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Q. Since you said that Union County has one of the lowest property tax rates in the state of Georgia, what are some of the other counties that we could compare our property tax bills with?

* A. At a net value of property or home of \$100,000, in Union you pay \$589, in Pickens you pay \$722, in Gilmer you pay \$822, in Banks you pay \$898, in Rabun you pay \$929, in Gwinnett you pay \$1088, in Lumpkin you pay \$1087, in Fulton you pay \$1205, in Paulding you pay \$1258, in Stephens you pay \$1366, and in Clayton County you pay \$1986. Remember, this is county property taxes only and does not include school taxes. So it should be obvious that indeed we do have a low property tax rate and property tax amount relative to many counties.

* 2015 rates as all counties do not have their new tax rates set yet. In addition, we also know that Pickens County, White County and Lumpkin County will all have significant property tax increases this year.

Q. Are there other factors beside the mill rate that impact property taxes?

A. Yes, there are many.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Other memories involve farming of crops and livestock. Papa was a cotton farmer and the very first money I ever earned was by picking cotton. The bag was bigger than I was at the time. I picked 4-5 pounds and at the end of the day we all weighed our bags. My Papa paid me .05 for my bag of cotton. I remember being disappointed. But, I learned that you get out of life what you put into it. Another time I helped Granny dig a bunch of potatoes in her garden.

It was a bumper crop and those potatoes were some of the largest I had ever seen. Over the next few weeks Granny canned potatoes and made soup with potatoes. We enjoyed those potatoes all winter long.

Another place Papa showed me was the old still

Some counties have different services that are more costly than other counties. Union County has more miles of county roads than many counties and that obviously cost more to maintain. Union County also has over 50% of our county owned by the federal government, and none of that property can be taxed, where most counties collect taxes on most of the land in the county. In Union County, we have a budget of nearly \$1 million dollars just for our paid fire department while most rural counties do not even have a paid full-time fire department. We feel the safety of the public is worth the cost since our Fire Department not only goes on fire calls, but assists on medical calls, car accidents, search and rescue, and as a citizen, you are guaranteed a response in the event of an emergency. They also work closely with GEMA and FEMA regarding emergency management in the county and are continuously training. So when you look at all factors available to you, it is obvious that Union County government does, in fact, have a very low property tax rate while providing a very high level of service to you, the public.

site. Papa's grandfathers, John Cummings and Alfred West, made liquor here in the late 1800s. John had a Feist dog which would let out a low growl instead of a bark when strangers approached. A still was placed at the bride of a creek in front of a bluff. At the base of the bluff was a round hole carved from the rock. At an earlier point of time the Cherokee stored grain in the hole of this rock. It was just big enough to crawl through the hole and out into a crack between two rocks. A man could climb this crack like a ladder all the way to the top of the bluff. Papa told me that his grandfathers kept the entrance of the hole covered with brush and there were many times they eluded the revenueurs thanks to the Feist Dog and the hole in the rock.

Drugs ... continued from Page 4A

Perhaps someone gets defensive for no reason when you ask innocent questions about their day or what they were doing during a time when you weren't together. Addictions are layered in denial and rationalizations.

If a characteristically low-key person become highly agitated at times, or if an extrovert becomes introverted, there's typically a substance abuse disorder in play. Substances change a person's emotional state, causing noticeable mood swings.

What if your loved one is normally logical, and usually makes smart even-keeled decisions on a daily basis—and then stops. That's cause for concern. Chaotic and disorganized decision-making is a strong indication there's an underlying problem. Watch for irrational thinking and behaviors.

What about the physical changes? Addictions make beautiful people ugly. Pay attention if someone who normally has bright, glowing skin suddenly starts looking gray or if their once-sparkly eyes start appearing dull and less focused.

Another big clue is fiscal irresponsibility. Addictions are incredibly expensive to

maintain, so look for changes in spending patterns. Consider taking further action if your once-extravagant friend becomes inexplicably frugal—with nothing to show for it. Or if they should have spending money based on their income, but never seem to have any, talk about it.

We all change up our sleeping habits if we're stressed or have a lot going on. But if it's a prolonged change, it could mean something more. Sleep habits can become unpredictable in someone who is abusing drugs. Depending on the drug, these habits can result in the person keeping very abnormal hours, or even falling asleep during the day.

