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cause the facility is readily available for all citizens. This year, Union County's library budget is \$209,100 and the city's is \$3,000.

Q. Will the library budget remain the same for next year?

A. Unfortunately, it will not. Due to some accounting procedure changes on employee benefits from the state, we have once again had additional cost passed down to the counties. Our library staff members came to request that we increase our budget an additional \$10,000 for next year to cover these cost, or they would have to reduce the hours of operation. The Mayor and I got together and the city council graciously agreed to increase their funding by \$2,000 and the county will increase ours by \$8,000.

Q. Has the county budget always been this high for the library?

A. No, I have been saying for a few years now that the cost to operate Union County continues to go up and yet we are able to keep our property taxes low. It is not easy. For example, in 2005 our library budget was \$100,876. First the school system stopped paying their portion because of budget cuts and we had to pick up an additional \$35,000/year. Then the state continued to make cuts to balance their budget as their funding has gone from 47 percent of the cost down to 29 percent, and now our budget for 2013 will be \$217,100. We are also responsible for all maintenance of the building.

Q. Is it worth all the expense for the library?

A. It absolutely is! My first priority in anything I do in Union County is to make sure our kids are protected and receive what they need. I see two of those main issues as Recreation and Education. That is why I worked so long and hard, along with many other folks, to build Meeks Park. I wanted our kids

to have the same opportunities as those who live in the city. At the same time, our libraries are of primary importance to our young children. Learning to read and enjoying reading is the cornerstone to any education. If you can succeed with a great reading program, you have the kids hooked for life. There is no better way to make that happen than with the many library programs offered during the year.

Q. Are we spending all of this money just for the children in our county?

A. Certainly not. FIRST, how many times have you been to Meeks Park to attend a ball game of your child or grandchild? Have you attended the outstanding festivals held there? Finally, if you do not enjoy walking or jogging the many miles of trails, you are missing a treat and opportunity to improve your health and that of your families. Maybe you have attended a picnic, reunion or concert. Maybe you went swimming or play tennis or maybe just sat and enjoyed nature. No matter what the use, you have been able to enjoy the facility the same as our children.

B. SECOND, our library, while a great benefit for our children, is just as valuable to the rest of us. Maybe you use the computer lab to look for jobs, maybe you look up your genealogy in the special room for that, or read any of the thousands of books and books on tapes that are available at this library and many others you have access to across the state. They also have electronic books and downloads available. They also have an internet café where you can take your portable computer and enjoy coffee and fellowship on certain days and a great meeting room. This is what continues to give Union County the best quality of life of most any rural county in Georgia or maybe the southeast. This is what looking out for our children will get you!

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to see what a wide variety of work we have displayed at the Market every week.

The following week, we usher in October with our Apple Dumplin' Festival; it promises to be fun for the whole family.

Please don't fret that the produce has diminished. It is better than ever. This week there was a harvest of everything from persimmon (yes, grown here in Union County by Dot, "The Berry Lady"), to baby carrots, tender lettuce and a huge selection

of pumpkins in all sizes, shapes and colors.

Come join us this Tuesday, and Saturday. Remember Trash and Treasures? How about cleaning out your craft room, garage and basement and heading with the overflow to Trash and Treasures. Come sell your stuff! We had more than 50 vendors this past Friday, and more than 1,000 people shopping from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Only six more weeks to season's end. Don't miss a moment!

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reason that was given was so they would feel free to say something without worry of retribution.

Maybe it would be better not to say it if you are not willing to take ownership of

your thoughts and words. That means sign it or don't say it.

Words hurt. Be cautious. Respectfully submitted & signed,
Gary Hone

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turn to living waters, never to thirst again. I have witnessed countless numbers turn the other cheek and live in peace.

What a joy it has been to experience vast numbers of individuals turn up for services and serve year after year; to see the faithfulness in people as they turned out in every conceivable circumstance and weather. When I think of the many that have turned to righteousness, it makes this old preacher want to turn back the clock and start all over again. Well, I haven't

figured out all of the turning that goes on in life but let me tell you that Christ turned the tide at Calvary when He turned the tables on the devil.

