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back as 2012. Thankfully, we have a steady group of rental property owners that have been collecting and remitting their tax every month since the ordinance was first adopted. All rental property owners benefit from the promotion of tourism and of Union County, so everyone should be collecting and remitting the tax.

Q. Since this company has been under contract has the county collected any back Hotel/Motel taxes?

A. The company is currently going through the process of contacting all rental owners. With about a third of them being contacted, we have already collected more than \$15,000 in taxes due with more to come.

Q. I pay my hotel/motel tax every month and this collection company has con-

tacted me. Why?

A. A large majority of rental cabins are posted on the VRBO website, which is Vacation Rentals By Owner. Individual property owners and property management companies both use this site to rent their properties. So it is possible that even though you pay this tax, because it is with a rental company, you could possibly be contacted twice. Please do not get upset. So long as you have been paying the taxes that are due, you will have no problem.

Hotel/motel lodging business license tax is the only type of business license the county has, and most of the proceeds go to the Chamber of Commerce and other advertising avenues, which should only serve to increase lodging rentals for these license holders.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

the story. Granny calmed her two sons and dried their tears. She explained to them that they were not poor and that they had a good life. After the boys calmed down she walked directly to the field where Clay and Papa were talking and lit into Uncle Clay. She told Clay that her boys had plenty to eat and clothing to wear. She ended the discussion by telling Clay "I'll knock a knot on your head if you ever upset my boys again. Uncle Clay did not mean to upset his nephews. He actually felt sorry for his brother's family because they had no money. But, actually Papa's family was rich. They had all they needed.

Uncle Clay died back in the 1980's from emphysema that he contracted as a result of all those years working in the

mills. Clay loved all of us kids. He took time to do things with us. He was stubborn and would argue with a fence post over his beliefs. Uncle Clay's tomb stone reads, "Clay Stood with the Bible". Meanwhile Papa never made much money, but, he had his family and farm.

The Farmers Market will be open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on May 23rd for the annual Strawberry Day. I am sure we will have lots Strawberries for sale. The Trash to Treasures Sale will not be held this week because the Women's Enrich Yard Sale will be held at the Farmers Market on Friday and Saturday. But, Trash to Treasures will continue on May 21st and 22nd. The Opening Day for the Farmers Market will be held on June 6th.

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pull right up to the front row! VIP packages are available on a first come, first served basis and will be guaranteed renewable year to year. If you are interested, please contact the Chamber at (706) 745-5789 or stop by our office to discuss the details.

The Chamber would

like to say a special thanks to Woodmen of the World, a not for profit organization offering a variety of insurance and investment options, who is helping sponsor this year's event. Additionally, we would like to thank Budget Blinds who is contributing the food for this year's VIP cookout.

Fowler...continued from Page 4A

As our country declines into immorality, defines religious freedom as bigotry, and devalues the natural family, it is tempting to retreat. Yet even if you can't change these by yourself, you can respond within your ability to the needs of people around you. We know God is at work to bring about His purpose in each per-

son's life. As we demonstrate the love of God, we participate in His work. And He can change people, families, and nations as they come to know and obey Him.

I would recommend that you never carry a dead child in your arms. But what will you carry in serving God and your neighbor?

Combs...continued from Page 4A

converted to Christianity. You couldn't wait to tell everyone. You had such joy in your life and Jesus was the reason for your joy. Satan would want you to believe that Jesus was just a good man, maybe even a prophet, but then we have to take a serious look at the Cross of Calvary to see what kind of love Jesus showed to all of humanity. He gave His

all so you and I could experience His love inside each one who has accepted Him as Lord of their life. Have you forgotten your first love? Jesus is always available to receive you back into His loving arms and to once again stir your heart with overwhelming grace and joy. Oh, what a Savior He is! Amen
Frank F. Combs

Elliott ... continued from Page 4A

in my favorite season! But, also because there are many good people here who love and honor God and still believe in traditional family values. Beliefs like marriage was ordained by God for a man and a woman. God created Adam and Eve--not Adam and Steve.

Also, we believe in the sanctity of life. Every human being is a creation of God and no one has a right to destroy them.

