

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Habitat for Humanity

As we look at the Affordable Housing Crisis in America, our nation worries about families and children struggling to make ends meet. We often forget about our rising senior population. The apperency of this is something I have been made vastly aware of as my one-year mark of being director of Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties approaches.

Prior to my time with HFHTUC, I managed a Rural Development property locally that offered senior housing. This particular property had a constant waiting list for approximately two years. This is normal for subsidized housing for seniors in the country, but particularly more evident within our rural communities. Many times, I had to turn away seniors looking for a safe place to live, and it never failed to feel the thoughts running through their mind that they would more than likely not be able to find a safe place to lay their head. Now that I am beginning my 22nd Helping Hands project, I am informed of the looming outlook of what our community will be facing.

The average Helping Hands project is an elderly woman, owning her home outright, and living off of less than \$1,000 a month on Social Security. Some might say, well that's a big home, she could get an equity loan to do needed repairs. However, due to the lack of financial literacy programs and overwhelming medical debt/other debt, they are unable to qualify. Aging homes, aging population, and lack of senior living is the reality.

Adults 50-plus years are expected to grow to 133 million by 2030. The 2020 American Census found Union County, GA, has the highest median age in the entire state of GA, at 55 years old. That's 17 years difference from the national median average age of 37 years. Only 21% of households in Union County are raising children under the age of 18, compared to the national average of 30%.

HFHTUC currently is the only nonprofit in our two counties to solely service home repairs for limited income households. Seniors in our area desperately need a safe place to call home, and bringing awareness of the issue will in turn provide solutions and support. Donations to HFHTUC Helping Hands project will directly support seniors being able to stay in their homes safely and live comfortably.

Habitat Happenings
Executive Director
Charlotte Randall



The Hug

"He could have seen me as trying to throw a punch," Isaiah Jarvis said about approaching the mound during a Little League playoff game. But that was not his intention. Not at all.

Kaiden Shelton threw the pitch that hit Isaiah in the head. Isaiah collapsed at the plate, mainly due to the shock. But the ball had glanced off his helmet, and he realized he was not hurt. After he made his way to first base, he noticed the pitcher Kaiden struggling to collect himself. "I see Kaiden getting emotional so I tossed my helmet to the side," Isaiah said. He walked to the mound and gave Kaiden a hug saying, "Hey, you're doing great!" He later explained, "I was trying to spread Jesus' love and do what He would do in that situation."

Wow. Think maybe we adults could learn something from "the hug felt 'round the world"? Isaiah's coach Sean Couplen thinks so. He reflected on the incident going viral. "I believe what we are seeing is that our world is tired of divisiveness," he said. "Friendship and caring trump competition."

What you see happening between these young men is a display of empathy. Isn't that part of Jesus' radical ethic, to "treat people the same way you want them to treat you," and "love your neighbor as yourself"? (Matt. 7:12, 22:39) To do these, you must at least try to imagine what people are going through, sense what they feel and need, and react to their concerns. Sometimes more is needed than just "shake it off," or "he'll get over it."

People are more important than competition. Business can take a lesson here. Making a sale cannot be more important than treating people with fairness, honesty, and integrity.

"That's really the main take of all this," Isaiah said about his moment in the spotlight. "Just treat others how you want to be treated." You may not yet embrace the Christian faith, but surely you can agree that when it teaches young men to live like this, everyone benefits. Isaiah shows empathy. Be like Isaiah.

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Part 3 - This week's questions and answers focus on Magistrate Court. These questions contain general information, and if you have additional questions, you can call their office at (706) 439-6008, or stop by their office located in the Union County Courthouse at 65 Courthouse Street, Blairsville.

Q1. What is Magistrate Court?

A1. Magistrate Court is often called the people's court, because it helps regular citizens represent themselves, without an attorney, in cases against other people.

Using the Magistrate Court is quicker, more affordable, and more efficient in cases involving \$15,000 or less.

Q2. Is this a criminal court or is this a civil court?

A2. Both. The Magistrate Court hears some criminal cases as well as civil cases.

Q3. What are some of the specific types of criminal cases heard by this court?

A3. The Magistrate Court hears such things as warrants, bad checks, bond hearings, committal hearings, 1st appearance hearings, possession of marijuana, and petty theft.

Q3. What are some of the specific types of civil cases heard by this court?

