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the public?

A. The swimming pool is located beside the tennis courts. It has a very special area for small children - The Splash Pad. It has several different water features for the tots. The Splash Pad has a large marshmallow that pours water down like a shower; fish bones that have nozzles that squirt water as your child moves through them; tiny marshmallows children can sit on; water wheels that pour water in short spurts; a large bucket that fills and then dumps the water on the children; and some nozzles and a fish tail in the ground that randomly squirt water up into the air. It also features a small sitting pool. Families can also reserve special tents. The pool usually opens in

May-June each year, and the operating hours have generally been Monday – Sunday, 12pm – 6pm. Pool entrance fees have not been set for this year, but last year they were: \$5 per person for one day. Children 5 and under are FREE. Membership passes are also available: \$130 family membership pass for Union County residents (up to 5 people). \$155 for non-residents. \$70 single membership pass for Union County residents. \$80 for non-residents. Pool passes may be purchased at the Union County Recreation Department located at 519 Industrial Blvd near the beginning of May or at the pool after it opens. If the entrance fees change, they will be noted on Facebook and on the Union County Government website.

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you read? The facts are clear. And I'm getting tired of saying this to people who claim to be patriotic but hate America."

The man behind this verbal harangue earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of Alabama. Later, he obtained a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Florida College of Law.

Does this insulting and self-aggrandizing invective describe you? Are you running America down? What "people" is he talking about?

Do you believe that America sucks? Are the facts clear? Do you hate America?

Isn't it troubling that the supposedly educated man who spoke in such guttural language, has millions of viewers, and spouts this kind of propaganda every morning?

So, who spewed out this elementary tirade? It was the pseudo-journalist Morning Joe Scarborough on MSNBC. What happened to this man that turned him into such a progressive blowhard?

**John Ripma**

**Medwed... continued from Page 6A**

missioner Paris' office, for your never-ending support. Dr. Lynn Stevenson of Nottely Oaks Animal Hospital – we could never do what we do without your incredible skill, guidance and helping hands. The Mountain Shelter staff was amazing. Diane and her staff at Safe Pet Project helped organize and run this fundraiser. We are indebted to the many vendors and donations that ensured the success of our event.

Unfortunately, the population of homeless dogs and cats in our area continues to increase. The costs of provid-

ing shelter, food and medical care are also escalating at a rapid pace. We are blessed with a community in Union and Towns Counties that helps the shelter through donations, thrift store purchases, adoptions of our amazing furry friends and service as fosters for homeless animals. Your support makes all the difference.

We look forward to hosting more community events in the future.

**Rob Medwed**  
President, Humane Society Mountain Shelter

**Rains... continued from Page 6A**

letter that's submitted, not just the ones that have opinions with which I agree.

THAT, Mr. Concerned, is the policy for which you should be asking. However, I don't think it was. As you put it, you're unhappy with certain "extreme" views you've seen in the paper, as of late, because you don't think that those extreme views represent our community. THAT view, my friend, is called CENSORSHIP. So, in layman's terms, what you want, Mr. Concerned, is for the paper to censor out any views that you feel are too extreme.

Let me guess. If I were a betting man, I'd say you're a Democrat, right? If you haven't noticed lately, Democrats these days are trying to censor any opinion and cancel any person with which they do not 100% agree. That's the difference between Democrats and Conservatives. Democrats, no matter what media it appears in, don't want to hear any opinion that

differs from what they believe. In other words, all Democrats want are YESMEN. People who will listen to them, blindly follow and believe what they say without any resistance or opposition to them whatsoever. Basically, Democrats want slaves. That fact is actually not far-fetched since historically the Democrat Party has ALWAYS been the Party of Slavery in one form or another in this country.

Conservatives, while we may not agree with you, believe that EVERYONE is entitled to their opinion and has the right to have that opinion heard. That's because Conservatives believe that you can always learn from others with different opinions from yours while you learn almost nothing from those who ALWAYS agree with you. So, Mr. Concerned, while I don't agree with what you wrote, I'm glad the paper printed it.

**Claude Rains Jr.**

**Miller... continued from Page 6A**

it." I was shocked when I heard that so many years ago and had a hard time believing any candidate would engage in that kind of activity. Now it seems to have become the norm.

In 2016, the Oxford dictionary added a new "international word of the year" – post-truth, commonly associated with the noun "post-truth politics." Post-truth, an adjective, is defined as a situation in which "objective facts are less influential than appeals to emotion." It has become a political tool in which objective facts are replaced by half-truths and outright lies, resulting in emotions that become more important than evidence.

With the advent of digital media and partisan news, it is difficult to determine truth because of the proliferation of half-truths, gossip, innuendo, conspiracy theories, and outright lies. Repetition makes a falsehood seem more like truth, even though it is not. This illusion of truth can lead to subtle manipulation and the danger of falling for propaganda.

Facts matter. We, as individuals, have the power to stop spreading lies and half-truths by taking the time to verify online content before sharing either on social media or in personal conversations. If we repeat whatever we read or hear without bothering to check its accuracy, we are helping to create a world where misrepresentations, lies, and truth are easy to confuse, and the results can be devastating. Democracy cannot survive without continuous inquiry and analysis in the search for truth

and without rational dialogue with those with different viewpoints. So please, think and verify before repeating what you hear and read.

