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all others”.

A. I do hear this sometimes, though not often. I can sympathize with them to some extent. However, it is simply a matter of fairness and responsibility. When purchasing a home or land, your price is often partly based on the type of road ac-

cess available. In some cases, prices are reduced if the roads are not built to county specs or is a gravel road. At the same time, many people want to live on a gravel road and in isolated locations. These are all choices the potential homeowner must make. As a property owner

you can choose to locate on a county maintained paved road, on a gravel road, on a private road where you control who comes and goes, or to locate on a “public road”, which is the worst of all worlds since you cannot control who uses the road nor is it maintained by the county. Once that choice is made, the county cannot be re-

sponsible nor afford to maintain all roads. Developers also had a choice when they built roads in the county and many chose not to build them to county specs and to instead allow the homeowners to control who utilized their roads. Again, it is an issue of our personal choice and preferences.

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prizes, samples and giveaways provided to the visiting public. We are thankful to our sponsors, United Community Bank, Dixie Confections and Amazing Grace Catering, Rustic Mountain Décor and Blue Ridge Cotton Company. We have only 2 more sponsorships available.

Our ticket sales continue for the July 4th fire works show at Meeks Park. For a \$10 donation per ticket the holder can win \$1,000. The drawing will be held prior to the fireworks show that evening. Ticket holders need not be present to win. You can obtain a ticket(s) at the chamber office or from any board member and/or Chamber Ambassador. You can also obtain tickets on our website. The tickets have been sponsored by Melissa’s Custom Cakes and provides a \$5 off coupon toward any purchase of \$25 or more at the bakery.

There will be a Ribbon Cutting and Open House for Union General Women’s Health on Thursday, June 14 from 3 PM to 6 PM. It is a big event to have a medical facility in Blairsville that is dedicated to Women’s health. Come visit the office, take a tour for the facility and learn of the services that are available. The office is located at 123 Weaver Road, Blairsville. For more information you can call 706 835-2222.

The Trout Unlimited Chapter 692 is meeting on Thursday, June 14th from 4:30 PM to 8 PM at the Union Coun-

ty Community Center. Fly tying will begin at 4:30 and the meeting will begin at 7 PM. Anyone interested in Trout fishing should come. It will be a real learning experience. Additional information can be obtained from Harold Hogan, tu692@ng-atu696.com .

The Hiwassee Antique Mall will have a Father’s Day Celebration on Friday, June 15th. There will be a selection of antique/vintage automobiles on display and 36 dealers in over 8,000 square feet to shop for the perfect gift for Dad. They are located at 518 North Main Street in Hiwassee. The phone number is 706 896-0587.

Please visit our web site at www.visitblairsvillega.com where you can click on “Explore Blairsville” and then click on “Events” and view a list of upcoming community events. If you are trying to think of things to do or places to go try it out!

Join us on radio 95.1 FM on Thursdays at 8:45 AM with the summary of Chamber events for the coming week.

You can communicate with me at president@blairsvillechamber.com or my office 706 745-5789. I welcome all of your thoughts and ideas. You can also connect with me on LinkedIn.com at www.linkedin.com/in/alharpermba .

We are working to help local businesses to increase their sales and reduce their costs.

Thank you for your support!

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topic and provide information on the area in which the competition is being held.

During the competition, each team must complete five written field tests, each dealing with a different topic. These tests consist of various question types, including identifications and hands-on assessments. Each team must also prepare an oral presentation on the current issue topic, which the team presents to a panel of judges. An important element of the competition is the understanding that each topic is interrelated and understanding human effects on the environment and how human activities connect with ecosystem functions. Each test is scored out of 100 points, with the presentation being scored out of 200 points. The team with the highest cumulative total of points at the end of the scoring is the winning team. Recognition is also given to teams with the highest scoring in each of the five categories.

In 1979 the Pennsylvania Soil and Water Conservation Districts set up the Environmental Olympics, later renamed Enviro-Olympics, to encourage interest in environmental issues through hands-on competition.

Expanding rapidly to include forty conservation districts by 1987, it gained attention from other states, and in 1988, the program became the National Envirothon, with participation from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Ohio. In 1992 Nova Scotia became the first Canadian province to join the competition. The competition was sponsored by various state, local, and provincial conservation programs and associations until 1997 when Canon Inc. began its support of the program, with local sponsors still supporting lower level competitions. In 1999 Canon became the title sponsor of the competition between the U.S. states and Canadian provinces, with the competition being renamed the “Canon Envirothon.” It is currently referred to as the “NCF-Envirothon.” Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D is a sponsor of the Georgia Envirothon and Kim will be an official at the national competition in Idaho later this month.

For more information on Envirothon, check our web site www.chestchattred.org or follow us on our Facebook page or www.georgiaenvirothon.org.

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see and feel the pain and the suffering. After 52 years I can read her mind, her facial expressions and her moans. She is suffering in a way that no human being or animal should ever have to. I hear a lot about God’s mercy, but I do not see it! My darling wife is a saint to all who know her. She is as sinless as Jesus. She has forgiven those who have harmed her both physically and mentally. She would give Mother Teresa a good run for sainthood, but she must endure a long horrible and painful death and I must ask why. What has she ever done to deserve this? There are no answers so don’t even try. She is currently under Hospice care and words cannot describe their kindness, their compassion, their care for the dying patient. Her physical pain is dulled by powerful drugs but the pain is still there dull or otherwise, and the drugs are powerful narcotics that keep her in a mental stupor. Her mind is still active, I can see and understand her facial expressions as she sleeps, but she cannot vocalize her pain, her thoughts, her fears, she can only endure them, day after day, week after week. She is a zombie who is suffering and dying. She crawled out of a hospital bed and fell injuring herself. We now have her on a 24 hour watch with me and my daughter taking shifts. Not only is she in unspeakable pain but so are we. We suffer to watch a wife and mother in such pain and agony while we can only sit by and watch helplessly. Again, where is God’s mercy?

