Opinions

Snickers Bar

What about the size of your Snickers bar?

In his State of the Union address, President Joe Biden referred to an American dilemma - the shrinking Snickers bar. He pointed out that his Snickers bar purchase had less or fewer Snickers. I'm not exactly sure what a Snickers is, nuts, choco-

late, sugar, the content of the bar. Size matters, when you're hungry. It's just a bad thing when you stop at your local convenient store to buy a soda pop and you walk out with a Snickers bar that cost more but has less in the wrapper. Apparently, there must be less Fritos and



Cheetos in the bags as well. This is a sad time in America. I remember buying a large bottle of coke, a bag of chips and a pastry for 25 cents. Those were the days but they are long past.

It's an epidemic of course. It's not just candy bars and junk food. Check the size of your fast-food hamburgers and the cost. You are paying more for less. A hundred dollars doesn't go very far at the grocery store. American families are having a difficult time putting food on the table. A mother who cooks for her family every day is having to stretch her budge more and more.

President Biden is concerned about the problem but it's been a growing problem for three years. It's not getting better. When does he propose to fix the problem, after he is reelected? Why not now? Or, why not over the past three years?

People are hurting today. Promises of a better life if he is reelected are not reassuring to many Americans.

The border crisis is our number one issue this election. It's not a priority with President Biden. He's had three years to be walking that border. He's had three years to stop the invasion of illegals and gang members into our country. His recent photo op to the border is too little too late. Joe Biden stopped the progress of the border wall. He opened the gates wide to the illegals. The results are not positive. We have major cities on the verge of economic collapse. Public schools, housing and more are suffering. Mayors are pleading for help.

Recently, Biden submitted a Border Immigration Bill to

Loneliness Recovery III

Loneliness can be devastating. However, there are means to overcome it. Besides joining a club or organization or meeting someone online, there is the solution that may be expensive but certainly worth it – and that is adopting a pet. On a personal level, I have three active cats and

three lovable dogs. When loneliness has a tendency to overtake my daily life, my main salvation is a fourlegged creature. And it works. Having a pet

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

companionship. When an individual is focusing on the needs of her or his pet, the state of mind is not concentrating on oneself. The needs of the pet have to be met, and that creates full attention on the part of the faithful owner. The presence of the pet decreases the feeling of loneliness or in many cases eliminates the lonely feeling. There is research showing that having a pet can even lower the level of depression and of anxiety. Re-

See Ashurst, page 7A

Letters to the Editor

Rebuttal to Secretary of State

Dear Editor,

On Feb 15, there was a Georgia Senate Ethics Committee meeting, and the Secretary of State's Office made presentations from Gabriel Sterling and Blake Evans to the Senate Committee

Everybody has one...

The Answer

In the movie, Forrest Gump just feels like running. While he runs, he thinks about Mama, Bubba, Lt. Dan and especially Jenny. As he crisscrosses the country and contemplates his life experiences, a young man runs alongside Gump. "An alarm went off in my head! Here's somebody who has the answer. I'll follow you anywhere, Mr. Gump!" Gump's characteristically simple narrative is, "So, I got company."

If anything, this is a bit of satire about humanity's frustrating search for answers about life. But it doesn't have to be that way. An event that became a defining moment in human history is a huge hint at the answer. But to understand the



cross of Christ as the answer, you must know the problem God chose to solve.

Unfortunately, what Jesus said and did are often repackaged for modern sensibilities or some cause du jour. J.I. Packer calls out those who do that. "One of the miserable ironies of our time," he writes, "is that whereas (certain) theologians believe themselves to be re-stating the gospel for today, they have for the most part rejected the categories of wrath, guilt, condemnation, and the enmity of God." The result is that "they cannot now state the basic problem which the gospel of peace solves." Franklin Graham finds fault with religion that "fails to see the ruinous consequences of mankind's depraved, sinful state. Biblical teaching on the precious blood of Christ, the atoning work of Christ's death on the cross, is too often neglected or distorted.'

