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issue, because it can become very divisive.

Q. I have heard some talk about exempting seniors from paying school property taxes because they have no children in school. What is the impact on a county when this is done?

A. Originally and for many years, the only counties to offer a senior property tax exemption in the past have usually been larger metro counties who have a large industrial/commercial tax base to help pay the lost income of school property taxes. But in smaller

counties with less industry, the burden to make up the school taxes from those exempted must fall directly on the younger tax payers who are still working and are not retired. Usually, but not always, this is the group that have house payments, car payments and the burden of raising a young family. Generally in retirement, while the income may be less, the payments are usually drastically less with more disposable income, fewer debts and hopefully no children to raise.

Part 2 Con't next week...

Gray... continued from Page 4A

and are willing to just rely on short "bullet-points" that keep repeating themselves, as if hearing them often enough makes the report true, really only get what the government sends out, without independent investigation.

A few books have really opened my eyes lately to the depth of what is going on in our Country. One is *Stonewalled*, written by a 30-year veteran investigative journalist who covered controversial matters in both the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations, but who reports the difference in trying to cover the present administration, which refuses to provide the legally-accessible information under the Freedom of Information Act, to ensure Freedom of the Press. TV News Awards, an independent panel, presents Emmys for superior stories reported, and last year the author, Sharyl Attkin-son was nominated for three in-depth investigations, which bears witness to her veracity and honesty.

Another book worth reading is *Injustice*, which was written by an attorney who had worked in the Department of

Justice for several years, even pre-dating this Administration, before he quit in order to be a whistleblower for irregularities and illegalities performed in the current administration, with Eric Holder at the helm.

I also read *13 Hours in Benghazi*, written by people on the ground during the attack, which is an eye-opening account, completely opposite from the stories we heard from the administration or in sound bites on TV. I heartily recommend this book as well.

Anyone truly interested in uncovering the truth about what has been deemed the most closed administration in current times, which provides the news outlets the stories it wants printed, without allowing independent investigation, can spend the time to learn, rather than just eat the pablum that the media dishes out.

An informed electorate is the only safeguard for our government as originally founded, with the explicit obligation that in order to preserve this unique government an informed electorate is required!

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene M. Gray

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

ing the man's body. As he turned to rinse the towel he felt the man's body move. Later Uncle Hollis stated, "All of a sudden this fellow sat up and I was eyeball to eyeball with a dead man." Then the man exhaled and Uncle Hollis felt the breath of a dead man on his face. Later uncle Hollis told us that every hair on his body stood straight up. Hollis stated, "When I looked into the man's eyes I knew he was dead, however, my feet said run."

Uncle Hollis was a heavy man. He was built like an offensive lineman and probably weighed 250 pounds. Papa was tall and lanky. Standing at 6 feet, 1-inch tall Papa weighed about 200 pounds and he was fast. Anyway, Papa said, "the dead man inspired Hollis and he jumped through the window and ran 2 miles before I could catch him." The only reason Papa caught Hollis was

because he came to the bluffs at Turkey Creek. He slowed down as he began the climb up the other side. If not for that bluff Uncle Hollis may have ran all the way to Saint Paul Church. Hollis never ran that fast during the rest of his life. He was totally surprised by the actions of the dead man.

After Papa caught Uncle Hollis they both sat down to rest and let their blood pressure come back to normal. They laughed about the incident and agreed to go back and finish what they had started. Uncle Hollis eventually married my Papa's sister, Mabel. The two families were close for their entire lives. Uncle Hollis and Aunt Mabel are gone now, however, if they were still alive Hollis would still laugh about the day he outran Coon Cummings in a foot race.

Happy New Year!

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Secondly, and this is what prompted me to write, I don't care what Obama says, the war is NOT over! My son is in the Middle East now on his fifth deployment spending another Christmas away from his children and another birthday surrounded by people who want to kill him. In January 1,500 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne are being deployed. So again I would caution you to consider the source. Remember "you can keep your doctor, family insurance will go down \$2,000 a year, Obamacare is deficit neutral, there isn't a smidgen of corruption in the IRS, Benghazi was caused by a video, I didn't say ISIS was a JV team" to mention just a few.

You are correct Bin Laden is dead, killed by the brave Seal Team 6 then they were ousted by the White House so they could beat

their chest and brag. They put the Seals and their families in danger of retaliation. Obama was sitting in a room thousands of miles away, not risking a single hair on his head but then claimed all the credit. Shame!

It is better to be informed than opinionated.

God bless America! Still free because of the brave!

Anne Parks

Fowler ...

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Seems that God would be more than willing to answer the prayer, 'if you're really there, let me know you.' Finish well by finding the surpassing value of knowing Christ. Come to think of it, that would be a good New Year's resolution!

"Come to me...I will give you rest" - Jesus

Union County Senior Center set to host AARP Smart Driver Course

Thursday, Jan. 8; sign in at 8:30 a.m.

The AARP Smart Driver course consist of 6 hours of instruction starting promptly at 9 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. There will be one break in the a.m., p.m., and a 40 minute break for lunch.

