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Q. Do most other counties have such a small percentage of their operation budget (50 percent) funded from property taxes?

A. I do not have the breakdown of all the other counties but most have a significantly higher percentage. Fulton County property taxes fund about 80 percent of their budget. So we are very proud that we have the second lowest property tax millage rate in the State of Georgia out of 159 counties, and one reason is that we all work so hard collecting fees from all sources possible

so that we do not have to spend as much of your property tax money.

Q. Have you completed the budget for next year?

A. We are working on it now. We will adopt it at the December county meeting. It is pretty tough to do the budget because we must set the millage rate in August and we have to estimate revenues and expenses for the rest of the year.

We are proud of all our elected officials and county employees who work so hard making it easier for us to keep our expenses under control.

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Paul never said a word. He just sat down on a bench and began dressing himself. The bigger boy turned and proudly walked to the shower. There was one place in the locker room where the water temperature to the showers could be adjusted. The water could be turned on in individual showers, but, could not be adjusted except in the one place. The younger boy walked toward that place and on the way he stopped at a Coke Machine used a nickel to purchase a 6-1/2 ounce bottle. He was finishing his bottle and heard Momma turn on the shower. He gave the boy time to get lathered up with soap and then cut off the cold water.

He walked to the shower door and heard his cousin swear about hot water. Then he heard, "You little runt I am going to teach you a lesson." When the boy stepped through the door, a Coke bottle hit him between the eyes knocking him to the ground. Immediately he jumped to his feet only to be knocked down again. Each time he tried to come out of the shower he was knocked to the floor again. This repeated itself four times before the two boys came to an understanding which was to tolerate one another. Not only did the two tolerate one another, but, they actually became quite good friends over the next couple of years. This relationship was evident the next morning at school. They were called to the office and asked what happened.

Junior responded, "I slipped and fell in the shower."

The two boys were involved in many experiences and battles over the next two

years and always on the same side. One story is noteworthy because it shows the character of not only the cousins, but, the entire class of 1956 from Phil Campbell High School.

A younger boy was riding a bus to school one May morning in 1956. The bus driver who was of questionable character himself, noticed this younger boy chewing gum. He stopped the bus, walked to the offender and without saying a word slapped the boy in the face causing his lip to bleed. The boy was much tougher than the driver thought. He jumped to his feet and knocked the driver down to the floor.

He hemmed the man between two seats and worked on the face of the driver. The older boys pulled the student from off the driver. Upon arriving at school, the bus driver had two black eyes and a swelled upper lip.

Willie went on to class while the bus driver reported his actions to the Principal, Mr. Weeks. He called Willie to the office and immediately expelled him from school.

Word of the event got around to the students. Momma, Junior Cummings, called for a meeting of all the athletes and all boys in the Senior Class.

He explained the situation and told them we will stick together on this one. The entire Senior Class staged a sit in at the front of the school until Willie was restored back into school. So, do not judge Junior Cummings too harshly. His actions made sure that the right thing was done.

Also, both Junior and his cousin Paul became ministers.

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and community—can influence whether he or she will try drugs.

There is no magic bullet for preventing teen drug use. But research shows parents have a big influence on their teens, even when it doesn't seem that way. The National Institute on Drug Abuse suggests that we talk openly with our children about substance abuse and stay actively engaged in their lives.

Despite contrary belief, repeated marijuana use can lead to addiction, which means that people often have trouble

stopping use of a drug when they want to, even though it is having a negative impact on their lives.

Research suggests that about 9 percent of people who use marijuana develop an addiction.

This rate nearly doubles to 17 percent when marijuana use begins during the teen years. Among youth receiving substance use disorder treatment, marijuana accounts for the largest percentage of admissions—about 55 percent among those 12 to 17 years old.

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of the left-hand lane except to pass.

Wallace says there are so many people who drive that don't even know the law exists.

"Is there a way to get the word out to people, because they just don't seem to know anything about this law?" Wallace asked.

Wallace fully supports the Georgia Slowpoke Law. As do the folks at the State Capitol, and the folks that hand out tickets for a living.

People who see the sign like the sign on the back of Wallace's six-speed diesel truck.

In many states, lolly-gagging in the left-hand passing lane carries fines of more than \$200.

Oklahoma has put up 234 signs warning drivers not to "impede traffic in the left lane."

Likewise, Missouri is using 280 like signs to keep the flow of traffic moving.

The Georgia Department of Transportation said driving slow in the left lane is among the most common complaints that office gets from drivers.

Wallace said a recent trip to the Mall of Georgia was crazy.

"If I had been a law enforcement officer, I could have handed out 20 or more tickets for violation of Georgia's Slowpoke Law," he said.

