

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## Habitat for Humanity

The meaning of home. Home is our safe haven, the place we can run to when we want to escape the outside burdens. We often forget the luxury of having a place to call home, and how important it is to our wellbeing.

Child homelessness increases the risk of mental, emotional, and developmental issues. Lack of sleep, hunger, constant changes in home and school districts, and living in a home where the parents are in a constant state of survival have detrimental effects on children. Children whose parents suffer from mental illness and/or substance abuse issues are the most vulnerable to repeating the cycle of chronic homelessness.

According to Familygateway.org, the median statistical data for homeless children is unnerving. One in 30 American children are homeless, and 51% of these children are under the age of 5. The typical homeless family consists of a single mother with children. The rise in housing costs, lack of affordable housing, illness, childcare and living expenses make single mothers more susceptible to homelessness. Of this survey, 90% of single mothers have experienced physical or sexual abuse in their lifetimes.

Since the rise of the pandemic, the increase in mental health issues and substance abuse has risen drastically. The most powerful barrier of recovery for these individuals is stable, affordable housing. Trends in affordable housing waitlists tend to give ideas of homeless populations in areas. The majority of affordable subsidized housing in the country has a waitlist double of pre-COVID times.

Supportive housing is a type of affordable housing that provides onsite help for those struggling with homelessness stemming from mental illness, disabilities, and substance abuse. Research has demonstrated that supportive housing reduces chronic homelessness. According to supportivehousingcommunities.org, 97% of tenants avoided medical emergencies for fiscal year 2022; 96% remained in stable housing; and 93% of tenants with substance abuse histories did not relapse in supportive community housing.

Supportive housing is a concept that would help break the vicious generational cycles. Making yourself aware of detrimental patterns in society that cause chronic homelessness could change

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**Habitat Happenings**  
Executive Director  
*Charlotte Randall*



## Courage and Sacrifice

Show me a life of purpose and meaning, and I'll show you a life of courage and sacrifice. Note that these two traits exist only in the presence of adversity.

While recuperating from a war injury, Andrew van der Bijl read a Bible to pass the time. That led him to believe in Christ Jesus. In the early Cold War years, he began to smuggle Bibles into communist countries. His associates began to call him "Brother Andrew."

Once, he stopped his Volkswagen in a line of cars at the Romanian border. He watched for hours as the guards ransacked the vehicles in front of him. After praying for a miracle, in a counter-intuitive move, he placed some Bibles out in the open. Then it was his turn. He pulled the car forward and stopped. The guard glanced at his passport and waved him through, only to stop the next car and resume the ransacking. From that experience Andrew learned to pray. "Lord, You made blind eyes see. Now make seeing eyes blind."

Over the decades Andrew's ministry changed, but it always involved staring down adversity with courage and sacrifice. In recent years, he built relationships with leaders in the Muslim world, including Hamas. He spoke about Christ with them and prayed for them. "We know you love us because you come when no one else will," one told him. The leader of Islamic Jihad sent a cryptic note after one visit. "I pray that God will give us the possibility to unite with you and the Christ." Perhaps he had a life-changing dream about Jesus, as is widely reported among Muslims.

In Andrew's mind, he only did what all Christians do - follow Jesus in the unique ways He calls us. "The Bible is full of ordinary people," Andrew said, "who went to impossible places and did wondrous things simply because they decided to follow Jesus." He rightly believed that every believer is called. "The real calling is not a certain place or career but to everyday obedience. And that call is extended to every Christian, not just a select few."

This is in keeping with Jesus' explanation of the ordinary Christian life. "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny

See *Fowler*, page 5A

**All Things New**

*Wayne Fowler*



## Commissioner's Questions

**Q. In an earlier Q & A, you wrote about the short-term rental moratorium. Is there still a moratorium on vacation rental licenses in Union County?**

A. Yes, there is currently a moratorium on the issuing of short-term rental licenses (also known as vacation rentals) in Union County. The moratorium was adopted on June 16th to take effect on August 16th, and it was adopted to last for up to 180 days.

