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That's Veterans Day, but I really don't think I had to tell anyone that.

I look forward to that ceremony, I look forward to a large turnout and I look forward to seeing tears flow as we commemorate yet another lasting legacy in remembrance of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

We hear it all the time, freedom isn't free. That's a very true statement. A statement that we must think about every day of our lives.

I want to thank Brad Hutson of Woodmen of the World, who on Sunday came by the newspaper and donated a check to Iraq War veteran Chuck Honaker to help with the memorial.

Brad's family and mine go way back. His Pa Bertie

(Elbert Hutson), and my father were close friends. They also were U.S. Military veterans.

Brad tells me that Lodge No. 1180 met and was united that it was important to help make that War Memorial happen.

I couldn't agree more. Brad's a fine young man, his Pa Bertie would be just as proud of him today as the family has been since his playing days with the Union County Panthers' football team.

We're all proud of our young men and women. When you think about it, we've raised and taught them well.

In closing, I say, God Bless America; God Bless Union County and thank you, our readers, from the bottom of my heart.

Once again, you made the difference.

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chance, talk about your business when social or business networking opportunities are available. Last, treat everyone the same – with a great deal of respect and courtesy. Treat vendors, suppliers, customers and employees the way you want to be treated. Everyone associated with your business can become a potential word of mouth advertiser that supports your business. Thank people that send business your way or reward them with a hand written note.

When it comes to tourism advertising, the Chamber continues to work on your behalf. The Northeast Georgia Mountains Travel Association Regional Map & Guide was recently released with many Union County landmarks included. The highlight of this brochure is to inspire the visitor by a focus on the natural beauty associated with our

lakes, rivers, waterfalls and unique mountain attractions. Union County's own Helton Creek Falls along with other area waterfalls are featured in this guide. Several independent advertisers are included with this edition. Additionally, the first print of an Explore 515 brochure was unveiled last week. The publication features opportunities for travel, tourism and family living experiences along the 515 corridor from Pickens County to Towns County. Copies of both publications can be obtained in the Welcome Center.

We invite you to experience the Blairsville-Union County Chamber, designated a Georgia Certified Chamber, by exploring our website at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com or by calling the Chamber at 706-745-5789. I may be reached anytime at Chair@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

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to the county government property tax rate?

A. When combining both, we rank as having the fifth lowest property tax rate in the state out of 159 counties. The combined mil rate of the county and school property taxes is 17.217 mils.

Q. Can you give some comparison examples of property tax rates in counties similar to Union?

A. Union 17.21 mils, Fannin 18.06, Pickens Co 22.23, Banks Co 22.31, Habersham 22.32, Forsyth, 23.08, Lumpkin 23.14, Dawson 23.68, Gilmer 24.33, White 24.78, Hall 25.57.

For example, any of

the counties in the 23 mil range would typically have around \$7 million dollars or more to operate their school and county government than Union County does, which is very significant and once again demonstrates how well our government operates financially.

How would you like to pay any property tax bills based on the following mil rates?

Metro counties - Cherokee 27.94 mils, Paulding 28.50, Fulton 28.78, Barrow 29.43, Cobb 29.68, Gwinnett 31.03, Clarke 33.70, Clayton 40.21, DeKalb 42.38.

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

feel just like Noah except I am not preaching to the lost". The raft was 20 feet long and 10 feet wide. Leman strapped some old whiskey barrels to the bottom of the raft to give it buoyancy. He built a little hut on the raft to protect him from storms. A stove was placed in the center of the raft to provide a source of heat.

I went with Leman to launch the raft on the day he left. The raft was so big we hauled it on his big flatbed truck to the boat launch. It took us all afternoon to unload the raft. But, around 4:00 PM we had the raft in the water. Before he launched, Leman realized that he needed to get me and his truck back home. I was only 14, but, I had been driving his old truck in the fields for quite some time. However, I never shifted the truck to any gear higher than second. Reluctantly, I agreed to drive Leman's truck back home.

We launched the raft into the water and since we didn't have any champagne we broke a bottle of Mountain Dew over the bow and Leman was on his way. I drove the 20 miles back home in second gear. The trip must have taken me 2 hours. It was well after supper when I walked into the house and heard Mom say, "He and his Dad will be there soon to pick you up". Mom was upset with me and Leman. She

was mad at Leman because his raft had broken up just as he hit the Tennessee River. He had not traveled 1 mile until his raft came apart and Leman had to swim 200 yards to the bank. She was mad at me because I had driven all the way home (through downtown Russellville) to get home. My Mom always had a hard time understanding the dreams of old men and young boys.

Don't forget the date, August 28th. That Tuesday, at the Farmers Market, I will be conducting a class on Plant Identification. Also, I will have available the newest edition of the booklet, "Native Plants of North Georgia". If you are interested I will start the program at 4:30 at the Farmers Market. Also, on Thursday, August 30th, we will have a special night at the Farmers Market. This will be a Food Night. The emphasis will be on Labor Day BBQ. We will sell tickets that evening for \$5. You will be able to present these tickets to food vendors to purchase samples of their food. This food will be locally grown and cooked. For \$5 you can get 5 \$1 tickets. This event will begin at 4:30 as well. Also, you will be able to purchase locally grown vegetables from our regular vegetable growers. So, come and be with us on August 28th and August 30th.

