

Community/Editorial

Eagle Group

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Eagle Group, a conglomerate, along with West Paces Hotel Group. The resort will have its own sewer and water works, through NOTLA. BRMEMC is geared-up to supply the needed electricity, all of which is carefully controlled and monitored by the state.

The Development Authority inducement to the Eagle Group was with sixty-million dollars of industrial development revenue bonds. The developers, put up a million-dollar option on the property that was non-refundable.

According to Murphy, "When the Reynolds Plantation went into Green County, their tax digest went from five percent to seventy-four percent from commercial business, giving individual property owners a break, "and", He adds laughing, "It might even lower our taxes." Has that ever been seen once taxes are raised? Murphy says, "Not in my lifetime!" But it could mean a three-fold increase in revenues into the county, which is good for everybody, including local businesses in Blairsville and across the county.

In a two-hour meeting at North Georgia Technical College on Tuesday, spokesman for Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company, Miami, Florida, (DPZ), the designer group on the project, laid out a detailed design for the yet-to-be-named village and resort.

In a week-long Charette, an intense urban planning technique for consulting with all stake-holders in a project where joint ownership of the ideal solutions are discerned, the project was defined.

Ron Reeser, Chief Executive Officer, and founder of Eagle, presided over the early part of the meeting, and described what is to be "A true mountain village" plan, where affordable lots and estates are at the base of the mountains. Speaking of their intentions to do no clear-cutting in the construction, Reeser said, "It's the only way to build."

Reeser, and Hal Hayes, President of Eagle, have built what they call a "sister project" with 588 lots in Pensacola, Florida. It was a pioneering effort with the look of an 1890's or turn of the century village.

Spokesman for the DPZ corporation said that there will be some 600-700 acres of green space in the Nottley Lake project. "No house will back to the waterways, and house fronts will be on the part area, creating a closer community."

Eagle Group CEO: "We will be part of Blairsville, this is for the people here. It is our place, a place of community."

During the Charette, designers, illustrators, architects, illustrators and others gathered to talk about what makes a community "timeless and authentic." While some of the plans are still in the drawing, planning and coming together stages, what was viewed at Tuesday's meeting was two hours of detailed, land, village, grounds, water works, building styles, colored-in, and given some scale so that people in attendance would have a clear idea of what is meant by "the old-world charm that blends with the natural beauty and culture of the Appalachian mountains."

In one location, a foundation stone from the old Epworth Methodist church, will also be the foundation for the new church center in the planned village. Peter Young mountain is also a major focal point of the village, around which the village parks and buildings will be built.

"We will build the homes with very small footprints," according to the spokesman for the 14-person design group, meaning that the new designs, sometimes called "tree-houses," sit on unobtrusive frames, and are more vertical than horizontal.

The village, on the other hand, its intended to create what designers call "body heat," or closeness. There are plans for a Boy Scout pavilion, a children's park, an amphitheater, other areas for young people's recreation, civic quality of life, piazzas (strolling areas). All of this is with the intention to "tread very lightly on the land. Minimal disruption of the natural setting, and for the existing wildlife, is our goal."

The hotel and conference center were not as deeply defined in this meeting but according to the developers will be a world-class Ritz, with incredible space, plazas, spas and the best in dining, comfort and services, all nestled in a country setting.

Ground-breaking dates were not given, but a planned opening date is September of 2008.

Eagle Group CEO Ron Reeser says, "We will be part of Blairsville, this is for the people here. It is our place, a place of community."



CEO of Eagle Group Ron Reeser (above) and President of Eagle Hal Hayes.



BILL O'REILLY

Tony Snow

My friend Tony Snow is once again fighting for his life, his cancer having returned. You may remember, the White House press secretary underwent six months of chemotherapy after cancer was found in his colon two years ago. His mother died of cancer, and Tony was very aggressive in treating his condition.

