

We wanted to clear-up any possible misunderstanding that may be caused by the tax increase ads in the August 7, 2019 Chatsworth Times. The language in those ads is provided by the Georgia Department of Revenue and cannot be altered. Unfortunately, that language does not fully explain the intent of Commissioner or the Board of Education.

The county's 2019 mill rate for unincorporated Murray County will remain the same as 2018 at 9.194. The mill rate for the cities of Chatsworth and Eton is actually dropping from 9.272 to 9.268.

The mill rate for the Board of Education remains unchanged at 15.500. This mill rate has been the same since 2003.

This year's tax digest includes inflationary growth due to a re-evaluation of property, as required by law, by the Tax Assessor's Office. Georgia law changed in 1999 to require local governments to calculate a roll-back mill rate that would eliminate this growth. Therefore, even if the mill rate remains the same as the previous year this is considered a tax increase, according to Georgia law, because of the growth. Even if the mill rate is reduced, but not reduced to the rollback rate, this is also considered a tax increase and must be advertised as such.

The ads published this week provide dates, times and locations for the three public hearings scheduled to be held by the Commissioner and the three to be held by the Board of Education. All concerned citizens are invited to attend the public hearings.

Steve Loughridge
Superintendent

Greg Hogan
Murray County Commissioner