**Q. I never really understood why the County adopted the short-term rental moratorium. What was the purpose for it?**

A. In the past two years, we have received many calls and inquiries about the shortage of workforce housing. Additionally, we have fielded so many complaints from Union County residents about loud music, about trespassing, about parking problems - all concerning short-term rental properties. Also during this time, we noticed an increase in short-term rental license requests through the hotel/motel licensing process in my office. We adopted a moratorium on issuing short-term rental licenses to give us the time needed to research and address any potentially negative short-term rental-related issues associated with people coming to our county to vacation.

**Q. How do you plan to address the negative issues that you mention concerning the short-term rentals?**

A. My office formed a committee consisting of people who are impacted in some way by short-term rentals. The purpose for this committee is to open dialogue about variables associated with this topic and more specifically to help create a short-term rental ordinance that will protect the rights of all property owners: Those who wish to own short-term rental properties and those who are negatively impacted by short-term rental properties. The committee is made of short-term rental owners, neighbors of rentals, land developers, champions of tourism, and residents who are simply concerned about preserving Union County's rural culture. This committee has collectively written a draft ordinance to address the negative issues that have been brought to our attention.

**Q. What is the status of the short-term rental ordinance? When will it go into effect?**

See *Paris*, page 5A

**Q & A from Union County Commissioner**

*Lamar Paris*



## Letters to the Editor

### Wonderful Democrats

Dear Editor,

It was good for a recent writer to remind us of all the good things the Democrats have done for us in the past. Skipping the cherry picking, the very biggest problem is that those Democrats are long ago dead and buried. The current crop aren't our Dads' or Granddads' Democrats: the LBJs, JFKs and Tip O'Neil Democrats. No, the Democrats in Congress now voted unanimously for abortion-on-demand up to the moment of birth. Death for innocent millions. Only seven other countries, mostly communist, allow that. Even decadent France limits abortion after week 15, folks.

The Democrats are off of the reservation, and there are no longer any "moderates" like our families voted for in the past. We have fake "Catholics" like Biden, Pelosi, Newsom, et al

See *Tarter*, page 5A

### Yes Really Proud

Dear Editor,

Because I am a proud Democrat writing a letter to my local newspaper where people know me by name and recognize me on the street, I make sure the facts I write are accurate and true.

You were correct that Woodrow Wilson was president when the Volstead Act was passed. President Wilson vetoed the Volstead Act to prevent prohibition, because he believed it was an infringement on personal liberty. But Republicans in the House and Senate overrode his veto, making it illegal to get a beer or a glass of wine in the whole country.

You blamed President Biden for inflation, and the price of gasoline. Well, he is the president, he's going to get credit for every bad thing that happens. I think most people, even those that only watch Fox News, realize that Vladimir Putin is responsible for the high gasoline prices.

Inflation is a different thing. Inflation comes from runaway tax cuts to the rich. The former President Donald Trump lowered taxes on the rich without any offsets in spending. He increased the deficit more than any peacetime president ever! When Trump took office January 20, 2017, the national debt stood at \$19.95 trillion; when he left office reluctantly on January 20, 2021, the national debt stood at \$27.75 trillion, or 39% higher than when he took office.

You mentioned how Democrats like to talk about what they did 50 years ago. Well, that was a great time for America. The middle class grew faster than it ever has before and/or since. Taxes on the rich 50 years ago were about 70% if you made more than \$4.5 million a year, so even

See *Cosner*, page 5A

### Our Duty to God and Country

Dear Editor,

Voting is every citizen's sacred duty. The words of Founding Father Samuel Adams in 1781 still ring true today:

"Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual - or at least that he ought not to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."

Let nothing deter you from voting this Election Day (not early). Our country faces the most consequential of times. Our freedom and liberties are at stake. Your vote matters to future decisions made by elected officials that will shape our lives today, and the lives of generations to come.

Also...

