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ment Authority and a Chamber of Commerce, to promote jobs, business and some growth.

Q. You may feel that all these things you build will be your great legacy, but be careful what you hope for, because when all is said and done the people in the future may not be so impressed.

A. I am sorry that you feel this way. I am not looking for a legacy. I am concentrating on making this the best county possible at the lowest cost possible. However, if we build something, we will build it nice and something we can all be proud of.

Will there be additional cost when we make improvements? Yes, there always is, but our growth will help fund it without our property taxes getting out of hand.

Q. Things may be good right now, but the bad times will come as they always do,

and you cannot just tax your way out of it. Try to think about the people that come after you and will have to maintain the many things you have built.

A. I am very proud of EVERYTHING we have built in Union County, and that is the purpose of SPLOST. They have been quality and they have been enjoyed by so many. We recently opened the new Union County Sports Center that includes a double gymnasium. If you could only go by in the afternoon and evenings and see the excitement the young kids are having there.

Hopefully you will want to join in on the many walkers, dance and exercise classes, adult basketball, meetings and other functions that will be held there in the coming months and years and maybe you will start to get a better understanding of what we do and why.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Georgia. He had launched the raft into Lookout Creek and floated 10 miles downstream until he reached the Tennessee River. Upon reaching Horseshoe Bend just west of Chattahoochee, he floated with the current into the middle of the river, where the raft simply came apart. The old man grinned and told me, "My dreams lasted a while, and then just fell apart." He could've been bitter. But, he wasn't. He took everything in stride and rolled with the punches. Nothing ever got him down. He continued to farm and take care of his mother.

I am very thankful for people like Lemman and all the other farmers I have known during my lifetime. Each and every one of them taught me something about life. And the one thing I will always remember about Lemman was that he never let life's circumstances get him down. When he was dealt a hard blow, he kept his chin up and kept living.

Lemman kept farming and took care of his elderly mother until she passed at 99 years old. And he kept his smile and dreams while he continued to enjoy life.

Joyner ... continued from Page 4A

Cancer. There's no task force giving us nightly briefings on what's being done to combat these diseases that do far more damage than this COVID will ever do. People say, well, those aren't contagious, which is true. Still, much could be done to curb those numbers, but not without infringing on fellow citizens' rights and personal freedoms.

Many Americans are stressed and worried that Joe Biden is going to foolishly shut people's businesses down again, when the last shut down proved the "Cure" was far worse than the cause. People are afraid the schools will be foolishly shut down, which would force parents to have to quit their jobs to stay home with their children. This virus poses practically no threat to school-aged children, and no more than the typical seasonal flu, which on aver-

age circulates for 14 weeks and kills 30,000 to 80,000 a year.

I've noticed that people who choose not to wear a face mask are very respectful of people who do. But the other way around doesn't seem to be the same. Face masks worn outside of a medical setting are nothing more than a safety blanket for people. A mask mandate would never work, and it could be deemed unconstitutional in a court of law. Real law enforcement officers would never enforce such a law on their citizens.

It is every citizen's duty to combat COVID, and we should do that by making our businesses thrive and being rational and realistic. It's a shame to see so many people stop living for such a small chance of dying. My freedoms do not end where someone's fear begins.

Jason D. Joyner

Turnage... continued from Page 4A

before a candidate can be certified a successful winner.

What did we learn? Voter ID is our best tool for having an honest and transparent election, and there are long-standing procedures for voting absentee in a manner that will ensure the identification of the voter and help ensure that the ballot is properly counted. This is done through filing a paper application for absentee ballot or by going online to the Secretary of State's website to file.

Therefore, I believe we should prohibit mail-outs of

unsolicited ballots to voters for all future elections. I plan to request our Senator Steve Gooch (404-656-9221) and Representative Stan Gunter (706-897-5609) to examine this specific situation to see if legislative action may be needed to clarify and/or address this problem.

Maybe you would also like to contact them with your thoughts about the matter. That would allow them time to draft a bill to remedy the problem and have it ready to introduce when the Legislature reconvenes in January.

Sylvia D. Turnage

Chavis... continued from Page 4A

According to "mainstream" news media, and what I've garnered from other "social" platforms, 56% of Trump supporters are QAnon followers and either partially or entirely believe that the world is run by a secret cabal of Jewish and Democratic Satan worshipping cannibal pedophiles, who hold trafficked child sex slaves, sometimes eating them and drinking their blood, in a network of secret tunnels be-

low Washington, D.C. And that Donald J. Trump is the anointed leader tasked with leading the fight against these characters and exposing these Democrats.

