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ing your vote. The first choice you have is to go to your local voting precinct on August 11th, which is the actual voting day, and you can cast your vote there. As of right now it will not be required to wear a mask in the voting precincts on election day, but please be aware that the Governor could always change that prior to election day. The second choice you have is to call the Registrar's Office at 706-439-6016 and request an Absentee Ballot. The last day to request an Absentee Ballot is August 7th, but the Registrar's Office recommends requesting it sooner, so you have enough time to get it back to them before Election Day on August 11th. The third choice you have is you may go online at sos.ga.gov, go to my voter page and follow the instructions to request a mail in ballot.

### Q. I personally feel like this is going overboard. Why does everyone feel all these precautions are necessary?

A. We are monitoring the responses to the Coronavirus outbreak, and we are following the guidance of local, state, and public health agencies and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure for all people present in the Union County Courthouse, the court ordered that temperatures be taken, and masks are required. These measures are necessary to reduce the risk of exposure

for people visiting or working in the courthouse. Our goal here at the Courthouse is to remain open. If we were to end up having multiple positive cases the Courthouse would have to be shut down, along with many of our operations. We must also remember that attorneys and clients from many locations in Georgia and out of state end up in our courthouse and we have no idea who they are or where they came from.

### Q. I am so tired of all the Coronavirus talk and requirements, when will life go back to normal?

A. This is definitely a challenge and has been one on all of us. I do think some positives have come out of this because it has forced everyone to spend more quality time with their loved ones than what may have been planned and I do feel like everyone can always benefit from that. Unfortunately, until there are clear signs of abatement or reduced numbers from the Department of Public Health showing a number of reduced positive tests, we are all going to have to pull together and do our best to overcome this virus. It will take patience, kindness and understanding on all of our parts to come through this together but I have no doubt that we can and will do this together like we always do. This is what makes Union County so unique and such an awesome place to live. Thank you all for your consideration.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

wind leave Veto's lungs when he hit the ground. When Dad and Junior quit laughing, they walked around the bluff to the thicket and searched for Veto. All they found were some pieces of clothing and bloodstains. The boys followed the bloodstains back to the road and then down the road toward Phil Campbell. So, they walked back to the car and drove slowly down the road to Phil Campbell.

Dad said they expected any minute to come across Veto, but, never did. Pretty soon

the blood trail disappeared, and Dad began to worry.

However, someone must have picked up Veto, because Dad and Junior drove back to the Pool Hall in Phil Campbell and found Veto laying on a pool table.

Glenn Cummings was on top of Veto with a big pair of side cutter pliers pulling out 1-inch-long thorns from the backside of Veto. The boys had a big laugh at the expense of Veto. They did become good friends and played ball together throughout high school.

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when they're 4-8 inches long. They'll both grow longer if left on the vine, and you can still eat them if they're big, but they get tougher as they age. You should be able to push your fingernail into the skin.

Sweet corn is ripe when you can puncture a kernel with your fingernail and milky fluid comes out. As soon as corn is picked, it starts to lose flavor. Refrigerate it to retain flavor.

Pick peas when the pods have plumped out. If they start to wrinkle, they're getting overripe. You can always open a pod to see if the seeds are swollen, but still tender. Beans are ready when you can see the seeds bulging through the sides of the pod.

Pick peppers when they are shiny green. If you let them

sit on the bush longer and they start to change to orange or red and they're getting hotter. If that's what you're looking for, let them sit.

If you have questions about when plants are ripe contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

## Fire...

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Summer extreme heat can take its toll on a person. Remember the tips for staying cool. Be aware of the symptoms of heat exhaustion/heat stroke and recognize when a person is showing these symptoms.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

## Chavis... continued from Page 4A

facts; if you honestly feel in your heart and soul that the BLM phrase is "a symbol of hate," then you are part of the problem. When you say "All Lives Matter," you are not seeing the bigger picture, and Black voices feel that they are, once again, being denigrated, denied and patronized by a race of people who have held them down and back for way too long.

I believe it's deliberate. Certain individuals flat out refuse to see and thus delegitimize the BLM movement by answering the cry for justice and the call to care about the lives of a race of people who've been systematically subjugated for centuries, with the rally cry of "All Lives Matter!" So, when you shout that out, not only are you showing your unwillingness to change, your lack of compassion, and

your inability to acknowledge the cry for help, you are also showing your "true colors."

The BLM movement is not about politics. It's about injustice and inequality. If you're standing there in all your self-righteousness, all your power, all your glory, talking about "All Lives Matter," believing that systemic racism doesn't exist; that police brutality against Blacks doesn't exist; that Blacks in this country have been treated with the same fairness, equality and justice as their White counterparts, then you're either blind, ignorant, or merely want to hold on to your perceived superiority.

