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Q. I have a vacation rental next door to me. I don't think they have applied for a business license. How can you identify some of the STRs that are slipping through the cracks?

A. Union County has recently contracted with a company that is in business to do this exact thing. The company releases data crawlers (Internet searches), which locate and identify rental properties in Union County that are mentioned on the Internet. The company continuously builds on an STR database based on the data collected about STR properties in Union County. This information will provide valuable contact information so that we can ensure that local vacation rentals are registered with the Union County Government.

Q. I don't really understand the role that VRBO, AirBnB, Vacasa, and Home-away play in this situation. Can you clarify how it all works?

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1. The elimination of the Department of Education giving the states the ability to opt out of federal programs and standards. A federal fund worth \$18 billion for low-income students (Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) would be allowed to expire, transferring those responsibilities to the states and the state and county taxpayers. Free school meals and Head Start would be eliminated.

2. The expansion of presidential powers by eliminating the independence of the Department of Justice, the FBI, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission and other federal agencies. In other words, establishing an autocracy as our system of government.

3. Further limiting women's reproductive health care rights. The Project Plan states that the Food and Drug Administration is "ethically and legally obliged to revisit and withdraw its initial approval of the abortion pills mifepristone and misoprostol and seeks to revive provisions of the Comstock Act of the 1870s that

A. Here's how it works: These companies market homes on their website – letting the public know about their availability. Vacationers want to know about property location, availability, bedrooms, bathrooms, amenities, restrictions, etc. These sites provide vacationers with this type of information so that educated choices can be made about where they might stay. Potential vacationers can also see photos of properties. Vacation homes can then be reserved through the third-party website. Most third-party websites require payment by credit card, so the entire transaction is done online. Vacationers show up during their scheduled week. That's a simple example of how these companies play a role in helping people find available properties and helping owners to rent their properties.

You will learn more about Short-Term Rentals in next week's Q & A.

banned mail delivery of any 'instrument, substance, drug, medicine or thing' that could be used for abortion." The plan would allow criminal prosecutions for senders and receivers of abortion pills.

4. Climate Change Mitigation: The 2025 Plan proposes abandoning strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, repealing the Inflation Reduction Act, which offers \$370 billion for clean energy technology, and expanding oil, gas and coal resources including Arctic drilling. Under this plan, the expansion of the national grid would be blocked and the transition to renewable energy would be stymied.

As alarming as this sounds, it is only the tip of the iceberg. Add the Project 2025 Plan to the rulings of an extremely politicized Supreme Court (which has less than a 20% national approval rating) and we have a failed democracy – surely this would make our founders weep.

For more information, Google Project 2025 and become an informed voter.
Jennifer Cordier

Tornabene... continued from Page 4A

people around the world still have the American Dream. Dreamers realize that the roads in USA are paved in opportunities.

It is also important to remember that the most pressing event that could destabilize Earth is global warming. Earth has 4.5 billion years of history. Geological history, based on the geological time scale, supports a proposal that Earth has a built-in survival mechanism. Over billions of years, there were extended time periods on Earth with high and low temperatures and high and low atmospheric carbon dioxide, respectively. The continuous increase in global warming will definitely result in human

misery and a reduction in living species with possible extinctions.

In the early 1980s, USA Government conducted a study for predicting the future. Global warming was a rejected issue because energy from fossil fuel was to be replaced by fusion energy by the year 2000, and it was rationalized that the world leaders would never let global warming develop. Today, over 80% of our energy still comes from fossil fuel. Many politicians around the world think global warming is a hoax or simply not good for business. Remember to scrutinize the political candidates before the next election.
Thomas G Tornabene

Ripma... continued from Page 5A

Joe, I don't mean to nit-pick your drivel, because the bad advice in your quote is so obvious, but here are three things to consider.

1. You tell us not to pay attention to what the newspapers say about Biden. That includes the news media in general, respected Democratic politicians, and even White House staffers. Another way to think about your warning is – don't believe your own eyes. That's not very smart advice, Joe.

2. Biden needs to answer, "Is he capable of moving forward?" Well, Biden answered that question for the

whole country on June 27th. But, for millions of people, he's been answering that question for months, look at the videotape evidence. Not a smart question, Joe.

3. Perhaps Democrats should stop worrying about how to 'put lipstick on a pig,' and start worrying about protecting this country from an elderly gentleman with poor memory, poor judgment, and poor communication skills... and... with a track record of lying, stealing, and cheating the American people. That would be better advice, Joe.
John Ripma

Lausier ... continued from Page 4A

newspaper ad showing Dyer's past as a failure; many of us call it telling the truth about a candidate, not a trick, not a tactic, but the truth.