Please! Anyone! Please! If you have any evidence, any facts whatsoever that this is truly what is happening in America, PLEASE share it with the rest of us so that we too can come into the fold of insanity along with the rest of you!

Jan Chavis

Chamber ... continued from Page 4A

our members have rallied, reconvened, and recognized new ways to generate revenue and care for the residents of our small town.

From the rapid response of our emergency workers, school system, and health care providers to the quick care of-

ferred by community churches and faith organizations, to the top notch turn-around of restaurants and stores in our town, what we have seen here in the mountains are members who will not quit. To say that the members of our Chamber top my Thanksgiving list this year is an understatement.

Coretta Scott King said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." If her words hold true, then what we see here in Blairsville-Union County is a truly great community, and I for one, am most thankful.

Williams...

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We have great locations to purchase a real Christmas trees around here, and this is the time of year to shop local, so I encourage you to check them out! If you have any questions about Christmas trees contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu. Merry Christmas and happy tree shopping!

Fowler...

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flourishing; the ability to think, love, and create. As you survey God's gifts, remember His forgiveness, purpose, and hope available to you through Christ Jesus. Joseph Addison penned verses for a hymn about this: "When all thy mercies, O my God, my rising soul surveys, transported with the view, I'm lost in wonder, love, and praise."

Consider British writer G. K. Chesterton's challenge: "When it comes to life the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude." Raise your soul and your quality of life by living with gratitude.

Weekly Patriot Reflection



Constitution as a Legal Document

We often times refer to the founders, framers, and ratifiers as our early American Patriots, but today we want to recognize a modern-day patriot during this reflection.

Outspoken Conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia recently stood before an audience at Santa Clara University in California, and unleashed a scathing criticism of the current judges on the Supreme Court. In justification of his criticism he renounced the notion that the Constitution is a living document, subject to the whims of whichever justices happen to be minding the Court. His assertion is that it is a legal document, and "it means what it says, and it does not mean what it doesn't say." He questioned whether the American people would have ever supported the constitution if they had been told that "the meaning of this document shall be whatever a majority of the Supreme Court says it is."

In his long rant against the current state of the court, he predicted that it would bring about no less than the "destruction of our democratic system. I cannot imagine the system can continue with more and more of the basic rules made by the Supreme Court."

Just think about what we're hearing. This is one of the most powerful men in the country telling us that the institution to which he belongs is broken. And we would be foolish not to listen. You can go back to the original Roe vs Wade decision, but you don't even have to do that...Just look at the decisions that came down in recent years on same sex marriage and Obamacare. In these instances, the court completely abdicated its responsibility to uphold the Constitution. Instead, it became an absolute free-for-all where justices simply voted according to their political ideology. Scalia's warnings will probably fall on deaf ears, and that's a scary thought, because this is going to get much worse before it gets... well, there's no reason to think it will EVER get better; Not until we decide to make it so.

A Patriot Reflection is presented weekly by www.joshuaswarriors.org.



Union County Schools Virtual Learning Tips Facebook LIVE with Jessica Cook
<http://www.facebook.com/ucelementary>
December 3, 2020 @ 7 PM

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



November 9, 2020
 In memory of **Charles Arthur Utesch** on his birthday
 By Craig Utesch
Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493

District 2 Public Health announces new Hours of Operation



Public Health
 Prevent. Promote. Protect.

District 2 Public Health announces new hours of operation for all 13 county health departments. The new hours will offer health department services until 7 PM every Tuesday. These extended hours will add convenience for individuals whose schedules may not allow them to come to the health department during the 8 AM to 5 PM schedule.

The new hours of operations are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday - 8 AM to 12:30 PM and 1 PM to 5 PM; Tuesday 8 AM to 12:30 PM

and 1 PM to 7 PM; Friday 8 AM to 12 PM.

Environmental Health Offices and the District Office will keep their current operating hours, Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM, except for, Union and White Counties.

Union County Environmental Health Monday - Friday 7:30 AM to 12 PM and 1 PM to 4:30 PM.

White County Environmental Health Monday - Thursday 8 AM to 12 PM and 1 PM to 5:30 PM; Friday 8 AM to 12 PM and 1 PM to 3 PM.