A3. The Magistrate Court hears foreclosures, garnishments, Fi-Fa, small claims, dispossessory, abandoned vehicles, and interogatories.

Q4. If I wish to file a claim, where do I go and how does it work?

A4. Forms for filing a claim and answering a claim can be found online at: georgiamagistratecouncil.com. There, you can also find videos explaining the process. A claim is usually filed in the county where the defendant resides.

Q5. What is the best way to communicate with Magistrate Court?

A5. The Magistrate Court Clerk can provide you with some guidance on how the process works. However, they are not allowed to provide advice or opinion concerning the case. Questions about evidence, strength of case, or validation of case should be directed to an attorney.

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Letters to the Editor

Honoring Kathryn Litton

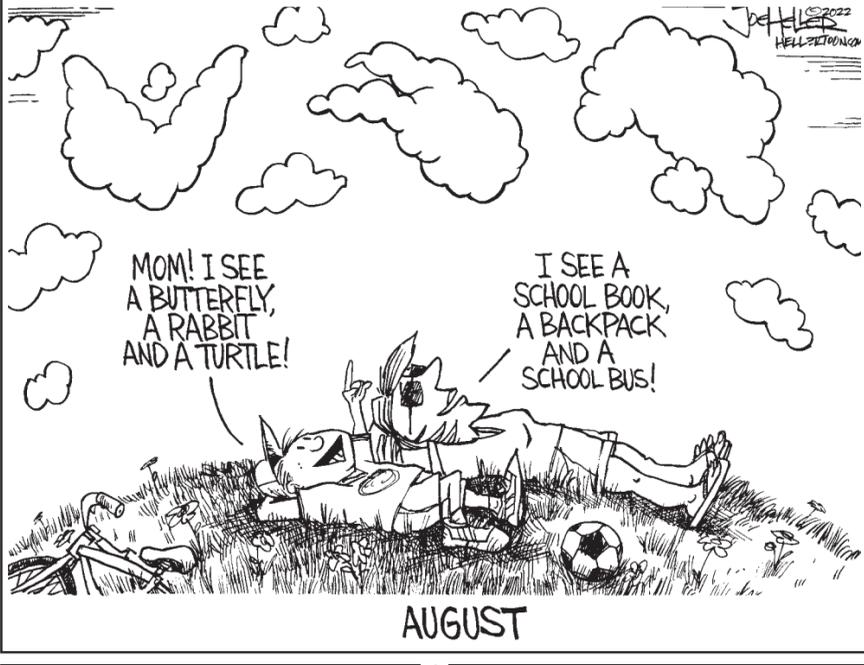
Dear Editor,

It was great to see the article about the Daughters of the American Revolution honoring Kathryn Litton for her commitment to converting North Georgia into a more broadly native landscape. We had her as a speaker to the North Georgia Mountains chapter of the Georgia Native Plant Society in May, where she shared her years of knowledge, as well as some of her plants from her greenhouse.

As noted, native plants play an important role in the local ecosystems, once they are established they require less maintenance, and they can be every bit as lovely as the non-natives.

Another one of Kathryn's roles, as pointed out, is working with local agencies to emphasize native plants in roadside installations and public gardens. She partnered with the State Roadside Beautification Project, and with Blairsville for the Arbor Day planting. Our chapter has planted some introductory beds along the parking lot in Meeks Park. Any efforts that can be made to bring native plants into the public sight, or into your own back yard, are beneficial to all.

Teryn Romaine
President of the North Georgia Mountains Chapter of the Georgia Native Plant Society



Chamber of Commerce

School is back in, and I couldn't be more proud of Union County Schools and excited for everything that's to come!

Friday night football is at the top of my list. I love to watch our Panther football team lighting up the scoreboard and the band's half-time show echoing through the mountains. I'm pretty confident that Union County High School has the best football stadium around. The view is incredible when the sun begins to set!

The College and Career Academy is finishing up its last few final touches, and the students will have new up-to-date technology and equipment to use. These renovations were much needed in helping students dig deeper into the trades they are interested in and also preparing them for life once they graduate.

Clubs, clubs, and more clubs! From Spanish and FFA, to DECA and Interact, Union County Schools has many opportunities available for students to get involved in and possibly find a

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber President

Steve Rowe



Exterior Roof Sprinklers

Jack Cohen, a renowned fire scientist, has said repeatedly, "The wildland fire problem is a home ignition problem, not a wildfire control problem." Cohen has been trying to help fire agencies understand this since 1999.

