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respected, rejected, dejected, examined, reexamined, informed, required, summoned, fined, commanded, and compelled, until I provide an inexhaustible supply of money for every known need, desire, or hope of the human race.

Simply because I refuse to donate to something or other, I am boycotted, talked about, lied about, held up, held down and robbed until I am almost ruined.

I can honestly tell you that except for a miracle that happened I could not enclose this check. The wolf that comes to many doors nowadays just had pups in my kitchen. I sold them and here is the money.

Respectfully  
Cecil  
Aren't you glad that God supplies all of our needs (even taxes) according to His riches in glory (Phil 4:19)?

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living," and spoke of natural and holistic resources for everything from headaches to menopause. I just popped ibuprofen with a chaser of caffeine for any ailment.

What we did have in common was a wicked sense of humor, a tremendous sense of responsibility to the community we served, and an astute sense of the people who employed us. And then there was the way we felt about our families. Family ties were very important to us both, and though they were sometimes troublesome, we had each other to bounce the trials off of and the tribulations to cheer about at work each day. When it came to her husband Jim and her son Derrick, Sharon was all about the cheering.

After a couple years, we each went on to other job opportunities and we seldom saw one another. When we did, it was always old home week. We'd catch up on all our antics, and who we each still kept in touch with, etc. When we spoke of our families, Sharon would light up a 1,000 watts talking about Derrick and his wife, his beautiful children, his successes in real estate, and always, what a fine man he was and how proud she and Jim were of him.

That was many years before he donned an officer's uniform.

I had gotten to know Derrick over the years, as well. I remember one morning

I had the joy of watching him share an early morning breakfast with his young daughter Leigha at Waffle House. He was so attentive and spoke with her like she was the most important person in the world and no one would ever love her more than her Daddy. Every little girl should be so lucky.

The day I got word of the great loss of this son, father and friend to this community, I was devastated for Sharon and her family. I went to the funeral home to pay my respects, waiting in a long line of those who came out to share their grief.

When Sharon saw me, we fell into each others arms and the love, the respect and the hearts that had tethered strings attached were instantaneously reinforced as we held on to give strength to the abandonment that is overwhelming at these times, the worst of life's challenges.

In the months since, I follow Sharon on Facebook, and I marvel at her resilience and her passion to honor her son's memory every moment, and every day. Both she and Jim embody the grace of parenthood, even in the wake of it's devastation. And though they live in another state and another county, they help all of us here remember him and all he stood for.

Sharon, my friend, today, I honor you.

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committee composed from the same board of directors. Now, that sounds nice and cozy, but doesn't sound very democratic. That is sort of like they do it in Russia and Iran. I guess Russia and Iran must have a "cooperative" political system.

Does the manager tell the co-op members what financial remuneration the BRMEMC manager and the Board of Directors receive? No, and that's not very democratic either. So I don't believe we have a "Co-operative," but just a typical Corporate (as it states in your name, BRMEM Corporation) monopolistic electric utility.

Does the management listen to the input and recommendations of the "members serving members?" Members said we didn't want the Hiawassee substation next to the

lake and ruin the "ascetic" view, management put it there anyway. Were members consulted on the purchase or the plan of the new facility? No! Were members consulted on the ugly monster utility poles routed straight through beautiful downtown Hiawassee? No! None of the above sounds like, "members serving members."

So please, Mr. BRMEMC manager, give us members a little more credit, and stop trying to placate us with "beauty," "proud of," "ascetic facility," and "members service members," just give us low cost, reliable energy and leave it at that. We understand you have no competition, you're in charge, and there's not much we can do about it.

**Gordon Frank**

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the Founding Fathers.

At the same time, the Math Department shared 18th Century Geometry with my students who then applied what they learned to the laying out of the city of Washington, D.C.

Our students consistently scored among the highest in the state on their SATs because of the integrated curriculum we were able to employ.

Our graduates went on to considerable success at such schools as Penn State, Dartmouth, UCLA, Brown, UNC, among many others, and there's no doubt in my mind that they benefited from that integrated curriculum.

But, the other edge of that sword cuts a different way when it reminds us that 15 percent of Union County students don't earn a high school diploma; that 55 percent of Union County students do not complete their four-year degree even after six years; that graduates of the Union County schools have difficulty establishing themselves financially here at home.

Then, there's this rubric: "Music hath charms to

sooth the savage beast" but we're living in a technological tsunami that demands integration, competence, almost instinctive mastery and that mastery requires classrooms supplied with evolving technology and instructors who are capable of transmitting a "feel" for that technology.

As I've said, Union County is about to experience a cultural tsunami of unimaginable proportions.

The decisions which are made now will have generational effects. Either this County rides the wave or we will surely be covered up by it.

The lifeboat, as I see it, must be rowed by adults who are brave enough to define the difference between WANT and NEED for all Union County students.