Let's stop the "BUT" games and use our collective energy for the betterment of ALL. Let's get down to what really matters... liberty, justice, and equality for everyone - regardless of skin color! Why are certain individuals trying to make it more than what it is?

**Jan Chavis**  
Blairsville,  
Retired Army Officer

## Blanchard...

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torical artifacts is in great part caused by the lack of latter day education in American history and heritage. Vandalism of the statue of Frederick Douglass in Rochester, New York, (again) validates the ignorance of the misguided (co-opted?) anarchists (Marxists?) in their attempts to destroy America.

So, back to school. Save lives! Learn defensive driving and abstinence from illicit drugs, and for the educators, incorporate classes in comprehensive American heritage, since it is no longer taught in the public school "system."  
**Zeb Blanchard**

## Chamber... continued from Page 4A

decisions every day that positively impact the health of our community. Understanding individual concerns and having families of their own makes tough calls even more difficult. Take every opportunity to show your appreciation for these humble men and women.

In this ever-changing environment, today's decisions can change as quickly as 24 hours as we navigate the current environment. Our own response to leaders' recommendations can be significant. You may have noticed billboards and social media posts announcing the MaskUp initiative. While Governor Kemp stated that he would not require individuals to wear masks, he strongly encourages us to do so. Many professionals believe that if each, and every, person would wear a mask, we could quickly turn the tide and get back to where we were last May. We all understand that having our face covered is not

## Fowler...

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goodness by teaching and healing, and to convey goodness by taking the fall for you. He got canceled by the mob who came for Him even though He is good.

This cultural moment may insist that you are basically good, but according to God you need to be restored, redeemed, and renewed. That's why it's good news that God is good.

## Wallace...

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of our "American" military stationed there had COVID-19. One Marine who hung out with infected individuals over July 4th showed up for work at my son's office, and no mask! What is wrong with these stupid people?! State of Georgia mandate or not, Kemp and Trump are not health experts. If Black Lives Matter/All Lives Matter, then mean what you say and do the right thing!

Some of our citizens here in Blairsville walk into Walmart with no mask and some with children in tow. To me, that's like walking into Walmart with a loaded gun and starting shooting. Only difference is, it takes longer to die with COVID-19. Florida's reporting over 12,000 cases a day. Guess where a lot of out-of-towners are from? If you don't know the answer to that... guess what?  
**Tom Wallace,**  
MSgt, USAF, Retired

## Crawford...

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black man, just like the horrific anarchy in the past weeks in Democrat held cities from the death of George Floyd.

His murder -- and that's what it was -- was nothing more than an excuse not to peacefully demonstrate, rather to destroy, vandalize and attack police. If we remember, it was BLM who chanted in New York City in 2014, "What do we want? Dead cops. When do we want it? NOW."

Other writers inaccurately portrayed that "for the past 400 years plus, the African American community has not mattered." First, the United States of America wasn't even a country 400 years ago, and there weren't any African Americans here. The idea of "systemic," which means, effective body as a whole, violence of police brutality in the black community again is fallacious in its very term.

In the worst example of black crime in one of America's largest cities, according to FBI statistics from 2019, Chicago, 75 percent of all murders were committed by blacks, and of that, 71 percent were black on black, with hundreds of children caught in crosshairs from violent gangs. In the past 35 years, an estimated over 340,000 black Americans were killed by other black Americans.

In 1996, the Black Panther Party was started, purportedly to protect blacks from police brutality. I was a reserve officer with the Winston-Salem, North Carolina, police department in the '70s, and we had a riot lasting less than two days with at least one police officer being shot at. We stopped it with no delay and minimal effort. Police were respected then.

I can't understand how such blatant lawlessness can occur in America today without being quelled immediately. For police to stand by and allow looting, vandalism and even murder without intervention is unfathomable.

What has happened to my beloved country?  
**Chris Crawford**


So, join us at the Chamber and MaskUp.

I am thankful to live among such a caring community led by those who desire the best for Blairsville. It can be difficult to juggle the health of our local businesses with the health of those who live and visit, but it is our mission to do just that. We seek to not just

survive but thrive. I continue to be encouraged by good reports from business owners and look forward to more good news. Living among these mountains and lake views offers only a glimpse of Blairsville's true beauty.

I have said before, it is the people that makes us truly special.

**Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse**



**July 10, 2020**  
In Memory of  
**Dr. William T. Meeks, Sr.**  
on the anniversary of his death  
By: Terry & Ginger Meeks

**July 19, 2020**  
In Memory of  
**Sybil Harkins Tyre**  
on her birthday  
By: Exola and Leola

**Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493**