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addition, many other miles of stripping were completed.

Q. Do you have a road report for 2014?

A. Yes, we have gotten a report from the Road Dept. on roads either paved with asphalt or surface treatment. If you are unfamiliar with the difference, surface treatment means the road was paved with a combination of tar and gravel, which is less expensive but has a rougher surface. However, it holds up as well as asphalt. The number of roads surface treated in 2014 was eleven for a total cost of approximately \$232,000. The number of roads paved with all or a portion of the road paved with asphalt was seven for an approximate cost of \$725,000. Approximately 42 culverts were replaced for a cost of \$47,350 which does not include any labor cost.

Q. What are your final

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Over there, next to Michael, that's Freddie and his family. I remember when Dakota came up to Freddie's chest and now he towers over his dad. I love seeing the whole family working together, knowing that the generations past are watching their legacy reign on. Good morning, Dot. Lady, how many hats do you own? You must wear them to keep the creative ideas for jam and jelly combinations from escaping your brain.

Oh, that little girl with the butterfly painted across her brow is just precious, did you see her? That means Brenda is in the house, today. She shares her love for children and her talents with us as our resident face painter.

Henry, would you mind helping me out? I know you are busy sharing your knowledge as a master gardener, but you are also very proficient tying balloons on the wrists of the little ones. They trust you, you gentle soul.

Excuse me, did I just hear you inquire about the lady

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loved him.

If you held no respect for him as a person, you should have at least respected that he was a veteran who fought for his country and a retired police officer. Shame on you... I enclosed a paragraph from a United States Senate bill that passed dated March 2014.

"It is a terrible act when any individual's final resting place is tampered with, but it is especially reprehensible

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books, decided not to buy any book at all, or simply walked past—but NO—she had to ensure that if she ever visited the gift shop again that offensive word would not assault her.

It seems that Freedom of Speech is a sacred right reserved for those who want to demean others, but that same Freedom is denied to anyone with the audacity to use the word God in a non-blasphemous way. Is anyone else confused about the way our lives have turned topsy-turvy and how now our Equal Rights are superseded by those who have Special Rights?

The fact that the gift shop folded so quickly and did not defend My rights is a sad commentary on today's political atmosphere where people are fearful of a lawsuit. As a Christian, I accept that every-one has a choice to make, but I do not demean others who make different choices; however, that is not true in reverse. Every day I am offended by things I see and hear, and I usually just close my eyes, walk away, or ignore it. But those with an angry, self-righteous manner have a need to remove each and every article, word, reminder that there are people who believe in God. May God have mercy on them—but of course, being the just and holy God He is, I wouldn't count on his His short-term memory about having demeaned Him when it's time to

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ple is that our problems are too great to be solved and complacency, especially in voting is taking place. The last time this combination of events came together, the Roman Empire disappeared from the face of the Earth. During those last desperate moments the world was given another chance by the incredible victory of Christ.

If you want to know why He came when He did you may now have the answer. Into the darkness came the light. His church (the people) slowly, persistently, and with great courage brought order to an unordered world. It united the European world and brought it a type of civilization it had never known. The people turned from their greed and atheism to their Gods which as so often, through their folly, became their last resort.

Today our leadership turns God away as if He were a hindrance to their cause. The

thoughts on 2014?

A. I am very proud of our community and all the people who work hard to make it a great place to live. I am especially proud of our county employees who go above and beyond what is expected of them. Also, we are thankful for our volunteers who give so freely of their time and talents. After watching the news about other communities experiencing horrific weather and destruction, unrest and even violence, I feel so blessed to live in beautiful Union County.

Certainly we cannot ignore the less fortunate among us, but our community seems to always rise to the occasion to help those in need. We can all continue to work together to make things better. I wish for each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

that sells Italian flat beans? Oh, that would be a secret, because Lilah only grows a few rows of these, and there aren't enough of them to go around. She does have beautiful towels, though. Try here eggplant-parmesan bread instead of the beans.