At some point in time people will begin to wake up from the antiquated asinine and stupid laws in this state that prevent a doctor to assist a suffering terminally ill patient to die in peace, like my Little B did 15 months ago. Old and outdated religious doctrine says that would be suicide, an unforgivable sin. Our death is in God’s

hands and his alone so they say. I have to ask, what about when a surgeon replaces a human heart, a lung, a kidney, a liver? Those people would have surely died if a doctor had not intervened to save their lives. A skilled life-saving surgeon may actually be the earthly hands of God when he or she saves a life. Why then cannot that same compassionate doctor assist God to end the suffering of one of his people like Dr. Z did for our Little B.

A time will come when this will come up for a vote in our state and I will ask the readers to please remember this letter and think about their own death or that of a loved one when they cast their vote. Please remember the Iron Lady.

She is the compass that gave me direction in life, She is the rudder that steered us past the rocks and shoals and turbulent waters of marriage. She is the breeze that filled the sails on our ship of life, moving us ever forward even through rough and unknown seas, that have caused many a marriage to flounder and sink. She has always been my first mate, my navigator, as well as my safe harbor when the storms of life tried to drag me under. She was the anchor that kept me grounded. She is the beauty of a glorious red sunset over a smooth and calm sea. She is the sun rise that greeted me each day with a cup of coffee, a smile and an I love you. She is a mother, a sister, a daughter and a wonderful life’s companion.

Now that great Iron Lady is slowly sinking and I can only stand on shore helplessly and watch. The hurt and pain is more than I can bear sometimes but she has made me promises to sail on without her, as I gave her my permission to leave this life without me. That will be so hard to do without a compass, a rudder, a sail or a safe harbor.

John Q. Adams III

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Clifford became good friends with Doc Underwood. Doc was the resident doctor in the little town of Phil Campbell, Alabama. Each Tuesday morning for the next 35 years Doc would visit his old friend, Clifford Hyde for a game of Dominoes. The old men would sit on the front porch during the spring, summer and fall.

During the winter the pair would sit by Clifford’s old pot-bellied stove. Most of the time Clifford would win the game and that was good because Clifford could not stand

to lose. But, when Doc won the game Clifford would pout and say, “You must have cheated. Everyone knows you can’t beat me at Dominoes. Get out of my house and don’t come back”. Then the old man would snatch the dominoes off the table and throw them in the fire. By all accounts you would think the relationship between Doc and Clifford was over. However, early on the next Tuesday morning you could find Clifford walking the quarter mile to the Nix Mercantile to buy a new set of dominoes.

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In another study, Princeton economist Alan Krueger started with a question: What’s keeping young people out of work? He estimated from his research that the increase in painkiller prescriptions could have caused 20 percent of the observed decline in workforce participation among men and 25 percent among women. Krueger noted that areas with the highest rate of opioid prescriptions registered huge drop-offs in the number of people in the workforce.

In a new paper, Krueger argues that opioids pose more than just a health threat: They’re benching workers across the country. “The problem of the depressed labor force has run into the problem of the opioid crisis,” he said. “Now they’re connected.”

Areas with the highest rates of opioid prescriptions also experienced a shrinking workforce. Parts of Nevada, Michigan, Maine, the southeast and the southwest appear to have suffered the hardest hits.

It was also found that unemployed men and women both reported higher use of painkillers than their counterparts with jobs. Krueger saw that 44 percent of out-of-work men said they’d taken pain medication within the last 24 hours, though that could include something as innocuous as ibuprofen. Still, their rate was more than double that of the working men.

Among prime age women, though, the gap was less dramatic. Some 34.7 percent of women who’d dropped out of the labor force said they were taking painkillers, compared to 25.7 percent for those with jobs.

Krueger added that he wants lawmakers to do more than declare the opioid crisis a “national emergency,” as President Trump has done. Policymakers, he said, should focus on guiding people toward work and away from developing a drug habit.

Fowler...

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‘We have lost one child of this community. We should not ruin another child’s life with a conviction.’ I don’t know how to describe that gift. I can’t say enough about what a generous heart it takes for such a thing.”

He was willing, and acted to rescue the guilty one who caused the death of his own child. That dear reader is the heart of God, our Father.

O’Malley...

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one is good, not even one” (Romans 3:10-12), and that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Even one sin will keep us out of heaven, because heaven is a perfect place. We can only enter heaven when all our sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus, Who died for us.

Sadly, the Bible is pretty clear that not everyone will be saved (Matthew 7:13-14), even though God “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). So, what happens to people who have never heard about Jesus? Whatever it is, it is good and right and just, because God is good and loving and just.

Bottom Line: The Bible does not directly address what happens to those who have never heard about Jesus, through no fault of their own, except that Jesus expects His Church to make sure this doesn’t happen. In contrast, the Bible says a lot about what happens to those who have heard about Jesus, and do not accept Him as Savior and Lord. People who use this question to deny the goodness of God, and thereby reject Jesus, will perish.

Don OMalley

Pastor, Christ the King Church