Thank you to all who attended Poll Watcher Training and have signed up to Poll Watch! There is still time to take the online training for Election Day on Nov. 8. To see the webinar schedule of training through the Georgia Election Integrity Coalition (the best in the state),

See *Brothers*, page 5A



## Letters to the Editor

### Doors of Opportunities

Dear Editor,

We Christians have opportunities to walk through doors that the Lord God opens, but we must be careful to make sure it comes from the Lord Himself, not Satan. Yes, even Satan has power to open doors that would lead us down the path of destruction. This is why it is so vital to stay in God's word daily and know for sure that when doors do open that we walk in with the blessed assurance that we are in God's presence and a blessing will come out of it to bring God all the glory.

When the Lord Jesus spoke to a crowd of 5,000 men plus their wives and children and the crowd was hungry, Jesus' disciples said to Him, Lord, send these people home, for we have not enough food to feed them all, which could have numbered close to 15,000 mouths to feed. Here was a door of opportunity for Jesus Christ to preach and to show the power He possesses over all circumstances. Seeing what Jesus had done beforehand, like when He healed the sick, how He healed the lame to walk, the blind to see, the dumb to speak, even healed the dead back to life -- why didn't the disciples just say to Jesus, Lord, you can provide food for this massive crowd just by a spoken word? But none of them uttered a word. Was their faith not strong enough to believe that their Master and friend couldn't perform this miracle as well? In the end, Jesus asked the disciples how much food they had and told them to bring it to Him. We have only five loaves of bread and two fish, they said. Jesus prayed to heaven and blessed and broke the bread, and the disciples gave it to all.

This was an opportunity to show not only

See *Combs*, page 5A

### "The Rich Don't Pay Their Share"

Dear Editor,

College graduates earning \$125,000 per year catch a break because the Democrats are forcing \$10 per hour workers to pay off student loans. Are the rich college graduates paying their share?

Since the Democrats have stopped issuing permits to build oil pipelines (the safest way to move oil and other liquids), the individuals that own tanker cars are making billions. As a result, they vote Democrat to keep the money flowing to them. Do they pay their share?

Many scientists have sold out for Democrat government grants to study climate change. They vote Democrat to keep the grant money flowing. Do these individuals pay their share?

With Democrat government programs, individuals get \$65,000 electric vehicles

See *Burch*, page 5A

## Laying Out the Dead

Prior to World War II, things were much different in rural America than they are today. For example, there were no funeral homes. So, when a death occurred in a community, neighbors banded together to help the bereaved family. Papa, Coon, once told me that his Dad must have made more than 300 coffins during his lifetime, and he never took a penny for building one. Lon would saw the timber to make lumber and even go to town to buy linen to place inside the casket. Nearby neighbors would come to the home of the deceased and prepare the body for burial by washing, shaving and dressing the one who had died. Communities were knit closer in those days than now, and people depended upon one another to help each other through the tough times.

There was a man in our community, Trapp-town, which was a bootlegger. He had a foul temper and depended upon his fists to help him settle disagreements. Also, he did not believe in helping those which were less fortunate. As he aged, he began to let himself go, meaning he bathed only rarely, never trimmed his beard or hair, and his clothing was always dirty. Uncle Hollis used to tell Papa, "I feel sorry for that feller. Nobody wants anything to do with him. When he passes on I think I'll volunteer to shave him and make him look respectable."

Not long afterward the aged bootlegger died and very few people in the community volunteered to help him. However, Hollis and Coon both volunteered to prepare the man for burial. And Lon built the man a coffin out of some of the finest white oak lumber you would ever see. The wood was knot-free and of the finest grain. He had recently purchased some fine linen from a merchant in Haleyville. The old man would have a good burial regardless of his past. About the time the coffin was complete, Hollis and Coon arrived at the home of the old man.