Changing doctors frequently may not seem like a big deal—but for an addict, it's actually a deadly habit. Drug addicts who change doctors often do so because they might be trying to get additional prescription medications.

The bottom line? Trust your instincts. If you feel disconnected from a loved one or friend, don't shrug it off or feel like you're making a big deal out of nothing. Too many people have been lost to addictions' deadly grasp and no one is immune.

Riley ...

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the event would not do what it is designed to do which is to train responders and residents about what to do in the event of an actual emergency and with the weather conditions as they are now that event could not be too far off.

The participants in this exercise included White County Fire Rescue Department, USDA Forest Service, Georgia Forestry Commission, White County EMA, White County Sheriff's Department, White County Red Cross, White County 911, White County Commissioner's office, White County EMS, Georgia Department of Corrections prison fire team (all female), citizens of Sky Lake (very important), Georgia Dept. of Homeland Security, and Chest/Chatt RC&D Council. These are the emergency agencies and people that would be affected and involved with a real wildfire or any natural disaster incident in White County.

This live exercise demonstrated under simulated but realistic conditions what would happen with a real fire that will happen in this neighborhood sooner or later. The exercise was directed and monitored by professional coaches and evaluators who have experience in real wildfire events. They helped guide and coach the first responders through the simulated exercise and maintained safety for all involved. One of the goals of the exercise was to test the multi-agency Incident Command System and to have all of the emergency agencies that serve this area work together for a common goal which is to protect lives and property from a wildfire. The exercise lasted 2 hours with different scenarios posed to the responders at every step so they had to think on their feet and react to the changing con-

Allison...

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onto our website at VisitBlairsvilleGa.com or give us a call at 706-745-5789 and we will be glad to assist you.

Fowler...

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I countered. Amidst these clarifying challenges, John writes, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 Jn. 5:13). We do not have to stumble through life wondering. We can know for certain that we have authentic faith. That's good news!

Mattee...

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ly to dig up and divide bulbs. Most can be gently pulled apart and re-planted immediately. If you would like to store your bulbs, wash off all the soil and store in a cool, dry place away from sunlight with adequate airflow until you are ready to plant again next fall.

For more information on bulbs suitable for our area, contact the extension office to receive our publication "Flowering Bulbs for Georgia Gardens."

Chief...

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the fire. These are just a few fire safety tips for the fall season. So before you change that thermostat to "heat" or build that first fire in the fireplace, remember to get things inspected and cleaned. Also remember that we are in a drought so outside burning can be a danger. Get a permit and be prepared before you decide to burn.

~Union County Fire Department – Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Food drive for hurricane victims

Aviagen will be taking a tractor trailer to a distribution center for the hurricane victims. We need your help... When: October 17th – 28th; Where: Aviagen, 391 Beasley Street (across the street from the jail); Hours of drop off: M-F 9-6; Saturday 8-noon; and Sunday 1-4.

Items needed: canned goods, fruit, meat, beans, soups, cereal, pasta and rice, peanut butter, hygiene items, house hold items, paper products, diapers, wipes, formula, infant cereal, and nutrition shakes for elderly. Please no expired items!

If you have any questions or need to set up a special drop off time please call Aviagen at 706-745-3125. Lets pull together and make this happen!

ditions as they would in a real situation. The exercise was a success and now first responders and residents of Sky Lake

know first-hand how a wildfire emergency would feel.

For more information on wildfire contact the local GFC

or USFS offices, or Frank Riley Executive Director Chest/Chatt RC&D Council info.cccrd@gmail.com.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Garden Tours	Every Monday: GMREC (May-Oct)	9 am - 1 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
A Course in Miracles	298 School Circle	2 pm
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
	Every Tuesday:	
Tri State Bus. Women	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
Tuesday Strippers	Mtn Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
	Every Wednesday:	
BINGO	Civic Center	7 pm
	Every Thursday:	
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
	Fourth Monday of each month:	
Blue Ridge Comm.	McCaysville Lodge	7:30 pm
	Fourth Tuesday of each month:	
Compassionate Friends	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Dead Theologians Soc.	Cabin Coffee	Noon
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville UMC	12:30 pm
VFW Post #7394	Veteran's Center	6:30 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
	Fourth Wednesday of each month:	
No activities listed		
	Fourth Thursday of each month:	
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 pm
UT Homebuilders	YH College	7 pm
	Fourth Friday of each month	
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
	Fourth Saturday of each month:	
Youngcane Lodge #597	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm