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Commissioner's Office may begin tax sale proceedings.

**Q. What happens if a person does not pay their property tax?**

**A.** Union County real estate and business personal property taxes are due by December 20th. If taxes are not collected on the property, it may be levied upon and ultimately sold. Property tax collected by the local government is used to pay for the support of services provided by the Union County Board of Education, Union County Government, and the State of Georgia.

**Q. If I am unable to pay my taxes, do I have any options?**

**A.** Yes, you do. Don't just ignore the fact that you owe taxes because, trust me, they will not go away. If you cannot pay, immediately make an appointment to see the Tax Commissioner and make arrangements to make payments. The Tax Commissioner will work with you if you are willing to work with them.

**Q. What if a taxpayer discovers they have paid taxes that they believe were in error or erroneous?**

**A.** If a taxpayer discovers they have paid taxes that they believe were in error or erroneous, they may request a refund within 3 years of the date of payment. The claim for refund should be filed in writing with the Commissioner's Office within three years after the date of payment. Applications for refunds are available from the Board of Assessors or the Tax Commissioner. Refunds for erroneous paid taxes must be based on "errors of fault" and not on disagreements of value.

**Q. When will property tax bills be mailed this year?**

**A.** The goal by the county government, school system and Tax Commissioner is to mail the bills by the first or second week in September this year. This will give taxpayers longer in which to prepare to make their payments so that everything does not happen during the Christmas season, when we are already financially stretched. Remember, if you are not able to pay your property taxes, do not ignore them, but contact the Tax Commissioner's office to see if a payment schedule can be worked out. Once tax bills are mailed the Tax Commissioner's Office can then accept full and partial payments on that bill. Taxpayers may also view and pay their property taxes online at [www.uniongatax.com](http://www.uniongatax.com).

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Because in April, Taylor and Taylor Construction had not made a payment on the debt since March 22, 2012. In the time frame from March 2012 to April 2014, President Taylor signed a whole lot of legal documents.

The question is, was President Taylor a member in good standing with Blue Ridge Mountain EMC and was there a conflict of interest?

According to the EMC by-laws entitled *Qualifications*, no person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative who has not continuously been, for at least one year prior to his nomination, or who ceases after his election to be a member in good standing of the Cooperative, receiving service therefrom at his primary residential abode in the Directorate District from which he is elected (except as provided in the first proviso in this Section in which instance the entity

which qualifies a person's eligibility to be elected a director must be and remain a member in good standing).

EMC also worked out an agreement with the former president for him to repay the debt. He owes thousands of dollars and still has electric service while he's repaying that debt.

How many members of the Cooperative can say that they still have electricity and owe a debt of that magnitude?

In this week's edition, there is information about the upcoming election of three Board of Directors and how to cast a ballot. The most important part of that election is that all members can cast ballots for all three board posts.

As member-owners of the Cooperative, more than 40,000 owners want transparency from the EMC Board of Directors.

Maybe one day that will happen, hopefully in our lifetimes.

## Cummings...continued from Page 4A

There stood Papa trying to put on a clean pair of britches. Papa said, "All I heard was Columbus Cummings. I looked up and was struck across the top of my head with a broom handle". Papa tried to explain what happened to his mother. But, each time he opened his mouth he was struck with the broom again and again. Later that evening Lon came into Coon's room to give him the father and son talk. Papa said, "Mom and Dad always believed I was guilty. But, this was one time I was innocent". Papa told me he had 5-6 knots on his head where his momma had struck him with the broom.

This Saturday at the Farmers Market we will highlight exotic foods. We will try to have some samples of different types of peppers, squash, okra and other exotic foods. If you have a recipe for something different then bring it to the Farmers Market by 9:30 a.m and let a set of judges try your food. We will have a contest for the best exotic food. These will include most unusual food, tastiest, and the hottest or spiciest pepper recipe. Also, please remember to get your nominations for the Union County Agricultural Hall of Fame turned in at the Cooperative Extension Office by Aug. 20th.

## Williams... continued from Page 4A

annual budget.

3. What is one of your favorite quotes?

It's never too late to be who you might have been. ~George Eliot

4. If you knew the world was ending in 2014, what would you do differently?

There really wouldn't be too much I would change as I feel that my experiences have made me the person who I am today. Without the learning experiences I endured, I would not have grown as a person. If I did need to pick one thing though, I would say to listen and apply

the advice my elders gave me when I was younger in life.

5. If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you meet?

Margaret Thatcher. She was smart, driven, and accomplished. Need I say more? The knowledge and grace she had was immeasurable.

Yvette can be reached at the Chamber by calling 706-745-5789 or emailing her at [admin@blairsvillechamber.com](mailto:admin@blairsvillechamber.com). The Chamber of Commerce is located in the Union County Community Center at 129 Union County Recreation Road.

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probably go down in history or go down in the records as the wealthiest, healthiest and most privileged people to have ever lived. I am afraid we have let it go to our heads.

It goes without saying that no matter what warnings and instructions some people hear they just let it go in one ear and out the other. Well, I don't want to go overboard with this go-go subject, and before some of you go into orbit, I will go straight to the conclusion of this. Some of you think I am about to go off the deep

end, but I just want to go on record saying that God will never go back on His word. If any of us ever hope to go to a better place when we leave this world we had better go to God, and go on bended knee and go in deep repentance while there is still time. Don't let this go over your head. The world may go from bad to worse, but remember the child of God will always go from strength to strength. America is definitely on the go – but which way? Up or down?

