

Opinions

Everybody has one...

No Stone Unturned

It's been over three weeks since our nation came within centimeters of losing a formidable leader. Yet we still have far more questions than answers about the attempted assassination of President Trump.

Americans are rightfully upset. After all, this incident marks the first time in 43 years since a president or presidential candidate has been shot. Undoubtedly, if it weren't for God's hand of protection, President Trump wouldn't be with us today.

But how did it happen in the first place?

The lack of transparency surrounding the security plan, personnel, would-be assassin, and more have frustrated many Americans. Thankfully, House Republicans are committed to getting to the bottom of the events leading up to, on, and after July 13th.

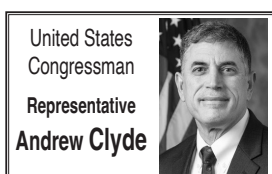
Two weeks ago, the House hauled in several officials to testify under oath. As you well know, Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle was first on the chopping block.

On July 22, Cheatle appeared before the House Oversight Committee, where lawmakers pressed her on the catastrophic security failures that led to the assassination attempt of President Trump. Unsurprisingly, she failed to answer a single question or deliver an ounce of transparency. Her abysmal performance enraged both Republicans and Democrats to the point where we witnessed a rare bipartisan push for Cheatle to resign her post. The next morning, Cheatle resigned. While her departure was ten days too late, it marks the first step toward delivering accountability.

However, Congress may not be finished with former Director Cheatle. While she is no longer leading the Secret Service, she still has key information about the agency's role in and response to the assassination attempt on President Trump. It's possible that Cheatle will be subpoenaed again as both chambers forge ahead with investigating July 13th.

Additionally, FBI Director Wray appeared before the House Judiciary Committee to give an update on the agency's investigation. While Wray certainly answered more questions

See *Clyde*, page 5A



United States Congressman Representative Andrew Clyde

Your Message

I noticed a theme. After Hurricane Beryl, I deployed to Carriacou Island as a chaplain with a humanitarian aid team offering supplies and healthcare. Beryl damaged or destroyed most of the island's buildings. It impacted all of the people.

I listened to one man's story and views on religion for 20 minutes. Finally, he stopped. "Just tell me one simple thing that is true," he said, "without cluttering it with many words!" Another man was cooking meals for his neighbors. He stepped out to meet me in the street. After a brief chat he said, "Since you're a pastor, what is your message?" A few blocks away, a man sitting on the porch of his damaged home called out, "Come and talk to me!" (He was quite the philosopher!) Another man said, "You're deeper in the Bible than me, so explain it to me!"

Do you see the theme among these four men? They all wanted to hear my message, which is simple, really. It's Jesus' words to Nicodemus. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). As I offered Jesus' message to these men, two seemed unmoved (for now!), one agreed, and one decided to believe in Jesus in that moment. Now he and I have the same message, one of faith and hope.

In Acts, we read about people asking followers of Jesus about their message. Cornelius told Peter, "We are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord" (10:33). A Roman proconsul "summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God" (13:7). The philosophers in Athens asked Paul, "May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming?" (17:19).

Here's my question for you: What is your message? Is it true? Is it hopeful? Are you "ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you" (1 Pet 3:15)? www.mountainchristian.net



All Things New Wayne Fowler

Commissioner's Questions

The following questions are just a few that I received from people when out and about Union County visiting with residents:

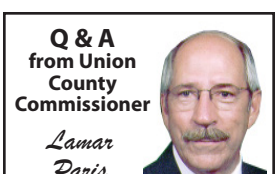
Q. Our homeowners' association has an issue with the County, and we have made the decision to have the property owners complete a petition. Is this a proper way to work with Union County Government?

A. In this particular case, a false rumor was started that Union County Government was not going to participate in fixing a road issue. The information was completely false, but it is a good example of why it is important to deal directly with the Commissioner's Office. The preferred method for addressing an issue is to make an appointment to meet with the Commissioner so that correct information can be gathered. The Commissioner always tries to work with the public to assist whether it is patching, paving, resurfacing, new road conditions, or safety concerns.

Q. You hear people talking about their unhappiness about the Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT) intersection at Hwy 515 and 325. Why did Union County put in these lanes that force traffic to go right and then turn around (make a u-turn) in order to go back into Blairsville?