The problem answered by the cross is the fallen human condition that we all share - sin and separation from God. Sure, that offends the modern claim that all people are basically good. But that offense only amplifies the cross as good news, the defining event, the ultimate answer. "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" (Rom. 5:8-10).

The cross of Christ offers a change of relationship with See Fowler, page 7A

Commissioner's Questions

This week's questions and answers focus on the Clerk of Superior Court. The Clerk of Superior Court is an elected office with Judy Odom being the elected official. These questions contain general information and if you have further questions, you should call their office at 706 439-6022 or stop by their office located in the Union County Courthouse at 65 Courthouse Street, Blairsville.

Q. What are the duties of the **Clerk of Superior Court in Union** County?

A. This office is responsible for all the civil and criminal affairs and filings made in the Union County Superior Court. The office of the Clerk



of Court provides the juror list for Grand Jury along with civil and criminal trials. The jury lists are selected from a jury pool that is provided by the Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia. This office also serves as the official recorder of real-estate documents for the County and maintains records of deeds and plats.

Q. What is needed to have deeds and plats recorded?

A. Real estate filings include the filing, recording, and indexing of all documents and instruments pertaining to real estate, such as Deeds, Deeds of Trust, Affidavits, Releases Notices and Certificates, and Cancellations of Deeds. Real estate documents can be filed by presenting originals to the Office of the Clerk of Court or by e-filing on the GSCCCA.org portal. The Law requires that deeds be witnessed and notarized in order to be recorded. It is also required that deeds conveying ownership of property must have a PT 61 form attached. This form can be accessed and completed on the following website: www.gsccca.org

Plat documents presented to be filed with the Clerk of Court must be presented to the Clerk's Office electronically and in conformance with laws, rules, and regulations. This can be done at http://efile.gsccca.org Local surveyors provide assistance with uploading newly completed plats and surveys.

Q. Can I take care of my Trade Name Registration in this office?

A. Yes, you can. Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 10-1-490) requires every "person, firm, or partnership, carrying on in this state any trade or business under any trade name or partnership

See Paris, page 7A

Chamber of Commerce

As we chart the course for our community's future, it's imperative to recognize the pivotal role of tourism in driving economic prosperity and fostering community cohesion. By investing in tourism infrastructure, promoting sustainable practices, and cultivating authentic experiences,

we can harness the full potential of this dynamic industry. Together, let's embrace tourism as not only a source of revenue but also as a catalyst for



growth, innovation, and collective well-being. Based on the state's latest numbers, tourist brought in \$98.3 million in spending to Union County, which also resulted in \$19.9 million in labor income. For 2023, the Chamber's marketing efforts, which included print and digital media, reached over 36.3 million. The impact of tourism extends far beyond mere sightseeing; it's a cornerstone of our community's economic vitality and a lifeline for our small businesses. As we welcome visitors with open arms, let's seize

See Chamber, page 7A

Spring Ephemerals

Spring ephemerals are (in my opinion) some of prettiest native plants that we have in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Some of these plants can be quite rare or difficult to find. They usually have some unique site requirements, which makes them difficult to transplant. The difficulty in **UGA** cultivating some of these makes Watching them all the more and Working beautiful when you Jacob find them in the wild. These plants Williams are called spring ephemerals because they come up quickly in the spring, bloom, and then quickly die back. The suddenness that they appear and disappear with makes them difficult to find sometimes. Let's talk about some of these spring ephemerals, all of these are shade loving plants. Trillium is a fairly common spring ephemeral. There are many different species of trillium, which have different colors of flowers, although white, red, and pink seem to be the most common. Sweet Betsy is one species that has a deep red flower. The leaves on it have a variegated look to it. Trillium always comes up on a single stalk that turns into 3 leaves. The flower is usually on the top of the plant, but with nodding trilliums the flower is on a stem that drops below the leaves, hiding the bloom. Trout lily has a beautiful yellow flower. The leaves are a very attractive mottling of green and purple. This is a very low growing plant with thin stalks that support the intricate flowers. Trout lily grows in the shade. It tends to grow on drier sites. There are also white trout lilies, but they don't seem to be as common in our area. Mayapple is an interesting looking plant that sends up a single stalk with leaves drooping over that make it look like an umbrella. Mayapples tend to grow well in wet areas. A plant will have a single white flower, that is hidden beneath the leaves. It does produce a fruit in May that kind of looks like an apple. Hence the name, mayapple. It is not recommended to eat these fruits as they are toxic. Dutchman breeches have a unique flower. They are white and yellow. If you use a little imagination they look like upside-down britches (breeches) that would belong to a dutchman. This plant is an important pollinator for bumblebees. The leaves look a bit like fern leaves, but less glossy. Bloodroot has unique shaped leaves that change as the plant ages. It tends to like places that stay fairly dry. It blooms early in the spring with white flowers, that look similar to daisies. The juice from the root is an orange-red color. See Williams, page 7A