Parris...continued from Page 4A

hit the road campaigning they have given new meaning to hitting below the belt. They know nothing about hitting the high spots. They couldn't hit the broadside of a barn when it comes to the enormous problems facing our nation but they know how to mix a little truth with a whole lot of error to hit their opponents.

Groucho Marx described politics as "the art of looking for trouble, finding it every where, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies."

Personally, I am looking forward to football season beginning. I had rather watch two football teams banging their

heads together to entertain spectators, than two presidential nominees smearing each other to obtain the highest position of the land. Sickening.

Let me close by saying that when humanity hit the snag of sin and placed themselves on the devil's hit list, God provided a pinch hitter for us. When the human race hit rock bottom God sent His Son to take the hit in our place. On Calvary Jesus became the heavy hitter and smashed a home run for us in obtaining our salvation. I don't have an aspiration to become any kind of hit in the world, but I would like to hit the nail on the head for Jesus.

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amazing heart shaped red pod. I tried to Google wild flower images to identify it, but to no avail. Then a couple days later, I went to revisit these pods and found that they had opened from the bottom, forming a hard umbrella over four fire engine red berries. They were magnificent. A good friend was taking a wild flower hiking class through the local ICL program and I gave her one to take to the class to see if someone could identify it. I got a call that night. "Your hearts a bustin", she said. I had no clue what she was talking about.

Bryant

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is becoming a reality as we breathe and it's all about the take over of this country, then the UN will be in-charge of everything we do, not joking!

This is not a democratic or republican issue, it is about the selling out of our country and your political party will not be of any importance when Agenda 21 is implemented and the SPLOST funded projects coincide with what they have planned for us with our own tax money, how convenient, that's why this has been such a big deal and why they will continue to push forward with it without our consent!

If this local paper will print this letter call and thank them, for then we will know they are not part of the problem coming our way and that they may be willing to help keep our residents informed about what is about to happen to all of us thanks to our government.

Ray Bryant

Wells

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ing is where we come together as brothers and sisters to worship. People tell me there are hypocrites in First Baptist, I chuckle because you too are a hypocrite. WE ARE NOT PERFECT PEOPLE only JESUS IS.

When I came to know Jesus as my personal Saviour, I was poor, I am still poor, but I am rich in Jesus. I don't live in a mansion or a shack, but I live with Jesus in my home and I will have a mansion in Heaven. I don't wear \$100 suits but I have clothes on my back.

I'm not financially debt free, I am personally debt free by the Blood of Jesus. I'm not starving, Jesus feeds me and keeps me full. I have friends but more importantly I have brothers and sisters in Christ who love me for me.

You judged me sir by where I worship. You also judged me in my Faith because you didn't ask me if I knew Jesus.

Jesus is not in the tax bracket, mansion living, and how much you have business. HE is in the Soul, Saving, Salvation Planning at First Baptist. I can only hope and pray that where you or any one else worship, have the same plan! If you don't, then come and visit with us and we will teach you the Plan of Salvation all you have to do is Trust.

A Sinner Saved By Grace,

Jackie Wells

Kruger

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like Paul Ryan, who when his father died was able to finish his education with the help of Social Security.

I have willingly paid into Social Security for 40 years.

It is often said that money would be better invested by the individual, and for some that may be true. For most of us working for wages, it is difficult to amass capitol to invest. There also is a lack of expertise and knowledge and perhaps luck to make money in the stock market.

After watching the bank bailouts, the fluctuations in my 401K statements, Social Security looks pretty good.

In our 70 percent consumer driven economy we should note the money paid out through Social Security and Medicare finds its way back into the economy in purchases, taxes, and healthcare.

The dismantling of Social Security and Medicare as proposed by the Ryan plan is a breach of trust with the American people and a short change of our future.

Ruth Kruger

Chamber of Commerce events	
For details and future events see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com	
Wednesday, August 22	
2pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad
Thursday, August 23	
12pm	Rotary Club of Union County – Cadence Bank
6pm	Blairsville Cruisers Car Club General Meeting
Friday, August 24	
8am	Union County Farmers Market - Trash To Treasure Sale
11am	Cooking For A Cure BBQ – United Community Bank – Brackett Room
2pm	Chamber Ribbon Cutting for Edward Jones Investments – Flip Varney
7pm	Friday Night Concert The Jerry Wilson Family - Historic Union County Courthouse
7pm	You can be the Star Karaoke – Lodge at Copperhead
Saturday, August 25	
7am	Union County Farmer's Market
10:30am	Nuno Felting - Alpaca Scarf Class – Lardworks Lasso the Moon Alpaca Farm
11am	Tomato Festival at Crane Creek Vineyards
12pm	Mountain United Soccer Annual Rock N Roll Fund Raiser
Monday, August 27	
12pm	Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting – Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
6pm	Free Texas Hold 'em Tournament – Lodge at Copperhead
Tuesday, August 28	
8am	Tri-State Business Women's weekly meeting – Cooks Restaurant
12:30pm	Misty Mountain Quilt Guild
3pm	Union County Farmer's Market
Wednesday, August 29	
1pm	Natural Wellness Fair 1pm – 3pm GA Center for Total Cancer Care
2pm	Friends of Union County Library Monthly Meeting – Union County Library