A. This is a great question. Hwy 515 is a state highway. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) plans, constructs, and maintains Georgia's network of highways and bridges, while providing planning and financial support for other transportation systems ranging from airports to mass transit and bicycle trails. An agency of the state government, GDOT is overseen by a state transportation board that includes representatives from each of Georgia's congressional districts. It is important to understand that decisions such as the RCUT at Highways 515 and 325 are made by the GDOT. Beyond designing, building, and maintaining Georgia's bridges and highways, GDOT also maintains many miles of high-occupancy vehicle, or HOV, lanes in metro Atlanta, as well as park-and-ride lots to encourage carpooling in urban areas. In 2011 GDOT introduced the Peach Pass, which allows the department to collect tolls without stopping cars. For nonmotorized transportation, the department also maintains thousands

See *Paris*, page 5A



Q & A from Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris

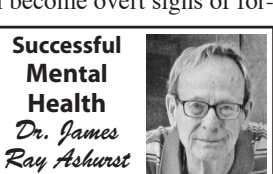
The Friendship Factor

In a friendship, forgiveness with both individuals has to occur if the relationship is to be reinstated. It really isn't all that difficult once one puts aside his or her pride. The joining together again becomes a joyous occasion. Hugs, smiles, handshakes all become overt signs of forgiveness and genuine friendship.

Because forgiveness is such a strong, positive force, it binds tightly the two friends. It is an awesome feeling that can send chills throughout one's body. Since forgiveness can cause such positive feelings, each friend is on the receiving line of love and kindness. What a remarkable act of a true friendship.

The relationship becomes a joy again. Each person takes immense pleasure watching the other live his or her life, reaching goals and experiencing successes. It is important to talk freely about one's feelings of what happened. (This is not to be an accusing session! It's to be

See *Ashurst*, page 5A



Successful Mental Health Dr. James Ray Ashurst PH.D.



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Chamber of Commerce

As I have written in a previous column, it's back-to-school time. We are so blessed to have the school systems we have and the teachers who work so hard to educate our children. But we live in a community that I would also like to give a shoutout to our local businesses and organizations. Our banks, churches, and many others have been gathering supplies to help our students get off to the best start possible.

Last week, Union County Family Connection provided shoes to those students who needed them. That program does not end with shoes. If you see a family that is struggling and their children are in need of supplies, clothing, or hygiene items, as the saying goes, "If you see something, say something." Tell them to talk to their teacher or to a counselor, or they can stop by United Community Bank, River City Bank, the Chamber, or your local Church to find the name of an organization that may be able to help.

See *Chamber*, page 5A



Blairsville - Union County Chamber President Steve Rowe

Letters to the Editor

Universal Meals

Dear Editor,
Kudos to Union County Schools for providing meals at no charge to all students. After almost 80 years of lunch and over 50 years of breakfast at school, finally something makes sense. The management of our schools' nutrition programs and the Board of Education is to be commended. Now access to meals is close to being "universal," just like access to transportation or school facilities, which are NOT doled out based on the economic status of a student's family. Benefits of nutritious, appealing school meals include improved academic achievement, better health, improved attendance, fewer disciplinary referrals, and the reduction in food insecurity, malnutrition and obesity. Additionally, provided
See *Hopgood*, page 5A

Great Defenders of Democracy

Dear Editor,
Don't you just love the Democrat Party, the great "defenders" of democracy? The theme of the Democrats for the last few years has been that Republicans are the destroyers of democracy. They think Republicans are stupid to hold a primary with multiple candidates, differing in points of view and letting the voters decide who the nominee of the party should be. All that waste of different opinions, views of the future, solutions for issues just for the voters to decide. How backward can you be?
The Democrat Party has a much better way. They make sure the voters get to vote for who the Washington D.C. elite wants to be
See *Burch*, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

Responding to Paris' Q&A

Dear Editor,
This is a response to Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris' Q&A section in the July 31 issue of the newspaper in which he again proclaims his preference of a One Commissioner government and campaigns against a Board of Commissioners.
It is no surprise that Mr. Paris, a Democrat, is against changing Union County government to a Five Commissioner Board. After all, he has been in power 24 years, and it is extremely difficult for him to give up that power. His reasoning that others have no experience is weak. There are many qualified people who would be able to step into the position, as he did, and do just as good of a job. His comment is insulting to the citizens of Union County. Unfortunately, as
See *Vandereedt*, page 5A