Letters to the Editor

A Little History Dear Editor.

A few weeks ago, an Op/Ed writer attempted to give us a lesson on the meaning of appeasement. The writer was trying to tell us how important it is that we keep ling our hard-earned tax dollars over to Ukraine to stop the Russian invasion of that country. Unfortunately for the writer, they missed the mark. They speak of Hitler's annexation of The Sudetenland, which was an area in Czechoslovakia inhabited by mostly German-speaking people. The Op/Ed writer is referring to Ukraine as The Sudetenland. Sadly, if the writer had been paying attention, they would have realized that Ukraine already had its "Sudetenland" stripped from them. Those of us who recall know that moment was when Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. Ten years ago. That occurred under Obama's last administration. Hmm. If Ukraine is so important, I wonder why the Obama Administration didn't do anything? Now here's what's really happening.

TIKTOK IS SINISTER AND NEEDS TO BE SOLD, OR WE WILL BAN IT, - CONGRESS

TOOL HODOSTERETAN

Uncle Mack's Teeth

My mother's two uncles, Mack and Rufus Baker, were two men that everyone loved and respected. I looked up to each one because they were tough and yet kind. They paid extra attention to young boys. Each man spent a great amount of time in the woods. Each of them enoved hunting, especially coon hunting Around in the hills and hol-**The Farm** lows of Newberg Mountain. Before Mickey my Dad ever dated my mother, he was Cumming coon hunting with

See Mollette, page 7A

They claimed Georgia has the cleanest voter rolls in the U.S. with the amount of maintenance that it does - the single best, safest and most secure voter registration in America, again, our lists are the cleanest in America, they claim.

Ms. Kim Brooks and a team of computer experts have done extensive research into the Georgia election system and its faults from 2014 to present. Every rebuttal statement is based See Lausier, page 7A

Climate Reparations Dear Editor,

In 2021, President Biden appointed John Kerry as the United States Special Climate Envoy, a position that did not previously exist and did not require Senate approval. The Biden regime just made the job up. The job doesn't exist in any federal statute.

Recently, Kerry has indicated that he's willing to spend more of our tax dollars to try and fix the weather. Last November, Kerry spoke at the sixth annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Singapore. After flying there in his

See Groza, page 7A

- • Crossroads

Dear Editor,

In our beloved America, we are at a crossroad of no return because our government no longer serves "We the People" but is longing to control the masses by evil means and putting Americans in bondage to their agenda. There is a similar story in the bible where the Babylonians captured the people of Jerusalem and took them captive back to their native land where they taught the captives their own language, their culture, their way of life and even the foods that they ate, and the captives were amazed at the way they had been treated, not realizing they were slaves under new ownership for life, never to return to their native land.

Is America on the same path as we see more and more evilness on the national, state and local levels that is trying to mold us into its likeness, culture, ways of thinking to the point that eventually we will be slaves under an evil leadership led by Satan who is slowly taking over every aspect of our God-given rights as American citizens and stripping us of our rights to free speech? No longer will we have a voice to express, for if we oppose, we will be put in jail See Combs, page 7A

The only people from our country who

See Rains page 7A

Why We Support Trump **Dear Editor**,

This is to the person who said that she loves living in the mountains but can't understand why 80% of the people up here are for Trump

We support Trump because we share many beliefs.

