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provide it.

Q. If the operating cost goes up, how can property taxes not go up to make up the difference?

A. Even though your property taxes do not go up, the County still has an increase in revenue from property. As new property is developed, subdivided and sold, the tax revenue obviously goes up as the same property that may have been appraised at \$7,000 per acre, once subdivided could be as high as \$25,000 per acre. This

new rate would be paid by either the developer, if he did not sell the property, or the new property owner.

Q. How much additional revenue will the county collect this coming year because of increased development or revenue from property subdivision?

A. According to the five-year history report in the *North Georgia News* and based on the data we received from the State Revenue Department, their estimated number is \$107,172.

Cummings ... continued from Page 4A

mind to do something there was no talking them out of it. They have to learn by experience. I bet they never shoot another hornets' nest."

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 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."

Allison... continued from Page 4A

ketting strategy.

Thursday, Sept. 14th, marks the next Business After Hours Event!

Join us at Crossing Creeks RV Resort & Spa for a fun evening of great food and fellowship. This is a free networking event for Chamber Members. Bring your business cards and get ready to have a great time!

We also have an exciting opportunity for sophomore and junior students attending public school, private school, or being home schooled in Union County.

The Youth Leadership Union program is presented by the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.

The program has been developed to provide training to our county's youth for the future leadership and well-being of the community. The mission of Youth Leadership Union is to develop the knowledge and leadership skills of young people in Union County so that they may confidently become our leaders of tomorrow.

Admission to this program will be limited. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding qualities as potential leaders and have the desire to effect change in their community. The students will be selected based upon a written application as well as an interview with the selection committee.

The proposed topics include understanding leadership, teambuilding, personalities, interviewing and wardrobe, a county tour, public speaking, entrepreneurship, and career discovery.

Students will be required to attend all sessions. Most classes will be held on Tuesday evenings in addition to two day-long field trips.

Applications are available in the office of Union County High School. The deadline for submitting a completed application is Friday, September 15th.

Applications must be turned in to the Chamber of Commerce, Bank of the Ozarks, or the school counselor.

Anti-Drug... continued from Page 4A

illegal drugs as early as elementary school, so it's never too early to talk with your child about drugs.

There are six key things you can do to help your child grow up drug-free: 1. Establish and maintain good communication with your child. 2. Get involved in your child's life. 3. Make clear rules and enforce them with consistency and appropriate consequences. 4. Be a positive role model. 5. Teach your child to choose friends wisely. 6. Monitor your child's activities.

Some parents aren't aware of how common alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs are in their child's life. The facts may surprise you. However, they shouldn't discourage you. Parents have an incredible influence on their child's decision whether or not to use drugs. The following facts emphasize just how much your children need your support and guidance when it comes to making positive decisions about alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.

Drugs are everywhere. Youth drug use cuts across all ethnic, geographic, and socioeconomic lines. Youth experience pressure to use alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs at increasingly early ages. In fact, in one survey, adolescents ages 12 to 17 named drugs—along with social and academic pres-

ures—as the most important problem they face.

Fortunately, statistics show that the majority of youth do not use drugs. However, some parents still underestimate how often their kids are exposed to drugs. According to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America (an organization that conducts attitude surveys of youth and parents), eighteen percent of parents think their child has tried marijuana versus 40 percent of teens who say they have tried marijuana. Thirty-one percent of parents believe their teen has been offered drugs versus 52 percent of teens who say they have been offered drugs.

Teens who learn a lot about the risks of drugs from their parents are up to 54 percent less likely to try drugs. Only 5.5 percent of teens report using marijuana in the past month when their parents strongly oppose drug use. On the other hand, 30.2 percent of adolescents report using marijuana in the past month when their parents do not strongly disapprove of drug use.

Research shows that parental influence is a primary reason that youth don't use drugs. Most teens who do not use alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs credit their parents as a major factor in that decision.

Rasmussen... continued from Page 4A

fill resource gaps and address quality of life challenges.

