

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Thankful

The word "democracy" is thrown around a lot these days, usually in the service of hyperbolic political speech. Despite its overuse in partisan point-scoring, it actually is important to contemplate the democratic process, enshrined in this great nation as a constitutional republic.

American democracy thrives when power is concentrated in individual communities across the country, where representative governments in the form of locally elected officials – and not some miles-away bureaucracy – act on behalf of constituents to take care of local needs.

That's all well and good, but it takes an actively engaged public to make sure local government decisions remain in the best interests of the citizenry. Enter the North Georgia News.

Times are tough right now. There's plenty to worry about besides high-minded ideals like the "importance of democracy." Still, we can never take for granted the hard-won freedoms we enjoy today.

This is why we're here at the North Georgia News – your hometown newspaper – take our jobs so seriously. We see it as our duty to keep you informed with credible, relevant and compelling news coverage about all manner of local happenings.

How are tax dollars being spent? What laws are being enacted? Why should you care about any number of events taking place around town? These are just a few of the questions we try our best to answer as clearly as possible to keep our readers in the know as to who is making what decisions in the community.

People can tune into cable news and Atlanta-based TV stations to find out all the latest on the dysfunction in Washington, and how bad crime is in the metro area. But what about the news that's happening here, in Union County?

And sure, folks can learn about local events from Facebook. The problem with social media is that, usually, basic information is omitted in "news" shared online, which can create confusion and half-formed notions about what is really going on.

Really, it takes your hometown newspaper digging into details, asking tough questions, and working hard to get to the bottom of matters that matter most to residents.

As Dink NeSmith of Community Newspapers Inc. put it re-

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From the Editor's Desk

Shaun Jarrard



Highest Form of Thought

In the episode "High Noon in Mayberry," Sheriff Andy Taylor awaits Luke Comstock's visit. Years prior, Taylor had wounded and captured Comstock, who spent time in prison. Now, Andy, Barney, and Aunt Bea stress over Comstock's intentions.

Comstock arrives at the Taylor home carrying a shotgun. Then he explains what happened in prison. "I had a chance to review my whole life...All I could think of was: What a waste. So, I made up my mind then and there I was gonna make something of myself, sheriff. Today I own a chain of television repair stores. I'm leading a good life. If you hadn't laid me up, who knows where I'd be today?"

"You come all the way down here to tell me that?" asks the sheriff. "That and to bring you a little gift of appreciation." (It is a Remington Model 1100 semi-automatic, a nice hunting gun!) The plot recalls the incident when Jesus healed ten lepers. Only one of them realized his debt of gratitude. He turned back, glorified God, and gave thanks. This incident is recorded in history to remind you to realize your blessings and return with humility to give thanks for someone's contribution to your good. Giving thanks to God is a component of faith. "Your faith has saved you," Jesus told the former leper (Luke 17:19).

Psychologists say gratitude is vital for human health and happiness. It builds and maintains relationships and keeps the ego in check. It builds emotional maturity and resilience by reinforcing positive memories. To that end, here are three thoughts to inspire your gratitude to God and others:

- (1) God has given you life, family, and friends. You have senses to experience the world, and have enjoyed food, air, water, medical care to keep you to this moment.
- (2) You experience beauty, love, and hope, along with joy, peace, and security.
- (3) It is more impactful to thank someone for who they are, not just for what they have done.

Giving thanks is not easy because of human pride and selfishness. But gratitude to God is food for your soul. "I do not believe that a baby gets his best physical food by sucking his

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All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Many people have expressed that they have heard the term "Development Authority;" however, they don't fully understand its purpose. This week's questions/answers should help to clarify the organization's objectives and describe what it does for Union County.

Q. What is the purpose and primary function of the Union County Development Authority?

A. The Union County Development Authority is the primary economic development agency for Blairsville, Suches, and Union County. The Authority facilitates quality development that results in new job creation and capital investment for our area. They work to expand existing businesses, attract new businesses to our area, and advance the economic goals of Union County.

Q: Who makes up the Union County Development Authority?