Because we believe in God, country, and the Constitution, fair and honest elections for citizens with a voter ID, a fair and honest justice system with equality for all under the law, realistic immigrations policies, and near the top personal freedom. We support the Second Amendment, believe "woke" is a four letter word, and support law enforcement - unless it becomes weaponized by politicians. We believe in a unified country not torn apart by political policies designed to separate us by group, and a news media that actually reports ALL the NEWS, not a propaganda machine for the president as long as he/she is a Democrat. Of course, there are many, many other common beliefs, these are just some of them.

I believe Trump supports most of these things and more. That is why we support him. The obviously unjust charges brought against him increase our support for him.

I am also sure that among the 80% there are those who disagree with some, or perhaps all of these items, but that is OK with us. It is called freedom of choice, something unaccept-

See Priven page 7A

North Georgia News

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Mack and Rufus.

When his two dogs were about 6 months old, my father asked Mack and Rufus if he could go hunting with them. The two men pulled up in the yard and waited with my grandparents as my Daddy fetched his dogs. The trio of men and the young boy walked across the cotton and corn fields to the "James Place." The dogs struck a coon and began the trailing just after dark. The raccoon led the dogs up and down Turkey Creek and under bluffs for about an hour. Finally, the old coon went up a Black Gum Tree standing on the banks of Turkey Creek.

Uncle Rufus tied the old dogs and told my Dad to let Sam and Lou continue tree barking. Uncle Mack waded out into the middle of Turkey Creek and began to try and squall the coon out of the tree. Basically, Uncle Mack would make a sound that resembled a fighting coon. This squalling sound will entice a raccoon to walk down a tree and jump into the middle of a pack of dogs. This was no exception; the sound worked, and the old coon began to make its way down the tree. The coon got to within 10 feet of the ground where the dogs and Uncle Mack could see the coon. Uncle Mack made one more of the squalling sounds, and the old coon jumped from the tree into the creek.

But, before the coon hit the water, Uncle Mack's false teeth flew from his mouth and hit the water. The sound of the splashing convinced the dogs that the coon was in the water. So, Sam dove into the water right where the false teeth had landed. Almost immediately, the coon landed on the dog's back. So, there was Uncle Mack bending over looking for his teeth, and the dog was swimming in circles all while howling because the coon was biting his ear. Just when you thought matters couldn't get worse, Lou, the other dog, joined the fight. Uncle Mack was hollering, "Get the dogs!" Sam was howling because the coon was still biting his ear. Lou finally had a good hold on the coon, and she was trying to pull it off Sam's back while it was still biting his ear.

In the meantime, Rufus and my Dad were See Cummings, page 7A

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Paris... continued from Page 6A

name or other name" to register the trade name of the business within 30 days from "commencing to do business." As provided by law, the registration shall be filed with the Clerk of the Superior court "of the county in which the business is chiefly carried on or in the case of a domestic corporation using any name other than its corporate name, in the county of its legal domicile." Notice of the filing shall be published in the newspaper in which the sheriff's advertisements are printed once a week for two weeks. If you have questions about filing a trade name, please call the Clerk's Office at 706 439-6022.

Q. What else does the Clerk of Court's Office handle that the public might need to know about?

A. The Clerk of Courts Office provides to veterans the recordation and permanent preservation of military disClerk of Superior Court of Union County should bring the records to the Clerk's Office. Q. Do I have to complete an Open Records Request to get copies of information from the Clerk of Court's Office? A. All public and court

charge records. Military dis-

the United States Government;

raised seal issued by the United

States National Personnel Re-

have his or her military dis-

charge records permanently recorded in the Office of the

DD Form 214 issued by

DD Form 214 with a

United States National

A veteran desiring to

charge records include:

cords Center; or

Archives form 13038.

by the public unless exempted by a specific law or court order. Regular business hours for the Clerk of Superior Court are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lausier... continued from Page 6A

on independent research and analysis of Secretary of State data from that time period.

