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posed to them.

Q. We saw a report from another area newspaper stating that 8,000 to 10,000 vehicles per day would be coming to the gaming tables. How will we be able to handle that much traffic coming through Blairsville?

A. According to a Traffic Impact Study prepared for Harrah's Casino Resort, the actual number of vehicles that will be coming to the casino and passing through the Murphy Hwy (US 19/129) and Hwy 64 intersection at Decker's Flea Market is estimated to be only 25 to 30 vehicles per hour and this is during the summer high season. This report contains similar numbers for GDOT estimates. If that actually continued day and night, it would only be an additional 720 vehicles per day during the summer season. So NCDOT and GDOT currently feel that the existing highways will be able to easily handle the new traffic. Remember, I am only passing along information we received. If you think about it, there are only 2,700 parking spaces at the casino and room for about 3,000 people in the casino at one time.

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of the tourism driven professionals working in the North Georgia Mountains. We gathered in order to better understand the benefits of being a stakeholder in the Bon Appetit Appalachia project. The project is sponsored by www.VisitAppalachia.com, a web site that provides information and resources for those seeking to visit the Appalachian Region.

More specifically, the Bon Appetit project is designed to help travelers discover the local foods, farms and flavors of the different regions of the 205,000 square mile spine (13 states) of the Appalachian Mountains. Yes, this is a major effort to target the tourism market through their stomachs. Statistically, only a handful of people in this country "eat to live". The majority of us live to eat, and with that said, when we take a trip, where we eat and "experience food" is a huge part of our travel decisions. Did I mention drink? Wineries are a bigger attraction than theme parks these days.

Listening to the statistics that were shared by Regional, State and National tourism representatives, regarding our travel habits per demographics, I realized that the decisions that are made every day in corporate boardrooms, agency economic development meetings, and even in our own Farmer's Market

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

Another week passed and the boys decided to go opossum hunting. The dogs treed up a big hemlock. Next, the dogs ran something into a hole in the ground. So, Dad cut a long slender hickory and sharpened one end. The sharp end of the limb was pushed into the hole until it hit something soft. Then Dad twisted the limb until the critter's fur was wrapped around the limb. This technique allowed Dad to pull the big fat opossum out of the hole. Harold and Little John were amazed at the skills of their two cousins. Later, on the way back home the dogs struck another track and again chased a critter into a hole. As the boys got to the hole Dad smelled something and stated they should go on home. But, Harold and Little John wanted to pull another critter from the hole in the ground. So, Dad cut another hickory stick and told his cousins to get going. "Bud and I will be making our way back to the house". Dad and Uncle Bud walked 100 yards away and watched as their cousins pulled a skunk from the hole. The boys got home and the smell woke up Papa

Combs ... continued from Page 4A

engaged in many wars, some not necessary, some absolute, but through it all brave men and women have come forward to the call of service so that America could be free.

This great parcel of land where our forefathers came to start a new nation under God's leadership, not man's and God has blessed our nation with riches untold for the past 200 years. Sadly down through the years our society has been invaded from within by those who would like to see America done away with, wiped off the face of the earth and we can see bits and pieces slowly being ripped away from the foundation of why America

However, having repeated this information to you, it would be completely accurate to say that no one really knows for sure, but at least the GDOT and Casino study estimates are manageable for us if true. If it turns out to be a lot more people than estimated, the casino is going to have a huge parking problem.

Q. Is the county still trying to have the Murphy Hwy. (Jack Lance Memorial Highway) widened to a four lane?

A. It has been my number one GDOT priority in the county ever since I got in office in 2001, after the Pat Colwell/Pat Haralson Intersection improvement. Had we not gone through a big recession in the past few years, it would have really become a big traffic problem by now. I am still trying to keep GDOT reminded of the importance of this highway expansion, as much for safety as for traffic flow. However, with shrinking transportation funds and the unwillingness of NCDOT to agree to widen their four-mile portion of the highway, it will probably not happen any time soon, unless the Murphy Casino really grows and expands in the future.

planning sessions, we must learn from Brainfall.com, that what makes up the profile of our potential consumers is more what they are not than what they are.

It is a joy to hear, every single day, from usually total strangers who pass me in the grocery store, the gym or at the park, how much they love our Farmers Market, and how fortunate they feel to be a part of a community that has such a facility. I will never stop getting happy goose bumps when I arrive at the market and I see literally hundreds of smiling faces, who act more like they are at a multi billion dollar Disney Park than a pole barn bordering a tiny creek.