A: The Union County Development Authority is comprised of a Board of Directors with each member serving a four-year term. The members are appointed by the Union County Commissioner. The Authority works closely with Georgia EMC Economic Development, Georgia Department of Economic Development, Georgia Power Economic Development, Tennessee Valley Authority Economic Development, Blue Ridge Mountains EMC, Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Southeast Industrial Development Association to attract jobs to Union County. You can visit their website at www.ucda.net for more information on what the Development Authority does for Union County.

Q: Who is the Director of the Union County Development Authority and who hires him?

A: Mitch Griggs is the Director of the Union County Development Authority. The Director is hired by the Development Authority Board and most of the funding for the Authority is funded through the County budget.

Q: What makes Union County attractive to new businesses?

A: There are many things. Obviously, we have to work much harder in attracting businesses to Union County than large

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Safe Thanksgiving Cooking

Thanksgiving is the time of year for giving thanks, visiting family and friends, and, of course, eating that amazing Thanksgiving dinner. Unfortunately, it is also a peak day for home cooking fires. Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States, starting almost half of all fires.

According to the US Fire Administration, the average number of home fires on Thanksgiving Day is normally double the average number of fires in homes all other days. It's understandable. Thanksgiving involves much more time in the kitchen than normal. There are also distractions such as family, friends, and of course the big game that everyone wants to watch. With this in mind, Union County Fire Department would like to provide you with some cooking safety tips for this Thanksgiving holiday.

If you are going to be slaving away to make that perfect meal, here are a few things to keep in mind. First, stay in the kitchen when you are cooking. The entire family may be in the house and things will be busy, but do not get distracted from your cooking.

See Dyer, page 5A

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief

David Dyer



Chamber of Commerce

Last week marked an extraordinary chapter in Union County's legacy as we witnessed the groundbreaking ceremony for a new elementary school and the opening of a new fire station – an emblem of progress within our community. As our county experiences a change in demographics, the vision of our leaders stands out. The school board, anticipating the need, began comprehensive planning, emphasizing a brighter horizon for our students by proactively expanding our educational framework. Our county leaders continue to provide for our ever-changing needs by providing more convenient places to vote, safer places for our kids to play, and facilities to improve our safety.

Notably, Union County proudly holds the distinction of being one of only a few school districts in the state without debt. What's even more commendable is our standing as the state's holder of the third-lowest millage rate. Underpinning our educational journey is the motto "Success For All," which guides our dedicated school district as

See Chamber, page 5A

Blairsville - Union County Chamber President

Steve Rowe



Letters to the Editor

Don't Blame Move-Ins

Dear Editor,
Yes, we hear you. You want us to return to where we came from, that we are the reason for all your problems. Because of us there is no affordable housing, and fast-food places abound. Yes, we hear your complaints about the traffic and all the city ways that came to this area.

You'd think that we stole the land to live there while you forcibly walked away in a trail of tears. We purchased our land that you sold us. We paid your families hundreds of thousands of dollars to build our little half-acres. We worked hard all our lives, and many of us still do. We are most likely the reason that this county has zero debt and offers excellent school salaries. We did not build the roads that paved our way to paradise. We just traveled up and loved what we saw. We moved away from the cities not to see fast food chains. We cherish small towns and local businesses, tip well, and spend our hard-earned money here.

See Brown, page 5A

Union County Budget

Dear Editor,
On Nov. 9, there was a public hearing with respect to the Union County Budget for 2024. A surprisingly low turnout of citizens occurred. I have been speaking on the fact that the driving force behind property tax increases is not the increase in assessed property valuation, but the increase in the county and school budgets, yet the millage rate public meetings are basically ignored.

The main comments at the public meeting regarded transparency in the budget presented.

See Peterson, page 5A

Give Mike Johnson a Chance

Dear Editor,
Regarding the letters to the editor in the Nov. 15, 2023, issue about the new Speaker of the House Mike Johnson: I noticed the use of fear tactics, with the same old tired foreboding that future Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefits would be cut.

Well, I have a news flash: Everyone's income (from whatever source) is ALREADY being "cut" drastically by the rampant inflation caused by the Biden Administration.