"What people are doing is breaking the law and inciting other people to break the law (road rage incidents).

"People aren't happy with people that hold up the passing lane and essentially hold up traffic," Wallace said. "There are times when the roads are very congested and

people do get very frustrated," he said.

The problem is simple and easy to see. Those going slower than the flow of traffic in the left lane — often riding beside vehicles going the same speed for long stretches at a time — cause a backup of vehicles behind them. This leads to impatient folks doing stupid things to try and get around the cars blocking up front, and increases the likelihood of a multi-car crash of those who bunch up together waiting for an opportunity to pass.

Many Georgians are unaware that just remaining in the left lane on a divided highway when faster traffic approaches from behind is illegal, regardless of the speed they are going. Georgia passed a "slowpoke law" in 2014. The law was written such that any driver must move to the right if traffic behind them is traveling faster and wishes to pass.

The State Patrol writes a few hundred tickets for this violation per year. Truth be told, they've also been understaffed and often have their hands full with higher priority enforcement issues. More guidance and encouragement from the state would come in handy.

The cost of new lane miles needed to expand our freeway system is in the billions of dollars. In congested metro Atlanta, a temporary stopgap was to spend a fraction of that amount on things that increased efficiency of the current system, such as metering lights at freeway on-ramps.

The measures allow the state to get more cars consistently through the same

Allison ... continued from Page 4A

Radio City Music Hall. Dawn said she was very sweet and totally adorable. Ms. Abdul wore a dress that evening that was so tight she could barely move! Her date had to help her get out of her seat to go up on stage and present an award. For Dawn, the best part was seeing this celebrity laughing at herself in the situation; she handled it with grace under pressure.

Dawn has several favorite music genres. She listens to jazz, praise and worship, blues, Baroque and 80's music. I bet some Paula Abdul songs are included in the list of 80's songs

she likes!

When asked about a piece of inspirational advice that impacted her life growing up, it was words of wisdom from her Grammy. "This too shall pass" words that I too repeated continually in my children's younger years when we were going through the two's and three's. Dawn said that even though it hasn't always seemed like it, Grammy was right, eventually whatever it is that she was going through did pass.

For her all-time favorite book, none compares to the Bible. It has been a steadfast

source of truth, strength and stability in her life. She also enjoys Charles Spurgeon books and a devotional book entitled

Streams in the Desert.

Stop in and see Dawn or give her a call at the Chamber office at (706) 745-5789.

Mattee... continued from Page 4A

large stands of trees. Unlike our webworms and tent caterpillars, the extent of defoliation caused by gypsy moth caterpillars can often kill whole stands of trees.

While the EAB and sirex woodwasp which are transported in the larval stage, gypsy moths lay their eggs on the bark of trees.

These eggs are then moved with the firewood when the tree is cut down and relocated, infesting a new area.

We have excellent moni-

toring systems in place to ensure that we can detect the spread of new pests.

However, campers and travelers will still move their firewood with them across state and county lines, bringing insects and diseases with their load that will infect healthy areas.

By using local wood, or heat treated wood, we can decrease the risk of new infestations and infections establishing in our pristine forests.

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everything makes sense. You are not subject to the chaos of a disordered world, but to God who brings order to chaos.

So be thankful and embrace the peace that replaces anxiety! "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-7).

Chief ... continued from Page 4A

and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



November 13, 2017

In memory of
Emma Lena Kelsoe
Birthday
by Dale, Sue, Mary
and Jesse

Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493

space. GDOT and the state's law enforcement agencies need to consider an education campaign as well as more enforcement of the slowpoke law to do the same for Georgia's rural highways.

A few hundred tickets per year in a state of 10 million people is not enough for word of mouth to let folks know Georgia is serious about fixing this problem. A public service campaign with aggressive enforcement is necessary. Figuring out a way to get the various local jurisdictions that currently sit alongside freeways waiting for speeders to put some resources into this would be helpful.

Many of these violators are from out of state. Experience tells us that there is nothing that can be done to get someone with Virginia plates out of the left lane. It seems only sporting to give those who were never taught how to drive properly to see posted notices of their impending fate.

Signage on the left side of freeways needs to say more than "slower traffic keep right." It should also advise that this is Georgia law. Posting the fine involved would be worthwhile.

The law passed in 2014 had good intentions. It also served as a lesson that a law the public is largely unaware of, and is seldom enforced, serves more to be a random punishment than one that changes anyone's behavior.

If we're going to have this law — and we should — then let's get an actual plan together to work on raising both awareness and enforcement. This will get us where we're going not only faster, but safer in the long run.