A Lack of Representation

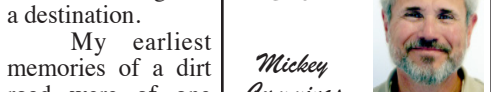
Dear Editor,
A vast majority of Americans don't even realize that most of rural America is grossly lacking in proper representation in Congress. Two years before the Bill of Rights was finalized and on the last day of the 1787 Constitutional Convention, debate was occurring over the number of people in a district that any one house representative could represent. For the sake of keeping this letter as short as possible, the final number ended up being no more than 50,000 per representative. Currently, there are many congressmen representing nearly 1 million people primarily in the larger cities. Therefore, a ma-
See *Richardson*, page 5A

Above & Beyond Kindness

Dear Editor,
I lost my husband Mike on July 30 after a tragic, and very rapid, losing fight with gastric cancer. Our journey began on July 2 with the diagnosis, and routed us through some of the very best people in our city of Blairsville. Please indulge me as I try to thank them below:
Beginning with the Endoscopy, Dr. Ainsworth and his staff at the hospital were phenomenal, along with his office staff, especially Cheryl. Then Dr. Moody, along with Alyse, began to help us. While waiting for our appointment with Dr. Moody, Dr. Ainsworth called to check on Mike. What doctor does that? Lacey in Dr. Schueneman's office gave me a bracelet with a cross and told me that would remind me I am never alone! Then Dr. Moody called to check on Mike after we got home from the hospital. Again, what doctor does that?
Union General Hospital care in the sec-
See *Hinton*, page 5A

A Road Less Traveled

Old roads have always held a fascination for me, especially old dirt roads. They remind me of a time less complicated by the modern ease of things. Today we can hop in a vehicle and travel to Atlanta or Chattanooga in a very short period of time with relative ease. But a dirt road meant a longer, bumpier ride that required more effort to get to a destination.
My earliest memories of a dirt road were of one which traveled from my Papa's farm to the tiny town of Phil Campbell, Alabama. We had to cross Cummings Creek Bridge, which is now torn down, and a new modern bridge has taken its place. This place is special to me because of a number of items. Although the Bear Creek Watershed Lakes have now flooded where my great-great-Grandfather built a water-powered sawmill and grist mill, I can remember where the old mill sat. My great-Grandfather ran the mill for years after his Daddy left town. My Grandfather learned to swim at this spot in a creek unhindered by modern-day dams. It is also the place where one of the Lauderdale girls placed her underwear in the bib pocket of his overalls as a prank.

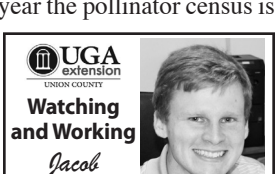


My own Dad was driving across the bridge one time as a teenager and part of his steering column fell out from under his car, causing him to crash into the bridge buttress. Although the car was wrecked, this old bridge kept him from crashing 10 feet below into Little Bear Creek. About 64 years ago I was riding with him to town and we started down the hill and across the bridge. We didn't know anything about a car seat for children, so I was standing in the seat beside of him. As we crossed the bridge I wrapped my arms around his neck, turned his head toward mine and kissed him right on the mouth. I said, "Be's ye careful Daddy we are crossing a bidge." I was only 2-3 at the time and yes, I wish I could still ride somewhere with my Daddy.

Another old road that comes to mind is now outdated, and trees have grown up into it due to lack of use. And there is a bridge across the same creek, but 4-5 miles upstream of the Cummings Creek Bridge. Little Bear Creek was located a few hundred yards from my Mom's folks' house. My cousins and I used to walk down the hill on this old dirt road to the creek and wade downstream a little ways to Baker Rock where we could swim and play to our hearts' content. We built a rock dam below it and then used the top of the rock to jump into the clear cool waters of the creek on a hot July day. I always felt sorry for those city kids that used a real swimming pool. This creek was cool and it
See *Cummings*, page 5A

Pollinator Census

2024 is the sixth annual Great Georgia Pollinator Census. Technically, because this event has grown so much it is actually the Great Southeast Pollinator Census, because South Carolina, North Carolina, and Florida are participating. Year after year the pollinator census is a huge success. It is the first of its kind and has really generated some great data on pollinators. It's also a great way for citizens to become involved, learn about, and protect pollinators. This year's census will be held on August 23rd and 24th. Let's talk about how you can be involved this year.