Unfortunately, they have shown little interest. We are hoping with the wildfire tragedy in Paradise, California, a few years ago, attitudes will change. But private citizens do not have to wait. There are several proven strategies and retrofits that can be implemented easily to homes and communities now.

One is the installation of exterior fire sprinklers. The sprinklers can save homes, and the effectiveness of exterior fire sprinklers was proven during the 2007 wind-driven Ham Lake Fire in Cook County, Minnesota. In 2011, exterior sprinklers had been installed on 188 properties, including homes and several resorts. All 188 properties survived. More than 100 neighboring properties were destroyed. In order to be effective, external sprinklers must be able to wet all areas where ignition can occur or be sufficiently effective in quenching embers that approach the home so they will not have enough energy to ignite combustible items. Roof-edge mounted sprinklers hang on gutters or brackets and are connected to a water faucet with a wildland fire hose. If a fire is approaching, you simply turn on the sprinklers and leave.

The function of an exterior sprinkler system is to minimize the opportunity for ignition by wetting the home and surrounding property. Sprinkler systems should be able to protect a home against the three basic wildfire exposures: wind-blown embers, radiant heat and direct flame contact. Ember ignition of combustibles located on or near the home can result in a radiant and/or flame contact exposure. Water should reach all vulnerable areas for the system to have maximum effect both on and near the approaching fire.

Post-fire assessments have shown exterior sprinkler systems can be effective in helping a home survive a wildfire, but potential issues exist with their use. The water supply should be adequate to deliver water, when needed, for the time embers could threaten a home. Check with your local fire department if your sprinkler system uses water from a municipal supply; they may have suggestions to help minimize water consumption. Given the potential issues regarding sprinkler performance, it's recommended that their use be a supplement

RC&D Executive Director

Frank Riley



A Chicken Frizz

The Chicken Frizz was a custom in the hills of North Alabama. The event was a chicken stew and social gathering for teenagers. It was a time for young men and women to come together while under the supervision of young adults. And yes, some of the same things happened in those days that happen nowadays. Usually, romance was in the air during a Chicken Frizz.

My father remembers a Chicken Frizz being held at his home when he was very young. Dad was around 11 and my Uncle Bud was around 9 when Papa and Granny invited 15-20 of the youth from the Traptown area to come to the Cummings' home for a Chicken Frizz. Dad remembers many kids being present. But, the primary characters were Vera Wynn and Mitch Wynn.

My grandfather and grandmother, Columbus and Glenna Mae Cummings, worked all day to get ready for the Chicken Frizz. The family killed and dressed 8-10 chickens. Glenna asked her sons to get out the big black cook pot and build a fire under it.

Teenage kids came from all across the community to the Chicken Frizz at the Cummings home. Vera and Mitch did not have to travel very far to get to the event. Herman Wynn lived just across the cotton field from the home of Columbus and Glenna Mae Cummings. Herman was a short, jovial and slightly rotund individual. He was quite possibly the finest man in the community. His daughter, Vera, and son, Mitch, were the first teenagers to arrive at the Cummings home. The Wynn children were 16 and 15 years of age, while Dad and Uncle Bud were five or six years younger. Dad and Uncle Bud knew everyone at the Chicken Frizz, and this presented a slight problem.

Dad said, "Everyone was sitting around the campfire enjoying the meal and all the talk. Then for no reason at all a boy and girl got up and walked away from the fire." As the two lovers walked away from the fire, Dad asked his father, "Where are they going?" Everyone around the fire began to laugh. Columbus scolded his son and said, "Don't worry, I will take care of it." With that statement, Papa left the fire and gently herded the two young lovers back to the fire. A short time later, Uncle Bud noticed a young man whispering something in the ear of his giggling girlfriend. Uncle Bud was curious, so he asked the young fellow to tell everyone else the joke he was telling his girlfriend. Once again, everyone around the campfire was laughing at the young man.

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Corn Earworm

Corn earworm is a serious pest in corn, especially sweet corn. Let's talk about this pest, what damage it does and what can be done to control it.

