

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## Women on the March

March is Women's History Month, a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society, observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987. In 1980, President Carter issued a proclamation regarding National Women's History Week. The next year, Congress passed a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, Congress expanded the event to the entire month of March.

Women in the military are an integral part of history. Most notably is Rosie the Riveter, star of a campaign aimed at recruiting female workers for defense industries during World War II. Over 310,000 women worked in the aircraft industry in 1943, 65% of the industry's workforce (just 1% in the pre-war years). The subject of a poster aimed at recruiting for the war effort, we are most familiar with Rosie's legacy from Naomi Parker Fraley, photographed in the machine shop at NAS Alameda, California, sporting a recognizable polka-dotted bandana.

WACS start in May 1942 Congress instituted the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, later upgraded to the Women's Army Corps, which had full military status. Its members, known as WACs, worked in more than 200 non-combatant jobs stateside and in every theater of the war.

WASPS, or Women's Airforce Service Pilots, were over 1,000 women, each of whom had already obtained their pilot's license prior to service. They became the first women to fly American military aircraft. Thirty-eight of them lost their lives during the war as civil servants who eventually received military status in 1977.

The following are seven outstanding (and famous) women from the war effort, ranging from the Civil War to the present day, from all services, breaking barriers, making a difference for all future generations:

Bea Arthur, most famous for her role as an actress on "The Golden Girls" was also once a truck driver in the Marine Corps.

Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody was the first woman to serve as a four-star general in both the Army and the U.S. armed forces, joined the Army in 1974.

Known as "Amazing Grace," Commodore Grace Murray Hopper's importance in U.S. naval history is apparent as the founder of the COBOL programming language, a precursor to many of the software code approaches of today.

Col. Eileen Collins joined the Air Force in 1979 and was selected by NASA for the astronaut program in July 1991. In 1995, she became the first woman to pilot a space shuttle, and in 1999 she was the first woman shuttle commander.

Harriet Tubman, best known for ushering slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad, escaped slavery in 1849 and set up a vast espionage ring for the Union during the Civil War. She served as a cook, nurse and spy for the Union during the war, and was the first woman in American history to lead a military expedition.

2nd Lt. Elsie S. Ott, a flight nurse on the first intercontinental air evacuation flight that demonstrated the potential of air evacuation.

Franklin Flint Thompson was known to Union soldiers during the Civil War as a comrade, but in reality was a woman, Sarah Emma Edmonds, and one of the few females known to have served during the Civil War. Canadian by birth, she moved to Flint, Michigan, in 1856, where she discovered that life was easier when she dressed as a man. Joining the military out of a sense of duty, she enlisted in the 2nd Michigan Infantry as a male field nurse.

Women Firsts In The Military: Enlisted Women recognize Loretta Perfectus Walsh as the

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### Military Musings

Janice Walters-Taylor



## Shoveling Love

LA Times columnist Virginia Heffernan received some pushback. She wrote about her neighbors shoveling snow from her driveway without her asking. She labeled what they did "aggressive kindness."

She apparently despises her neighbors because of their politics. She compared their act of neighborliness to Hezbollah favors and Nazi politeness. That over-the-top comparison is why pundits hit her. She also stated the obvious: "Loving your neighbor is evidently much easier when your neighborhood is full of people just like you."

Her struggle is actually with loving her "enemy," a startling ethic stated by Jesus. "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven." He included that in his call to perfection, a very high bar indeed (Matt. 5:44ff). How are we to do that?

It helps to realize God loved you before you were ever aware of him, and while you were a spiritual orphan. "How great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God" (1 Jn. 3:1). God's love is empowering. "We love, because He first loved us" (1 Jn. 4:19). C. S. Lewis explains that the Divine gift to man "enables him to love what is not naturally loveable; lepers, criminals, enemies, morons, the sulky, the superior and the sneering."

That empowering love not is not a feeling or speaking, it's a doing. "Let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth" (1 Jn. 3:18) and that includes enemies. Who is your enemy, anyway? Maybe someone despises you for your politics or religion. Maybe your intersectionality score is low. Jesus didn't directly address that question, but he did answer this: "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus told the story of a man who did what the religious people wouldn't. This man of a despised race helped the victim of a highway robbery. He did it at a sacrifice to himself. This Good Samaritan story illustrates Jesus' charge to love your neighbor. He showed that your neighbor may be a stranger or an enemy who despises you. Either way, to love is to be like God who loved you first.

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### All Things New

Wayne Fowler



## Commissioner's Questions

The following questions relate to the Air Methods contract which provides medically necessary helicopter flights to the citizens of Union County. You have seen these questions and answers before, but we are re-publishing them again this year to make sure everyone has the correct information.

**Q. Is Union County renewing their contract with Air Methods to provide the life flight emergency helicopter membership free to residents again this year?**

A. Yes, we are! The new contract with Air Methods will be approved in May of this year. Everything is the same as last year, and you do not have to do anything to be covered. Union County residents are automatically covered.