"Vewwy tenda beans. I have vewwy tenda beans". Yes you do, Dothik, along with the most amazing red raspberries. Clyde, thank you for sharing your wife's talents with us. You are two of the quietest folks at the market, but your smiles speak volumes. Joy, someone emailed me looking for a baby quilt made out of fabric with penguins on it. I knew you'd have what they were looking for...

Ha, ha, ha. There they are, decked out in Bulldog Red, greeting everyone, hanging out around the office door. Hi Mickey. Good morning Lamar. Hey Larry, nice goatee you got there this week. Just want to tell you how much I enjoy working with you all. It has been your vision and your diligent efforts that have made this a family.

when that grave belongs to someone who is a veteran of our country's military," stated O'Brien. "Those who have served our country with honor deserve our eternal respect. One way to maintain that respect is by ensuring that criminals who violate the sanctity of veterans' final resting places are subject to very serious penalties."

Sincerely,
Catherine Derflinger Affleck

come face to face with Him.

Our country has certainly come full-circle from the land it once was. And it is fast becoming a land where the government regulates our speech and even our opinions. The Thought Police are all too eager to allow a lawsuit to punish anyone who has an opinion or belief that doesn't line up with what they have decided is acceptable. Evidence of that is rampant, like the young couple who had a successful bakery but lost their business when they told a homosexual couple they could not make their wedding cake because their religious beliefs wouldn't allow them to participate in that form of wedding. The outcome of the lawsuit ruled in favor of the homosexual couple and awarded them damages, and the payment by the bakery-couple of the homosexual couple's exorbitant legal fees. So much for Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Speech!

I've never been much of a political person, but I now realize that only by the action of people who rise up and demand reinstatement of their Equal Rights under the law can we ever hope to see a restoration of the rights we were originally granted under the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Respectfully submitted,
Arlene M. Gray

great mistake in ignorance has happened once again and He who never breaks a promise has been set aside.

Is the foundation of democracy our forefathers worked so hard to build now being chipped away? If so we cannot, as we so often do, place all the blame on leadership. A democracy is the people and lives or dies by the will of the people. If you are one who takes not part in the husbandry of this land do not complain. The greatness of any land lies in the greatness of its people. 2000 years ago the people stepped aside and the greatest Empire ever to exist on earth disappeared. Now the circle is coming to completion once again. Is the time of incredible victory upon us once again? Will He raise us up upon his shoulder once more?

Just my opinion,
Christian Hummel

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the difference between life and death.

The medical crew on the helicopter makes the decision as to which hospital the patient is transported to and the medical staff there is alerted while the air ambulance is en-route about the services required for the patient so all of the necessary medical personnel is waiting when the air ambulance lands with the patient.

LIFE FORCE 1 began operations in December 1988 with one aircraft averaging over 700 flights per year. With the expansions of LIFE FORCE 2

(Sparta Base) in 1995, LIFE FORCE 3 (Calhoun Base) in 2007 and LIFE FORCE 4 (Blue Ridge Base) in 2010, areas that were not previously served by air medical transportation, improved the odds in the race against time during the "Golden Hour". Now with 4 bases, LIFE FORCE's annual patient flights have almost tripled.

On July 1, 1994 LIFE FORCE became the first helicopter program in the nation to be equipped with a receiver that is certified to fly Global Positioning System (GPS) approaches. The GPS space-based

radio positioning and navigation system provides safety and speed for LIFE FORCE when flying in weather conditions that are less than ideal. GPS can provide sufficient accuracy, integrity and availability to support precision approaches to landing locations. GPS can be the cornerstone of all future air navigation.

In March 2008, LIFE FORCE placed in service the latest in night vision technology by adding night vision goggles. The U.S. Military has been the mainstay platform utilized in the development and refinement of viable night vision product for tactical applications.

The civilian markets have recently recognized that NVG's provided helicopter emergency medical services operators with increased situational awareness and enhanced safety throughout their programs.

