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on Saturday, Nov. 15th with the help of the Boy Scouts. We had hoped to begin this past weekend, but the snow and cold prevented that. We will be aided by Mr. Vince Evans, a cemetery restoration expert, who will provide instruction and oversight on each part of the project, from cleaning the monuments, to straightening those that are leaning and finally to try to repair those markers that are broken, if repairable.

### Q. Who owns the cemetery?

A. We had the title searched back and could find no record of this particular parcel ever being titled to anyone. It has been surveyed and a lawsuit to "quiet the title" will

be filed. In this way, the title will be eventually perfected to the City of Blairsville. The Mayor and City of Blairsville have been keeping the cemetery mowed for several years and have agreed to accept the maintenance responsibility going forward.

### Q. How can we donate to the restoration of the cemetery?

A. Next week's Q & A will give more detail, but for now, any donations can be made to the Union County Historical Society, P. O. Box 35, Blairsville, GA 30514. Or a cash donation may be paid directly to someone working at the Historic Courthouse in downtown Blairsville.

## Cummings...continued from Page 4A

Uncle Riley and Will raised their family on farms as well. These two men developed quite the reputation for being tough and stern minded. Uncle Riley was attacked by a man with a knife in Russellville and experienced having his lower abdomen sliced open. A doctor placed the intestines back into this abdomen and sewed him up without the aid of antiseptics or painkillers.

Late in his life Uncle Will had a misunderstanding with the state D.O.T. of Alabama. A new road was being built in front of his house. Something happened that Will did not like and he told the workers to leave or he would shoot them. They laughed at him so the 80-year-old man shot the muffler off the bulldozer being used to cut the road. The crew chief took the crew down to the store for an early lunch break and asked about Will Cummings. He was

told, "Will is honest and if he tells you he will do something consider it done." The state commissioner of D.O.T. in Alabama had to come and negotiate with the 80-year-old Will Cummings. Will got what he wanted and the state of Alabama got their new road.

Please remember the Union County Canning Plant will open on Nov. 11th and Nov. 18th for meats and other items you wish to process. We open at 6 a.m. and close at noon. We have processed more than 16,000 jars in 2015 and hope to break 17,000. The cost for processing is 25 cents per pint and 35 cents for quarts. Also, remember the Farmers Market will hold the Kris Kring Market on Dec. 5th and 6th and so far we have more than 70 vendors signed up. I look forward to seeing each of you at the Canning Plant and Farmers Market.

## Esposito ... continued from Page 4A

the early 1900s, so my American heritage begins with me. I envy those of you who can trace your American lineage back to the Mayflower, almost four hundred years ago, and I am grateful to your ancestors who served, and to those currently serving in the military, who, in the words of the Constitution, helped "secure the blessings of liberty," which all Americans enjoy today.

Perhaps it is because I am a relatively new American, that I especially appreciate the sacrifices made by your ancestors, and why I think it is so important, particularly for young people, to understand that others had to struggle, suffer, and sometimes, to die, for the freedoms that today, too many of us seem to just take for granted. And for those of you who agree with me that history is important, we are in good company. A couple of thousand years ago, in the land of my ancestors, the Roman historian Tacitus wrote that the principal objective of history was to prevent virtuous actions from being forgotten, and to insure that evil words and deeds should be remembered. In this regard, there are veterans in this community today who have witnessed, and who themselves have performed, virtuous, and even heroic, acts in defense of our freedom, and who have firsthand knowledge of evil words and deeds that should be remembered. I would encourage all of the young people in the community today to learn what you can from these veterans, especially from the greybeards among us, before we pass from the scene.

Today, young people are the beneficiaries, and tomorrow they will be the custodians, of America's great experiment in self-government - an experiment which can only succeed if they understand the lessons of the past, and respect them as they participate in civic life in the future.

According to David McCullough, scholar, historian and Pulitzer Prize winning author, at their core, the lessons to be learned are largely lessons in appreciation. Everything we have, all our great hospitals, colleges and universities, libraries, our cities, our laws, our music, art, and poetry, our freedoms, everything, is because somebody went before us and furnished the vision, the hard work, the creative energy, and the resources, all under the protective umbrella provided by the US armed forces.

As the bumper sticker aphorism instructs: "If you can read this bumper sticker - thank a teacher. If you are reading it in English - thank a vet."

If it were not for the veterans in this community, and hundreds of thousands of others across the country, today we might all be speaking German, Japanese, or even Russian.