For each of us who frequent the Union County Farmers Market, it meets different needs and brings satisfaction in different forms. Its impact on this community is bigger than each of us, though. Our Farmers Market is an economic driver in this community. Economic activity means jobs are created. More visitors, more money spent locally; more tax revenue, more opportunity to enhance the quality of services for all of us who reside here. National statistics estimate that 131 million Americans are culinary travelers. We hope that over time, they will all come and visit our Market, at the base of Appalachia. It is an experience worth the travel.

and Granny. Their clothes had to be burned and the young men washed in buttermilk and then in tomato juice which removed most of the smell.

After Harold and Little John went home Papa, Granny, Dad and Uncle Bud were sitting around the dinner table and Uncle Bud asked his daddy, "Are Paul and I as dumb as our cousins"? Papa tried to hide his laugh, but, a chuckle escaped as he replied, "I hope not."

The Canning Plant is reaching its peak for the year. We have processed green beans, tomatoes, potatoes, beef stew, vegetable soup, jelly, carrots, beets and one of the more popular items this year has been marinara sauce. The smell of the sauce causes hunger pangs and brings people into the canning plant looking for something to eat. We have canned more than 9,000 items through the end of August. We will be open each Tuesday and Thursday until Oct. 16th from 6 a.m. through 12 p.m. For more information please visit us online at UCFarmer'sMarket.com.

was a great nation under God. Though things look hopeless for our beloved nation there is hope. There is a future. There is a promise from God in the Bible in II Chronicles 7:14- "If My people who are called by my Name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." The bottom line: The ball is in our field. What are we willing to do with it, throw the game or run for a touchdown and let God back into our society where freedom reigns In God We Trust. Amen.

Frank F. Combs

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jah, Naboth, etc. I have heard the recorded voice of Winston Churchill who had a powerful, persuasive voice. He stuttered so when he was a child that you couldn't understand him. He taught himself to be a speaker by putting marbles in his mouth and talking.

Dr. W.A. Criswell and Dr. George W. Truett both served First Baptist Church of Dallas, TX. Both had unique and persuasive voices. They had that quivering ministerial voice. Peter Marshall had a voice that captivated his audience. I believe

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relationship with BRMEMC! Their policies with regards to their so-called "customer charges" have never been explained to anyone's satisfaction. They charged me two different customer charges on a property we owned because the horse barn was on a separate meter because of the distance from the house meter even though it was one property under one tax bill. When I had them turn off the power to the barn during the spring and summer to save some money and then requested that it be turned back on for the winter months they back charged me the monthly minimum usage for every month that I didn't use power on that meter! Mr. Akins never returned my calls about this so I called TVA and talked to a very nice man over there that eventually was able to get those charges deleted from my bill. This is far from the only problems I've had with their company but I won't write a book here!

Ever since BRMEMC built the high end, as I call it, "Colorado Ski Resort" building in Young Harris, I have had many questions: Were we, the membership notified of their plans to build such an expensive complex? Were the costs (architectural, building, landscaping, property purchasing, etc.) explained to the membership? Were there notifications clearly given to the membership as to any public hearings as to the concerns, costs or suggestions from the membership? Why couldn't the old facility have been updated at a much lesser cost? Who gave the final go ahead to build such

Hughes ...

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who sends this person, must not have any children or feeling to hurt them that way.

What happened to the (guide line) D.C. says jail last resort.

Also most of the Drug Court (people) can't hold a job for they don't have a way and can't go at any time of day for drug testing.

Set a time and day for drug testing.

Danna Hughes

Steed ...

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and the positions vacant or to be filled, I for one will not vote for any person as nominated by the EMC nominating committee. After all this... that's like voting for the fox to guard the henhouse. I will personally vote for three of the four new persons that have stepped forth to run for these positions. And, I hope the majority of the EMC membership will follow suit.

Jim Steed, Blairsville

Mitchell ...

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aneous information based on your aversion to the Second Amendment.

Since we bought our home in 2000, our property taxes have doubled.

I've grown tired of the "This is the best that we can do" mantra.

I have but one vote and I won't be using it to support you in the future.

George Mitchell

Maloney ...

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County. My vote may not win this area for Michelle and Jason, but my vote will add to those in other areas that are more supportive. It's okay for Democrats to let other people know who and what we stand for! We have a two party system in this country for a reason. Balance equals progress. It's better for all of us.