With "Bidenomics," costs on most everything have increased exponentially – housing/rent, utilities, food, fuel, household goods and services, clothing, taxes, and a double-digit interest rate, the highest in 22 years! Heaven help

See Combos, page 5A

Word Usage III

We feel less stressful in our lines of communication when appropriate words are used. In the English language, the word "but" is used to connect thoughts. "The sun is out, but a storm is heading this way." There is absolutely nothing wrong with the usage of "but" in a sentence. In fact, it is required in some communications. However, it can be used as a demeaning three-letter word. It can undo the quintessence of a genuine compliment: "She is such a sweet girl, but her people skills are lacking," or "He is a very handsome person, but he doesn't know to groom himself very well." Because we have a tendency at times to focus on the negative aspects in life, our attention is drawn to the words after "but" – the power of negativity can be overwhelming. We hear the part of the girl being a sweet girl, but we tend to place our main attention on her weakness of lacking people skills or the boy not knowing how to groom himself.

There are reasons we place a negative in a positive statement. Perhaps we are jealous of the individual's attributes, and we counteract the positive in order to place ourselves on a higher status level. By insulting the person, we feed our ego needs. Another reason for a "put down" is to gain undivided attention from others. Ever notice how much attention a person receives when one has some juicy gossip to share? Thus, the easy way to receive the attention is to use a "but" in a condemning way. We start a sentence with a positive (sweet girl or handsome person) in order to give the impression that we mean well. Then we slide in the negative (people skills or grooming). It appears that we are thinking of the very best about a person, and then comes the "but" word.

For whatever reasons we use a negative after a positive with a "but," we need to remember what goes around comes around... eventually.

Our shock and hurt will come when we are on the receiving end: "You are the sharpest person I've ever met, BUT you use much too much lipstick." "You have so many friends, BUT maybe it's because of the money you have." What a jolt to a person's self-esteem! We certainly were not prepared for that grenade in our foxhole.

Whenever you and I make use of the word "but" to hurt someone, to damage a person's self-esteem, or to promote oneself above the other person, then we are playing a destructive game. People are going to suffer, and feelings are going to be damaged. We are being derogatory and mean-spirited. Eventually our behavior will result in our living in a stressful and harsh reality. The tables will turn – against us! Our lives will be nothing more than stress, stress and more stress.

What to say instead of "but" is the word
See Ashurst, page 5A

Successful Mental Health

Dr. James Ray Ashurst



School Bus Drivers

The first machine I ever drove was a tractor. As I recall it was an old tri-cycle wheeled Ford. A super-H I think. Then when I was 14 a farmer down the road asked me to help him haul hay. He had an old 1-ton flatbed, '63 Chevy truck. He asked if I could drive it, and I responded that I could. I soon found myself driving down Center Post Road toward a barn in an old truck with three on the tree loaded with a bunch of square bales of hay. Two years later I found myself at the Georgia State Patrol in LaFayette, Georgia, trying to pass a driving test. My neighbor was administering the test and I was nervous. Sargent Dunn then asked, "You've been driving some already, haven't you?" I knew better than to lie so I nodded my head. He grinned and told me he had watched me driving that hay truck. Then he told me not to worry about the driving test, he had seen all he needed about my driving.

I began working for Georgia Cooperative Extension in June of 1982. The first week of my employment I was introduced to the Wilkes County Schools Transportation Director. I obtained a learner's permit for buses and was soon driving students to 4-H Events, the first of which was State 4-H Congress in downtown Atlanta. It was not much different than driving that big hay truck except the cargo on a school bus was much more precious than that hay truck. And I soon acquired a great respect for bus drivers.

I had always admired bus drivers because my grandfathers were bus drivers. When I was in the second grade my Papa Cummings was my bus driver. In those days he would stop at the local store on every Friday afternoon. Each student would go into the store and purchase a cold drink and a pack of peanuts.

Another memory of a school bus was going all the way to Memphis with Papa to pick up a new school bus which he was slated to drive the next fall. I was the first kid to ever ride in that new bus. That fall we kids started to school and I was in the second-grade class of Mrs. Cummings. She was Papa's first cousin. She had also been my daddy's second-grade teacher.

The first day of class was drawing to a close and I was ready to go home. But there were still five minutes of class time left in the day. Honestly, I do not know how that grasshopper got down Edith Anne's shirt. She let out a scream that almost woke the dead. It woke up Mrs. Cummings. She looked at me and said, "Mickey Paul Cummings, if you don't start behaving, I am going to talk to your Papa." He was right outside and heard my teacher call my name. That is all the encouragement I needed.