Today the USA has about a half a million troops stationed in about 150 coun-

tries around the world. Many of those troops are in the Middle East and South Asia locations, where some of the vets in this community have served, and where about 200K were serving at peak deployment. The situation of US military personnel serving in combat today in far-away places, is a matter which has deeply divided our nation and which, no doubt, divides some of us in this community today. Some Proponents and Opponents continuously vilify each other, frequently in extraordinarily vituperative ways. But I would hope for one thing of each you, regardless of which side of the issue you take your stand ... The thousands of wounded US military veterans who have returned home with damage to their bodies, minds, and hearts, are not to be blamed for the failure of civilian officials in the UN, NATO, and the allied coalition of 35 or 40 countries, to negotiate peaceful resolutions to problems in the Middle East and South Asia. Nor are the thousands of US military personnel who did not return alive.

I am reminded of the words of Confederate Chaplain Randolph McKim, as inscribed on the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery:

"Not for fame, not for place or rank, not lured by ambition nor goaded by necessity, but in simple obedience to duty as they understood it, these men suffered all, sacrificed all, dared all, and died."

I believe the words Chaplain McKim wrote about Confederate troops, are equally applicable to our troops who are serving overseas in harm's way today.

Not politicians in Washington, but troops on the ground.

Paraphrasing Chaplain McKim:

"not for fame, not for place or rank, not lured by ambition nor goaded by necessity, but in simple obedience to duty as they understood it, these men, and women, suffered all, sacrificed all, dared all."

Gen. Robert E. Lee provided the guidance for them 150 years ago when he wrote: "Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more, you should never wish to do less."

And by the way, to those of you who were not aware that there are Confederates buried at Arlington National Cemetery, there are almost 500 of them, buried in concentric circles around the Confederate Monument, and their graves are marked with headstones that are distinct for their pointed tops. Legend attributes these pointed-top tombstones to a Confederate belief that the points would "keep Yankees from sitting on them."

God Bless America, and God help us preserve America. Cordially,

**Chuck Esposito**

## Allison ...

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Knight, Roy Mons and Sylvia Turnage on Oct. 11 and Larry Culpepper, Pastor Marty Duncan, Wayne Fowler, Michelle Vaughan and Dr. Jeremy Williams on Oct. 16. They did a great job.

A special thank you to Amy Payne, my liaison at Union County High School, who was a great help in encouraging student participation in the contest as we had 30 applications, which was remarkable for the first year of the program.

Our scholarship contest would be nothing without the support of our sponsors. Our corporate sponsors were Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Members Corp., United Community Bank of Blairsville/Union County and Martin Media with special matching scholarships provided by Young Harris College for those who will be attending Young Harris College. Our elected official sponsors included State Rep. Stephen Allison, State Sen. Steve Gooch, Tax Commissioner Lee Knight, District Attorney Jeff Langley and Sheriff Mack Mason. Individual sponsors were Cary Cox, Jim and Gwendolyn Breece, Patrick and Kathy Malone, Doug and Donna Towery and Billy and Sylvia Turnage.

I hope that next year we will see participation from all students living in or attending school in Union County and that more people will come to encourage those who are speaking.

I believe you will be impressed with the students who will be participating.

Although sponsored by the Union County Republican Party, it is a non-partisan contest.

Anyone interested in helping with this program for 2015 in any capacity should contact me at daajr@windstream.net.

**Dale Allison,  
Chairman, Future Leaders  
Scholarship Committee**

## Williams ...

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4. Superman or Batman? *Batman.*

5. What's your favorite indoor/outdoor activity?

*I have always been a big fan of sports. I enjoy watching, playing, or coaching any sport.*

Jay's Medical Equipment is located at 77 Wayne Colwell Drive in Blairsville. Jay and his team can be reached by calling (706) 835-2233 or online at [www.jaysmedical.net](http://www.jaysmedical.net). Thank you, Jay for being part of this week's Take 5!

## Gray...

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The history books I am reading depict a far different kind of government that was originally envisioned by men whose aim was to grant the majority of power to the People. A large Federal government was seen to be the gateway to possible/probable trouble. And We, the People, have allowed this insidious encroachment into our lives for the past 70-plus years, inch by subtle, devious and dangerous inch!

I now understand the truth behind the quote, "A Nation of Sheep begets a Government of Wolves." And, unfortunately, that is just the situation we are now in. Our government has become so entrenched in doing the will of certain interest groups that we have lost many, if not most, of the safeguards the founding fathers wanted to preserve for us.

