

Harry Potter would be proud

Abracadabra, poof, be gone! I didn't realize that Blue Ridge Mountain EMC had such magical abilities, but, it certainly looks that way. A bill dated June 10, 2014, shows that Taylor and Taylor Construction owed the EMC \$107,998.43.

Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



They also took to Facebook with information trying to drum home that the newspaper is spreading inaccurate and misleading information. They didn't say the other details in our story were inaccurate, or misleading.

There is a copy of Taylor and Taylor's bill on Page 9A of this edition. Also, look for the EMC advertisement on Page 6B.

Is the copy of the bill that we have in our possession inaccurate and misleading? We wish for our readers to be the judge.

We ask these questions. Was the bill a mistake on Blue Ridge Mountain EMC's part? Was the debt magically wiped out? Or, did EMC misread a meter?

The documents used to produce last week's story talk about a loan from the EMC to Taylor and Taylor Construction. Now, magically, they disavow any knowledge of that loan.

Again, transparency is an issue. Also at issue, is the up to \$30,000 "independent investigation" paid for by the EMC members on the matter of how the debt began in the first place.

Out of all those Board of Directors, the only name mentioned as having knowledge about the Taylor and Taylor debt is a man who can't defend himself.

Yes, Jack Lance Sr. had knowledge of the debt. A whistleblower approached him two weeks prior to his death and told him about the debt. He shared that information with another member of the Board of Directors. So, why not mention that board member's name?

Do you think that board member who learned from Jack Lance Sr. about the debt kept quiet? I wouldn't think so.

Jack Lance Sr. died in March 2013, so, the documents that I mentioned last week that claimed the Board of Directors didn't find out about the debt until April 2014 also is inaccurate and misleading as well.

Did the EMC Board of Directors believe that Jack Lance Sr. took the news of that debt with him to the Pearly Gates?

Again, transparency is an issue.

Is it possible that a true independent investigation of the matter is needed? One that the Board of Directors didn't pay for? An investigation by say, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation? Well, that may already be happening. Word has it that the GBI has the same documents held by the North Georgia News and Towns County Herald. GBI obtained the documents through the Governor's Office.

Why would the GBI be interested?

See Duncan, page 5A

Letters to the Editor ...

Be careful who you listen to Dear Editor,

In response to Pam Sullivan's letter to the Editor in the July 30th edition of the North Georgia News; it seems to me that she has hit the nail on the head.

Important examples of the point she made seem to get short shrift by the media. For example, politicians in the state of Kansas, one of the reddest states, wholeheartedly bought into the "supply-side economics" touted by neo-conservatives.

In contrast, we have California. In 2012 Democratic governor Jerry Brown pushed through a package of modestly higher taxes, spending increases and a rise in the minimum wage.

See Shofner, page 5A

Opening Your Heart and Home Can Be Life Changing

Dear Editor,

On Jan. 9, 2008, our family began a life-changing journey with Ayusa International. We welcomed into our home a 15 year old high school student, Sarah Engel from Erlangen, Germany.

All of my students have special places in my heart, but Sarah influenced my life on a life-changing journey.

See Bell, page 5A

America on the Go

A young preacher flying into Atlanta found himself seated next to a beautiful girl. He asked her what her profession was. She said, "I am a go-go girl." He said, "Shake."

It's On My Mind

Danny Parris



In a world where so many things go wrong, we need to go to bat for multiplied millions who go astray. The devil and the world tell us to just go away or go fly a kite.

The face of America reveals a people about to go to pieces for fear of terrorists, Ebola, Christianity, lawsuits, global warming and a thousand other things. In this preacher's personal opinion, based on what I believe to be God's absolute truth, we had better fear Almighty God who is about to go over America with His fine-tooth comb of judgment.

Well, I am tired of going along for the ride; I am going for broke and going against the grain. Scores of people feel that this world is ready to go up in a puff of smoke or go down the drain.

See Parris, page 5A

Questions and Answers

We would like to thank Tax Commissioner Lee Knight and the Tax Commissioner's Office for providing this information.

Q. What is the Tax Commissioner's Office responsible for?

A. The mission of the Tax Commissioner's Office is to bill, collect, and disburse all taxes as prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia and to act as the Motor Vehicle tag and title agent for the State.