Coon began to wash the man's face while Hollis began at his feet. The man's face was really dirty, so my young grandfather stopped washing to rinse out the cloth. He bent over a basin as he was rinsing out the wash cloth and something strange happened. The dead man must've had a spasm in his abdomen, because he immediately rose up into a sitting position. The spasm and sitting up caused the dead man to exhale. Papa said, "Hollis was washing this man's feet, and all at once he raised up and he came face to face, eyeball to eyeball with a dead man. His nose was almost touching the dead man's nose, and then he exhaled into your Uncle Hollis' face." Later, Hollis told Papa, "As I looked into the man's

See *Cummings*, page 5A

**Around The Farm**

*Mickey Cummings*



## A Time to Plant

Fall brings a change in the weather and the growing season slows down. A lot of people will put their gardens up for the winter, but there are still some tasks that are better done when temperatures are down. Lower temperatures means less water loss from plants. This makes it an ideal time to start putting perennials in the ground.

Trees that have been grown in a pot or are balled and burlapped that have a well-developed root system can be planted at any time of year. However, the ideal time of year to plant them is in the fall. This is because the top portion of the plant has gone dormant and temperatures are lower, which means the tree will lose less water to evapotranspiration. During this time the roots below ground are still active. That means they will still be growing through fall and the winter. This gives you a more established plant come summer time. It also means that planting in the fall results in you spending less time watering your new plants.

Some of the most common issues when planting new trees is planting too deep, planting too shallow, and over or underwatering.

If you are planting in a poorly drained soil creating a raised bed will help improve drainage. Raise the soil level 8-12 inches using native soil. Plantings at new construction sites may need an addition of organic matter to improve soil health. You will also need to till deeply around the planting site to alleviate soil compaction.

The hole that is dug should be 2-3x wider than the size of the root ball. If you are planting into a well-drained soil the depth of the hole should be the same as the height of the root ball. In a poorly drained soil the depth of the hole should be 2-4 inches less than the height of the root ball, then build up the surrounding soil to be level with the root ball. Planting a tree too deep leads to poor drainage and not enough oxygen getting to the roots. Planting a tree too shallow leads to the tree roots drying out too quickly.

Once you have placed the tree in the hole refill the hole. You want to mostly use native soil. Break up any clods and remove stones. You can add compost to the hole, but don't put more than 20% compost in the hole. Tamp the soil down with your foot and construct a 3-inch-high ring around the edge of the root ball to hold water. Apply 2-4 inches of mulch over the planted area. Do not put mulch up against the trunk of the tree, as this leads to rot. For the first few months after planting you want to maintain constant soil moisture in the root ball. The soil does not need to be saturated, but there should be water avail-

See *Williams*, page 5A

**Blairsville - Union County Chamber President**

*Steve Rowe*



## Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce is in the midst of strategic planning for the upcoming year. We are excited to announce that we have a lot of great events and programs planned, and we look forward to working with the organizers of our local festivals which helped support our 18.8% growth in tourism over the previous year. One of our goals is to continue to support our local businesses through providing resource and to invite speakers to provide insight on current issues and to keep us up-to-date with legislative changes. I believe that our dynamic staff and Board of Directors will help us achieve these goals.

We have an exciting night planned for our Annual Banquet in January, and in February we plan to have our students shining even brighter during the "Evening with the STARS." Thanks to community support, we will be making a record contribution to the Union County High School Scholarship Fund. These funds, from our

See *Chamber*, page 5A

**Watching and Working**

*Jacob Williams*



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## Paris... continued from Page 4A

A. The committee has recently completed its work on the short-term rental ordinance. The document has been reviewed by various county departments that will take part in the enforcement of the ordinance. The document is now with our county attorney for review. Once it goes through that review, I will finally get to see it. Once all necessary reviews are completed, the short-term rental ordinance will be brought to a county meeting, and it will go through the normal ordinance adoption processes.

### Q. What are the normal processes for an ordinance to be adopted at a county meeting?

A. First, the ordinance will be presented to the public at a county meeting as a "first reading." Then typically, a public hearing will be held within 2 weeks of the original presentation so that Union County residents have an opportunity to comment on the ordinance. If there are several changes that need to be made, the county will have a second "first reading." Otherwise, the ordinance can be adopted at the next Commission meeting.

### Q. This topic is very important to me. I moved here to enjoy all the wonderful assets found in Union County. I'm concerned about the future of our community. Will you keep us updated?

A. Absolutely! More information will be provided as a short-term rental ordinance is developed. This topic is certainly one that we can revisit.