Michelle Maloney

Jesus had the greatest voice man has ever heard. We have Jesus' written words but there was no such thing as a recorder in His day. However, we have some indications in Scripture that give us some idea about the voice of the Son of God. His voice was/is the voice of the Bridegroom, the Shepherd and the Savior. His was/is a tender, trustful and truthful voice.

In this day of confusing and chaotic voices we need to listen for that still small voice of Christ. Hear ye Him! (Rev. 3:20).

an elaborate complex? How can we find out what the entire cost of this project was? What is going to happen to the eyesore that was left at the now abandoned old facility? And of course, bottom line: what are we, the membership paying additionally every month for BRMEMC to be able to flaunt their overly done complex.

Now to Mr. Taylor: So he's paid \$3,000 in about three months against his way overdue bill, correct? Is his power still on? If so, how much is his monthly bill averaging now? Is he paying that in full every month in addition to the \$1,000 per month on the overdue bill?

Since when is a power company, let alone one that is supposed to be membership owned, in the habit of loaning someone money to purchase equipment? Is there any collateral for that loan? Was the membership made aware that BRMEMC wanted to loan him this money before they did so? Can we, the members, put a lien against the equipment and property until he pays us this money back?

I would like to ask everyone who is a member of BRMEMC and unfortunately that's all of us, unless you are fortunate enough to generate your own electricity, to attend the Annual BRMEMC Meeting in September. I do not have the exact date but I hope the NGNews will publish when that will be or in the meantime you can call BRMEMC and ask? We need to do some serious house cleaning over there folks!

Carol Jones

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age them to enroll their child in the free program. Registration can be completed online at FerstFoundation.org or forms can be picked up at our office located at 129 Union County Recreation Road. We are also looking for financial contributors who believe in the power of education. Did you know that sponsoring a child for one year is only \$36? That's right, for a mere \$36 you can ensure that a child in Union County who might not otherwise have books in the home will receive a book in the mail each month for one year. Of course, any size donation is always welcomed. Checks can be made out to Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy

Duncan...continued from Page 4A

Actually, Minor says he got the information from current Board Member Bill Prather. Mr. Prather reported to Minor that in 2009 Lance Sr. shared with him information that a director had not paid his EMC bill in several months. Mr. Prather did not believe that Jack Lance Sr. specified the director's name, and Mr. Prather did not inquire further about it.

Well, we can't ask Jack Lance Sr. to verify this can we? And it is amazing that the only board member who knew about Terry Taylor's indebtedness is now deceased and has taken this information with him to the Pearly Gates.

However, it certainly looks like a fact in the Minor Report, although, there's no way Minor could have verified this information - unless he had a Quija Board.

The Minor Report also throws former EMC General Manager Joe Satterfield under the bus. Of course, now we know that Mr. Satterfield's involvement - where he was alleged to have created a defacto policy of allowing Taylor to skate on his bills - was also just an opinion.

As we head into the Sept. 13 Annual Meeting at Anderson Music Hall, we've learned that the BRMEMC Board of Directors approved the use of \$30,000 in membership money to create an educated guess about how Taylor and Taylor Construction was able to generate a debt of more

of Union County and mailed to PO Box 2743, Blairsville, GA 30514. On behalf of the children whose lives will be forever changed through your gift, thank you in advance!

Numerous studies have shown the positive impact of reading to children during the critical development ages of birth to age five. We want every child to read proficiently. We want every child to perform well in school and graduate from high school on time. We want every child to grow up prepared to compete in the global economy. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact me at (706) 745-5789 or president@blairsvillechamber.com

than \$48,000 in unpaid utility bills.

We've also learned that Taylor and Taylor Construction did pay their bills - at least every two or three years. They got away with that because the threat of disconnection was not there, according to the Minor Report.

The Minor Report also says that EMC Legal Counsel Lawrence Sorgen knew about the debt in May or June 2013 and was told by GM Akins. If that's a fact, why didn't the board find out until March 2014?

To his credit, Sorgen demanded that Taylor pay his debt immediately.

Nevertheless, we arrived again at fact or opinion?

According to the Minor Report, Sorgen had no contractual duty to disclose the news to BRMEMC's board of directors.

The future path of BRMEMC is now in the hands of its membership - 43,000 strong. Do we fix the sputtering carburetor or just wait until it finally breaks down?

The choice is ours as owners of the cooperative. If you're tired of the current individuals who claim amnesia when it comes to knowing about something they should have known about, then, it's time for a change.

If you're not worried about that, then vote for the status quo.

Bottomline: make your vote count.