What they found in response to Sterling and Evans' claims was that the rolls were found to be riddled with bad data and manipulation such as:

Massive data errors (3 million bad records have been found);

Registrants have duplicated IDs found at nonexistent addresses, registered at business addresses, had their records moved, not updated and massive unlawful manipulation of voter roll date around an election;

Synthetic identify theft is occurring on deceased Georgians, ex-Georgians and current Georgians via the Garvis system;

Thousands of people who have moved have not had their records updated;

Georgians votes are cast, changed, swapped and deleted unknown to the voter.

What is the Eric system? What is the Garvis system? It affects all of us. Start paying attention, fellow Patriots. **Eva Lausier**

Mollette... continued from Page 6A

Congress that has not been approved. The bill still allows for an average of 5000 people a day over seven days to come into the United States illegally before closing the border. Or, the one-day maximum number is 8,500 entries before the border is closed. This a larger number of people than some of our rural counties in America. Over the course of a year this would amount to a city the size of Indianapolis or larger coming into our country. This is not border security, but only a continuation of Biden's insanity.

We do need to help Ukraine. Putin is not anyone's friend. Trump made a stupid statement about Putin attacking non supportive NATO countries.

However, the border security and Ukraine expenditures should be separate bills. If we don't tightly secure our border our children are going to have a scary place to grow up. Sadly, we may already be in that place.

Groza... continued from Page 6A

private jet, Kerry announced that there was no price too high for you and me to pay to stop global warming. Kerry made a promise to pay millions of American taxpayer dollars into a global climate reparations fund. It's called the Climate Change Loss and Damages Fund

Fund. This is an international wealth transfer fund by which rich countries, except for China of course, will pay reparations to poor countries because of "disproportionate impacts" on the weather. It's like systemic racism but for the weather. It's not clear how any of this works because we're not "climate experts" like Climate Envoy Kerry.

What we do realize is that no matter how bad the alleged fake global warming scheme gets, more money always seems to be the answer. And of course, after Kerry gave his speech, he got back on his

Rains... continued from Page 6A

stand to lose from Putin taking Ukraine are the Bidens. As we remember, Hunter Biden was on the Board of Burisma. Burisma, if you recall, was a corrupt Ukrainian energy company. If you recall further, Hunter was under investigation for corruption by Ukrainian officials. Most have seen the video on YouTube of then Vice President Biden proudly proclaiming how he got the Ukrainian prosecutor removed from the case by withholding \$1 billion in U.S. aid from Ukraine until the prosecutor was removed. In layman's terms, Biden extorted Ukraine. By the way, extortion is a crime, and Biden's on video telling the world he did it. The Bidens have a history of shady dealings all around the world, not least of which is Ukraine. If Ukraine falls, all the Biden family shady dealings there would be laid bare for the entire world to see. If you don't think Putin would use that information to his advantage, I have some great property at the bottom of Lake Nottely I can sell you for a song.

Now, to the Op/Ed writer, I say this. If you are going to use past events from history to bolster your argument, you had better know the entire history. As far as sending more of our money to Ukraine, I say no money for securing Ukraine's borders until our border is closed and secure! This current Ukrainian situation is entirely Joe Biden's fault. If Mr. Biden was a strong leader, Russia

Cummings... continued from Page 6A

laying on the creek bank laughing so hard they were crying. Uncle Mack finally found his teeth and made his way up the bank of the creek. He looked at Paul and said, "Your dogs are pretty good dogs, but, you ain't much help."

I guess you could say Uncle Mack was pretty surprised about losing his teeth, and it must've been a comical scene watching him standing in the creek trying to find his teeth all while trying to keep those dogs from pushing them into the sandy bottom of the creek. As an older man, my Dad would tell this story, and the result was aways the same; his laughter always caused him to lose his breath, and he would have to sit down to compose himself.