Watching and Working Jacob Williams

The pollinator census comes together because of the hard work of Becky Griffin. Becky works at GMREC just south of Blairsville. With concerns about pollinator decline, the census allows us to capture critical data that can be used year after year to track the health and wellbeing of pollinators.

If you want to join the pollinator census at home it's very simple. Go to the <https://gsep.org/> website. There you will find the 2024 counting sheet that has all the data that you will collect. It includes the different categories of pollinators. Each census count will be done by observing a flowering plant for 15 minutes.

For the census, there are eight categories that you count insects. They are: carpenter bee, bumblebee, honeybee, small bees, wasps, flies, butterflies/moths, and other insects. You don't need to be an entomologist to participate since the categories are easy to differentiate. Let's go through how to identify each of the insects in these categories.

Carpenter bees are going to be the largest of the bees that we see. They look very similar to bumble bees. The major difference is that carpenter bees have no hair on their abdomen (also known as their hind end). Carpenter and bumble bees have yellow and black hair. Bumblebees will have all black hair on their abdomens.

Honeybees are smaller than bumblebees and will have brown or blackish stripes mixed with golden-brown. They have hair down their whole body. Small bees are any bee smaller than a honeybee. We have many different species of small bees out there that are native pollinators. These native pollinators are very important for pollinating native plants. Small bees can be down to the length of a staple.

Wasps include paper wasps and potter wasps. They are important pollinators for certain plants like rattlesnake master. Flies are pollinators too. They will only have two wings and large
See *Williams*, page 5A

North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

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Website: www.nganews.com • Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com • Mail: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514

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Publication No: 001505

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Paris... continued from Page 4A

of miles of bicycle and pedestrian routes. This state-funded oversight of highways includes such things as highway signage, traffic lights, mowing, and road repair. GDOT takes care of state roads and Union County takes care of its county roads. Specific questions about Georgia State roads can be directed to (404) 631-1990.

Q. Obviously the RCUT was designed to help prevent accidents. Is it working?

A. The RCUT was absolutely put in to help prevent accidents at that location. In 2017, there was a vehicle death at that intersection, and prior to the RCUT, there were many accidents – some with injury and some without injury. Using the number of accidents as an indicator, it would appear the RCUT design is working. According to E-911 records, there were 9 accidents in 2021. The number of accidents has greatly reduced since then. As a matter of fact, only 1 accident had been reported at the intersection as of June 1 for this year, and in that accident, there were no injuries.

Q. I have a home in two places, and one is in Union County. Can I vote in both places?

A. According to the Georgia Election Code, no. Actually, it is a felony (election fraud) if someone votes in both places. This regulation is not controlled by Union County Government; it is controlled by other levels of government such as the State of Georgia and the Federal Government. In court case Abbott v. Carter, it was determined that Georgia may require its voters to be bona fide residents to register to vote. More specifically, Georgia Election Code 21-2-217 (14) states that the address in the county or municipality in which a person has declared a homestead exemption, if a homestead exemption has been claimed, shall be deemed the persons residence address. Therefore, if someone owns two homes, one address must be deemed primary and thus be the residence address for the purpose of voting. Anyone with questions about this topic can call 706-439-6016.

Hopgood... continued from Page 4A

ing meals without regard to the economic status of the family eliminates unpaid charges and the unavoidable stigma that school meals are only for low-income children.

For almost 30 years, as Georgia's state director of school nutrition, I joined advocates around the country emphasizing the need for a universal program. Progress was slow and piecemeal. It started in 1977 when federal law allowed certain school districts to provide meals at no charge to all students if most students were of extremely high economic need. In 1981, certain schools with high percentages of economically needy students were approved to forgo the annual income certifications and daily meal counts by income category of students. In 1986, Congress allowed students to be directly certified as eligible for meals at no charge if they participated in other federally-assisted or similar programs – one more step closer to a more “universal” program. In 2010, Congress authorized community-wide eligibility to expand access to meals at no charge to all students in qualifying low-income areas, and in 2023, regulations expanded the provision so Union County students and families can now benefit.

While grateful, it did take 46 years, from 1977 to 2023, for Congress to move

Q. Does Union County still have the Adopt-a-Road Program?

A. Yes! Any interested group or individual should contact Jennifer Mahan in the Union County Commissioner's Office at 706-439-6000. There are a couple of forms that have to be filled out. You can come by and pick up a form, or Jennifer can email the form to you. The adopting person or organization must adopt a minimum of 1 mile and pick up the litter at least once per quarter. You are also asked to fill out a Status Report when you pick up litter because this information is used to calculate how much litter is picked up by the volunteers as a whole. Trash bags, safety vests, and picking tools are provided by the Commissioner's Office. An Adopt-A-Road sign will also be placed in the area designated for cleanup.