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Q. What is the billing process for property taxes?

A. The process for taxing real property begins with the purchase of property. Once a sale is finalized, a deed is recorded with the Clerk of Superior Court's Office at the Union County Courthouse in Blairsville, Georgia.

After approval is received, bills are prepared and mailed out. In accordance with Georgia State Law, tax bills are mailed to the owner of record as of January 1st of the tax year being billed.

See Paris, page 5A

Take 5 With Yvette Estevez-Hanson

This week's Take 5 is with Yvette Estevez-Hanson who is the Office Administrator at the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.

Blairsville-Union County Chamber

Cindy Williams



1. Tell us your favorite aspect of your position.

I would say there are two things that stand out for me. The camaradery between the office staff is excellent and the support they extend to me makes me feel like a part of their family!

2. Tell us a little bit about your background. Where did you work before the Chamber?

As some may know, I am a new transplant to Blairsville. I previously worked for the City of Sunrise, a local municipality in south Florida for almost nine years.

See Williams, page 5A

The Spices of Life

When Cleopatra wanted to seduce Caesar, she used a spice to send her message. She had huge quantities of saffron strewn all over the streets of Rome to celebrate the emperor's entrance.

Farmers Market Moment

JorAnne Leone



I love sweet red peppers, and they are currently plentiful at the Farmer Market this time of year. Here's a quick recipe, incorporating saffron. This dish will have your mouth watering, and maybe might make you a temptress in your own kitchen.

Prepare in two steps. STEP 1: Heat the broiler. Broil peppers 4 inches from the heat, turning them as their skins begin to blister and blacken, until peppers have blackened all over in a slightly mottled or freckled pattern, about 20 minutes.

Serve as a topper for rice or risotto, or as an accompaniment to your grilled chicken. Better yet, take a hard roll, spritz it with water and put in a cold oven, right on the rack.

See Leone, page 5A



Criminal Act

Dear Editor,

Anyone who believes that only two people knew about a \$100,000 debt to the BRMEMC is very naive. What are Board Members for if they don't know what is going on?

Doug Brassel

How do you vote?

Dear Editor,

Charles, you did a great job in exposing the Terry Taylor fiasco... but you didn't hit on how 'Directors' are elected or appointed.

This is to mention that 'members' never receive rebates or refunds of profits.

And exactly what is the service charge that shows up on bills? I've asked and it seems no one knows; or at least they haven't been able to explain it to me.

Again, as always, thanks and keep up the good work.

Henry Chambers

Mitchell hates Common Core

Dear Editor,

Before I retired, I gave 36 years of my life to the education of other people's children.

Based on what I learned over those nearly four decades, Common Core is a colossal mistake, foisted on Georgia's children in the name of "improving education."

If only our elected officials could set aside their egos, admit that Common Core will do -- and is doing -- incalculable harm to Georgia's school children and withdraw Georgia from that Godzilla of a federal program.

Let's not forget -- or try to hide -- the attendant costs imposed on taxpayers:

Accountability Works, a Maryland-based, nonprofit, education advocacy group, estimates that schools nationwide will need \$6.86 billion specifically earmarked for "technology," \$5.26 billion assigned to "professional development,"

Another cost, \$2.47 billion allocated for "approved" textbooks and \$1.24 billion directed for "assessment testing" over the first seven years that Common Core is in effect.

Question from the back row: Where, in

See Mitchell, page 5A

The Swimming Hole

My grandfather, Columbus, was raised with a bunch of his cousins and friends just outside of Phil Campbell, AL in a little community called Trappstown. The people of this little community were extremely close and they managed to enjoy life even though the country was in turmoil due to the depression.

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



During the 1930s parents were very conservative with their children. You never saw a girl wearing a pair of shorts. Young men and women didn't go on dates by themselves.

There were three girls in the community who were sisters. Even though the girls had been a part of Papa's life since he could remember he'd never noticed them.

One particularly hot day during the Dog Days of August the boys were having a great time at the swimming hole.

While the boys were still swimming the Lauderdale Girls slipped down to where the boys had left their clothes. The eldest girl knew Papa was the ring leader of the boys.

Question from the back row: Where, in

See Cummings, page 5A