Fowler... continued from Page 6A

God - from hostility into friendship, out of wrath into forgiveness, from conflict to peace. To embrace Christ Jesus as Savior is to have the answer that explains your life and identity.

plains your life and identity. After running many roads from coast to coast, Forest Gump stops. Someone yells, "Quiet! He's gonna say something!" "I'm pretty tired," says Gump. "Think I'll go home now." You can be done with running – chasing the wind, dwelling on your past. The cross of Christ holds the answer for you. It is the defining event that turns your face towards home. wouldn't have dared make a move against them, as Russia didn't for the entire Trump Administration. Don't you find it strange that Russia's recent aggression towards Ukraine has only happened when the United States has had Democrat presidents? Obama and Biden. Know why? Because both Obama and Biden are appeasers.

Claude Rains Jr.

private jet and flew back to Europe, which is where he prefers to live instead of the United States. Tim Groza

Williams... continued from Page 6A

Native Americans had many uses for this plant including dye and insect repellant. The flowers will open during the day and close at night. The leaves are deeply lobed. I think the leaves look a little bit like the bat signal.

Ramps don't have a very showy flower. They are in the allium genus, which is the genus that contains garlic and onions. They are edible and have a very strong flavor to them. Historically, ramps are an important part of Appalachian cuisine. Today they have become more difficult to find on public land so there are regulations regarding wild harvesting them.

There are many more spring ephemerals for you to discover. When these plants are found in the wild, it is best to leave them there and enjoy them as wild plants. There are nurseries where you can buy seed for these plants if you want to have them in your yard.

If you have questions about native plants or spring ephemerals contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@ uga.edu.

Chamber... continued from Page 6A

the opportunity to showcase the richness of our community, leaving a lasting impression on all who venture through our doors.

Attention all coffee lovers and community members! Come out to Cabin Coffee on March 26th at 8 a.m. to show your support for our Local Law Enforcement. This is your chance to connect with your Local Law Enforcement who work tirelessly to protect and serve our community every day. So, don't miss out on this chance to show your appreciation for our Local Law Enforcement. We hope to see you there!

This year's legislative session at the Capitol is proving to impact everything from education to health care, tax cuts to infrastructure and the best way to pass tort reforms. Mark your calendars for April 25th and prepare to attend our Legislative Wrap Up Breakfast and learn how the bills passed will impact our County.

It takes all of us to make life better in Blairsville!

Combs... continued from Page 6A

for speaking the truth.

This is a sad legacy to leave behind for our kids and grandkids to deal with, for they will be forced to comply with a new Socialist government, which is slowly being put into place across America.

Our forefathers knew the value of truth, and this is why they established laws under God's leadership that are now being dismantled piece by piece, and our present government is now going after churches to get rid of Christianity and do away with any concept of who God is and the foolishness of the cross.

Satan is spearheading this agenda and will not stop until every believer in Christ is eradicated from the face of the earth.

Much fervent prayer is needed daily from every follower of Christ, for God still hears the prayers of His righteous people. Frank F. Combs

Ashurst... continued from Page 6A

search also shows that having a pet lowers blood pressure, cholesterol, and triglycerides.

There are facilities that have confined adults that permit pets to visit the adults for the expressed purpose of "lifting the spirt" of the adult. Whether such adult is dealing with depression, anxiety, or loneliness, a pet has an aura that can minister to the owner. Owning a pet also offers the chance of meeting and socializing with other pet owners. Lasting friendships can be made with the adults.

Never underestimate the value of your pet(s) if you have one – the lovable creature is God's gift to you. Remember: you chose your pet, not vice versa. Enjoy their unconditional love!

Priven... continued from Page 6A

able to the Left. By the way, I would bet Biden, if he can remember, does not support ANY of these beliefs.

A political party that would support a possibly braindead person for the White House with his finger on the nuclear button, during a time when there is talk of World War III being inevitable, is well beyond my comprehension.

You would be better served if you started a conversation with the 80% to try to understand why we feel as we do. Remember, you moved into our community. **Mike Priven**