### Q. Is the Union County Government against having short-term rentals here?

A. We are not against having short-term rentals in Union County as it is legal for individuals to have them. It also provides a reasonable alternative for many people to visit the county and enjoy what we have to offer. What we ask of these visitors is that 1) rental property be treated with respect and that 2) neighborhoods and property neighbors be treated with the same respect with regards to such things as noise, parking, and land use. The new ordinance will provide enforcement options when the behaviors of visitors does not align with the behaviors we desire as full-time residents of Union County.

## Chamber... continued from Page 4A

Annual Shoot for the Stars Golf Tournament, will help our local students as they continue their educational pursuits whether that path takes them to traditional college or the technical college route.

I encourage you to get involved with the Chamber, whether it's attending one of our events, becoming a Chamber Pivotal Partner, or simply renewing your membership. The Chamber reach continues to grow whether it is through promoting tourism or exploring avenues to address the workforce shortage in our

county. Please give us a call to review your benefits or to learn more about how you can get involved.

Thank you for your continued support of the Chamber, and I look forward to another year of working with all of you!

Join us on October 29th for the BBQ Cook-Off at the Farmers Market from 4-7pm. This is the rescheduled date due to Hurricane Ian.

Then, stay tuned for more information on our upcoming events and programs!

It is each of you that help make life Better in Blairsville!

## Tarter... continued from Page 4A

masquerading as God-fearing politicians, and many good people fall for it. What would Fulton Sheen have to say about these charlatans?

Even those people with short attention spans remember that fuel for our vehicles and our home heating was WAAY cheaper under Mr. "Mean Tweet" Trump -- almost affordable. The U.S. was energy independent for the first time since World War II.

Was. Many restaurants are not printing menus anymore because their food prices are ris-

ing weekly. Experts are planning for major food shortages this winter. Stay tuned.

Our Southern border is no more. No other country in THE WORLD has open borders. None. Our country has always thrived with LEGAL immigrants, not criminals.

Never before were the effects of Democrat policies shoved into our faces as fast as in the past two years. This election is not a policy test. It's an intelligence test.

Vote like your children's future depended on it.  
**Murray Tarter**

## Cosner... continued from Page 4A

everything above that you payed at a 70% rate. It worked. A 21% rate doesn't work.

Many times, Republicans like to say Democrats tax and spend. We do believe in paying as we go. Democratic presidents have consistently reduced deficits under their administrations.

Well, I suppose it's time for me to give you a quote from a contemporary of Winston Churchill, so I'll quote President Harry S. Truman:

"Socialism is a scare word they have hurled at every advance the people have made

in the last 20 years.

"Socialism is what they called public power (read rural electrification). Socialism is what they called Social Security.

"Socialism is what they called farm price supports.

"Socialism is what they called bank deposit insurance.

"Socialism is what they called the growth of free and independent labor organizations.

"Socialism is their name for almost anything that helps all the people."  
**William Cosner**  
Proud Democrat

## Burch... continued from Page 4A

(where 62% of the electric energy needed to power these vehicles comes from coal-fired electric plant). The \$10 per hour worker helps them pay for the electric vehicles. Do these new auto owners pay their share?

With the Democrat Party in power and mandating vaccines for so many groups of people, the two largest pharmaceutical companies have estimated earnings of

\$53 billion. With booster shots included, they are sure to keep making billions more. These companies need to keep Democrats in power, so they donate million to Democrats. Do they pay their share?

It looks like the rich have to vote Democrat to keep the money coming their way. Do hard-working Americans need to vote for Democrats so they can support the rich?  
**George Burch**

## Combs... continued from Page 4A

His disciples what kind of power He had, but to show the multitudes that He had the resources to provide food to those who would partake of this food, also to preach to them about their salvation. Afterwards, the disciples gathered all the fragments of the food, which filled up 12 baskets. Folks, never underestimate what the King of Kings can do. With God, all things are possible if only you believe upon the Name of Jesus Christ. Don't miss out on those golden moments of opportunities that the Lord brings your way. They

may never come around again. Matthew 7:7—Jesus says: Ask according to My will and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock, and it will be opened to you.  
**Frank F. Combs**

## Fowler... continued from Page 4A

himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?" (Luke 9:23-25).

