paul said, "We are debtors both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise and to the unwise" (Romans 1:14).

We, like Paul need to proclaim the gospel to our generation in order to bring about change. Selah!

amazed at how difficult their job is and how much time it consumes, even as part time.

Another big factor is that you do not have hiring pressure from five commissioners each who may have large families and many relatives living here. The list of problems can go on and on, as evidenced by some of our other Georgia counties and sometimes can have disastrous results

You may have one or two commissioners who are simply against everything the other commissioners try to do. They also may play to the press so that there is always a story about certain commissioners not being able to get along.

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properly or even be cost efficient.

And let's look at one of the reasons GDOT is having problems fulfilling its mission. Money is one, but that's not the problem I will remit today. I will use a metaphor to describe GDOT beginning with the Transit Governance Study Commission. Everyone wants this air-

plane called TSPLOST to fly, a pilot and destination has not been established and the fuel to get there is not yet available and won't be unless the TSPLOST tax passes.

So the Governance Committee does a study and decides it is out of their ability to fly the plane and dumps it on state government representatives with in-

put from local reps called county commissioners, neither one of which know how to fly the plane either, and are not sure of their destination but know they want the money to get there. And a quote from the AJC - the best part is, "We don't know what we're going to do with the money, but we're going to do it anyway!"

Meanwhile through frustration with political pressure from State representatives and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, GDOT (who is normally the pilot) goes into disarray and now faces the possibility they may not know how to fly the plane any longer and for sure does not know the destination and must contend with further political interference, now from a different set of state representatives and also local representatives.

And the end result will be the plane may never fly, and if it does, it may not get to its destination because of detours to exotic places characterized by stops in places like Jekyll Island to form more committees. The best thing that can happen to this planned destination of confusion is for the voters not to supply the fuel for the plane. Why should voters support a tax to fly a plane with no pilot or fully planned destination?

Why should voters support a tax when the vote has been rigged by unbalanced region populations where 2 or 3 counties decide the vote of 11 or 12 other counties?

Georgia's biggest problem; the main area where Georgia is behind, is the water supply to support the population growth we have experienced and where State officials should spend a lot of time and effort resolving. We can get by with traffic congestion; we cannot get by with lack of water.

So why is this TSPLOST tax so bad? Because the ones who will suffer with this tax are the low income, the fixed income, and other poor people. There will be no economic benefit for them as they become more dependent on government support because what little they have, more or less will be taken away; and those who support government with their taxes will see other taxes rise to support the poor who will need more government assistance.

Government has gotten too big, too many programs, taxes too high, too many changes every year the State Legislature meets, and too much interference from government at all levels of society.

Slim down GDOT, renew its purpose, eliminate some of their programs not directed specifically at improving transportation, install strong transportation leaders with knowledge in the field, eliminate political hacks in the department with no experience in transportation issues, provide sources of revenue from those who benefit the most from transportation (the users) and not the poor, renew GDOT's pilot license, get out of their way and let them do their job and they will set the destination and get us there. Because the rank and file of GDOT has the skills and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and Politicians don't.

Mike Sims

## Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events

see events calendar at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com)

### Wednesday, May 30

10am Donate Books to Friends of Union County Library  
2pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane

### Thursday, May 31

12pm Rotary Club of Union County - St. Francis of Assisi Church

### Friday, June 1

8am Castaway - Critters Pet Rescue Annual Yard Sale  
8am Union County Farmers Market - Trash To Treasure Sale  
9am Seniors Fishing Rodeo - Chatt. Forest National Fish Hatchery  
10am Nature Inspires Garden Open House - GA Mt. Research & Ed Center  
7pm Friday Night Concert - Historic Union County Court House  
7pm You can be the Star Karaoke - Lodge at Copperhead

### Saturday, June 2

9am Family Fishing Festival - Chatt Forest National Fish Hatchery  
10am Ribbon Cutting - Byron Herbert Reece & Heritage Center

### Monday, June 4

9am Lutheroad Day Camp - Meeks Park Shelter #3  
9am Garden tour- GA Mt. Research & Education Center  
11:30am Summer Reading Program - Union County Public Library  
12pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Meeting - Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant  
6pm Free Texas Hold 'em Tournament - Lodge at Copperhead  
6pm Nutrition Class & Weight Loss Challenge - Beil Chiropractic Clinic

### Tuesday, June 5

8am Tri-State Business Women's weekly meeting - Cooks Restaurant

## UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Monday:		
Garden Tours	GMREC	9 am - 1 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	Noon
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Every Tuesday:		
Mtn. Woodcarvers	Senior Center	6 pm
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Every Thursday:		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Rotary Club	St. Francis of Assisi	Noon
First Monday of each month:		
Volunteers/Handicap	Church of Christ	7 pm
Allegheny Lodge	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
CERT	St. Francis of Assisi	6:30 pm
Lockheed-Martin Ret.	Blairsville Restaurant	9 am
First Tuesday of each month:		
UC Amer. Red Cross	Red Cross Office	Noon
Blairsville City Coun.	City Hall	6 pm
Brownie Scouts	United Methodist Ch	3-5 pm
Enotah Ch. #24 RAM	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
Gaddistown Hmakers	Woody Gap	7 pm
Business Women	Cook's Restaurant	8 am
Knights/Colum. #2563	place TBA	7:30 pm
Amateur Radio Club	Branan Lodge	7 pm
First Wednesday of each month:		
Tri-Cty. Wom. Lunch	Antonietta's Rest.	Noon
Exercise class	Senior Citizens Center	10:30 am
First Thursday of each month:		
Jaycees	Fort Sorghum	7:30 pm
Open Road ORV	Civic Center	8 pm
First Friday of each month:		
UG Hospital Aux	UC Nursing Home	Noon
Cruisers Block Party	Walmart	5 pm (Apr-Oct)
Feel Good Friday	Wellness Center	7 pm