My fondest story concerning a bus driver came from my mother. Her father was also a bus
See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Oh Christmas Tree

Having a real Christmas tree can be a great tradition this time of year. There are a number of places that sell Christmas trees here. Let's talk about selecting a Christmas tree and Christmas tree care so that you can avoid a National Lamppoon Christmas Vacation type situation.

Three trees grown in Georgia are firs, cypress, and cedar. Some things to consider when purchasing a Christmas tree are needle retention, strong limbs, fragrance, and dryness.

Before you even leave to buy your tree it's a good idea to select and measure the space where you'll be putting your tree. A good spot is away from space heaters, fireplaces, or wood stoves. Measure how high the tree can go in your house. It can be difficult to gauge if a tree is going to fit inside when you're looking at it outdoors. Trees can appear small outside, and then seem to grow a couple of feet once you bring them inside.

When you are selecting your tree, it is important to make sure that you get one that is fresh cut. A fresh cut means that the tree will be able to absorb water more effectively, and therefore not dry out as quickly. Once the trunk of the tree has dried out you can cut off the bottom 1/2 inch to establish a new fresh cut. You really don't want your tree to be dry for more than 6-8 hours. When you are purchasing the tree give the limbs a good shake and see if many needles fall off. Then grab a branch of a tree and pull the branch through your hand. Ideally you don't want to see many needles fall off the branch. Also check for off color on any of the needles. If a bunch of needles don't fall off and the needles are a good green color you know that you have a healthy tree.

A dry Christmas tree can be a fire hazard in a house. If your tree has a fresh cut it should be able to last the entire Christmas season without drying out if you keep it well watered. There should always be water in the tree stand. Keep the water level above the cut on the tree so that the cut won't dry out and your tree is continually taking up water. Drilling a hole in the trunk does not improve water uptake. Using lights that put off heat will increase the drying of the tree. LEDs are a good option to reduce heat.

There are a couple of ways to dispose of your Christmas tree. You can use them for soil erosion barriers. If you have a pond you can sink them to create fish habitat. Chipping them to use as mulch in the garden is another good option.

Real Christmas trees are beautiful and a sound environmental choice. Trees are recycled.
See Williams, page 5A

Watching and Working

Jacob Williams



North Georgia News

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metropolitan counties that have advantages such as larger labor forces, better logistics with interstate highways and railroads and clusters of various industry sectors. However, the Authority works hard to get the word out to its strategic partners above, site selection consultants and the brokerage community about the business-friendly environment that Union County does have, which includes a low-tax- es, responsible but reasonable regulation, available sites and a superior quality of life just to name a few. The Union County Development Authority concentrates on Industrial, Commercial, and Retail business sectors as well as downtown redevelopment, workforce development and workforce housing initiatives.

Q: We always hear about incentives that a county offers to businesses to move here. How does that work? What are some of those incentives?

A: Union County offers businesses 100% Freeport. This means that raw materials, goods in process, and finished goods bound for out-of-state shipment being held in factories and warehouses here in the county are exempt from the County ad valorem taxes. Additionally, the Development Authority is able to issue low-interest Industrial Revenue Bond Financing for project-related costs of land; facilities, machinery and equipment. Some property tax relief may also be available for qualifying projects. The Authority utilizes State statutory incentives such as the Jobs Tax Credit, the Investment Tax Credit, a Child Care Tax Credit, Small Business Tax Relief, and the Sales and Use Tax Exemption on equipment and electricity used directly in manufacturing, to name a few. For qualifying projects, the Authority utilizes State discretionary incentives for infrastructure improvements related to a new business

location or existing business expansion. These are just some of the incentives that can encourage businesses to locate in Union County.

Q: What can a county offer to a new business besides incentives?

A: While it's not a discretionary or statutory incentive like those above, Union County has one of the lowest property tax millage rates in Georgia, which is a significant incentive for businesses to locate here. The Authority can offer pad-ready sites fully served with all infrastructure in the Blairsville Airport Industrial Park for new businesses to build upon. On a case-by-case basis, the Development Authority may provide site improvements to a Union County property for the location of a new business. They may also offer needed infrastructure improvements such as roadway, water, wastewater or stormwater through the application for state and federal grant programs. The Authority also offers technical assistance for financing, employee recruitment, logistics, supply chain and business-to-business opportunities to new and existing businesses. As noted in Question 4, the local business-friendly climate and quality of life are two of our most valuable non-incentive advantages.

