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bees thanks to the talk with his cousin Petunia.

Uncle Bud and Daddy decided to have some fun. They knew that the sisters could not stay off the phone. They were addicted to the telephone. So, the young men called up the sisters and said, "Petunia, this is John Underwood at Standard Telephone. We are here at Trapptown working on the phone lines. During the next 3 hours if you hear the phone ringing please do not answer. If you do it will electrocute me." Petunia agreed, and the boys hung up the phone. After 30 minutes Dad dialed Petunia's

number and let it ring 30 times. Finally, Petunia answered the call. Upon her answer my Dad gave a long drawn out quivering scream into the phone. Petunia thought she had killed John Underwood.

I now realize the phone lines did not cause all the gossip in our community. But, instead of gossip taking days to reach everyone, it now only takes a short period of time. Nowadays we have all kinds of media outlets with which to spread news. But, I can remember a time when life was much simpler and gossip was a little slower.

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forward, Moses was told to mobilize an army and engage in battle.

These two episodes – occurring in quick succession and seemingly contradictory in their prescribed responses – offer a masterclass in strategic wisdom. Why the dramatic difference in approach? The answer lies not in the strength of the opponents, but in their position relative to the Israelites' goal.

Consider the Egyptians: though they were a fearsome force, they were pursuing from behind. Their presence, while threatening, wasn't directly blocking the Israelites' path toward their destination of Mount Sinai. The Egyptian army represented the past literally chasing the present – former masters trying to reclaim their slaves. In this case, the wisdom was clear: don't fight what's behind you. Move forward.

The Amalekites presented a fundamentally different challenge. They stood between the Israelites and their destination, directly impeding their progress toward Mount Sinai. This wasn't about the past trying to reclaim its hold; this was about an obstacle deliberately positioning itself between a people and their future. In this case, moving forward wasn't enough – the obstacle had to be confronted and overcome.

This distinction offers a timeless framework for decision-making. When confronted with challenges, the crucial question becomes: Is this obstacle behind me, trying to pull me back, or is it ahead of me, blocking my path forward?

Consider someone in recovery from addiction. When memories of "good times" or old drinking buddies try to pull them back to their former lifestyle, the answer isn't to argue or justify their sobriety – it's simply to move forward on their chosen path. Like the Egyptians pursuing from behind, these echoes of the past have no power unless you turn back to face them.

But when that same person encounters someone who actively tries to sabotage their recovery – perhaps by deliberately bringing alcohol to family gatherings or mocking their sobriety – that's different. Like the Amalekites, these obstacles stand directly between them and their goal of maintaining sobriety, requiring a firm stand and clear boundaries.

Or think about someone starting a new chapter in life after divorce. When well-meaning friends keep trying to rehash the past relationship or suggest reconciliation, the wisest response is to keep moving forward toward their new life. However, when their ex-spouse attempts to interfere with their parenting time or new relationships, that's

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Since Mr. Trump returned to office, dozens of clinical drug trials have been halted, cancer research programs and the development of other life-saving medical treatments have been shut down, Senior Center meals have been cut back, food banks are experiencing limited supplies, veterans have lost mental health counselors, parents of kids with special needs have been told to expect fewer school aides and Social Security payments are in jeopardy. Cuts to NOAA are impacting the monitoring of atmospheric and ocean systems and weather predictions. Cuts to FEMA are jeopardizing disaster response. And cuts to FDA increase the risk of food-related disease outbreaks.

Health workers, scientists, park rangers, veterans care providers, letter carriers, air traffic controllers and many others are trying to save programs and investments that were providing irreplaceable services to regular Americans.

Federal Workers don't brag about what they do. They take an oath "to support and defend the Constitution of the United States," not to a president. They work for the federal system because they want to provide a service that we all take for granted, and they often

get paid less than the private sector.

But now we understand the value they provide for our country. Is it too late?
Frank Maloney

Hyer...