Q. Recently, I have attempted to put my boat into Lake Nottely at one of the public boat ramps. A private company appeared to be putting a dock together – using much of the parking space. I may have even gotten a nail in my tire from it. Why does Union County allow private companies to use this valuable space?

A. Each boat ramp on Lake Nottely is controlled/managed by a different entity. Furthermore, the boat ramp and the attached property can also be controlled/managed by totally different entities. For example, the Deaver's Boat Ramp itself is controlled by TVA; the attached property is owned by the Department of Natural Resources, and Union County tries to help maintain it so that residents have a nice place to load boats. Oftentimes, private companies will obtain a permit from TVA to build and float docks at Deaver's Boat Ramp. When this happens, Union County Government has no authority to say otherwise. As I mentioned, each boat ramp/facility is different. If you need to know who manages a certain boat ramp, you can call our offices at 706-439-6000, and we can refer you to the correct authority.

toward making this valuable education program universal or virtually so!

The school lunch program began in 1946 because of the poor nutritional status of young men entering the draft. Malnutrition – literally, a lack of proper nutrition – looks different today and has contributed to a growing obesity crisis. Today, a third of young adults between the ages of 17 and 24 could not qualify for military service due to excess weight alone. When including other behavioral and educational related factors, a full 77% of U.S. youth could not meet the basic qualifications for service in the Armed Forces. This number is increasing. [Source: U.S. Department of Defense, Office of People Analytics (2022). 2020 Qualified Military Available (QMA) study]

School meals are one of our country's most powerful tools for delivering nutrition security to children, particularly families who struggle today to make ends meet. School nutrition personnel are salt-of-the-earth folk. They are our family members – friends – neighbors; they care about children and work to provide nutritious and appealing meals. Just as important, they have demonstrated effective and efficient management to be able to bring universal meals to our county.

Annette Bomar Hopgood

Hinton... continued from Page 4A

ond floor Observation area was above reproach. Katie Turner took the lead and helped us at every turn. Ashley even finagled a way for Mike to be able to see his favorite buddy – R2 is our Bichon pup. Other notable clinical staff were Haleigh and Madison. A wonderful young lady in Reception/Scheduling worked hard to schedule a STAT chest CT scan (Christy?).

But the eve of that scan, we had to be admitted to the hospital, so they had to change the test to be for an in-patient. When Christy saw that Mike hadn't made the test she had scheduled for him, she came to our room worried about why. How many workers do that? Since I was there almost 24/7 for a week, they ordered guest food trays for me. We had to go to the Emergency Department about three times; Dr. Maner was there at least two times, and he was so considerate, kind and helpful.

Also at Union General, the Hospitalists were terrific! Kristin, Johnny and Katey. Near the end of our journey, Joy and Tapestry Hospice were wonderful. My terrific neighbors of

Coosa Run have offered food, thoughts, prayers, and loving support during this time.

BUT MOST WONDERFUL OF ALL was our incredible, devoted, precious and loving family. Our daughter Heather, her husband Ed and our grandson Aaron, along with our son Heath, his wife Susan and our grandson Sam, were all with us each and every step of the way. No words...

Thanks so much to all the above people (who I may have botched their names or even associated a wrong name), plus everyone else who showed so many above-and-beyond kindnesses to us.

Love,
Connie Hinton

Harper... continued from Page 5A

ad. I really wonder what Mr. Sole Commissioner fears most, is it losing control of a county he has controlled for 24 years? Dictatorships are dangerous, and the longer they exist, the more dangerous they become.

Maureen Harper

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

actually had snakes and fish in it. What more could boy want? At least five generations of my mother's family have used this place to swim.

But, that old dirt road led past a place where my mother's family had settled as one of the first families of this area, and that old bridge was the place where my Dad and Mom became engaged. It was truly a special place. Although the wood from the bridge is long gone, the steel girders are still there as a reminder to me of my parents' love for each other.