Corn earworm and tomato fruitworm are really the same species of caterpillar. Its just that when we see them on corn it's an earworm, and when we see them on tomatoes we call it a fruitworm. These are caterpillars that turn into moths. The moth stage has yellowish-brownish wings with a dark spot in the center. The larval or caterpillar stage vary in color and can be brown, pink, green, yellow, or black. They typically have alternating dark and light lateral lines the length of their body. Corn earworm moths lay eggs on the silks of an ear of corn. In tomatoes they are laid on the leaves. As the eggs hatch the baby caterpillars will move down the silks into the ear of corn. On tomatoes they will move into the fruit. They will begin to eat the corn or tomato. In tomatoes they will carve tunnels through the fruit, while on corn they will eat the kernels on the tip of the ear. Sweet corn is a particular favorite of corn earworms so you should expect to see damage on at least some of your corn if you grow it yourself or buy it at a farmer's market. In corn there is typically only one caterpillar per ear. The moth stage does not cause any damage.

Corn earworm are very difficult to control. The Georgia Pest Management Handbook states, "For caterpillar pests of ears, if damage free ears are desired, begin treatment when silks appear. Repeat at 2-day intervals with sprays directed at ears. Daily applications may be required in the fall and damage may still occur." You can download the pdf version of the Georgia Pest Management Handbook Home and Garden Edition for free at this website: <https://extension.uga.edu/programs-services/integrated-pest-management/publications/handbooks.html>.

Spraying at two-day intervals is a lot of insecticide, and is probably more than what most people are comfortable with. Spraying that frequently may be doable for a garden, but is not possible on a commercial scale. Especially since once silking has occurred the plants are too tall to drive a tractor through the field. The damage caused by corn earworm is usually minimal as they will eat about 1 1/2 inches of the top of the ear. If you have corn earworm damage from corn that you grow or buy simply break or cut off the tip of the ear where the damage is, and eat the rest of the ear. If you purchase sweet corn that has some corn earworm damage, this could be taken as an indicator that the grower did not

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Watching and Working

Jacob Williams



Rename Lake Winfield Scott, YES!

Dear Editor,

Last week, a "kind and gentle" soul suggested that we should rename Lake Winfield Scott.

I completely agree. That being said, I would not go with the Op/Ed writer's suggestion of "Lake Grace." I would go with a more historically based name. I would call it "Native American War Memorial Lake." After all, what's right next to Lake Winfield Scott? That's right, Slaughter Mountain. What's right next to Slaughter Mountain? That's right, Blood Mountain. What flows from Lake Winfield Scott? Slaughter Creek. For such a beautiful area, these are some pretty gruesome and troubling names. I wonder what happened there? As someone who was born in this state, I know what happened there. The two major Indigenous Native American Tribes, the Creeks and Cherokees, had a "Little War" over land, resources and supremacy of the area. There's no "Grace" in that historical fact. Regardless of what weapons are used, war is war. That cannot be sugar coated by a name change. The major fact that is overlooked by those who want to extort our bad treatment of Native American Tribes is the fact the EVERY MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN TRIBE warred against their neighboring tribes for land and resources. Period. As a matter of fact, for thousands of years in North America, Tribes warred against each other just like European Nations had been doing across the Atlantic.

So in conclusion, if we're going to rename Lake Winfield Scott, how about we name it something that actually has to do with what happened in that area? If that's not suitable, how about we rename it for Winfield Scott's Nickname? It has a nice ring to it. "Old Fuss and Feathers" Lake. Take Care and God Bless.

Claude Rains Jr.

New Beginning

Dear Editor,

When we are thrust into this world of sin at birth a new beginning starts that will last until we die. Yes, this life here is not for the faint of heart. The struggles and challenges are new each day, and some days its not worth getting out of bed. The turmoil, violence, hatred and anger cries out from every crevice of life because of the sin nature that we inherited when we entered an imperfect world, but praise God there is hope for all who will come as you are and receive the gift of eternal life when you lay down this life into the next life full of promises from a God who cannot lie.

God has been preparing a place for His

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All at once Granny grabbed her two young sons and strongly suggested the two boys should go to bed. Despite their objections, Paul and Bud soon found themselves in the bed. But, the two lads could still see the campfire and all that was going on around it.

Later in the evening as the boys lay in the bed watching the boys and girls at the Chicken Frizz, they noticed Vera and one of the young men sneak away from the fire. The lovebirds walked over to the well house where they felt hidden from the rest of the group.