Now cancer lesions have spread to his liver and Snow is once again facing a painful struggle to defeat the disease. But if anyone can beat the beast down, it's Snow. He is a courageous guy.

I worked with Snow at the Fox News Channel, and often gave him jazz for the button-down conservative views he put forth as an analyst. "Snow," I would bellow on the air, "where's Dick Cheney hiding?" Stuff like that. Snow would give it right back to me with a wry smile. Even die-hard liberals liked the guy's style. He has charisma.

Snow was perhaps President Bush's best hire. One of the reasons I cut the Bush administration some slack is that Snow answers my questions on and off the record. And if Tony Snow tells me something, I can bank it. He doesn't lie or mislead, ever.

Snow would never work for people who "lied" to get us into a war for "oil." He would never defend policies that he deemed dishonest or harmful to Americans. He has three young children, a smart wife and a loyal extended family. He loves them as he loves his country, with passion and selflessness.

So, I believe what Snow tells me, and I believe he's looking out for all Americans. There is no question the Bush administration has failed in Iraq. Snow knows it but has not given up, unlike many Americans. He believes, and I do, too, that America tried to do a noble thing in Iraq, but the religious and social hatred that envelopes that country has prevented victory.

When I examine the other side, the Bush-haters and far-left zealots, I compare them to Tony Snow. If I'm in a foxhole, if my life depends on another person, do I want Snow or Howard Dean?

I think you know the answer.

I truly wish I could do something for Snow and for Elizabeth Edwards, for that matter. But there's little to be done. Cancer took my father as

I sat there powerless. It takes millions of people.

But Snow will fight hard with dignity and faith. During his first go around, I often talked to him during his strenuous treatment and rehab. Never once did he mention pain or his ordeal. He was always optimistic and directed the conversation outside himself.

There is no explaining life. Snow is a good man who does good things all the time. By all accounts, Elizabeth Edwards is a good woman. Both are now in battles beyond their control for reasons no one knows.

But I do know one thing. Tony Snow makes this country a better place. He deserves your prayers and respect.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Culture Warrior." To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. This column originates on the Web site www.billoreilly.com.

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Woman's Enrichment Center extends hours



Woman's Enrichment Center Director, Chris Scoggins, and Volunteer Counselor/Class Teacher, Alison Boardman, announce Woman's Enrichment Center is now open on Mondays; new class: "Managing Your Money," Monday evenings from 6:00-7:30 p.m.



RAINER'S RAMBLINGS

By RAINER ARNOLD
Union Sentinel Publisher

Spring is here and so is summer

I know that I am not the only one that used to be skeptical about this global warming stuff. But looking at this winter and now the spring that is almost like summer it really appears that there is something to that global warming.

Now, don't get me wrong, I like this warm weather. I like the sunshine and the fact that we have a little rainfall shortage. But then I am selfish since now I can ride my motorcycle and hopefully, soon, I can take my jet ski on the lake.

But if I am to be really honest, I also think I need to do more for the environment. When I was in Austria I recycled everything. After all, the garbage people come once a month. Everything else is recycled. Paper, plastic, cans, glass etc. There are bins for each of these items all over the city or village where you live.

So, I am actually making a concerted effort to do the same here. But it is not easy. Local governments do not make recycling easy. You have to drive to the recycling center and that is

inconvenient. Maybe we could have bins all over the county where people can put their recycling. But I have to add my skepticism. I bet if the local government would place recycle bins all over the county for metal, glass, paper and plastic people would just dump all their garbage in there. And that of course would be detrimental and not helpful.

Sorry, I got off the topic of spring and summer. But that is just me. I ramble at times. But I am enjoying the weather and wish I was financially independent and could not work and still have money to enjoy this great weather while it lasts.

Maybe I need to find me a job that pays more like many of you out there or maybe win the lottery. But I am not having much luck with the lottery. My wife keeps buying tickets but she never has more than one or two numbers right. Oh, well, maybe I need to go pick them.

Have a great day and enjoy the weather.