Eligible communities must have been turned down for conventional financing and have fewer than 20,000 residents.

Recently, Oakdale, Nebraska, was able to leverage Rural Development funding to assist with a water improvement project. The village of 322 residents received nearly half the project cost.

Oakdale got a new groundwater supply well, replaced water mains, and installed new water meters. With the completion of the upgrade, the community was able to ad-

dress a significant water loss issue while modernizing the water system. These repairs and upgrades provide water and cost savings for residents.

For many communities like Oakdale, a project totaling more than \$500,000 would be out of reach through traditional funding sources.

Without these opportunities, a heavy burden would be placed on rural communities with declining populations, lower-income residents, and fixed-income seniors. Property values would decline and infrastructure needs would be unfulfilled.

Jordan Rasmussen

Mattee ... continued from Page 4A

of growing into a large tree. February is also a great time to make cuttings. If you are unsure of what variety to get, the best thing may be to ask a friend or neighbor with a successfully producing fig tree if you can take a cutting to propagate your own tree.

Cuttings should be made from one year old wood and should be about eight to ten inches long. If you already have a fig tree and it is not pro-

ducing, there could be a few reasons.

Dry, hot weather can stress some figs and prevent them from fruiting. Also, because the flower is located inside the fruit, it requires a visit from a specific wasp. Finally, it might just not be old enough. Figs take a long time to mature and bear fruit.

For more information on other fruiting trees to plant, contact the extension office.

Combs ... continued from Page 4A

be good or bad) God is not looking for just preachers and teachers of His Word, but He is looking for servants who will yield themselves under the authority and power of the Holy Spirit of God.

That's all God is asking any of us who have accepted Him as our Lord and Savior, just be willing to serve wherever God leads you. Being ambitious and full of passion for God's Word is a lofty thing indeed, if it is done with a servant's heart for God.

Durrence ...

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This is in no way to take anything away from Lori at Gooch Trucking, or Becky at the Woman's Enrichment Center, and the wonderful efforts of help they are sending. It's amazing!

It is however a wish that your staff writers would have done a little more homework.

**Regards,
Kerryanna Durrence,
Harvey Hope**

Editor's Note:

Kerryanna.

The front page story regarding the relief effort for Hurricane Harvey victims came from a phone call to the newspaper. Running your note to me in the Letters to the Editor space now gives you coverage that you didn't have before.

As one of my former editors once said: "We're not mind readers. We get our news from tips."

If you, or anyone else in

Fowler ...

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we are created in his image.

A pair of natural events a week apart remind us of the two great commandments, to love God and neighbor. Look not upon the things that distract and divide, but those that focus and unite. Find beauty and healing in the world as you follow the paired purposes of loving God and neighbor. And may God bless the victims of this hurricane season through us, their neighbors.

Duncan ...

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Billy Carlisle.

He gave me the down low on what was going on and worked with me on helping to put a news article together.

I talked with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and many other law enforcement agencies.

It allowed me to put together a story on deadline - Liberty was being put to the test.

While I was putting my story together, news came in about a plane crash in Pennsylvania that was believed to be a part of the terrorist plot. It was United Airlines Flight 93.

Planes also were reported to have struck the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

People were dying, and all we could do was listen to the news stories.

If it had happened in today's politically charged environments, people would be screaming "fake news."

Conspiracy theories would hatch quickly and Americans would have to see things for themselves, up front and personal.

However, it really happened. It changed the way airplane passengers are inspected before boarding.

Today, our first responders will be in full action in Texas and Florida, as well as places close to our borders.

With hurricanes Irma and Harvey dishing out more than any community would want to deal with, another hurricane, Jose, is right behind Irma.

To make a point, I want every first responder to know that I'm with them in spirit. I'm minus a leg and I can't get out and help like I did with other hurricanes, tornados and snowstorms.

However, my heart reaches out to each and every one of you. I want you all to remember that I didn't forget Sept. 11, 2001.

No one can forget that day - ever. We will remember.