Unknown to Vera and the boy was the fact that they were standing directly in front of the bedroom window of the two boys. Dad and Uncle Bud were fascinated by what was happening. But, when the young couple kissed, the boys could stand no more. Dad let out a howl that would wake the dead. The howl scared the two lovebirds, and it scared my grandmother even more. She went running to the house with Papa close behind. They ran into the house to the bedroom of their sons.

Papa then heard his sons say, "She put her mouth right

onto his lips." The two boys had never seen anything like this, and they didn't understand it. Dad asked his father, "Why did Vera put her mouth on that boy's lips?" Columbus was trying to calm down his sons. But, the campfire was close enough to the house which allowed everyone to hear the conversation. Once again, everyone broke out into hysterical laughter. When the boys were finally calmed down, Granny left her sons at the house and walked back to the fire. Mitch Wynn snuck away from the fire to the bedroom window where Dad and Bud were watching. Mitch told Dad that he should make sure to tell his and Vera's father, Herman.

A couple of days later, Dad was at Ebb Trapp's country store. As he walked in the front door, he noticed Herman Wynn sitting on an empty drink crate. Dad walked up to Herman and began to tell him the story. The old man sat on the crate listening to the boy's story. When Dad began telling about his response to Vera's kissing the boy, Herman laughed so hard he fell off the crate, all because of a Chicken Frizz.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

new hobby they are passionate about. These clubs are also great for helping with community service projects. Most are required to have so many hours per year and are looking for ways to connect with our non-profit organizations and community to lend an extra helping hand.

And, of course, the start of school means it's fundraiser time! Those discount cards from the softball team come in handy when shopping and din-

ing in our community, and I'll never turn down an FFA BBQ lunch. I hope we are all able to step up and assist with one fundraiser or another and help the students grow within their clubs.

Please continue to keep the school staff, admins, and students in your prayers. And remember, these students are Blairsville's future, and they are a big contributing factor to what's making life better in Blairsville!

Combs... continued from Page 4A

people. A chosen people who will reign and rule with Jesus Christ for eternity. Folks, this word eternity means an infinite duration where life will exist forevermore with Jesus Christ as our ruler and King. There will be no debate and questioning about His supreme authority over all things.

Our task as believers in Christ will be to worship and serve Christ whatever He commands, and we will gladly do this, because we will be like Him in all matter with a spiritual body that will never die, never grow weary, never run out of energy, but will maintain a healthy body free from all sin and diseases in a perfect world.

Did you grasp the last two words? A perfect world, because of what Jesus did on the cross to reconcile us back to Him. Folks are looking every day for temporary things to bring them pleasure for only a little while, but God promises His followers pleasures that will not only satisfy the longing of our soul but will be a reminder for all eternity of our rightful place beside our Lord and Savior, Christ, Jesus.

Sadly, those who choose not to follow the narrow path of righteousness will live an eternity totally separated from their Creator, God. Only a fool says there is no God. Are you part of this crowd? I pray not.
Frank F. Combs

Shootin Creek Band in Concert at the Union County Historic Courthouse



Shootin Creek Band

Join us this Friday, August 26th to hear from Shootin Creek Band. Shootin Creek Band is made up of Mike Lane, Billy Garrett, Phil Chapman, and Tommy. They play country classics, old and new. We look forward to seeing you this Friday at 7 PM for a fantastic concert!

Mountain Coin Club Hosting Free Appraisal Fair for the Community



Ever wonder what those coins are that your family lovingly left you? Well, now is the time to find out!

As a token of our appreciation for the community support Union, Towns and Lumpkin counties have given the Club through the years, the Mountain Coin Club is hosting a free appraisal fair on Tuesday, September 13 from 4-7 PM on the Blairsville Campus of North Georgia Technical College. Reservations are required for this special event and may be obtained by telephoning our President, Charlie Johnston, at 706-781-3402. No walk-ins will be allowed and security will be on site. On hand to offer appraisals will be

several illustrious officers of the Georgia Numismatic Association Board: Tom Youngblood, President; John Morris, Treasurer and Secretary; Steve Nolte, Governor; and Richard Jozefiak, Mountain Coin Club Delegate. After your appraisal, you will be offered a free 2022 membership to the Mountain Coin Club—a fun and educational night out enjoying your favorite hobby with friends.