So now you call two men of integrity and honesty liars, Doug Loyd and Tom Jones, saying the problems they discussed in the race were just "hot air." Let's ask some of the people around the county about those issues, they are still real problems. So calling these two men liars is really eye-opening into your thought process. A lot went on behind the scenes of this race, highly questionable behaviors such as intimidation, vandalism and threats. We don't know all the players in those activities, but that behavior was completely uncalled for. Some people did not show up to the polls because of some of these conflicts.

My question is, how does a person who is working as a part-time city police, and a part-time sheriff have the

money to do an expensive radio blitz, expensive newspaper ads and hundreds of yard signs? And why were people from another county paying for expensive ads for Dyer? Yes, it is all legal, but many question it.
Eva Lausier

Williams...

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drought. As the temperature increases they need more water. Pasture availability will shrink as a drought stretches on because grass will struggle to grow back. Cattle are more likely to consume plants and weeds that they otherwise would not have eaten, some of which may be toxic. All of this means that the carrying cost of livestock is higher during a drought. At the same time cattle prices are high right now.

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

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

rules as our family. My great Uncles came to my grandfather's house three sheets into the wind. The two decided they wanted to milk the family cow. Uncle Dennis sat on Papa, to hold him down, while Poggy tried to milk the cow. She stepped on his foot and Poggy began to scream. This made his partner laugh and he eventually rolled off his smaller brother-in-law. The pair gave up this dangerous activity and looked at tickling their young nephews. They began chasing Dad and Uncle Bud around the house, during which the two young boys were screaming at the top of their lungs.

Uncle Johnny Blalock lived down the road a few hundred yards. He'd heard the screaming coming from the Cummings home. So he grabbed his 12-gauge and ran up to Papa's house. He found Poggy and Dennis trying to tickle their nephews. Uncle

Johnny stepped from behind a tree, raised the gun and said, "You get your paws off them boys or I'll blow your brains out." Uncle Dennis and Poggy sobered up in a hurry and never came back to Papa's while they were under the influence.

A few years later Poggy was still up to his usual ways of drinking and staying intoxicated for months at a time. His brothers and brother-in-law, Coon, Pick, Clay and Hollis Wehunt decided to play a prank on Poggy that would help him to quit drinking. They burnt a cross in his front yard. He thought the klan was after him and ran out of his house to the car. He started it up and tried to drive away. His brothers anticipated this move and placed blocks under his axle. After starting the car he dropped the gear shifter into first gear and tried to drive away. He sat in the car for about five minutes with the engine racing and wondering why he was not going anywhere. He finally opened the door and ran through the woods thinking he'd made his escape. Afterwards, he was sober for three years until Uncle Dennis, while at a family gathering, told him that his brothers had pranked him. So, now our family abides by the rule "No drinking allowed."

Fowler...

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ence of God when an easy lay-up would suffice. The Bible recognizes and anticipates that. "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes," Paul writes. "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith" (Rom. 1:16-17). To seek answers that stand on truth, cleanse the heart and soul, and empower you to live boldly, then look to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Take it from the growing number of Gen Z believers. They are coming to faith in Christ and for that they are not ashamed. www.mountainchristian.net

Mason...

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it would go in the trash." I said no, they will assign it a case number in case something else happens. She never came back, according to CID Captain Osborn.

I did tell her rather plainly to stop interrupting and talking over me when I was trying to answer her questions/concerns. I like to respect people by you talk, I'll listen. When I talk, you listen. As always, if someone in Union County feels threatened or a crime has been committed, immediately call 911.

Sheriff Mack Mason

Chamber...

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others to advocate for the community on these issues to help be the best we can be. We will work with local businesses to prioritize issues as we continue to work towards solutions.

We are thankful to all our members and local officials that work tirelessly to provide for our community. We look forward to working with our community to help our local businesses grow and thrive.

Help us make Life Better in Blairsville!

Jobson...

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the man-made polluting particles in our atmosphere, which cause existential damage by heating the planet, will have had time to remediate, allowing cooling temperatures and thereby preventing further global ice melt.

Another favorable outcome from an all-out nuclear war will result from a severe reduction in the human population. An estimated population reduction in the billions vaporized instantly in the nuclear blast zones across the Earth means welcome relief from decades of destructive human climate policies.

All things considered, man needs to come to terms with thermonuclear war as a viable response to climate change, which equally threatens human survival. And because, sometimes continued human survival is just not that important in the larger scheme of things.
Lance G. Jobson

Editor's Note...

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Animal Center, Tonya Shinholster, contacted the newspaper to say that "this is not true."

Shinholster wants people to know that MEAC "is fully staffed and is open for business," noting that "we may experience a closure such as any other facility but we are open to help fill the need for emergency vet care."

For more information on the Mountain Emergency Animal Center, visit <https://meacenter.com/>.