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hall meetings to discuss options. That seems like a reasonable approach. Forcing judgment before the issue is dealt with is not an intelligent problem solver.

Gunter was an effective district attorney, superior court judge, and now legislator. There is very little reason to believe he is biased, but he is entitled to an opinion. It is surely difficult to represent everyone. Attacking elected government officials is hardly the manner to encourage effective and fair discussion, but allowing for open meetings should serve that purpose. It sounds like Gunter is offering both sides a chance to be heard.

We won't know what the Union County residents think until there is a democratic referendum. Until then, newspaper headlines, libelous letters and slander will just cause animosity, which has no function in Blairsville and Union County.
Richard E. Hyer

Tarter... continued from Page 4A

Congress may have approval rights on some but not all.

The Leftists had no problem with the hiring of 87,000 "unelected" IRS agents.

Heck, the democrats didn't even "elect" their nominee for president, Kamala Harris. She was anointed to that position.

You'd think the Left would lay low until that awkward memory blows over.

And, after the international gut-punch of COVID-19 in 2020, tourism has consistently been on the rise in the

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ments. However, we do know that money could be used for identified infrastructure such as roads directly impacted by development; bridges directly impacted by development; and for parks and recreation – which is also directly impacted when new families move into the community.

To re-emphasize the current situation, Union County Government is only researching the feasibility of charging impact fees. Full processes and formal documentation related to impact fees can be found here: <https://dca.georgia.gov/community-assistance/coordinated-planning/local-planning/development-impact-fees-capital>

Williams...

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have been fed by humans before. Bear relocation is usually not an effective control option. Bears that are relocated might be moved to an area that another bear has already claimed, leading to territory fights, or the bear may try to return to its home and be struck by a vehicle. Relocation is a last resort.

If you do encounter a bear in the open make yourself look big and wave your arms and shout while backing away slowly. Do not get between a mother bear and her cubs. If you are attacked fight back aggressively with anything you can get your hands on. Bears can be dangerous but know that there are no recorded fatalities in Georgia.

If you have questions about bears in our area contact your local Extension office for more information or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Chamber...

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coming events like Young Professionals and the Shoot for the Stars Golf Tournament. There are only a few spots left for the tournament, so call Abby today to reserve your team!

If you can take time to assist our seniors, please do so, because it is a rewarding way to give back, and you might just learn something valuable along the way. There is so much to be thankful for in our community, and it is the people who give their time and heart that make all the difference. A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who step up each day to help make Life Better in Blairsville.

Fowler...

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it means life has meaning and death is not the end. The story of Jesus "illuminates and orders all other phenomena, explains both our laughter and our logic, our fear of the dead and our knowledge that it is somehow good to die," Lewis wrote. By faith, we are raised in Christ to new, eternal life, the fearless life God means for you to have.

Follow Lewis' thoughtful stroll along Addison's Walk by considering the reality of Jesus' resurrection. It may well be the walk of a lifetime if you, as did Lewis, come to realize that it is true. The resurrection matters – Jesus did it for you.

Berkman...

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ety, people have become more invested in defeating their opponents than in preserving the principles that allow disagreement to exist peacefully.

We are past the stage of speculation. The trends are real, and they are accelerating. The question now is not if democratic norms are in danger – it's what we are willing to do about it.

If there is a way forward, it lies not in outrage alone, but in clarity, courage, and a recommitment to the rule of law over any one leader or cause. The future of our democracy doesn't depend on any single election. It depends on whether enough of us still believe in the hard, patient work of preserving it.
Michael Berkman

U.S. and the Auto Unions DO support Trump's tariffs on foreign-produced vehicles.

By the way, there are no "trillionaires" in the world today. A "trillion" is a lot more than most people can actually visualize.

But that could be the next buzzword.

J. Murray Tarter

Dyer...

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Everyone who burns hand-piled leaves or yard debris should research the law and outdoor burning safety requirements. For more information about outdoor burning and the five safety precautions, please visit www.gatrees.org.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~