The old dirt road in front of my Papa Cummings' house went south past the place where Uncle Johnny used to live. He could see my Papa's house across the field from his house, and when electricity came to the community, the lights shined so brightly that he thought the Cummings place was on fire. So he came running with every bucket he could find to put out the fire. Down the road from the Blalock house and on the left was where I lived after coming into this world. The house had no insulation and no running water, and not many would want to live in such a place. However, I have spent nearly my entire life comparing that place to each house in which I have resided. I can still remember walking that old road in October and smelling the cotton right before it was hand-picked by my grandparents and their friends.

As a young man I can

Vandereedt... continued from Page 5A

far as the accomplishments he touts, the citizens of the county have no say. One person (Lamar Paris) makes all the decisions with our tax dollars and without our input.

Mr. Paris says one of the benefits of having only one Commissioner is accountability. Really! He tries to intimidate and shut people up at public meetings if he does not agree with them. As far as making decisions quickly, that is not always a benefit. There are things that need to be thought out and planned which take time. Having a Board of Commissioners working together to make decisions benefits the citizens, but Mr. Paris wants to be in total control and make all the decisions. An example of a poor decision made by Mr. Paris is the purchase of the Old Shoe Factory property. The cost to the taxpayers was \$800,000 for a building that is going to be demolished soon. That is almost \$100,000 an acre! A waste of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Paris claims five people can't work together. Really! There are five members on the Union County School Board and five members on the Blairsville City Council. Mr. Paris, are you suggesting they are unable to work together? There are only seven counties in Georgia run by Sole Commissioners. Are you suggesting that the Board members of the other 152 Georgia counties cannot work together? It is OK to have disagreements. There should be differences of opinions on issues. Isn't that the democratic way? One person making all the decisions with no oversight is dangerous.

Regarding the additional costs he listed of a five-member Board, the petition is for five "Part Time" commissioners who would be voted on by the citizens in the five districts to represent them. That is Part Time; they would not have the benefits of the full-time Sole Commissioner with a salary of

Clyde... continued from Page 5A

than Cheatle and delivered new details, he also made alarming claims that undermine his already-damaged credibility. For example, Director Wray testified that "there's some question about whether or not it's a bullet or shrapnel that, you know, hit [Trump's] ear." The outrageous comment led the FBI to issue a statement clarifying that President Trump's ear was in fact struck by a bullet.

Moreover, when pressed on Joe Biden's health, Wray refused to admit that he has witnessed any mental decline in his interactions with the President. No American believes Director Wray – or any federal official, White House staffer, or Democrat lawmaker for that matter – didn't have concerns about President Biden's cognitive state prior to his train-wreck debate performance. If Wray will help conceal the truth about Biden's capabilities, what else is he hiding?

Considering the Secret Service is under the Department of Homeland Security

remember coon hunting with my Uncle Bud in the Bankhead National Forest. We parked on the side of an old paved road just off Highway 195. Papa told me this old road was called the Byler Road. It was supposedly one of the first old roads built into this country by Federal Troops probably commanded by Andrew Jackson. We walked a long way into the national forest into what would become the Sipsey Wilderness. A couple of coons were treed and we enjoyed one another's company. We then walked back to the truck and all the dogs did not follow us out, so we waited on them. It was in the spring and the night began to cool as we waited for the dogs. We sat down on the pavement and listened in case one of them struck a track. We soon became sleepy.

I laid back onto the pavement and fell asleep. I awakened with a jolt as I heard my Uncle holler, "car." We got out of the road and watched as the car sped past us. T.O. Spears was with us, and he mumbled, "What kind of yahoo is out driving like a speed demon at this late hour?" I looked at my watch and it read 10:08 p.m. I would not advise anyone to lay down at anytime on any road in the country and fall asleep. But, there was once a time where you could do so without any fear. Not many people traveled that old road, especially at night. But times have changed, and I truly miss those less complicated days of my youth.

over \$121,000. These positions would be voted on to SERVE the people, not to be served. These are not career positions. There would still be a full-time county manager/administrator. As far as salaries and benefits, the cost of a five-member board and a full-time county manager would cost less than that of the Sole Commissioner and current county manager combined. Mr. Paris, please don't mislead the citizens with false facts.

His question of whether new commissioners can learn the duties of a commissioner... Of course they can, just like he did and just like other newly elected people do. Mr. Paris, why don't you let the citizens decide what form of government they want instead of just what you, the Sole Commissioner, wants?