Q. What is the Downtown Development Authority? Does this term refer to the same organization that has already been discussed?

A. No, the Downtown Development Authority is a different organization with similar goals. The Downtown Development Authority is an agent of the City of Blairsville with a focus on the Downtown District – including the courthouse square and the historic central business district. The Downtown Development Authority is active in promoting the businesses and events in the City of Blairsville.

Editor... continued from Page 4A

cently during National Newspaper Week, "There's only one newspaper in the world that is 100% devoted to this community, and you are reading it." And he's right.

All that to say we are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to perform such an important function for the community. Of course, the North Georgia News has much to be thankful for this holiday season.

First, we are thankful to you, our readers, who trust us to provide you with news you care about.

We are also grateful for local law enforcement and first responders who keep us safe, 24/7, no matter the weather.

Then there's the veteran community and the actively serving men and women who call the North Georgia Mountains home, without whom we would undoubtedly be speaking the language of a foreign conqueror.

Local elected officials also make the list for serving our community and, yes, making life better for all. And we

are thankful to the citizens who help us hold elected officials to account and keep up the pressure to lower costs and taxes for the public.

There's so much to be grateful for here in God's Country, like the school system that provides opportunities galore for local children, the health care providers who work tirelessly to care for the county, the churches that attend to the souls and the unmet needs of residents, the nonprofits that look out for the little guy, and the many businesses that support not just our efforts to bring you the news but contribute greatly to our thriving community.

Speaking for myself, our staff, and Owner/Publisher Kenneth West, I want you to know that the North Georgia News could not be successful without the people and organizations mentioned above, and the many more that are going unnamed for lack of space.

Truly, no words are sufficient to describe the gratitude we feel for this community. **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Peterson... continued from Page 4A

Specifically, the 21.3% of the budget identified as "operating transfer to other funds." What other funds? Where is this approximately \$5.8 million going to be spent? It is not identified in the one-page proposed budget.

Additionally, there are several funds presented in the proposed budget. These include the Special Revenue Fund, Capital Projects Fund and Enterprise Fund Revenues. The smallest of these funds is \$6.4 million in 2024. There is no breakdown of the content of these funds.

In looking at the budgets for Fannin and Gilmer Counties, there is a breakdown of the expenditures within all these groupings. Their budgets show the actual funds not general categories. The actual funds are not hidden in general categories. You see no "transfer to other funds" categories, you see no categories like Special Revenue Funds – you see the actual funds.

At the public hearing, there were comments from the county, including the Commissioner and the County Attorney, implying that the state dictates the accounting practices that must be used and that is why the various items are not further broken down. If this is true, why do our neighboring counties not show the same categories but instead break the categories down to the actual funds? The state does not restrict the county from providing more transparent information to the citizens.

Finally, because the various funds, etc., are not bro-

ken down, the citizens are not aware that the golf course is losing about \$450,000 in 2023 and projected to lose \$600,000 in 2024. This loss is covered by our property taxes. Also, the View Grill is projected to lose \$75,000 in 2024; this loss also will be covered by our property taxes. This information should be available to the citizens to allow them to decide if they want to fund money-losing propositions like the golf course and restaurant with their property taxes.

There are many more situations in our Union County Budget that demand continued investigation. Through Open Records Requests, information will continue to be obtained and made available to the citizens of Union County to allow reasoned decisions to be made by the electorate.

Vince Peterson

Fowler...

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thumb," said G.K. Chesterton, "nor that a man gets his best moral food by denying his soul's dependence on God. I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder."

Double your happiness by expressing gratitude. Build relationships and boost your mental health. Visit someone with a gift. Thank God for the basic elements of your human existence and for the hope of eternity. Let this Thanksgiving Day be your high noon when you realize, return, and give thanks to whom it is due.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

driver. The route of the bus went right in front of Momma's house on Adams Road. Momma's family had an old Billy Goat that her brothers had taught to lower its head and ram a pair of overalls with a red handkerchief sticking out of the back pocket.