Also, do your research before deciding who you want to vote for in November. Our next president should be chosen very, very carefully. Most of us want to preserve our American core values of honesty, morality, decency, a living wage, clean water and air, affordable health care for all, and preservation of our democracy. President Biden has already demonstrated that he holds and fights for these values. Most of us do not want our society to become an autocracy with a controlling leader whose coziness with Russia's Vladimir Putin, China's Xi Jinping, and North Korea's Kim Jong Un puts us on a path that we will regret.

**Martha Miller**

**St. Lawrence... continued from Page 6A**

see you pen one word that wasn't entirely devoted to elevating a now-convicted felon and his unquestioning cult before the country, before democracy, and before facts and common sense.

I thoroughly believe you're physically incapable of being honest, objective or sincere. You're all about "the show" and your personal gains from it. You disgrace your office, our state, and our country.

And it is \*OUR\* country, not just yours, and not only Republicans' country. Try treating it that way sometime.  
**Gary St. Lawrence**

**Cummings... continued from Page 6A**

the truth at all times.

He passed this story on to his kids and grandkids. Papa said that people will judge you upon how you live your life and that your name is something which can be tarnished or enhanced by your actions. My grandfather was a part of the Greatest Generation. His generation began with people still using horses for transportation and plowing fields. He told me a story once about the first time he saw a train. He was scared because it resem-

**Chamber... continued from Page 6A**

are \$10 each and the drawing will be held July 4th. You do not have to be present to win. Don't miss your big chance to win while celebrating Independence Day!

Come help us make life better in Blairsville.

**Williams... continued from Page 6A**

won't kill any Japanese beetles.

Using milky spore to kill the grubs doesn't mean that you won't have any Japanese beetles the following year, but you can significantly reduce the population that is present in your area. Some people will use traps to kill Japanese beetles. I try to discourage people from this practice because traps with pheromone lures will bring beetles in from five miles away, meaning that you have more beetles.

If you have questions about Japanese beetles contact your county Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

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costs are if they have financial problems?

Why have we allowed difference of opinions, religion, etc., to devolve into disrespect with our citizens and elected officials?

When did we become so dysfunctional in getting legislation passed that benefits all of our citizens?

If we all insisted that our elected officials do the job that they were elected to do they would not have to spend so much time fundraising as they do now. Our elected officials (both Democrats & Republicans) are required by their party to spend so many hours per week to raise money for their individual campaign as well as raising money for their individual party.

I am at a loss in trying to determine when we, as citizens of this great nation, lost our way in demanding that our elected officials do what is best for this country.

**Richard Fasanelli**

**Lausier... continued from Page 6A**

I was glad to see someone challenging the status quo here, and to make positive changes to the sheriff's department. MUCH needed changes! I also supported a state representative that would represent his conservative district and not vote for conservative ideas and not vote with the Atlanta Democrats 50% of the time (yes, that is documented).

But only 30% of the eligible voters in this county voted, and so we still have the good ole boy network, the same ole same ole, instead of working to solve significant problems headed toward this county.

But your letter to the editor claiming these candidates and their supporters are extremists shows your altered views.

If people don't agree with you, and if they have different opinions, they are labeled extremist.

Well count me in, I'm an extremist in your book, and I wear it as a badge of honor.

But when it comes to people with that thought process, I have found you cannot present facts or change their minds with logic. No one is able to fix the factually challenged.

**Eva Lausier**

**Honor Flight trips to Washington, D.C. for Veterans**

Sponsored (no cost to Veteran) Honor Flight trips to Washington D.C. to see the memorials to the Wars in which they served. Veterans do not have to have been deployed overseas ... just to have served during the War period. World War II, Korea, and Vietnam veterans are included.

Spring and Fall flights. If interested, call Paul at 615-232-4445. Thank you!

**Ashurst... continued from Page 6A**

the movies, or to walk the mall.

Sadly, he was a recluse internally. The longing to connect with others was persistent, but the unknown internal fright was a blockade. "Why am I like this?" "What's wrong with me." These questions haunted him all the time. Because there was no connection, he thought it was because he didn't feel worthy to be in any type of relationship. He'd be the first to admit that his opinion of himself was at ground zero or even deeper. Because of his total lack of friends, he didn't consider it worthwhile to even take care of himself: hygiene, orderly attire, or a pleasant appearance. He looked ragged.

Jacob's self-esteem, self-image, and self-worth were practically non-existent. If he had any, it was well camouflaged. At school, classmates passed by him as if he were Casper the Ghost. To them, he just didn't exist.

Football was the major sport at Jacob's award-winning high school. Pep rallies were held on Fridays during the last class of the day. The purpose was for the student body to yell and to scream their undying devotion to the football jocks

who paraded across the stage.

It was the last regular game of the season, and the team would make it to the play-offs. On Friday, the students were ecstatic as they practically ran down the halls to get to the auditorium for a choice seat. The scene of bumping, knocking into each other, running, and jolting the next person resembled wild horses being corralled in a large pen.

Jacob was not in the least bit interested in the hoopla, and was headed toward the serene quietness of the library when it happened. *Next week: more about Jacob and his loneliness.*

**Dyer... continued from Page 6A**

was shown by the sacrifices they made to complete this intense firefighter training. We are proud of the recruits and their commitment to the service. If you would like to become a volunteer firefighter and join our team, we are accepting applications now. Please contact Headquarters/Station 1 at 706-439-6091.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~