



## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

a car backed up and hit Bingo and his owner. He said, "I just stood there and watched as this teenager (while talking on her phone) ran over my foot and then sped away."

Patrick soon noticed the dog had lost his name tag so he drove to the hardware store and picked up a name tag and new collar. He walked back to his truck and opened the door. I said earlier that Bingo had grown out of the playful puppy stage, but I was wrong. When the door of the truck opened the dog leapt from the truck and began playing chase with my friend in the parking lot of the hardware store.

Soon another customer noticed the commotion and tried to help catch Bingo. As

the dog ran toward the man, he spread out his arms and legs and bellowed "whoa." This scared the dog, and he bolted for the highway. Bingo ran across three lanes of traffic, causing a couple of cars to skid off the road. Bingo ran toward a car lot where a family was looking at a new car. The family had left a car door open and a grandmother was sitting in the back seat with her head turned away from the open door. Bingo jumped into the back seat, and as Patrick reached the car, he found the elderly lady in a state of shock at this dog sitting in her lap. She almost fainted before Patrick could catch the dog and take him out of the car in which the lady was sitting.

## Cosner... continued from Page 4A

Act, and if not for the Republicans, everybody in this country would already have affordable medical care.

Oops, I jumped ahead of another reason to be a proud Democrat. The 1964 Civil Rights Act. It's not perfect, but it's gone a long way to stop discrimination based on race, religion, sex or national origin. Without the Democratic Party, these core American laws would not have been passed, authored by Democrats, signed into law by Democratic Presidents and voted against by Republicans.

Well, I better start on the second letter. Democrats are not against fossil fuels. We understand that fossil fuels brought us to the lifestyle and to the standard of living that we have. Democrats also understand that burning them is not sustainable, so Democrats intend to transition from fossil fuels to more environmentally, healthy ways to generate energy while keeping our current standard of living. As far as decreasing America's capacity to produce oil and natural gas, Democrats haven't slowed that down. We are still the largest producer of oil and natural gas in the whole world. No one, not Saudi Arabia, no country produces more than we do. Democrats actually have moved to expand that, but we do see that we have to change our ways, we have got to cut our emissions or our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will pay a terrible price.

## As far as immigration goes, it is a thorny problem. It's not just a Democratic problem, Republican problem or libertarian problem. It's a problem for all of us. We are all the descendants of migrants. Our ancestors all come from somewhere else. They all came here for the same reason those people on the border want to come here – they wanted a better way of life.

We won't solve this problem by pointing a finger and saying, "It's your fault." I don't know Bill Gates or George Soros, but I do know who Stacey Abrams and Raphael Warnock are. These are two people who care about working Georgians, they care about your grocery basket. They care about your children. They care about your health and want to help the people of Georgia.

Another thing Democrats aren't too big on is conspiracy theories, this one world government stuff that I've been hearing for years and years. Yeah, I just don't believe it, but like most Democrats, I believe in people.

I almost forgot another good reason why I'm proud to be a Democrat. Franklin Roosevelt and the Democratic Party passed the 21st Amendment, so the next time you're drinking an alcoholic beverage legally in these United States, thank a Democrat; we are the ones that ended Prohibition.

**William Cosner**  
Proud Democrat

## Fitzgerald... continued from Page 4A

limited work we do. Our office is not staffed full-time.

Our primary jobs are to maintain the election equipment, make sure all precincts are up and running properly, train and support poll managers and workers, and to conduct logic and accuracy tests on the voting equipment. There are other duties but these are the primary ones.

As the result of an Open Records Request (ORR) for ballot images, we discovered that we were inadvertently not copying those images. It's a long story, but it was an honest mistake, and we have taken corrective action to ensure it never happens again. BUT, we do have all of the original ballots casted in all elections we have conducted for the last two years. These original ballots are under seal at the Clerk of the Court's office. Georgia's Election Code requires that "all primary and election documents on file ... shall be preserved therein for a period of at least 24 months" (O.C.G.A. 21-2-73). ALL documents pertaining to past elections are stored for 24 months at the Clerk of the Court's office, i.e., all elections so stored can be recreated if so ordered by State governing authorities.

The Dominion voting equipment was authorized by the Legislature, and whereas the ballot images are automatically recorded on the ballot scanner memory cards, those ballot images are not automatically downloaded into our election server. We reuse those memory cards so cannot extract a previous election's data. Going forward, we have purchased enough memory cards so that we can store each election's memory cards in our office.

All paper ballots generated during an election (absentee, early voting, election day voting) are considered under seal and cannot be handled by anyone other than election officials who are under oath. By law, paper ballots cannot be copied to maintain the integrity of the vote.

As a point of clarification, we are given three business days from the time we receive an ORR to respond. Responding means that we have three business days to let the person know we received the request, how long it might take to fulfill the request, and the costs involved.