The Mountain Coin Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 PM in the Conference Center of the College. The Club has been in existence for over ten years and is dedicated to increasing knowledge of numismatics at all levels. To that end, an educational program is conducted each month on coins or paper money. Please contact our President, Charlie Johnston, at 706-781-3402 for more information on Club happenings and to reserve your spot at the appraisal fair. NT(Aug24,A2)JH

Riley... continued from Page 4A

to, and not a replacement for, already proven mitigation strategies, such as the reduction of potential fuels throughout the home ignition zones, along with removal of roof and gutter debris, and use of noncombustible and fire/ember-ignition resistant building materials and installation design details.

Exterior sprinklers work by creating an environment that extinguishes embers (spotting firebrands) that are the primary cause of building ignition. The sprinklers do this by 1) hydrating potential fuels, thus making them less susceptible to ignition, 2) increasing humidity, and 3) creating a cooler microclimate around the home. Homeowners can install many of the systems themselves for considerably less than a professional price.

The W.A.S.P. system that our Firewise coalition displays costs less than \$200 for two sprinklers and two hoses, and they simply hang on the home gutters and will wet a 60-foot circle around the house and the roof to keep wind-borne embers from having a dry place to ignite. Strong winds will deflect the water spray but, despite 20-25 mph wind gusts during the Ham Lake, CA, Fire, the installed sprinkler systems worked well. When people are awakened in the middle of the night and see smoke everywhere, panic can set in, and it's difficult enough to evacuate, much less remem-

ber to run outside and turn on the sprinklers; however, it is not an excuse to dismiss the possibility of using exterior sprinklers.

If conditions are right for a wildfire, you can use a broom handle to hang the sprinklers on the gutters before the fire approaches, and it will only take a few minutes to turn on the water before you evacuate. Extra time can be found if communities can get their emergency alert systems up to speed, and trained CERT volunteers serve as support personnel. These fire volunteers can activate the systems, extinguish ember-caused spot fires, and help those who are stranded.

During wind-driven, catastrophic wildfires, there will never be enough professional emergency personnel available to do the job because we are volunteers. Communities should consider picking up the slack with trained volunteers, and only those who are specially trained should stay behind to defend a community. Roof-mounted sprinklers are inexpensive, easy to install, work a lot better than nothing, and can also serve as a garden sprinkler in the off season! This is one step to becoming Firewise, and we can help.

For more information on roof sprinklers, contact RC&D at info.ccrd@gmail.com or www.waswildfire.com.

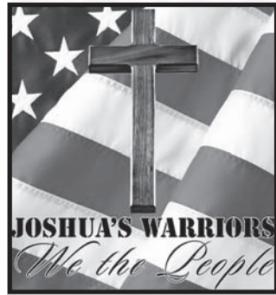
Williams...

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use a lot of insecticides when growing the corn.

Sweet corn that has corn earworm damage is still marketable and consumers shouldn't view corn earworm damage as the fault of the farmer or a lower quality product. If you have questions about corn earworm contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Your Patriot Reflection



Elections

Belong to the People

Since the beginning of 2019, we have heard that several candidates have announced their intentions to campaign for President in the 2020 elections. Many of you will groan, avoid the campaign rhetoric and do everything possible to not get involved! We would like to encourage you not to do that! It seems like every election cycle we hear the phrase "this is the most critical election in the history of our nation." Well, go ahead and say it now, "This is the most critical election in the history of our nation!" The divisions that exist in our nation are monumental! At stake is whether we will continue as a Constitutional Republic or a Socialist nation. Socialism or democracy, that is the heart of our next election. We need to listen to what each candidate is saying and weigh that against what the Constitution, and the Word of God are saying. Abe Lincoln said, "Thanks to our good Constitution and organization under it, the country only needs that every right-thinking man, shall go to the polls, and without fear or prejudice, vote as he thinks."

One other quote from Old Honest Abe is worth repeating, "Elections belong to the people. It is their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters."

A Patriot Reflection is presented weekly by www.joshuaswarriors.org.

American Red Cross Volunteers

Make a difference in your community! As a volunteer with the American Red Cross, you can help families recover after a home fire, train individuals in first aid and CPR, support America's military families, or take on any number of other roles that make our communities safer, stronger and more resilient. Get started at <https://www.redcross.org/local/georgia/volunteer.html> or call your NWGA chapter office to ask about volunteer opportunities 844-536-6226.