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and the “membership” covers all costs not covered by your personal medical insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid. If you receive a bill for this portion you need to contact the company to provide evidence that you do in fact live in Union County or have a home here, on or before June 1, 2020.

**Q. Can I decide to use the membership to be transported to another hospital in the helicopter versus being transported by ambulance?**

A. No. The hospital and doctors determine if it is medically necessary for a patient to be transported by helicopter or by ambulance to another hospital. The helicopter is reserved for life and death emergencies and is utilized when a patient needs to get to a different fa-

cility as fast as possible. The membership with Air Methods only covers medically necessary flights.

**Q. We keep getting letters from different Emergency Helicopter Service Providers. Should we ignore those notices?**

A. As mentioned earlier, Union County residents are covered by the Air Methods company. You may continue to receive mail notices from Air Med Care, another helicopter service provider. If during an emergency, the Air Methods helicopter is not available, the Air Med Care helicopter could respond. For this reason, some people do purchase an additional policy as this additional service is not covered by our current contract.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

their departure to Oklahoma. They also knew they would not be allowed to take much with them. He said they had about 100 pounds of gold that had been hidden a few days before the soldiers arrived.

The old man related the gold had been hidden in a rock face above the Turkey’s Foot. This place was called the Turkey’s Foot because it was a place where three creeks came together to form one creek. From the top of the rock face the place looked just like the track of a turkey. Clifford and his sons looked for this gold for 40 years without ever finding an ounce of it. Clifford went to his grave longing to find the gold at the Turkey’s Foot.

How does this story relate back to Ausborn and Elizabeth Mabry? When this couple migrated to Oklahoma, they settled in a place called Briartown. Ausborn was some kind of minister. We have not determined whether he went to Oklahoma to be with family or to serve the Cherokee on the mission field. Briartown is in Muscogee County and is a part of the reservation of the Western Band of the Cherokee Nation. We still do not know for sure that either Ausborn or Elizabeth were Cherokee.

But Clifford Hyde told my Dad, “I am a Cherokee Indian, and my ancestors came out of North Carolina.” And the old Cherokee that came to the Hyde House in the 1920s told Clifford and his family that he stopped at their house because he knew they were of Cherokee descent. It’s a mystery my family has never solved. But, one thing is certain, Clifford never found any gold.

There is still gold in the hills of northern Georgia, northern Alabama, southeastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. You may find it difficult to find just as my great-grandfather found.

However, there are some things here that are more valuable than gold: a sunrise over the Blue Ridge; a fern-covered rock face on Hightower Bald; the sound of the wind blowing through a stand of White Pines on Chimney Top Mountain; the smell of a ramp patch on any north facing slope; a hoary frost on the peeling bark of a big Yellow Birch on Sassafras Knob.

No, you can’t spend these to purchase a new car. But when it comes time to sit around and count memories, you’ll find something which money can’t buy!

## Wilson... continued from Page 4A

north of the Mason Dixon Line, that they drop the use of the term “traitor” in reference to persons who fought on the side of the South in the Civil War. That, my friends, is a non-starter and a thing to which most Southerners take great exception. The use of the word traitor is simply not helpful, and it’s a bad way to start a conversation about monuments or pretty much anything else having to do with the Civil War.

The Civil War was not a conventional war as when a country finds itself defending itself against a foreign adversary. In a very real sense, it was a family squabble. A very serious family squabble to be sure, but a family squabble, nonetheless. It’s like two brothers get mad at each other and go after it... but after it’s over, it’s over. And the postscript is usually in the form of hugs and tears, and name-calling is left behind.

To call someone (or those who make up their family tree) traitors is to directly challenge their patriotism. It may be instructive here to know that the legendary “Fourth Alabama” (the 167th Infantry) has a long and glorious history dating back to before the Civil

War and still exists today. Brig. Gen. Edward H. Plummer is remembered for famously saying, “In time of war, send me all the Alabamians you can get.” In this same spirit, Gen. Douglas MacArthur said of the Fourth Alabama that its “service to their country has not been surpassed in military history.”

So that, in brief, is my argument that commentators would do well to simply drop the term “traitor” within the context of the Civil War. As I say, it’s just not helpful and is not necessary. However, if despite this little treatise, one finds oneself still inclined to refer to a Southern man as a traitor, let me just strongly recommend that you at least refrain from doing so while down South. Let me put it this way: I would not advise anyone to wander into a Southern establishment with a name something like – oh, I don’t know, maybe The Rebel Room Lounge somewhere in the Deep South, and while shooting a friendly game of pool, refer to a Southern man as a traitor. You could do that if you want, but trust this ole Southern preacher on this – I would not recommend it.

**Frank F. Wilson**

## Riley... continued from Page 4A

more than 1,740 recognized Firewise communities acting and ownership in preparing and protecting their homes against the threat of wildfire.

Using a five-step process, communities develop an action plan that guides residential risk reduction activities, while engaging and encouraging neighbors to become active participants in building a safer place to live. Neighborhoods throughout the United States are embracing the benefits of becoming a recognized Firewise Community - and you can too! The following steps will get your community started and, on their way, to receiving their official Firewise Communities USA recognition status, and the honor of proudly displaying their own signage along with many other benefits.

