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event?

A. We try to scrape/salt all main roads first. We then go to the secondary roads, and actually do not apply salt on roads that are paved with tar and gravel (surface treatment). The salt will eat the tar out of the road with time and ruin the pavement. However, we do apply sand and gravel to those roads. After they get everything around town, the smaller trucks go out to each of the precincts and the two big trucks handle the larger roads like Blue Ridge Hwy., Loving Road, Pat Colwell, Town Creek School Road, etc.

Q. When you say you use a salt mixture, what is this exactly?

A. You are right; it is

not pure salt but a mixture of salt and what we call 89 gravel (small diameter, size of pea gravel). For instance, during a one-day event, we can use approximately 60 tons of salt mixture for a total material cost of \$2,120. Again, a special thanks should go out to our Road Department, the Georgia Department of Transportation and to the City of Blairsville, all of whom coordinate and work together to make sure the public has as safe of road conditions as possible. We also hope that for the winter we are in the clear and can begin the process of prioritizing our paving projects for the spring and summer – but we never know for sure.

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dicament. However, she soon stopped laughing because she was having a very difficult time trying to get up. Her present shape and size would not allow her to pull herself up. The wind was howling, and she was really cold and in need of help.

Delph began to holler as loud as possible, and soon her 6-year-old son, Ray, and 5-year-old daughter heard their mother. The boy told his younger sister to stay in the house while he went to help their mother. The little girl later told me, "I was not about to stay inside while Mom needed our help." The pair pulled on their coats and rushed to their mother's aid. They found her in a snow drift of 6 feet. The young pair helped their mother wallow out of the drift, and eventually she was able to stand up. During the process of falling, she found that she had only lost about half of the milk.

Upon reaching the warmth and safety of their house, the three of them changed into some drier clothing and huddled up around the fireplace to wait on Bill. But he did not arrive that evening. Remember, he was delivering students to their homes on his bus route. The road down around the Gray Rock and on to the breaks of Ray Mountain

proved to be treacherous. The bus became stuck in a ditch. So, he and the 10 students left on the bus sought refuge in an old abandoned house. The lot of them ripped boards from the walls and used them as fire wood. The group survived the snowy night in the old house.

The next day Delphia's father and brothers used a wagon and team of horses to go and find Bill and the students. They found them walking down the snow-covered road between the house and the bus. The students were delivered to their homes and Bill was delivered to his family. That snowstorm was one which is still talked about by those which experienced it.

There were other repercussions as well. Some of the families in the area were upset because Bill did not get their kids delivered home before it began to snow, which was difficult to do because school had not been called off due to the weather. He soon soured on his job as a bus driver, and he was making very little money on the farm. My grandfather soon left this job and found another driving a truck for the Rockwood Mines. The job paid enough to help him and his family get a new car and washing machine. They were able to move up in the world.

Payne... continued from Page 4A

their sentence is carried out?

Now, let's consider the third individual involved in this activity, Dr. David Gowder. David pled guilty and received 18 months confinement. I say an injustice has been served! He was charged with one count versus 102 for his brother, he pled guilty and therefore did not cost the citizens anywhere near what it cost to charge, try and find guilty the other two who continue to resist the system to swing in their favor. Someone smarter than me needs to explain how he received a sentence longer than his brother. The blindfold was not in place on Lady Justice when those sentences were meted out and

the scales were not equally balanced.

David Gowder did the honorable thing. He admitted he did wrong, he took complete responsibility for his actions and is currently serving his time. The other two? They have not admitted their guilt, have not accepted responsibility, yet this Christmas they are not behind bars, while David approaches half a year in prison. This does not seem fair to me!

Decisions like this cause some of us great concern. I deem this an injustice, and it seems not everyone is equal under the law.

Dan Payne

Combs...

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accepting Christ as their Savior and Lord? Mostly pride is the main reason, and pride will kill your chances of ever stepping into glory before a Holy and Righteous God.

This Christmas season can be all about giving gifts to family and friends, which is dear to us indeed, but this Christmas season can become one of your best, if you will ponder the birth of this baby Jesus that we all sing about throughout the year. Come as you are and ask Jesus Christ into your heart and become a child of God and live in heaven with King Jesus. Yes, it's a miracle, folks, and miracles happen every day of our lives — if only you believe.