Regarding the expense of maintaining a five-member Board, again, they are Part Time, no benefits. There would be a small salary plus a stipend for traveling and other necessary expenses. As stated previously, the combined salary and benefits of the Sole Commissioner and county manager is well over the cost of a five-member board. These are not career positions.

I consider your suggestion of how people who signed the petition can rescind their signature an interference of the petition process. Everyone I have come in contact with who has signed the petition does not want to rescind their signature. The consensus is that one person with all the power of a Sole Commissioner is too much power and control and they should have the right to choose. NICE TRY!

This comes down to one thing. Should the citizens of Union County have the right to vote on whether they want a Sole Commissioner form of government or a Board of Commissioners? That is what the petition is about – allowing WE THE PEOPLE, the citizens of Union County, to decide!
Cindy Vandereedt

Richardson... continued from Page 5A

majority of rural America really doesn't have much of a voice in elections. How can one person represent that many people? They cannot!

The vote was unanimous at the convention and only needed to be ratified by 12 states to become what would have been the first Amendment to the new U.S. Constitution. Unfortunately, only 11 states ratified it with Connecticut being the hold out. They ratified it but failed to send it back to the Congress. The good thing is that those 11 states are still on record, and there needs to be only 27 more states to ratify it to become the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. How unique would that be, and it could actually happen if pursued. Finally, all of rural America would have an equal say when they vote. No more big city rule over elections.

Now things get interesting. Considering the total U.S. population, when this actually happens, there would be over 6,500 House Representatives as opposed to the 435 we have now. You say great, but where do we put them? Washington D.C. (the swamp) could not hold that many, so here is what will occur. After the 6,500-plus are elected to office, they will all convene in a stadium to be sworn in. Their first and only action will be to pass a "bring Congress home act" whereby

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the nominee. If some upstart thinks they can enter the process, they are crushed by the elite.

Now the Democrat Party nominee holds all the cards until the house of cards collapses. When the nominee gets too far behind in the political polls, which indicate they can't win, the elite step in to save democracy. These great defenders of democracy force the nominee out and declare the Democrat Party has a new candidate.

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eyes. Some flies have coloring to make them look like a bee or wasps to avoid predators. In nature, this is called mimicry.

Butterflies are usually pretty easy to identify because of their wings and variation of colors. The other category includes all other insects that may land on the plant while you're watching it. This could be beetles, dragonflies, lacewings, or ants.

After you've done your count for 15 minutes go to <https://gsepc.org/> to enter your results. You can do the census as many times as you'd like on

Chamber... continued from Page 5A

Please keep praying for our students, teachers, and local leaders as they work to educate and protect our children. It indeed takes a village to raise a child.

Thank you for making Life Better in Blairsville!

each representative returns to a home office in their district where they will live and work. The same would hold true for senators. They would all be free of the stranglehold that D.C. has over them. Americans get better representation because their district is under 50,000, and best of all, the people of the district become "watchdogs" to keep them in check plus be able to see and contact them easier than before. It would be very difficult for them to be influenced, coerced or bribed to influence their vote. By the way, this method of conferencing from home was proven to work during the pandemic when Pelosi instituted the use of Zoom for such a purpose.

If the 12 states had ratified this one Amendment in 1787, we would not be in the huge mess that we are experiencing now. I've had to shorten this a lot as it would take too much space to cover the entire process that occurred then, but I think you get the point. To understand this and other facts of American history and a road forward, go on Amazon and order "The Great We-Set" book by David M. Zuniga, founder of TacticalCivics.com. In just 102 pages, you will learn more than you ever imagined about this country and what should and could happen at all levels of government.
George Richardson

The members of the Democrat Party thank the elite for not considering their vote. They praise the courage of the small number of elites for making the change and bravely telling them what their choice is.

If these great defenders of democracy win in November and then get all the illegal aliens to vote, which is the plan, they will for years be able to implement "the king is dead, long live the king."
George Burch

the 23rd and 24th. If you see an insect leave your plant and come back count that as a new visitor.

If you have questions about the pollinator census contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

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a time when two friends can share their feelings about the misunderstanding in a loving, caring, and healthy way.

It's important to allow each person to complete their thoughts without any interruptions. The responsibility of the other person is to listen attentively until it's her or his turn to communicate one's thoughts and feelings. The most profound compliment once can give to the other is to listen, listen, listen to what the person is communicating. Being a good listener builds a friendship that can be everlasting.