

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## Honoring Crenshaw

Edwin M. Crenshaw, born in 1950 in Orlando, Florida, joined the Navy in 1968, married Pauline on Valentine's day in 1969, and two weeks later left for training at NAS Jax, Florida, as an electrician with later special training on the Grumman A6A Intruder, and found himself on the way to Danang Vietnam in 1970. He left active duty in 1973, worked at various jobs, mostly closely related to his training as an electrician, and attended school on the GI bill. In 1977 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve as a construction electrician, finally retiring from the reserves in December of 1997 with 24 years total service.

Now living in Young Harris, Ed is active in the local church, is a member of numerous veteran's organizations, loves gardening, man crafts and firearms, and revels in his 52-year marriage, complete with two children and four grandchildren.

When asked about his reason for enlisting, I was ready to hear a grandiose story; it turned out to be a spur of the moment decision made with a buddy. There was a family heritage of World War II service in the Navy from his father, so boot camp and job training came relatively easily. The culture shock came when arriving in Vietnam. He vividly remembers the smells, and being from South Florida, he initially refused mosquito netting upon arrival in country, and shortly thereafter standing in the supply line for mosquito netting to prevent being attacked by the dive bomber sized pests. He also recalls his first mortar attack, how frightening it was, although he was never actively involved in combat himself.

When asked about his most memorable moments, Ed was quick to note the comradery of service, and after being in the reserve for so long, he continues to keep in touch with many of his service mates. Also, he got to see places in the world that he might not normally have seen, such as Singapore and Hong Kong. He also recalls being asked to serve above deck on the carrier he was aboard, being offered and extra \$100, as an E4, for hazardous duty pay as a flight deck engineer. As a relative newlywed, and for his rank, that was some darned good money then.

When asked if his military experience influences his thinking about war or about service in general, he responded, "I've always

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### Military Musings

Janice Walters-Taylor



## A Stirring Reminder

Sometimes life reminds us to number our days. Death does too. It can stir you to consider what really matters.

Larry King died. He told Conan, "I don't believe in an afterlife. I can't, I just never accepted it." I respect that, but it's sad. He continued, "The only hope, the only fragment of hope, is to be frozen and then someday, they cure whatever you died of, and you're back." Once King interviewed Billy Graham about his book "Facing Death and the Life After," King asked, "What's on the other side?" Graham replied, "On the other side is heaven or hell. That's what the Bible teaches."

Graham ministered in non-religious, secular settings because Jesus sought out those settings, too. People wrestle with questions like King asked. King did not accept the clear answer offered by Jesus. "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live" (John 11:25). The evidence that Jesus lived after he died is far more reassuring than the "fragment of hope" that a frozen body might be thawed back to life someday.

Hank Aaron died the day before King. It's sad that Aaron had to endure such hate even while MLK reminded us of the "promissory note" of American freedom and equality. How did he cope? He said, "I need to depend on Someone who is bigger, stronger, and wiser than I am. I don't do it on my own. God is my strength. He lights the way." About playing he said, "I felt like I was surrounded by angels and I had God's hand on my shoulder." He had an assurance unknown to Larry King.

Who's next? In his typical dry wit, C. S. Lewis reminds those who fear death that "100 percent of us die, and the percentage cannot be increased." Likewise the Bible says, "It is appointed for men to die once, and after this comes judgment" (Heb. 9:27). As you ponder that inevitability, these precious promises are such a treasure: "The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23) and "To live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).

Thinking about his destiny Paul writes, "We are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8). His friend Peter adds urgency.

See Fowler, page 5A

### All Things New

Wayne Fowler



## Commissioner's Questions

The questions we are addressing this week pertain to the Tax Commissioner's Office. Lee Knight, Union County Tax Commissioner, provided the following information in answer to questions related to his office. We are very proud of the work they do for Union County residents.

**Q. What is required for me to register my vehicle in Union County when I buy a vehicle or if I am moving here from another county or from another state?**

A. First, you need a Georgia Driver's License showing Union County as your residence, proof of a Georgia insurance policy, your title or lienholder information, and person who's name the title will be registered in. Union County tax commissioner will register one vehicle here if you hold an out of state driver's license and own a second home in Union County. If you are moving here from another county in Georgia, you only need to update the address on your Georgia driver's license and bring it into our office to transfer your registration to Union County.

**Q. What is the cost to register my vehicle in Union County?**

A. To title and register a vehicle Georgia has a Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) which is 6.6% of the purchase price from a dealer minus the trade in amount and collected at the time of purchase. If purchased from an individual the TAVT is 6.6% of the NADA clean retail value. The title fee is \$18 and \$20 for the tag plate. The annual registration is also \$20 a year and the renewal is on or before your birthday. When moving here from another state and transferring your vehicles to Georgia the TAVT rate is 3% of the vehicle value per NADA.