Separate from ES-PILOST money, this school board has the prerogative to increase millage rates -- which, over the past decade, have consistently risen without a proportionate reduction in the rate of failure of far too many of Union County's students.

**George Mitchell**

## Every item only five dollars at the UGH Auxiliary fundraiser

Back by popular request! Experience the frenzy! Masquerade™, \$5 jewelry and accessories sale. To be held Thursday and Friday, May 2nd and 3rd, on the 2nd from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., and on the 3rd, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Union General Hospital, in the Old Lobby, Deep South Farm Road side of building. Sponsored by the UGH Auxiliary to raise

funds for scholarships and special needs at the UG Hospital and Union County Nursing Home. Cash and credit cards accepted. We always appreciate your support!

Remember Mother's Day is near! If you need more information, contact, Susan Hahn, Auxiliary President at 706-379-9600. NApr17,2013/CA

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ing through Windstream and Blue Ridge EMC to work on other backup solutions for the future.

**Q. What actually happened to cause the communications outages?**

A. According to Windstream representatives, the outage was apparently from the overloading of a telecommunications fuse and a faulty power inverter. Their engineers have re-examined every issue to determine the exact cause of the overload. Upgrades have been made to the existing fuse panels to eliminate a repeat of this issue. Their engineers are still working to see what additional backup they can provide in the future and we appreciate very much their cooperation.

**Q. Is the county going to have a plan in place to handle this kind of communications failure should it reoccur?**

A. Yes, we definitely are. We have already had some meetings with our E-911 Advisory Board Committee and others to discuss what happened and how it might be handled differently in the future. While we have been told that this is not likely to ever

happen again, since it has happened one time, we must be better prepared in case it should happen again in the future.

**Q. Can you give us some details of what the plan will be if we have another total county wide communication failure, to include land lines, cell phones and cable/internet?**

A. Once we have a final solution, we will notify the public. However, we have determined that this situation is so unusual that few if any regions or counties have ever experienced this. We will develop protocols for what and how to react if this situation ever repeats itself. Preliminary considerations are: In the event of a mass communications failure, all county fire stations could automatically serve as that particular community's point of contact. Should there be an accident, fire or medical emergency, a family member or friend would need to drive to the closest fire station to report the emergency, and by 2-way radio the call would be forwarded to the E-911 Center, then the E-911 Center would radio the ambulance service, fire department or Sheriff's Office to report the emergency. Our E-911 center and EMA will consider purchase of satellite phones in the event a helicopter or emergency transport is necessary. Hopefully, two separate fiber optic lines could feed the E-911 center. "Voice over IP" (special phones made to transmit directly over the Internet), could be hooked up and immediately available for calling out. Use of HAM radio operators could possibly be used to supplement communications in and outside the county as well as CB radio. Every reasonable option will be considered.

## Williams

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quality of life for everyone.

Are you ready to demonstrate your commitment to buying local? Mark your calendar for our upcoming Buy Local Extravaganza!

The Buy Local Extravaganza is free and open to the public. Make plans to stop in and enjoy the sights, tastes and offerings of Blairsville-Union County merchants.

We appreciate our presenting sponsor, United Community Bank as well as corporate sponsor, Financial Guideposts.

If you are a business owner who would like to sign up for a booth space or a resident who would like to sign up for our e-coupon newsletter, contact the Chamber at (706) 745-5789 or online at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com). I can be reached anytime at [President@BlairsvilleChamber.com](mailto:President@BlairsvilleChamber.com).

## Cummings

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the old tractor down by the lake to clear out some brush. He set the parking brake and got off the tractor to close a gate he had driven through. Somehow the brake loosened and papa watched helplessly as the old tractor rolled into and disappeared under the waters of Bear Creek Lake. I actually shed a tear for a tractor that day.

Ramp Day will be held at the Union County Farmers Market on April 18 beginning at 4 PM and ending at 7 PM. Native Plants, crafts, produce and various foods will be on sale that day. The evening will highlight one of the area's heritage foods, Ramps. You are invited to bring your favorite ramp recipe and compare it to other recipes from the area. The recipes will be judged and a winner will be declared.

Participants will be able to try ramps cooked in different manners. The goal of the Ramp Day is to encourage local Herb Growers to produce ramps for sale to local restaurants. Ramp Day will be the first event of the year at the Farmers Market. I hope to see you there. Also, you will be able to purchase my new book "All Around the Farm". See you at the Farmers Market on April 18.

## Lowe

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are actors and that some of the murdered children are still alive.

Truthers, what a joke!

The paranoia and fear-mongering at the heart of the "truther" movement is being fueled by the NRA and head gunslinger Wayne LaPierre. Is there any length the NRA won't go to to boost gun sales.

**Ron Lowe,  
Nevada City, CA**