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A. After the assessors establish a new value on a piece of property, the tax payer is sent an assessment notice. The assessment informs you of the new proposed valuation of your property. You have 45 days to appeal the new valuation if you feel it's incorrect. The appeal must be filed in writing. Late appeals are invalid.

After you have given careful consideration to the value placed on your property and if you feel it's incorrect, your appeal should be based on one of the following areas of appeal: Taxability: Is the property taxable or does it qualify for exempt status?; Uniformity: Does the property value compare with the value of similar properties?; Value: Is the property value too high

or too low?

Q. What is the appeals process?

A. When you file an appeal, the Board of Tax Assessors reviews it and determines whether a change in the valuation is warranted. If no change is made, it will then go the next level of appeal, the Board of Equalization. Its specific function is to hear unresolved appeals from taxpayers. After hearing both the assessors and the taxpayer's position, the Board of Equalization renders a decision on the valuation.

If either side disagrees with the decision of the Board of Equalization, the taxpayer or the assessor may proceed to the next level of appeal, Union County Superior Court.

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ing good in my white pants and loving the camaraderie with these joyful women who splashed those mornings away with me.

Yesterday, I was at the Wellness Center about 6:45 a.m., a little later than usual. I decided to change up my routine a little. No longer taking classes, I have to develop my own goals. On this day, I decided to test my endurance. I wanted to see if I could do laps for thirty minutes straight. When I finally felt like I couldn't do much more, I looked up at the pool clock and saw that I had steadily worked my way up and down the length of the pool for forty minutes.

This was cause for a celebration. So I began to run in the water. This is the way I begin every morning in the water. I was going to end this session the same way. Just running in circles. You see, I can't run on dry land. My knees would never take the impact. In the water, I'm Wilma Rudolph. The resistance of the water as I lift my legs high and push my momentum forward, arms pumping by my side, has an amazing adrenaline release. With that, the endorphins start to pop, and the

fact that the pool heater has been out of whack for nearly two weeks and it's been a sort of polar plunge each morning now has no significance. One of the joyous women getting ready to take her own plunge into the icy water stops by my lane. She suggests I write my column this week on running in circles, in water. I laugh. That would be of little interest, I tell myself.

Life is a journey. How we choose to move through it is the big decision. Dancing, laughing, hugging, sharing, listening, learning, planting, sowing, breathing, bending, bonding and some days, just running in circles is what my journey is all about.

Happy spring, everyone! We have some important dates coming up, so mark your calendars. Trash and Treasures, being held on both Thursday and Friday this year, opens Thursday morning, April 10. Preseason Farmers Market activities begin May 3 with the Native Plant & Ramp Festival. On May 24 we'll be celebrating our Fourth Annual Strawberry Festival.

Saturday, June 7 is the Grand Opening of the season for the Union County Farmers Market.

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Man Newell.

Paul and Bud were awakened the next morning by the familiar booming voice of Old Man Newell screaming out the words, "Your boys put my wagon on top of my barn." Papa called his sons into the kitchen for breakfast and asked them about Newell's claims. The boys couldn't lie to their Daddy considering the fact that they had not cleaned the wagon grease from their hands from their escapades of the night before. The boys confessed their crimes to their Daddy and explained why they had committed them. Their Daddy listened and said that he understood. However, they were told to go and take the wagon down from the top of the barn. They were also told to go and get the other boys to help the old man.

When the boys drove up, the old man began screaming. He stood at the bottom of the barn and watched to make sure the job was done to his satisfaction. Tommy Trapp asked the other boys, "How are we going to do this?" The

old man screamed, "The same way you got it up there." So, Tommy shrugged his shoulders and began taking apart the buggy. He pulled the iron wheel from the axle after the hub was removed and said, "Watch this." Tommy let go of the wheel right above Old Man Newell and it rolled down the sloped roof of the barn. The wheel came within six inches of Old Man Newell's head. He must've got the message because he left the boys alone to finish the job and Old Man Newell never again screamed at the boys from Trapptown.

Remember, the RSVP system for securing a booth at the Union County Farmers Market is now open to last year's vendors.

Please come by the Canning Plant Office to RSVP for the entire season. The office is open from 9 a.m. until noon Monday through Friday. The cost is \$209 and will reserve your spot for both Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will be open next week for reserving spaces for new vendors.

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its transportation system, the economy and promote the general welfare of all Americans.

Up until recently the Republican political tent was very large indeed. It contained liberals, progressive, moderates and conservatives who were willing to compromise with Democrats on any number of issues.

When President Obama was elected in 2008, along with a Democratic majority in both Houses of Congress, the Republicans began a search of the big tent in order to find a way back to power. And to their delight not very far away they spotted a huge beautifully decorated wooden elephant with a sign around its trunk which read, "To the G.O.P. with love." The Tea Party.

Without hesitation the elephant was dragged into the tent and much celebrating took place. When everyone was asleep, out

of the underbelly of the elephant poured Tea Party members. They immediately dispatched the liberals and progressives. The moderates fearing the same fate swore allegiance to the Tea Party while the conservatives simply switched party labels.