Letters to the Editor are not designed to be long essays that go on ad infinitum, so I must close this in a timely manner, but perhaps this discourse will begin to open the eyes and minds of thinking people to delve more deeply into what we have lost. If that should happen, then this letter will have been an open door through which others will enter, seeking what they can do with other like-minded and caring people - to salvage our country and our freedom before it has utterly vanished and we are merely objects, like in that "science fiction" book "1984" that once seemed much too unbelievable to ever be true.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Arlene M. Gray**

**Bell Ringing Union  
County Old Courthouse**



**Bell ringing information  
at 706-745-5493**

## Derflinger...continued from Page 4A

use the Internet to read articles in several national newspapers and, of course, I read books. This is how I can be an independent voter. I don't have to regurgitate the party line.

I take notice of your high thoughts of Prof. Krugman, I just wish you would have included a few small items of interest about him; like he is leaving Princeton under somewhat of a dark cloud. Seems he has really earned the title of being a maverick and an extreme liberal. In fact, Prof. Niall Ferguson of Harvard, in the July 14, 2014 issue of *Bloomberg News*, indicted Prof. Krugman for "intellectual dishonesty" among other things. I'll let you research those on your own. I did take the time to read some of Prof. Krugman's articles, and although I admit I am by no means an expert in the field of finance and economics, I still found his ideals and thoughts to be very much against what has historically been the norm.

You spoke of unemployment being at 5.9 percent. At least I believe you will agree those are the recent campaigning numbers. However, that number does not reflect the true unemployment for the nation. It does not show the thousands who have quit looking for work and have run out of benefits. It does not show the thousands who work two or more jobs to survive. Forbes reports that the real unemployment rate is 12.6 percent. I think you will agree

that the government, in an election year, has a special interest in showing that unemployment is less than it actually is.

You say that President Obama has had a job growth for 55 straight months. And that may be true in some respects. However, the Washington Post reports that going back to President Carter, the current administration has the most job growth decline than any administration. Also, may I remind you President Clinton had 84 straight months and President Regan had 71 straight months of job growth.

You have also stated one of Mr. Obama's accomplishments was the return of billions of dollars to consumers. I'd like to remind you where those billions of dollars Mr. Obama used came from. Those dollars were taken from you, your neighbors, your fellow workers and all the rest of us who have acted responsibly with our mortgages and credit cards. It is my thought that when you take money from the small persons to prop up an industry that acted irresponsibly in granting mortgages and credit to people who could not pay is not what I would call an accomplishment. I never got help from the government to pay for my mortgage and I dare say you didn't either. And I think that all of us, at one time or the other, went through some hard times financially and we did the hard things that were necessary to

work our way out.

Do you agree that the National Debt has risen to almost 19 trillion dollars? Did you know the National Debt in 2009 was \$11 trillion? This debt means that each citizen owes about \$56,000. I don't know about you but that is a lot of money to me. And it seems to me that our elected officials don't have a clear plan on how to fix it. Perhaps a T.A.R.P. plan for us. Many of your list of President Obama's accomplishments are of entitlements. Where in your list is a comprehensive plan to pay for the Pell Grants? Where is the money that 86 percent of people on ObamaCare receive in supplements coming from? You speak of his raising the miles per gallon requirement for new vehicles. I ask you this, new vehicles are selling for an average of \$30,000 plus dollars. How many households can afford a new vehicle? At the same time, our president refuses to allow a pipeline that will reduce the price we pay at the pumps and would create new jobs. And the new miles per gallon requirement will increase the cost of vehicles by at least \$900 a year. So how is this really helping the man or woman who is trying to raise a family making \$30,000 a year?

In closing, I'd like to say that your letter helped me change my thoughts, but unfortunately most of your letter sounded like a lot of the political ads I've seen on TV. They are just numbers that can be construed anyway by anyone to suit their needs.

I do have a suggestion, for your next book please read *America, the Beautiful*, by Dr. Ben Carson. This is a man who is truly worth quoting.

**James Derflinger**

## Cannon ...

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candidates to put up for office. Nunn has no experience and is running on her dad's name but endorses Obama's policies, and Carter has no experience but wants to put a billion dollars into education which Georgia doesn't have so he will increase taxes, he's running on his grandfather's name who had the title of the worst President until Obama came along.

I hope you will do what's right and renounce this APP ad.

**Ron Cannon**