On this particular day the bus had a flat right in front of the old house. Paw Paw got out of the bus to change the flat tire. He always carried a red handkerchief in his back pocket. As he bent over to begin changing the flat tire the goat spied the red handkerchief, lowered his head and rammed him right on the pocket of those overalls. Every kid on that bus began to laugh, but, when he got up the laughing stopped. Momma said this inci-

dent was the talk of the students that whole year.

I told you these stories because they are some of the fondest memories I have concerning bus drivers. The public should be thankful for our School Bus Drivers in Union County. I know from experience that hauling students can be demanding and much more stressful than hauling some square bales of hay. These ladies and gentlemen transport our kids to and from school five days per week in a safe manner. I think you'll agree School Bus Drivers have a very important job. Our Union County Schools Transportation Department and its bus drivers do a great job, and we should all appreciate their efforts.

Brown... continued from Page 4A

Have you asked yourself who can allow this haphazard development? The part-timers you call half-backs or flatlanders? Many of us who don't live here full-time can't even vote. Look into who can make these decisions. It isn't us. It is those who have been and are in power for generations, well-established, and benefitting through their greed.

Why point fingers at

Williams...

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clable, produce oxygen, and absorb carbon dioxide.

We have great locations to purchase a real Christmas trees around here, and this is the time of year to shop local, so I encourage you to check them out! If you have any questions about Christmas trees contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu. Merry Christmas and happy tree shopping!

Ashurst...

continued from Page 4A

"However" – this is a safe word. It has no wrong usage. It feels safe and secure. BUT you may not like using it because you don't want to change (see what the word "but" does?).

*The oldest, shortest words –
"yes" and "no" –
Are those which require the
most thought.
(Pythagoras)*

Chamber...

continued from Page 4A

they execute their plan for providing comprehensive learning for every student.

Union County's new Fire Station 13 was dedicated to retired Chief Charles Worden who served as Union County Fire Chief during the transitional years of seeing the fire department go from an all-volunteer department to our current combined volunteer/ career department. Thanks to Chief David Dyer, Chief Jones, and all of the members of the Union County Fire Department and 911 for all they do to keep us safe.

Union County's dedication to providing state-of-the-art education, healthcare, and safety is not a simple endeavor; it's a collective effort that draws support from every member of our community. As we embark on this exciting journey toward the future, we stand united in our commitment to nurturing the minds that will shape tomorrow's world.

Help us make Life Better in Blairsville and Happy Thanksgiving!

Dyer...

continued from Page 4A

Keep a sharp eye on what you are cooking and set timers. The last thing that you want is your smoke alarm to be your timer.

It is also helpful to prepare your kitchen area for safety by keeping things that may burn away from the stove. Items such as plastics, boxes, and other flammable materials can catch fire if left near the stove. Wear short sleeves while cooking and do not reach over cooking areas. Be prepared by having pan lids available to smother fires. It's always a good idea to check your fire extinguishers to ensure they are operational.

When the cooking is over, double check that everything is off, and you may want to consider unplugging small cooking appliances. If you cook like me, your smoke alarms may get tested, however, it's never a good idea to disable a smoke alarm while cooking. Most of the time, you will forget to return it to working order.

These safety tips are just a few things to keep in mind when you are cooking for your family and friends. We want everyone to enjoy this holiday season and to be safe. Taking a few extra precautions when cooking will reduce the risk of fire and enable everyone to have a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Combos... continued from Page 4A

people on fixed incomes and anyone trying to buy a house.

On top of this, two wars have started in our world since Biden took office, resulting in billions of taxpayer dollars being sent outside our country.

Do I even need to mention the additional billions of dollars the Biden Admin is giving away to support illegal immigrants pouring in across our borders, with many of the "go-taways" being America-haters with nefarious intentions?

Also, I don't have a problem with funding bills by taking money away from the IRS, a fat government bureaucracy with a demonstrated re-

cord of overreach in American citizens' lives. This is far better than borrowing and/or printing money to give it away!

Maybe before starting in with the Chicken Little fear prognosticating about what "might/could" happen with Mike Johnson, open your eyes and see the woeful state that our country is in RIGHT NOW. Americans are suffering under "Bidenomics." Our national debt (as I write this) is \$33.74 trillion and growing by the second.

This spending madness must stop. Give Mike Johnson a chance.

Alex Combos