Brother Andrew's work attracted like-minded people and continues as a ministry called Open Doors. He found purpose and meaning from a life of courage and sacrifice. In September 2022, he departed for the land of the living. He was 94.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

eyes, I knew he was dead. But when I smelled the death in his stinking breath, I couldn't contain myself."

The young man jumped to his feet, letting out a blood curdling scream and promptly running through the front door without taking the time to open it. Coon Cummings was 6 feet, 2 inches tall and weighed 200 pounds. However, his friend and future brother-in-law was the same height but weighed more than 240 pounds. Needless to say, the front door was shattered and lay in a shamble on the front porch.

Papa was in a state of shock. But, soon he gave chase. Now, the young man was in good shape and was used to walking a lot. He was always faster than his friend Hollis. So, he started out at a steady pace expecting to catch his friend in a short time. He could see his friend about 200 yards ahead of him. But, at this pace, he was not gaining on the scared young man. Coon had to stretch out his long legs, and it felt good to really lengthen and quicken his stride. The young men ran down what would later become Turkey Creek Road. After a mile, they crossed the farm of old man Tom Mays and continued down the bluff to a little tributary of the creek. Coon was gaining on his young friend but might not have caught him if not for the steeper bluff on the other side of the creek. First Hollis and then my Papa ran through the cool waters of Turkey Creek. At a certain point in the bluffs were a series of three short but steep benches which could be

climbed if you knew where to go up. Both young men knew this place and went up the bluff. They soon reached the farm of Richard and Anne Adams.

Soon the adrenaline in Hollis' body ran out and he gave out. He sat down under a big Hickory tree in sight of Saint Paul Church, which was a full 4 miles from the dead man's house. Hollis WeHunt had never ran so far or fast in his life. Nor would he ever again. Coon soon caught up to his friend and sat down with him to catch his breath.

After they had rested for a bit, the two young men began to laugh. Afterward the pair went back to the old man's house and finished what they had started. Hollis trimmed the man's hair and beard. They dressed him in clean clothes and gave him a proper burial. Later, Hollis married Coon's sister, Mabel. The families lived close to each other for the rest of their lives and were close knit and always managed to help one another. Each summer at Decoration Day, the two men would tell the tale about the time Hollis and the dead man came face to face.

## Williams... continued from Page 4A

able to the roots.

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

## Brothers... continued from Page 4A

go to <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/52/vg01-pa71>. The deadline to train and sign up is Nov. 1. Then please follow the instructions given at the end of the online webinar (use the QR code) to sign up to be a poll watcher. Your name and info will be sent to the county party for them to credential you with the county election office.

There are lots of shifts to cover since Libby Stevens announced half-day shifts are acceptable and Union County has 11 precincts. Each party may have two Poll Watchers per shift.

Let nothing deter you from voting this Election Day. Let us join together to do our duty to God and Country.  
**Laurie Brothers**

## Trash To Treasure Fundraiser

It's time for our next fundraiser. We raise funds to help those in our local community. We have people who sell yard sale items, candles, jewelry, crafts, tools, etc. The cost for a 6x9 space is \$15 each. Setup will be Friday, November 4th from 4PM-6PM. You can also set up Saturday from 7AM-8AM.

If you would like to be a vendor at our next event or have additional questions, please contact Chasity Miller at 706-897-5467 or chasrcs@gmail.com. We hope to see you there.

Trash to Treasure will be held Saturday, November 5 at Union County Civic Center, 165 Welborn Street, from 8 AM - 1 PM.

## Bell Ringing



**October 1, 2022**  
In memory of  
**Bill Meeks**  
on his birthday  
by Terry & Ginger Meeks

**October 22, 2022**  
In memory of  
**John J. Meeks**  
October 22, 2022  
on his birthday  
by Terry & Ginger Meeks

**Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493**