I'm writing to say I, also love people and I care about their eternal destiny. Every time I read an obituary or hear of a death, I realize that person's last opportunity has passed to prepare to meet God. I think we should be more concerned and ask ourselves, "if people go to hell, do I care?" I weep and it breaks my heart to think of people going there. But the Bible is clear that hell is a real place just as sure as Heaven is. It's sad, but I believe the devil has some people deceived by thinking just being a good

moral person and doing good deeds will surely get them to Heaven. But that is absolutely false and not what God says.

There are only two classes of people on this earth. Those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and those that believe not. Every individual must make their choice. Not to receive Him who came and died to save and give you eternal life, is rejecting Him. There is no other option!

To be prepared to meet God when our death date comes is positively the most important thing we can do in our entire life. Our short span of time on this earth is really just a place to prepare to live forever!

We must have a reservation to go to Heaven. The Bible- God's Holy Word is the instruction book telling us how to confirm it. The critical question is, "where will I spend eternity?" Christians care!
Sara Elliott

Duncan... continued from Page 4A

Our local farmers no longer have to make the drive to the Atlanta Farmers Market to sell the fruits of their labors. The time spent driving to Atlanta, the cost of the fuel and the time spent away from their families has virtually been eliminated.

Now, farmers rent a booth at the Market, back their trucks up, and sell, sell, sell. And they are selling.

Last year alone, the Market meant more than \$700,000 to the local economy. In the continuing trend of hard economic times, locals are more

than willing to drive to the local Market and purchase fresh vegetables. Folks also are getting a pretty good bargain on the craft side.

The Union County Farmers Market is unique in the sense that it's not just about produce. There are more than 80 booths at the Market.

Outside of produce, other vendors are selling flowers, honey, jewelry, lotions and creams, handbags, unique items, stuffed toys and food. The word Market has never meant so much to so many people in one community.

Leone... continued from Page 4A

ries, but not sweet and juicy, even when I use to go pick my own, ripe on the vine. Since moving to Union County, I've headed to North Carolina to get my berries. No one here was producing enough to sell to the public. But that has changed since Dick Mills and his family opened 7M Farms out on Crump Creek Road.

Taking a ride out to the Track Rock area of this county and visiting 7M Farms is a treat for all generations. U-pick 'em Strawberries, for those of you that have done it before, know that it can be a little tough on our aging backs. Dick recognizes that, too, maybe because his 93-year-old grandmother can be seen daily on the farm and out selling at the 7M booth weekly at the Union County Farmers Market.

For this reason, the Mill Family has introduced the Vertigro Hydroponic System that people have seen at Disney World for the "older" generation to pick berries so they don't have to do all the bending. Of course, you can already buy them picked, in case you like your manicure to stay the color it was intended.

Dick has been farming with his family since he was a youngster. He did a significant stint in the corporate world but came back to farming and now there are four generations working the 7M Farm here in Union County. When Dick talks about the changes he's seen over the years in farming he chuckles at the thought of watching his grandparents go from milking by hand daily to a 6 stall parlor, then from plowing with mules to using GPS tractors.

Most of us, even avid gardeners, can't imagine the number of hours the farmer puts in each day, at least six days a week. Dick says his day starts at 4:30 a.m. and ends about 10 p.m. That's not just his day - that's his workday. That's because this year 7M will have 75 acres of row crops and their plan is to go to 230 acres as early as 2016. And they have a greenhouse operation that will soon be a 10-acre project. They grow all your favorites and them some.
What does all that mean

Koschler ...

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So I want to say thank you to the Union County Sheriff's Office and to the Blairsville Police Department. Thank you for the big things that you do. Thank you for the small things that you do. Thank you for everything that you do. You are a blessing in our lives and you protect us. May God bless and protect you always.
Louise Koschler

Mitchell ...

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They reminded me of things that I had long forgotten, how they had bumped headlong into my demands and standards. How they tried - unsuccessfully - to find ways around my expectations.


They flew a combined 10,500 miles, round trip; left wives, husbands, children, for the weekend to touch base with their former teacher.

Former students of mine from as far back as 1966 still stay in touch.

It's that one special teacher who former students remember - you know, that underpaid, overworked, "dedicated" teacher; the teacher whose efforts allow the community to crow about how wonderful the schools are.

Rethinking their visit after they left, I wondered if there has ever been a school principal, superintendent or associate superintendent who can say that (s)he has been so honored. I wonder why that is.
George Mitchell

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