Union County Senior Center located at 95 Senior Center Drive, Blairsville, GA, is handicapped accessible. Pre-registration for the course is recommended to secure your place in the classroom.

Telephone the instructor, Rosemary Kerr, at 706-745-7046, Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Please speak clearly when leaving your name and tele-

phone number for call back confirmation. Fee for the course is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members.

You will learn defensive driving techniques, proven safety strategies, new traffic laws and rules of the road, and new vehicle technology innovations. No writing required or tests to pass. The course is open to all who desire to create connections with people 50 plus in their communities. AARP is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all, as we age.

Upon course completion you may receive a multi-year discount on your car insurance. NJan7_A3)CA

Leone... continued from Page 4A

I found the site to be very easy to maneuver. I "gab" about this today for a two fold reason. First, the non profit and community organizations here in Union County should list their opportunities for volunteerism on this site. If someone from Kansas is thinking about bringing their RV to the mountains for the summer and they are interested in getting involved in a project to meet new people and feel useful, they will see that they can walk dogs in the afternoon at the Shelter or read books to kids at the library. Local folks may also start to look for opportunities to get involved.

The second grounds for my promoting this website is for those of you who find it difficult to be involved away from the comfort of your home, for whatever reason. Maybe you are too shy to be with people, or your health won't allow you to get around with ease. There are those of you that work and are raising children who don't have the time to fix dinner much less attend organizational meetings to decide how to feed the hungry. There isn't much happening in the way of volunteerism in this community when you are having an insomnia attack at 3 a.m. Yet, you'd still like to make a difference.

GiftGab.com has what they call "virtual" opportunities. There are things that you can do online, from the comfort of your home, that will be helpful to organizations from anywhere around the world. It's easy to sign up, you won't be pestered by the organization and you can breeze through the opportunities daily if you like.

As 2015 has rolled in, we find that we are better connected to every opportunity as well as any information in the world we could possibly want to investigate, right at our fingertips. Those of us with cell phones that are far "smarter" than their users should be taking more advantage of what information we can access from the main screen. My new favorite is Duolingo. It is the easiest, most user friendly and

motivational way to learn a second language. You can do this on your computer or download the app on your phone, so while you are waiting at the doctor's office for your appointment, you can learn how to tell her in Dutch how rude it is to have kept you waiting 45 minutes for three minutes of her time. If you smile while you share what you've learned with her, she won't have a clue she's been given a piece of your mind, but you'll feel better.

I'm always interested in the most bizarre bits of knowledge. I would be a perpetual student if my bank account would allow it, but such is not the happenstance. Instead I find moments in my day to turn to three other locations for my hunger of erudition. My first and favorite is TED Talks. If you are not familiar with them, you must visit www.ted.com. Scan down the page to the icon that will direct you to the 20 most visited TED talks of all time. You will be hooked.

Now, pick a subject you'd like if you wanted to attend a university at this time of your life. You most likely can take that course for free. Do you have the iTunes app on your phone, notebook or PC? iTunes U is a completely free medium through the Apple iTunes application where colleges and universities can offer courses at no charge, to anyone who wants to take them. Yes, a college course taught by a college professor, for free. It's more structured, but an amazing opportunity.

Khan Academy tells it simply. "You only have to know one thing: You can learn anything. For free. For everyone. Forever." And they mean just that. From a kindergarten level to graduate school thesis material, from mathematics to the arts and humanities, this is an amazing educational opportunity that you can take advantage of on your "smart" phone, while waiting in line for your burger and fries. Who wants to learn how to make goat cheese to sell at the Union County Farmer's Market next season? Turn on your phone and get "smart."

Mitchell ... continued from Page 4A

Truly, all that is needed is an attorney on retainer.

If the schools exist for what happens between the students and their teachers, why are administrators paid so much more — to do what? Certainly not to teach.

Why don't Union County school administrators teach just one class each day? That would mean an additional 1,260 hours of instruction each year — at no increase in cost.

No administrator should be paid more than the highest paid teacher. That would reduce the ranks of administrators who flee the

classroom for the salary increases.

Over my career, I've driven a school bus, have coached, taught, tutored, served as department chair, principal and headmaster, have been an Adjunct Instructor. I hold two Master's Degrees: one in Educational Administration and the other — the real one — is Academic. A Doctorate in Education isn't a real Graduate Degree — but, it gives the school board the image that it seeks and the authority to award awards where awards should not be awarded.

George Mitchell

Williams... continued from Page 4A

ber, whether you are associated with a business, organization, or as an individual, is one of the best things you can do for yourself in 2015! Becoming a member of the Chamber demonstrates your desire to help grow your community. Through our programs and services, you will feel more involved and connected to your community. You will be given

opportunities for personal and professional development. You are almost guaranteed to be happier and more successful in the new year!

Are you ready to start making your 2015 resolutions a reality? Contact the Chamber today at 706-745-5789 and let us start you on your way. Happy New Year!