In our history we have had other divisive reactionary parties, one of which was the Know-Nothing Party. This present Republican party has become the "Party of No." No to any new taxes, No to immigration, No to healthcare, No to infrastructure, No to the environment, No to any regulations and so on. This party will one day once again control both Houses of Congress, but the once outwardly large tent has shrunk internally because of the huge presence of a Trojan Elephant inside.

Anthony Corsini

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tisan site, like Factcheck.org and verify what you read.

And then there was the Carol Jones letter. I've been wanting to voice some of those same sentiments for years. Some seem to think God gave them the beauty of this planet to waste and destroy, for money, and a brain to waste and destroy hating others. If that is your God, you can have Him! Mine is a kind and loving God who sent

his Son to tell us to love one another as He loves us. And if your Church is preaching hate and discrimination by word or by deed, find another. God gave you feet, too, to find a loving place.

Thanks writers, you really did it this week, and please send a donation to the Explorers!

Geri Chapman
Union County
resident since 2005

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that He has set for us and we are to fit each day into this life according to His will for that picture to appear as God has planned for us.

A full and satisfying life does not happen by trial and error. All the pieces must face upward for you to know where they fit in the big picture. You can't force them to connect to other pieces if they are not shaped properly. It takes time and patience to make godly connections to live a fruitful and beneficial life. We need to get God's big picture for our

lives and work toward putting the right pieces in the right places so that in God's good time the right picture will appear. God's picture for all of us is that He might conform us to the image of His Son, Christ Jesus. Are you cooperating with God to make you look like your elder brother, The Lord Jesus? Don't allow the devil to persuade you to put the wrong pieces into the wrong places to produce a grotesque life. Life is not a puzzle but a privilege to produce a precious picture.

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cannot survive if everyone has the right to do as they wish without regard to the welfare of society as a whole. Each person has to give a little for the benefit of everyone. If not, no one will have anything to give, or receive, because all of the power will have been forfeited to the government or a dictator controlling the government.

At the core of this complacency I believe is the lack of individual responsibility and the loss of the stable family. In stable families, there is a sense of mutual cooperation, respect for each others' interests, dreams, possessions, welfare and health, sharing of household chores and the joy of being part of something bigger than one's self. All of these require a sharing of responsibilities for the good of the entire family unit. When we isolate ourselves from the family or society, we lose the benefits that can be shared by or with each other.

There used to be a saying that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. It appears that in today's world,

some of the "parts" seem to think that they are no longer part of the whole. There have always been individuals that didn't fit into the mainstream of society and there probably will be others in the future. The problem, however, is magnified when a 'few' becomes the 'many.' Society as a whole loses its way when no one wants to be accountable.

There was a time when we were a compassionate society. When someone was in need, family and friends provided assistance; now everyone looks to the government. There was a time when the person at fault was given a suspension, a demotion or a different job. When someone makes a mistake on the job today, the response is "fire him/her." Destroying their family welfare or future employability is not a factor. It's the guilotine for you! Off with your head!

If we don't learn responsibility and respect soon, very, very soon, we will sacrifice our freedoms to someone that won't give a hoot. They will be exactly like the person of today that wants everything for him/herself. The only difference will be that the 'dictator' will have the power to quench your ability to regain what you once had and lost.

I hope that life, liberty and pursuit of happiness will not be lost. All major societies have self-destructed due to pride, greed or complacency. History repeats itself and we should learn from the mistakes of those who have gone before us and failed. Are we on the same track of self-destruction? Will we right the ship before it sinks?

Ralph Kwiatkowski

Williams...

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public's enjoyment.

Parking will be available at the United Community Bank building within the Airport Industrial Park and Mountain View RV Resort adjacent to the Airport. Airport Awareness Day will start at 10 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. with a light lunch served around noon.

If you have any questions regarding the Airport Awareness Day, you may contact Erin Huffman at membership@blairsvillechamber.com or contact our office at 706-745-5789. You may also interact with us online at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com.

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law would disadvantage all of our children in obtaining admittance to institutions of higher learning and in job market participation.

Earlier on the day of the hearing, a group of supporters of the legislation joined the bill's author in a news conference. The group consisted largely of supporters of conservative social issues rather than supporters of quality education for our children. Their objectives were made clear at that time. They seek to impose their extreme ideology and their social agendas on our education system while, at the same time, stifling the ability of parents and educators to update and bring educational curricula as well as instructional and student evaluation methodologies into line with well accepted national norms and standards.

All of us in North Georgia owe a debt of gratitude and a round of applause to the House Education Committee for their vote against this mindless and destructive legislation.

Michelle Maloney

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anymore, they are insensitive to the public and interested only in their own gain.

People start calling and protest. Phone number is above.

Gary Lee

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



March 27
In memory of
Gertrude Wilson Shuler
by Betty Jane Shuler
Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493