We invite all interested Union County citizens to attend our Board meetings (time,

date, and location will be on the county's website). We place an advertisement in this paper to let you know when we will conduct Logic and Accuracy testing on the voting equipment and when we will certify the vote. You can also come and observe our election night activities at the Hunt Martin location.

**James Fitzgerald**

## Fowler...

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Today Garte works with the American Scientific Affiliation helping people who are curious about the link between science and theology.

Are you curious? Jesus offers some questions to help you along. "What do you seek?" (John 1:38). "Whom do you seek?" (John 18:7). "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29). And my favorite, "Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:26). Do you seek answers to the questions of life and eternity? I guess it depends on your curiosity.

## Williams...

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own tunnels. If you're unsure if you have voles or moles take a slice of apple and tie a piece of string around it. Place it in the hole and let it sit for a couple of days. When you pull it back out, if the apple is gone you have voles (herbivores), if the apple is still there you have moles (carnivores).

If you have questions about vole and mole control please contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## Dyer...

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"Fire won't wait. Plan your escape," including education for students at our local primary school and daycares.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week please visit [www.fpw.org](http://www.fpw.org) and [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org). For more information on the UCFD Smoke Alarm Program, visit [www.unioncountyga.gov/fire-department](http://www.unioncountyga.gov/fire-department).

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

## Ripma... continued from Page 4A

by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care V8 for Transgender Adolescents, people who meet the WPATH criteria may be eligible for gender-affirming medical and surgical treatment.

For clarity, the WPATH defines an adolescent as a child who has reached Tanner stage 2 puberty (about 12

years). This means that, under specific circumstances, a 12-year-old boy or girl can qualify for medical and surgical treatments, including breast augmentation, orchiectomy, vaginoplasty, hysterectomy, phalloplasty, metoidioplasty, and facial surgery.

Surgery might be a rare occurrence for a 12-year-old, but it seems to be an option.

If an adolescent feels

gender confusion, one must wonder if those feelings are true gender dysphoria or part of the normal maturation process.

Either way, gender-diversity information is widely distributed and can be interpreted by any adolescent as common, giving him or her the possible option to change their gender.

I recognize an abundance of confusion around

this subject, but I believe one thing is clear: this generation of children, one and all, is being groomed to see gender as a choice.

Making the wrong choice can create life-long heartache and pain.

I wonder if spreading this information to the public is in the best interests of adolescent children, or in the best interests of a vocal minority?

**John Ripma**

## Chamber... continued from Page 4A

delicious special BBQ dishes for a chance at winning \$500. This promotion was a lot of fun, but we must thank the ones who did all the work – the restaurants. They got creative with their dishes, some dishes were more time-consuming than their regular menu items, and staff had to talk up the event and sign passports. Thanks to everyone at the restaurants for all their extra hard work to make this event happen!

Please keep the residents of Central and South Florida in your thoughts and prayers. Many have lost everything and will have a long road ahead of them to rebuild their lives. We may have evacuees visiting our area, so please do what you can to help them while they are here.

It's the people of Blairsville that make our community what it is and why visitors say, "Life is Better in Blairsville!"

## Paris...

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A. The cemetery is no longer available for new burials. It was open to residents of the city of Blairsville until all the plots were reserved. At this time, all plots are spoken for.

## St. Lawrence...

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occasional state and national features are always high, in a positive sense.

So, I'm wondering why the NGN chooses to accentuate the negative in the letters chosen for publication. Many of the negative letters seem to be one person's gripe, rather than a collective concern. Is it simply a case of too few upbeat letters received? If so, I'd be happy to pen some praise of Blairsville on a regular basis.

Loving Blairsville as-is,  
**Gary St. Lawrence**

## Your Patriot Reflection



### Supreme Court and Christianity

In 1892 Supreme Court Justice David J. Brewer penned the courts' opinion in the case *The Church of The Holy Trinity VS The United States*. While this case was not about religion, the court considered America's Christian identity to be a strong support for its conclusion. Justice Brewer wrote, as part of a gratuitous statement, that the United States was a "Christian Nation."

Here is what he said, "No purpose of action against religion can be imputed to any legislation, state or national, because this is a religious people. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation... there is no dissonance in these declarations.

There is a universal language pervading them all, having one meaning; they affirm and reaffirm that this is a religious nation. These are not individual sayings, declarations of private persons: they speak the voice of the entire people... These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation."

Justice Brewer later clarified his position on a "Christian nation," stating the U.S. is "Christian" in that many of its traditions are rooted in Christianity, not that Christianity should receive legal privileges or is established to the exclusion of other religions or to the exclusion of irreligion.

Unfortunately, we have come to the point in this country that the voice of government wants us to believe that Christianity should be excluded from every arena of life. We were built on a foundation of Christian beliefs, and without that continuing foundation we will sink further and further into the abyss of depravity, lawlessness and immorality. Let us stand for Biblical values.

A Patriot Reflection is presented weekly by [www.joshuaswarriors.org](http://www.joshuaswarriors.org).