**Q. I have a second home in Union County, and we are only there in the Summer and Fall. Will we be covered under this membership with Air Methods?**

A. Yes, if you have a home here, on or before June 1, 2020, you are automatically covered while in Union County - whether you live here full time or not. Anyone who lives in Union County or has a home in Union County is covered.

**Q. Will we receive any paperwork on this emergency helicopter membership?**

A. No, you will only receive paperwork if you must utilize your membership.

**Q. What does this Emergency Helicopter Membership cover? Who pays for the medical emergency helicopter service in Union County?**

A. Union County has basically signed all residents and homeowners up for this membership at no cost to the individuals. This membership covers only emergency medically necessary helicopter transfers to another hospital. It does not pay for the entire cost of the service, but it does pay for the amount that your medical insurance does not pay. If you happen to be uninsured, it will pay for the total cost. Union General Hospital and Union County Government share in the costs. There are no out of pocket costs to the user. You also do not need to sign up or fill out any forms.

**Q. How exactly is the bill paid?**

A. Generally, a bill will be delivered to the patient's home.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Drop the Term "Traitor"

Dear Editor,  
I appreciated the letter to the editor in the Jan. 27 edition in defense of Gen. Robert E. Lee in particular and pride in Southern heritage in general. I also very much appreciate the responses taking issue with that letter. In brief, the problem is we quickly arrive at an impasse if and when we frame the conversation solely around the issue of slavery. Surely all persons of good character and sound mind understand that the enslavement of human beings is morally indefensible, an affront to humanity, and is an offense to God as are its cousins - prejudice, bigotry, and hate. The fact that slavery was ever practiced in America is a sad and regretful part of our history. But with this said, I can think of no subject that finds people talking past each other faster than that of Southern pride within the context of the Civil War. I cannot even begin to flesh out all of the issues embedded in this "conversation" in a single letter to the editor (the reason, for example, that the Confederate flag should be relegated to Civil War museums).

However, I want to use the space I have left to make an appeal to my politically and culturally progressive friends, among whom I count myself, especially those who reside or hail from

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### Totalitarianism

Dear Editor,  
Slowly and cunningly, we as a nation are being indoctrinated and taught the beliefs and doctrines of a particular group or cult. This indoctrination is being introduced into our society as a thing that we need to embrace culturally in order for us to be brainwashed into thinking their type of totalitarianism is something new, though actually, it has been practiced for centuries in our world.

When we look at the meaning of this word, "totalitarianism," we can see a little more of its ugly face, which is related to a political regime based on subordination of the individual to the state and with strict control of all aspects of life, especially by coercive measures. In other words, total control over all of society's activities, like being enslaved with no freedoms or liberties of our own choosing.

I do not predict the future, but the writing is on the walls of history, and mark these words down folks, because it is in full swing in our dear beloved nation and will be just a matter of time till the hammer will fall if we do not stand in the gap through fasting and much prayer to stay strong in our faith and trust in a sovereign God

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## RC&D Council

The Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council promotes projects that help the citizens of Georgia (and beyond) improve their lives, standard of living and promotes economic development. What better way to accomplish this goal than to make the people's homes, businesses, property, and lives safe from uncontrolled wildfire. Chest/Chatt RC&D is the Southeastern network member and administrator for the Fire Adapted Communities initiative around the southeast. Chest/Chatt is also the Georgia Firewise liaison administering the Firewise programs here in NE Georgia as well as all of Georgia. Our goal is to recruit more communities that want to protect their resident's property by reducing their risk of wildfire. The Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program has been one of my main themes for the past year and for good reason, it works to save your property, your stuff, your cat, dogs, and maybe even your life.

The Firewise program in Towns County is leading Georgia in the number of certified Firewise Communities with 24 recognized and several more in process. Georgia has 113 total making Towns a major player in the Georgia Firewise program. Chest/Chatt's success with helping communities is why we were awarded one of the 8 national Fire Adapted Communities Pilot projects in 2013 to be developed in Towns County and since then has spread to our neighbors across Georgia and even up the Appalachian region of western North Carolina, north western South Carolina, and southwestern Virginia.

The Towns FAC is one of 3 Fire Adapted networks east of the Mississippi River with one in Minnesota and the other one in New Jersey (yes, they have trees and wildfires). Firewise is one of the main components of Fire Adapted network learning network. The success of this program is due to the close cooperation of our agency partners; Towns Commissioner, Georgia Forestry Commission, US Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Towns Fire Rescue, Watershed Training Center, and most of all, you the citizens who recognize the dangers all around where we live and who want to do something to reduce these risks. Wildfire calls in Towns County have dropped 75% since the Firewise program was started in 2009. Think of the money that this reduction has saved, not to mention property and lives! The Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program is a process that empowers neighbors to work together in reducing their wildfire risk. Join the growing network of

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### RC&D Executive Director

Frank Riley



## Ausborn

A young man came to Lumpkin County to find gold during the Georgia Gold Rush in the early 1830s. He didn't strike it rich, but, he did find the love of his life. And sometime during the year of 1839, Ausborn Rogers Mabry married Elizabeth Fatima York. They spent the next 40 years raising their family in the Dahlonega and Dawsonville area. One of their daughters happened to marry a fellow by the name of Daniel T. Hyde.