The five steps of Firewise recognition: 1. Obtain a wildfire risk assessment as a written document from Georgia Forestry Commission. 2. Form a board or committee, and create an action plan based on the assessment. We help you do this. 3. Conduct a “Firewise Day” event. We can sometimes furnish a chipper to chip the debris around your homes. 4. Invest a minimum of \$1 per home in local Firewise actions for the year. No money changes hands, in kind labor

is rated at \$27.20 per hour so all a community needs are one hour per home X \$27.20 = the annual renewal investment to renew the Firewise status. 5. Submit an application to your state Firewise liaison us). We help you do this also. We do the hard work with the paperwork and all you must do is organize your community and drag your brush and limbs to the curb and help “Feed the Chipper or burn it or mulch it” and enjoy the feeling of reducing the risk of the wildfire that will come.

Take the Firewise Challenge, Wildfires happen, it is a natural phenomenon just like tornados and floods! It is not a matter of if a wildfire will strike, but when. Are you prepared? Join us in our mission to add more of our Northeast Georgia communities to the 1,740 safer places in the US.

Save the date: March 6th at 10 AM – Georgia Firewise USA webinar. To join in contact [www.info.ccrd@gmail.com](mailto:www.info.ccrd@gmail.com).

For more information on Firewise/Fire Adapted Communities or any other community improvement programs, contact the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council, on our Facebook page, Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D site or [info.ccrd@gmail.com](mailto:info.ccrd@gmail.com).

## Chamber... continued from Page 4A

for brides and grooms who can talk with venue owners, sample catering options from Jim’s Smokin’ Que, Amazing Grace Catering, Cabin Coffee, Chick-fil-A and more. Make sure to mark your calendar for this event.

Watch for the upcoming Family Easter Egg Hunt taking place from March 15-April 2 sponsored by Karyn Woody. Families will have the chance to collect eggs filled with chocolate and coupons or discounts at Blairsville-Union County businesses. If they complete the entire list of stops, they will finish at Karyn’s office at Harry Norman Realtors where they’ll be entered to win a huge basket full of goodies from Blairsville merchants.

It’s been a long winter, and with the vaccine now available, many of us are antsy to schedule our first or second shot. What many do not know is that the Union County Health Department doesn’t report to the Union County government. In fact, it reports to the Georgia Department of Public Health. As we await the arrival of vaccines in our area, it’s important to remember we are at the mercy of the District 2 Department of Public Health. Let’s be patient with our local health department understanding that they are doing everything in their power to take care of our community as quickly as possible. We are all in this together.

## Fowler...

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Heffernan’s neighbor may have heard Sen. Ben Sasse calling for an end to political feuding. Sasse said, “You can’t hate someone who shovels your driveway.” The corollary is that it’s easier to love someone when you are shoveling their driveway. It’s sacrificial. It’s hard work. And that’s why it is God-like.

To love like God loves you is to sacrifice on behalf of others, putting their interests before yours. Know when to be generous, and allow yourself to be inconvenienced. Listen more than you speak. Do not let disagreements about religion or politics stop you from being kind. And maybe you shovel your neighbor’s driveway.

## Williams...

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The research that is available says that pressure treated wood is safe to use for food production. Arsenic is no longer used to pressure treat wood, and has not been used since 2005. Wood treated with creosote should not be used. Railroad ties and utility poles are treated with creosote.

If you have questions about building your own raised beds contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## Combs...

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who does know the future of America. We are at His mercy, and my prayer for all believers is to bombard heaven’s throne of grace day and night for the Lord God to give us all the courage and strength we will need in the seasons of time that remain till Jesus Christ returns.

Hebrews 13:5, Jesus is speaking: “I will never leave you or forsake you.” Jesus even uses the technique to express the certainty of eternal life for all believers in Christ from John 10:28, saying: “Believers will never perish, their eternal life can never be taken away. The Father’s hand is more powerful than that of any enemy.”

**Frank F. Combs**

## Walters-Taylor...

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first official enlisted woman of any service when she joined the Navy on March 21, 1917.

Commissioned Officers recognize Florence Blanchfield as the first woman to hold a permanent military rank. In a ceremony held at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, General Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed Florence Blanchfield to be a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army.

We owe a debt of gratitude to these and many other women. We salute them, and until we meet again, I bid you “At Ease!”

## Hospice Volunteer opportunities

Regency Hospice, located in Hiawassee, GA has Hospice Volunteer opportunities available in Towns and surrounding counties. Please call our office at 706-896-1251 if you are interested.

During my time at the Chamber, I’ve been thankful for the caliber of people who have been on this team. Ashley Kiernan is certainly no exception. This past week, we said goodbye to her as she embraces a new venture at Mountain Top Furniture. We wish her the very best in the future. That said, if you love Blairsville, love people, and have great administrative skills, you just might be the perfect fit to join the Chamber team. If you are interested reach out with your resume to [sarah@blairsvillechamber.com](mailto:sarah@blairsvillechamber.com). I am excited to see who will join us in championing this great community.