## Mitchell ... continued from Page 4A

the Constitution, did — do — Senators Chambliss and Isakson derive the authority to support, to fund and to expand the Department of Education?

Article 1, Section 8, the "enumerated duties" of the government, allows no such provision, grants no such permission, ascribes no such au-

thority.

Defund the DoE, return the \$100 billion yearly budget to the 50 States. That would create a \$2 billion windfall for each state to "improve education" at the local level — which is what The Founders intended.

The Founders. Hillary referred to them as "dead white guys" and "right-wing extremists."

The Constitution: The Document which Obama referred to as "just words."

**George Mitchell**

## Bell ...

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and personal, I wanted to encourage other families to open their homes and hearts to one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives. I truly have a special heart for these students. I feel they are so brave to leave their families, friends and homes behind, fly around the world into a new country, a new culture, waiting to become a part of a new family they have never met. It is so exciting and rewarding for me to be a part of their experiences.

Ayusa is currently looking for host families to provide loving homes to our students. Students come from over 60 different countries, speak English, have their own money for expenses and medical insurance. There is not a typical host family. Host families can be anyone over 25, empty nesters, families with or without children, single or married. Students can share a room with a host sibling. The host family, student and school receive support from beginning to end of the students stay. A family may host for a Fall or Spring Semester or Academic Year.

There are students still in hopes of being chosen by a host family before the August 31 Federal Deadline. All of them are so excited to learn about your American way of life, as well as share their country and culture.

Ayusa is a 30 year old nonprofit organization and regulated by the Dept of State. If interested in becoming a host family email [dbell@ayusa.org](mailto:dbell@ayusa.org), call (828) 421-8843 or visit our website [www.ayusa.org](http://www.ayusa.org).

In a world of so many different cultures, religions, beliefs and people, there are few universal things that no matter where you go and who you meet, love is definitely at the top of the list. Would your family consider opening your home to a life changing experience?

**Sincerely, Donna Bell  
Ayusa Senior Regional  
Director**

## Shofner ...

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aCare and set up their own health care exchange. Angry conservatives screamed foul and predicted economic doom for the state. Right wingers, such as Daniel J. Mitchell of the Cato Institute, in the grip of an Ayn Rand frenzy accused "the looters and the moochers of the Golden State" of attempting to commit "economic suicide."

The prophesied economic cataclysm never materialized. In place of the predicted massive job flight, employment rose 3.6 percent in the last 18 months compared to a national average of only 2.8 percent. The state's budget, racked by years of deficits, is now balanced and actually in surplus.

But even in the face of such realities, conservatives keep on whistling the same old tune. Personally, I think that all the anti-government propaganda that gets spouted by right wing ideologues is what should be given short shrift. Tax increases aren't always bad and they are a useful way to pay for public goods, things that we really need like roads and bridges, education for our youth, law enforcement, health care, parks, libraries and a long list of other stuff including an adequate safety net and services for the less fortunate among us. We need jobs in Georgia, we need adequate healthcare for all of our citizens and we need government that supports our needs. Perhaps it is time to reevaluate our economic assumptions and vote for a better way.

**Nancy Shofner**

## Leone...continued from Page 4A

(provolone or havarti would be my choices), fill with the peppers and it's a hoagie that you won't soon forget. And just that little bit of saffron (the gold of spices) is worth it in this recipe.

A few years ago, one of the vendors at the Market added a couple Patty Pan squash to my bag. She encouraged me to try them. Those are the squash that look like little round spaceships.

If you've never tried these, you must now. This is an easy grill recipe that uses those spices in your cabinet that you have wondered for years why they are there. Here's a great grill treat. Take 2 large or 3 medium Patty Pan Squash, wash and slice in half along the ruffle, not from stem to stem. Scoop out the seeds.

Brush both sides liberally with extra virgin olive oil or spray with olive oil in a can (my grandmother is rolling over in her grave right now). Salt and pepper to taste. Grill at medium heat turning a few times until they are fork tender. (If you don't grill, you can roast them in an oven at 400 degrees until fork tender.) While they are grilling/roasting, mix together

the following ingredients: ¼ cup honey, 1/8 teaspoon cumin, 1/8 teaspoon coriander, 1 tablespoon crushed, dried cilantro leaves (or very finely chopped fresh leaves). Lay a single layer of the grilled squash, flesh side up, on your serving dish. Now liberally drizzle the spiced honey mixture over the squash and serve. Add some BBQ ribs, a side of black beans and the neighbors will be at the door waiting for handouts.

I share these recipes with you in this column to wet your whistle for our Exotic Food Celebration at the Union County Farmers Market this Saturday, Aug. 16th. Last year, those attending on this special day feasted on samples of food that included Mediterranean Baby Eggplant, Yellow Squash Crab Cakes with sauce, Grilled peaches with goat cheese topping, Indian Style cabbage, Greek Squash Salad and stuffed Jalapeno's. You can get all these recipes by visiting our website at [www.UCFarmersMarket.com](http://www.UCFarmersMarket.com). This Saturday we will be cooking up a storm, different exotic food and serving samples starting at 10 a.m. We look forward to cooking for you!