LIFE FORCE serves patients who have suffered any kind of severe trauma or burn, as well as severe medical illnesses. Each aircraft has equipment and the trained staff to care for people in all stages of life, from infants to geriatrics. LIFE FORCE may also be utilized in some situations, in search and rescue missions. On-Scene and In-Flight Life-Saving Treatment includes: Trauma Service, four units of blood carried on each flight, on-scene surgical procedures and invasive circulatory intervention including surgical airways, chest tubes, central lines, saphenous vein cut

downs, in-flight I-stat laboratory analysis and surgical preparations; heart & stroke, intervention aggressive cardiac and stroke protocols, ground-breaking cardiac drugs, cutting edge pediatric care, specialized pediatric protocols and medications, dedicated neonatal transport Labor & Delivery, high-risk obstetric care, in-flight fetal monitoring system including TOCO and ultrasound, specialized OB medications.

UT College of Medicine. Professors/physicians provide on-going training and advanced in-flight protocols which speed direct admissions to surgery, the cardiac catheterization lab, radiology and much more... A highly qualified and aggressive maintenance department keeps LIFE FORCE flying with very little downtime. Each base has a complete Aviation Maintenance Section and includes FAA qualified Aircraft and Powertrain Technicians staffed around the clock. An extensive inventory of parts, specialized tools and equipment certified by the manufacturer help in preventive maintenance and comprehensive inspections are performed on a continuous basis.

Angels are not the only things that come from the heavens when we need help! For more information on First Responders and emergency services in our area, contact Frank Riley, Executive Director, Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D council at frank.ccrd@gmail.com. NTID#24.212JCA

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not an outer thing but an inner thing. It is not originated by you but a quality in you by the indwelling presence of Christ. It is God's gift of His son to you. The Psalmist said "...in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forever more" (Psalm 16:11). Joseph Marmion said, "Joy is the echo of God's life within us" (Nehemiah 8:10;

Cummings...

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He made things right with my great grandfather, Lon. Lon was always close to his father even though he couldn't understand why John had left his mother. So, one Christmas Lon invited John to come home and spend some time with his family.

Lon invited the whole family for Christmas dinner. Some came and some refused. There was still bitterness in the hearts of Papa's uncles, Will and Riley. Lon's oldest daughter, Mabel (Papa's sister), had an idea. She bought her Papa a brand new pair of overalls. She asked everyone to bring a gift for the old man. Mabel gathered all the gifts and stuffed them into the overalls. Next she sewed the leg openings together so the gifts would not fall out. John was so old he had trouble seeing, but, he knew the overalls were new so he tried to put them on. But, he could not get his leg into them. So, he turned them upside down and reached his arm into the legs and began pulling out his gifts. Old John soon had about 10 gifts lying at his feet. Papa said his old grandfather had tears running down his face while he was laughing at the same time. John got more than he bargained for that Christmas. He received the gifts and received the forgiveness of his family. I think that is why Papa loves Christmas. He was able to experience first-hand the true meaning of Christmas.

Agriculture is the state's number one industry. Agriculture touches your life each and every day-whether you are a producer, business tied to agriculture, policy maker, or consumer. Predicting markets and preparing for the next growing season can be a tough job and that's where the University of Georgia can help. Ag Forecast is presented by the UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences in partnership with the Georgia Farm Bureau and the Georgia Department of Agriculture. UGA's Ag Economists will give an economic outlook for agriculture in Gainesville at the Brenau Georgia Mountain Center on January 14 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. followed by a luncheon. If you are interested in attending the cost is \$30 and you can ride with me to Gainesville. Please call me at (706) 439-6030 if you wish to attend.

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They are safe. The issue for funding amnesty for illegal aliens will come up again in the new congress, probably in February. Then we will most likely hear "the Republicans can't do anything until they have the Presidency". If we fall for that, we'll fall for anything.

Folks, they really do think we're stupid. They really do think it's too complicated for us to understand. They really do think we'll forget. I really do hope they are not correct.

May God Bless America!
Pat Thibodeaux

Gibson...

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pick up other people's careless trash and by dedicated residents whose conscientious work keeps our roadsides neat and tidy. Thank you and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you.

Oh, if you are reading this and you are an employee or volunteer with a negative attitude whose work doesn't meet these high standards, you are invited and encouraged to disregard all above.
Wm. Ronald Gibson