Frank F. Combs

Weekly Patriot Reflection



Virtuous and Moral Leaders

I am constantly amazed at the Founding Fathers and the standards they had in regard to how our nation should be led. They had principles, unlike today, that helped them identify the characteristics of leaders. They believed that "The most promising method of securing a virtuous and morally stable people is to elect virtuous leaders." I think you would agree with me that that has lost its meaning in our society today. Listen to what Samuel Adams had to say, "But neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt. He therefore is the truest friend to the liberty of his country who tries most to promote its virtue, and who, so far as his power and influence extend, will not suffer a man to be chosen into any office of power and trust who is not a wise and virtuous man." It is fortunate that the United States produced, and had available leaders of this supreme quality to launch the first "noble experiment" for freedom in modern times.

Isn't it time that we took a hard look at those who govern us, and demand that they live lives of virtue and integrity, both privately and publicly. Maybe a better way to explain would be to quote Proverbs 29:2 "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan."

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

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works display at Meeks Park. We employed the use of social media in new ways to introduce our newest members to the community, though altered in adherence with government protocols, we continued with our annual Tour of Trees and Holly Jolly Christmas where we hosted children in the community for breakfast and photos with Santa.

Amidst it all, we survived an election and now we have the opportunity to vote in a runoff. Let's be a community that continues to show up at the polls. In this way, we honor those who have given their lives to secure our freedom and right to vote. Regardless of who you vote for, vote, and teach your

children to vote.

Looking forward to 2021, we continue to explore what events we will host. We're seeking creative means to promote our local businesses and assist our schools and first responders as the new vaccines are rolled out. No matter what 2021 may hold, we are resolved to champion our members, and we intend to do so with every ounce of innovation necessary to see our community continue to thrive.

Be sure to visit our website at visitblairsvillega.com, as well as our Facebook, Pinterest and Instagram pages for our 2021 calendar and activities. We are looking forward with gratitude and great hope.

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stay fuller to support recreation. By Mid-march the threat of flood producing conditions has largely passed and so tributary reservoirs are filled. The main reservoirs are filled beginning in late April or early May. During the summer, a small amount of lake capacity is saved to protect against flood producing storms.

Lake Nottely was built to reduce flooding in Chattanooga. Nottely and Chatuge were originally built to regulate the water flowing to the Hiwassee dam, which generates electricity. In the 1950s, each lake had a hydroelectric generator added so that electricity could be produced.

The history of TVA is a very interesting one. TVA has

been controversial since their inception, but its impact on the region is undeniable. There is a lot of information regarding lake levels on the TVA website, tva.com. The lakes are closely monitored by multiple organizations for a litany of standards.

If you have questions about lake drawdown, you can check out the TVA website, contact your County Extension Office, or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler...

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ity, service, and putting others before self. It means authentic friendships. That's far more than seasonal Christmas giving. That is being a life giver, someone people are glad to know. By faith, you are especially equipped with something to offer. "Those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:17).

Christmas is a celebration of God's great gift. "The gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Join with the saints in saying, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15). This gift of life in Christ, the gift that lasts, equips you as a life giver.

Bialek...

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to do just that.

Democrats are concerned about the environment while Republicans couldn't care less.

Democrats encourage everyone to vote while Republicans do everything in their power to prevent people from voting.

Democrats embrace diversity while the Republicans promote exclusivity.

This election is a clear choice between those who have never had it so good and those of us who know we can do better. Georgians know the distinction.

Never let it be said that this was the time the tide ran out on Georgia but rather was the time that the tide came in under the leadership of two Democratic senators.

Joe Bialek
Cleveland, Ohio

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



December 8, 2020

In honor of
Shirley Walker
on her birthday
By Joan Mannheim

December 15, 2020

In memory of
Francis Partin
By Union County
Historical Society

January 2, 2021

In memory of
Virginia B. Meeks
on her birthday
By: Terry & Ginger Meeks

Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493