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maintained road and it has not been done yet. What is the hold up?

A. Rain. Plain and simple the rain. The Road Department is working every day on what they can. Mowing, patching, new paving, and spreading gravel in between rains storms and showers can be very difficult, therefore they are behind. If you called or emailed regarding a road issue, such as getting a pothole patched, they will be there as quickly as they can.

Q. The litter is also terrible this year. Is not having access to the detainee crews contributing to this issue as well?

A. In years past we have always had one detainee crew that their sole responsibility was to go around and pick up litter from county-maintained roads. In addition, if one of the other crews did not have something specific to do that day then they would also work on picking up litter. This is not a possibility this year. The Sher-

iff's Office Inmate Crew picks up litter when they are able, but it is just one crew. This crew has been helping with mowing on days that it is not raining, so that basically takes up most of their available work hours.

Q. Does the county still have the Adopt-a-Road program where we can sign up to pick up litter on a county-maintained road?

A. Absolutely! If this is something you are interested in doing, either on your own road or on one of the high litter area roads please contact my office at 706-439-6000 and talk to Krystal. She will have reflective vests available for safety purposes and she will also provide you with orange bags, so you do not have to pay to dispose of the litter that you pick up. Actually, this would be a good way to help out in the community and provides some exercise and outside time during this period while lots of people are staying at home more.

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First, our laborious search of the open records from Union County and the City of Blairsville, as well as discussions with and information received from the EPD, failed to produce any such permit. Please provide us with a copy of the application for this alleged leachate discharge permit, any notice of a public hearing on the permit issuance and the permit itself. The existing permit under which BWTP operates started on Jan. 1, 2014, and expired Dec. 31, 2018. Within this permit there is no mention of leachate. If you are unable to provide the leachate permits you referenced in your column, does this mean that the BWTP has been illegally accepting and discharging leachate into Butternut Creek (and ultimately Lake Nottely) for over a year now? If you are unable to provide the leachate permits you referenced in your column, does this mean that you have intentionally misstated the facts and spread misinformation?

Secondly, please provide your source of information that BWTP is only processing 11,000 gallons of leachate per day. Our research indicates that the leachate discharge is probably much higher than that and may even exceed the hypothetical maximum 25,000 gallon per day permit to which you referred. In May 2020 BWTP received 67 truckloads of leachate from Sen. Gooch's company during a 20-day period. This equates to an average of 20,341.25 per day. Since BWTP entered into its agreement with Senator Gooch's company, BWTP has received in excess of 3,264,000 gallons of leachate. This equates to an average of 326,400 gallons per month based on the 10-month period we have records.

You state that the water being released into Butternut Creek is clean. The facts, however, indicate that E. coli levels have increased approximately 600 percent in the last year and are dangerously high -- well above the EPA guidelines. Due to the leachate processing, many other toxic chemicals that are regulated in many other states but not in Georgia are being released into Butternut Creek. These chemicals are in the same family of chemicals

released by DuPont into the waters of West Virginia that caused significant injury to the local population and ultimately required a massive cleanup.

In your prior county meeting you indicated that you understood why the people on Lake Nottely might be concerned, but that wastewater discharge was not really a major concern for you as you have many more constituents to represent. In your column you again imply that this issue is an issue for those who live on or near the lake. How can you say that? If our information is correct, more than half of Union County gets its drinking water from Lake Nottely. While you may rationalize that this is a Lake Nottely residential issue, do you not share the concerns for your larger Union County population? You say you want to make sure Butternut Creek is safe for children to play in? What about making sure Lake Nottely water is safe to drink and recreate in? Not just now, but for the future generations to come!

You may not be able to control the City of Blairsville or the BWTP, but we ask that you join us and help ascertain the answers to our questions. Let's work together to get the facts. Do not sweep this under the rug. We can work together to help protect all residential citizens and commercial enterprises located in Union County. As a starting point, I am asking that you close access to Butternut Creek for recreational purposes until Union County can provide testing three times a week for 12 consecutive weeks and submit reports that show that E. coli and other toxic impurities (if they are regulated by more than one other state, whether or not they are regulated by Georgia) in Butternut Creek below the BWTP are declining. Let's do this on the front end rather than wait until it is too late. Do it for our children, our grandchildren, their children and grandchildren.

The courtesy of a response is requested. We can meet at a time and place of your choosing to map out how to proceed.

Regards,
Doy Lively
President, Lake Nottely Improvement Association

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ishing revenue, we must take into consideration the long-term effect of any additional taxes for a property that is obviously derelict, probably in need of extensive cost in merely making it usable for construction. Seven acres for \$628,000 to \$800,000 may require some additional thought for our county at this critical downturn of our economy. To rely on another SPLOST (definition: never-ending taxation) that wouldn't even come

into play until 2027, it seems more prudent to wait and see if other depressed suitable property may become available in the future at better price and terms.

I haven't become a Nevers-Lamarer, but I submit these thoughts as one of a majority of his supporters for further serious consideration. Respectfully submitted, without apology,
Arlene M. Gray
A supporter, but questioning

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

would get started telling a tale, and Old John would let him get halfway through a story and then make a smart aleck remark about his exaggerating or even telling a downright lie. Hootie's face would redden as he quit his story, and he would just get up and leave the store.