What the demons of hell perceived to be victory was final defeat for death, hell and the grave. With all of the confidence in the world, I can tell anyone who wants to turn to a new life to turn to Christ, the one in whom there is no shadow of turning. He who turned the water into wine can turn your sorrow into great joy!

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Though I am not in the military any longer I still hold to the tenants of that oath in my daily life, as do most veterans I talk to. Because of that I am compelled to write that this country is in serious trouble today, and we need to consider where, and to whom, our allegiance lies. Our Constitution, along with our freedoms, are being subverted at an alarming rate! I have heard the word "Progressive" a lot lately, and quite frankly I have not seen anything that is progressive in the direction our country is going. How can killing the unborn be progressive? How can trillions of dollars in debt be progressive? How can abandoning the laws of God concerning marriage and homosexuality be progressive? In fact, how can abandoning God in every walk of life be progressive? How is substituting the Constitution with Socialist standards progressive? We have a Constitution

that has survived the ravages of time, but now is considered to be inadequate to govern by. When will God-fearing, civic-minded citizens stand up and defend the Constitution and refuse to allow it to be ignored and replaced by a Socialist agenda?!?! If you think this is about politics, it's not. It's about the survival of America!

Before you respond to this letter I challenge you to go to the Blairsville Cinema on September 29th, at 10 a.m. and view the FREE movie "Agenda: Grinding America Down."

All three cinemas will be open so don't worry about getting a seat. After watching it, if you are not convinced about what I have said, then write your letter to the editor.

Our way of life is at stake! Mark your calendar right now and join me on the 29th of September.

It will change your way of viewing our country.
Bill Honaker

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their habitat on your property by removing food sources. This rarely works because a beaver can manipulate its own habitat simply by constructing a dam across the stream. You can harass them by constantly removing any dams they build. This harassment will cause the beavers to move to a different location.

Trapping Beavers can be very effective at removing them. Probably the most effective trap is the Conibear size 330. This trap kills the beaver swiftly and humanely. It can be used in various sets for the beaver. By set I mean different positions and locations. A dam set is where a portion of the dam is torn out in the morning. Tear out a hole in the dam that is 2 feet wide and 3 feet deep. Place the trap in front of the hole late in the day. The beaver comes to fix the hole and moves through the trap and is dispatched. Another set is in a slide coming from a food source such as a corn field. Another set to consider is a lodge set com-

ing from the lodge or a beaver hole in a creek bank. In each one of these sets make sure the trap is set under water in a location that requires the beaver to swim through the trap.

Another way of dealing with beavers is to pay a professional to deal with them. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources maintains a list of professionals that have passed a Wildlife Nuisance exam. This exam provides a means for you to tell the difference between a professional and a person not qualified to deal with these problems. You can call the DNR Office in Gainesville to get a list of people who have passed this exam.

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We have a beautiful deck with a view that goes on forever and can't enjoy sitting out at night because of our neighbors' spotlights. On the Fourth of July we had a group over to view the fire works. It was impossible to enjoy them because of the three spotlights shining in our face. We ended up draping towels over the railing to subdue the glare. I would have called to ask that they be turned off, but the neigh-

bor was in Florida at the time.

What do you do when you try all of the above solutions and also ask that the neighbor come see the affect he is having and he refuses to do even that?

P.S.: After my last letter to the news we noticed a marked decrease in the number of "night lights" on the hillsides between our home and town. So at least someone benefited from the effort.
Norm Kane

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Some of these people were members of that organization putting on the event.

Another example was the recent meeting of Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Corporation. There the National Anthem was preformed and many, many in attendance either continued talking and or didn't remove their caps.

I also see this same dis-

respect at parades and other events in the area when our Flag passes.

What is going on?

Can't we take a few minutes to remove our caps, be silent and show some respect. I find the behavior I have seen appalling. I just want to go up to these people and ask aren't you Proud of our Country?

Jessie Brassel