**Q. How is Union County Tax Commissioner office handling COVID 19 and being open to serve the public?**

A. We are open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. The public can come into the courthouse, but they will need to wear a mask. At the courthouse door, their temperature will be checked by security. Our office has put up Plexiglass and tables in front of the counter, and we limit the numbers of customers allowed in our lobby. We also have a website [www.uniongatax.com](http://www.uniongatax.com) that you can renew your tags online and check on your vehicle.

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### Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



## Letters to the Editor

### Satisfied with Paris

Dear Editor,  
Regarding last week's letter responding to Commissioner Lamar Paris' recent column about litter, in case no one else has informed the writer of the local "bit of wisdom" for those who insist on telling us how much better the place where they used to live does it, we'd like to remind him that the road runs both ways, and don't let the door hit you in the backside as you leave. And leave Commissioner Paris out of your petty comments. We like our commissioner just like he is, and would like to see if you can find a county official who does his job as well as or better than Commissioner Paris.

Joyce Rogers

### Faithful Call to Action

Dear Editor,  
All provisions and liberties of this great nation are derived from The Grace of Jesus Christ and the willingness of patriots to defend this inheritance. The nation's future and quality of life have been shaken and bruised by current events. Like the Apostle Paul, the scales need to be removed from our eyes. No longer can we be casual observers or indifferent to the denigration of our country. We need to bear witness and protect our heritage.

The New Agenda or Great Reset is presented with great clarity, one designed to remove Christ and our personal freedoms to worship, diminish sanctity of human life and disrupt family unity. What will you tell the next generation when they ask, "Where were you?"

This letter was produced by Grace Force of Blairsville. We are calling to action all churches of faith to pray, fast, participate in peaceful protests and exercise political consciousness as defined by Christ's teachings. We hope that area churches and their memberships supportive of our cause would reach out to us at [graceforceof-mouthga@protonmail.com](mailto:graceforceof-mouthga@protonmail.com). Thank you.

Dan Laughridge

Blairsville Grace Force

### Stirring Thought

Dear Editor,  
I hope that this letter finds all North Georgians and their families healthy and looking forward, as I am, to the defeat of the pandemic. I'm in bad need of a hug that I don't have to worry might kill me or someone I'm huggin'.

In the interest of full disclosure, I am a lifelong Democrat, a disabled vet, and an organic gardener of nearly 50 years. I am writing this letter to encourage previous letter writers and columnists who are of a quite different political persuasion than myself. It seems they are intent on helping the Democratic cause by writing letters and columns that are the most perfect blend of observations that could only come from hours of research on mega media: antifa organized the storming of the capitol; Trump won the election in a "landslide"; the conservative Supreme Court, VP Pence, Gov. Kemp and numerous state Republican legislatures conspired to certify a fraudulent election; Joe Biden after 50 years as a centrist Democrat has suddenly had his brain washed by some Che Guevara loving Marxist cabal; and best of all, that's Trump's real hair and skin color. It's all just so wonderfully nutty!

So please, my radical rightist friends, keep pouring on the coal! Believe and print every conspiracy, no matter how outlandish. Attack all establishment Republicans who do not genuflect before any public image of His Eminence The Donald. And never, ever admit that you might have been wrong.

I give you my personal guarantee that if you can persist and stay focused, and The Donald can somehow avoid jail and find a new social media mouthpiece, together you can deliver the lifelong dream of every living Democratic patriot: the total collapse of the Republican Party!

But don't let that scare you. It doesn't

See Lenoir, page 5A



## Letters to the Editor

### Yes, I Am Mad

Dear Editor,  
A recent letter writer indicated how angry, hurt and mad they were at Republicans and the "so-called patriotic Americans" who supported and enabled Donald Trump. I agree that it is disheartening to know that so many Americans voted for and cheated to elect our first president with very serious dementia. Joe Biden is well acquainted with how to lie pathologically and how to cheat. His son is a glaring example of the rot in Washington. My disappointment also comes with knowing how much corruption exists among our elected state and federal officials, and in our courts as well as the media propaganda and media censorship of facts.

Everyone is screaming and clutching their pearls over a riot at the Capitol, like that building is some sort of hallowed ground. So, let's fill in some facts here. Further investigation into the Capitol riot is showing that the protesters were infiltrated with Antifa, and that the "riot" was planned many days earlier by the Antifa agitators. Stay tuned to a reliable news source; more info is coming about the pre-planned agitators.

But overall, the letter about "Angry Americans" brought to mind a recent article from Dr. See Lausier, page 5A

### Healing the Country

Dear Editor,  
I think all will agree, our country is in one huge mess right now. I have pondered and prayed, and wondered how this happened, and what can be done to heal.