William was in the store the day of this incident and overheard Old John's scathing words. William said, "John, you ought not be so hard on Hootie. What's the harm in listening to his stories? We all need a little laughter." Once again, Old John told everyone Hootie was just full of hot air. "I bet he has never even killed a big deer." "Maybe he has and maybe he hasn't, but that old man is a good old man, and you shouldn't be so hard on him," replied William.

Not long afterward William's son, Dumplin' (he loved chicken and dumplings) killed the biggest deer many people around these parts had ever seen. The old buck had massive beams and registered 9 full points and broken tine. The young man killed the deer in a place he called "No Man's

Fowler...

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tion according to the traditions of men." In a recent commentary Cal Thomas spoke about the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. "Any real solutions to our societal problems must have it (the gospel) at the center. Any purported solution that omits it is no solution at all."

Do you agree with an almost-octogenarian commentator and a NFL football player? Who informs your opinions? Are you a captive to the whims of this cultural moment? Only by faith can the oppressed be set free and the oppressor transformed. That is the truth according to Christ.

Fire...

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patients every day. They have to be in direct contact and wear the PPE as well, sometimes for hours on end.

We have not faced a situation such as this pandemic before. But due to the work and dedication of these public safety workers, and others on the frontlines, we will overcome.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Brownhill...

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are numerous opinions as to how such harm is being done to our water, it is factual that PFASs will incrementally increase in the watershed as they do not breakdown. In the long term this can only degrade the quality of water in the lake and impact our drinking water.

Our county commissioner says he has no control over what the City of Blairsville does. Will he sit idly by while Union County's premier tourist attraction absorbs even more of metro Atlanta's wastewater/leachate? One can only hope he would work for a cleaner environment, as none of this revenue goes to the county. Go to www.LakeNottely.org for a detailed summary of concerns and actions. Time is of the essence.

Paul Brownhill

Enotah CASA Board Meetings

Enotah CASA, Inc. Board of Directors announces their meeting dates on Mondays 5:30pm as follows:

Union County Community Center (8/24, 10/26, 1/25/21, 3/22/21, 5/24/21) and Lumpkin County Park and Rec (9/28, 12/7, 2/22/21, 4/26/21, 6/28/21).

Visit us at www.enotahcasa.org for more information.

Land" which can be found on the east side of the Duncan Ridge Trail. The young man carried and drug the massive deer some 3 miles back to his home and was about to hoist the buck up by a winch when Hootie drove up.

He got out of his truck and began to laugh. He walked up to Dumplin' and patted his back. He wished to make sure the boy received his due congratulations. Hootie said, "This old buck reminds me of the time I killed that 8 -- or was it a 10-pointer? -- when I was 16." Then the old man fell silent. A look of deep thought fell across his face. He looked at Dumplin' and then his Dad. For a moment all was silent. Then Hootie said, "You fellows know how Old John is always ragging me? He always says I could never kill a buck bigger than what he has killed. I wonder if you boys would let me borrow this deer for an hour." William looked at his son Dumplin' and grinned. Both of them told Hootie to take the deer for a spell.

They helped the old man load the deer into the back of his old 1963 Chevy Truck. He then drove down to the store where he related to all that would hear about how he'd taken this old moss back buck. Yes, Old Joe was there and heard it all. He went to his grave thinking he had been bested by Hootie's big deer in 1973.

Williams...

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through diseases and insects. In the fall the biggest challenge will be from the temperature. As the temperature drops rapidly selecting varieties of crops that can stand the cold will be important. It can be extremely rewarding to see green growing around your house after everything else has turned brown.

If you have any questions about growing your fall garden contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

ted to washing hands or using sanitizer regularly. Be vigilant to protect others, especially those more vulnerable.

The Chamber continues to cautiously explore possibilities for hosting events while monitoring current counts in our effort to help our community emerge stronger on the other side of this pandemic. Go to our website to keep an eye on our calendar as we move toward rescheduling recently postponed events. Nothing is canceled. Only postponed.

Union County is open, but cautious. Support our local merchants and keep up to date on their current operating status at visitblairsvillega.com. When you "visit" the chamber website, take note of changes moving forward. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram where you will find "Monday Member Moments," video clips spotlighting member businesses as they adapt during these trying times. Shop local. Shop safe.

We continue to wear

our own masks, following the advice of Governor Kemp and the example of our local leaders. We look forward to a future free of the worry of spreading corona from one to another. We are grateful to our health care professionals, from doctors and nurses to administrative staff and maintenance personnel, for their selfless efforts to bring Union County through these difficult days. We are encouraged that our children are allowed the opportunity to return to school yet given the option to learn at home if that what best serves their situation. We do not take for granted the beauty of this place nor the privilege of living in a community of good people.

We call Union County home and want nothing more than to keep home safe for all to enjoy in an economy that continues to thrive. We ask you to walk alongside us as we keep that delicate balance. Join us at the Chamber of Commerce as we do our part and continue to "Mask-Up Union."