He fought with some Georgia volunteers in defense of his state against the Union Army during the Civil War. For some unexplained reason, perhaps it was the Oklahoma Land Rush, Ausborn and Fatima left their home in Lumpkin County and moved to Oklahoma during the 1880s. They never met their grandson, Clifford Hyde, who would later become my great-grandfather.

Clifford told my Dad that his ancestors were Cherokee. But, no one has ever been able to prove it. Clifford was raised up around the Dawsonville area and later migrated to North Alabama. My grandmother told me a story about his search for Cherokee Gold.

Sometime during the 1920s, an old Cherokee man showed up at the Hyde House in Phil Campbell. It was late in the evening, just before dark. It was beginning to thunder, and darkness was coming on the land. The family was just sitting down to a meal of cornbread and fresh vegetables. The family could not afford meat. The children were all barefooted. Clifford dreamt of the day he could afford to buy shoes and new clothes for his kids. Suddenly, there was a knock at the front door. This took everyone by surprise, because they rarely had visitors.

Clifford opened the door, and there stood an ancient Cherokee Indian. He asked the family for some food and a place to spend the night. As the old man sat down to eat, he began to tell the family his story. He figured his age to be close to 100, and he had walked all the way from Oklahoma. He came back the same way he had traveled as a young boy, on the Trail of Tears. He told Clifford that he wanted to see his homeland in North Alabama one more time before he died. Somehow, he also knew that Clifford was Cherokee.

The next morning, the family and the old man had a breakfast of eggs, biscuits and fresh blackberry jam. The old man told Clifford he was just a few miles short of his destination and wanted to get started as quickly as possible. But, he wanted to give Clifford something for his hospitality. He stated that 85 years earlier his people knew the soldiers were coming to force

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### Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



## Raised Beds

This week I would like to talk about raised beds. There are many different ways to make raised beds. So I'll go through different types of materials that you can use and some basic principles to use when building your raised beds. I'll also talk about situations where I like raised beds over growing in the soil and vice versa.

Raised beds are a great tool to use if you have don't have a lot of sunlight in your yard. Plants grown in raised beds will still need full sun, but if you only have a small area of your yard that has full sun, a raised bed is a good way to maximize that. If you have slopes that are too steep to plant, leveling out a small area and putting in a raised bed in that spot is another good idea. Oftentimes, the best soil in Towns and Union is found in river bottoms. If you don't the good fortune of putting your garden in one of those places, growing in a raised bed will also be much easier than fighting with heavy clay soils. Raised beds are also going to have fewer weed issues, and less soil compaction. You can build elevated raised beds to that you don't need to do as much bending down.

Dimensions for a raised bed depend on the materials that you are using. Generally, I like raised beds that aren't more than 4 feet across. If you have really long arms you can make them wider. I also like beds that are about 8 feet long. If you make long beds, it's just more difficult to walk around them, especially if you've put a bunch of raised beds next to each other. Ten inches height will be enough depth for most vegetables. Potatoes will need more depth. The deeper you make the raised bed the more material you will need to fill it. Soil to fill raised beds costs money, so don't make them needlessly deep. If you have tall crops planted in your raised beds they can shade out other crops, so orient them in a north-south direction. You want to the raised bed to be completely level. To do this you may need to dig out the place where you're putting it.

Let's move on to materials that you can use. There are several different types of lumber. Cedar is very good, because it does not rot quickly. However, it is very expensive. Cypress is often easier to get than cedar. Oak and other hardwoods can be difficult to find in sufficient quantities, and are only a little more rot resistant than pine. Pine is the most readily available and cheapest lumber. It will rot, but I've seen where you can get several years of use out of pine. An alternative to lumber is cement blocks, brick, concrete, or stone. If you are going to build the wall high, you would need some mortar to keep the walls from falling.

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### Blairsville - Union County Chamber President

Steve Rowe



## Chamber of Commerce

As February crawls to a close, we're anticipating spring more and more with each passing day. With that comes our Wedding Expo on March 14 from 1-5 p.m. at the Union County Community Center. With 34 vendors, demos, complimentary photographs, tastings, and a live DJ, this event is going to be incredible.

Attendees may win giveaways such as multiple overnight stays from places like Creekside Cottages, Wagon Wheel Event Center, Brasstown Valley Resort, and Kennedy Creek Resort, Saint Simons Island, a wedding cake by Melissa's Custom Cakes and Dixie Confections, an engagement photo shoot, by Stacie Hart Photography, a Wedding Consultation package by Planning Forever, a pub table and chairs donated by Sunflowers on the Square, gift baskets from Granddaddy Mimms, Traverse the Earth Travel, and the Beal Center, a bouquet from Whimsy Flower Farm, and a Home Depot Gift card from Kimberly Bruner. This is going to be a great one-stop shop

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### Watching and Working

Jacob Williams



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