One of the Scriptures that again came to mind is II Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, THEN will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

I started to dissect that verse, piece by piece. The first word that stood out was "humble." Oh, but we have gotten to be 'experts' on everything, haven't we? Posting opinions on social media, and, if anyone at all disagrees with us, dissension and arguing ensues. Whether it be on mask wearing, or politics, or even if Popeyes fried chicken is good or not, we blast away.

I recently had a time to consider the fact that none of us, no none, are experts on anything, that only God is. After the holidays, I felt pretty good about myself, thinking I had not gained much weight. I gazed into the mirror, even sideways, and thought "Well, well. I did pretty good!" I 100% believed it to be true!

But, one day, I decided to seek the Truth Teller. The ole scale. When I saw the reading, I

See Bishop, page 5A

## A New Ax and Saw

Coon was born to Lon and Laura Cummings in July of 1915. He married the love of his life, Glenna Mae, in 1936.

The young couple lived in the "weaning off house" just a short distance from his parents. Just like his father, Papa made his living off the land. Not long after their marriage, his father Lon came to see him one evening.

It seems that a man named Nix from Phil Campbell was trying to sell some land across the branch and through the woods about 1/2 mile from Lon's place. The man offered to sell the land to Papa and a couple of brothers and brother-in-law. Papa and those men went into debt to buy 80 acres of land each from Mr. Nix. He was so worried because he owed a whopping \$80. He told me he had difficulty sleeping at night due to the worry about paying off that land.

Lon was proud of his sons for making their first land purchase. Little did he realize that Coon would be the only one to not only hold onto his land, but, he would enlarge his purchase as well. Papa and Granny went right to work on that land. But, before he could work on the land he had to purchase some tools.

Papa ordered a couple of items from the Sears & Roebuck Company. He bought a double bit axe which cost him an arm and a leg. Recently, I acquired a replica 1927 catalogue from the Sears Company. That axe cost my grandfather \$2.25. At the same time he also ordered a cross-cut saw. The saw cost him \$2.95, while the handles and hardware cost another 50 cents. Also purchased was a 14-foot logging chain for \$3.90. He was now ready to go to work.

Papa and Granny spent the next five to seven years clearing their land. They cut down and hauled away most of the smaller trees. But, the larger trees they girdled and left standing. Girdling is a process where the lower 3 1/2 feet of bark is stripped from the bottom of the tree. The young couple plowed around the standing timber. After a few years the standing timber fell to the ground and was used for firewood. Papa made enough money on his crop to pay for his first 80 acres in a five-year period. However, the story of the saw continued.

Papa also used the saw to cut timber for his house. Granny and Papa cut the logs and then hauled them to a mill to be converted into lumber.

All this was hard work which was done between trying to get a crop of cotton ready to gin and raising two sons. But, they soon had a roof up with only a few of the walls covered.

See Cummings, page 5A

### Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



## Soil Testing

Soil testing is a very important part of growing a quality crop, having a good looking garden, having a quality lawn, or a good pasture. Soil testing gives you an insider look at what is going on in your soil. Even though it's only February now is a good time to think about soil testing and prepping the soil. Let's take a look at what a soil test can do for you and why it's a good idea to have your soil tested.

If you have a garden at your house it's a good idea to have your soil tested every other year. A soil test will show you the pH, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and manganese levels in your soil. These are essential elements for plant growth. Nitrogen is also a very important nutrient for plant growth. However, nitrogen is very mobile in the soil. Therefore, you could test your soil and by the time that you receive your soil results back from the lab the amount of nitrogen in the soil could be drastically different.

pH is often the most limiting factors when it comes to growing plants in the mountains. A soil test will tell you the pH and the recommended lime to bring that pH up to an acceptable level for the plants. Any lime that is added to soil will take three to six months to fully take effect. That means for spring plantings, now is a good time to take a soil test and begin adding lime.

When taking a sample for your lawn, a depth of 4 inches is appropriate. If you're taking a sample for gardens, ornamentals, mixed fruit trees, and wildlife plots sample to a depth of 6-8 inches. You can use a spade or a soil probe. When you take the sample it's best to take multiple samples from around the plot that you are interested in. This way you'll get an average of the area that you're sampling and a better representative sample. Using a trowel or small shovel, take 8-10 samples and mix them together in a bucket. From that bucket take the sample that you'll bring into the Extension office so that we can send it to the UGA labs. Make sure that you get enough soil so that the lab can test properly. About 2 cups of soil is needed.

If you're sampling from an area that has mulch or grass on top of it push that material away so that you penetrate down to the soil. Pull out any rock or roots that you get with the soil sample and throw them away. When you take the sample, spread the wet/damp soil on a newspaper and let the soil air out overnight before bringing it in to the office, so that it dries down some.

When deciding how many samples you need to take, look at the area and determine how many different types of conditions you have. For

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