

# Opinions

## Everybody has one...

### Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support

Trauma. It is a word that most are familiar with. We have heard it in conversations usually talking about emotional or physical trauma. To the fire department and ambulance service, trauma means injuries. These injuries can be caused by many different mechanisms; most involve accidents ranging from simple falls to motor vehicle accidents. Although our primary job is fire, we respond to many medically related calls and of course, some of those are trauma calls.

Trauma is one of the leading causes of death in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "trauma is the leading cause of death for children and adults under age 44." For this reason, it is important for firefighters to have the knowledge and skills to be able to assess and treat multi-trauma patients.

Recently, firefighters of Union County Fire Department were able to attend a class specifically designed for pre-hospital providers on the subject of trauma. The class is called Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) and is one of many classes provided by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT). The course provided the most up to date information and the national treatment standards for the various types of trauma. NAEMT states the goal of the course is to "improve the quality of trauma care and decrease mortality."

The course involved several days of lecture including subjects on the Physiology of life and death; Scene assessment; Patient assessment; Airway; Breathing, ventilation and oxygenation; Circulation, hemorrhage and shock; and Patients with disabilities. The class reviewed the mechanisms for the different types of trauma and correct treatment for each. The skills portion of the class provided scenarios and realistic patient simulations.

The course not only provides the knowledge and skills to properly treat a trauma patient but it also explains the sequential order of treatment that gives a multi-trauma patient a greater chance of surviving. This sequence prioritizes certain treatments before others and stresses the need for rapid transport of a trauma patient to a trauma center.

Medical and trauma calls make up a significant percentage of

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**Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief**

David Dyer



### Politics and Religion

I'm old enough to remember when politics was a season, returning from time to time to disabuse us of our comfortable obliviousness. Now, primary, general, and runoff elections link local, state, presidential, and mid-term elections in a continuous stream of consciousness polluted by fear narratives.

Don't get me wrong. Politics matters. Do your duty and vote! Support your candidate and your cause! It's a citizen's responsibility in our democratic republic. That said, let's touch the third rail and mix politics and religion.

If you think about it, both politics and religion address change - what should or should not change.

Political consultants and modern media use fear of the wrong kind of change to get more eyeballs, clicks, or votes. Here is my caution: Do not give in to political fear or go all in for political hope.

French philosopher Jacques Ellul warned denizens of the 20th century about politics becoming the ultimate source of power, hope, and change. Anyone who disagrees "is the true heretic of our day," he writes. "And society excommunicates him as the medieval church excommunicated the sorcerer... This shows us that man in his entirety is being judged today in relation to political affairs, which are invested with ultimate value." Today the culture still values political identity, but also looks for an "intersectionality" of multiple identities all used to measure your worth.

For the believer, the totality of your identity is Christ. "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20). That is something that does not change. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). The cultural and political ground may move beneath you, but "on Christ the solid rock I stand" the hymn says.

Remember the providence of God and His eternal perspective. "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands. They will perish but you remain" (Heb. 1:10-11). Our hope is in God who accomplishes His eternal purposes for this world and its nations, despite elections. "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand

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**All Things New**

Wayne Fowler



### Commissioner's Questions

In October 2020, the FEED AMERICA organization compiled data on Georgia children who are food insecure. The data showed an increase in hungry children in Union County from 2018 at 20.5% of children to 2020 at 25.1% of children. This data shows a 4.6% increase in two years. The COVID-19 pandemic also impacted the ability of families to provide for their children.

There are many organizations who address these food insecurity needs in our community. The focus of today's questions is to talk about the Union County Government Food Drive and how Union County residents can help during the upcoming holidays.

**Q. In the past, the county has organized a local food drive. Are you all doing this again this year?**

A. Absolutely! This is our annual Christmas Food Drive in support of the Union County Food Pantry located in the Pat Haralson Memorial Civic Center. We are coming upon that time of year (the holiday season) when there is a special need for food. The Union County Food Pantry is always running low on their food supply during this time.

**Q. Who is participating in the Food Drive?**

A. The county disperses buckets to various locations for collection. The City of Blairsville, County Offices and the Union County Recreation Department are all participating. We have in the past placed collection buckets at the following locations: Union County Library, the Blairsville City Hall, Butternut Creek Golf Course (View Grill), the Union County Chamber of Commerce, and the Union County Courthouse. You can take your food donations to any of these locations.

**Q. What type of items can we bring to the collection locations?**

A. Any non-perishable food such as, canned soups/stews, canned vegetables, canned fruits, instant potatoes, dry soup packets, peanut butter, canned tuna, dry pasta, rice, boxed dinners, snack crackers, snacks for kids, mac & cheese, granola bars, and dry milk. The Union County Food Pantry will very much appreciate your donations.

**Q. Would it be helpful to donate money? Can we donate**

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**Q & A from Union County Commissioner**

Lamar Paris



### Habitat for Humanity

Gratitude and appreciation together form a foundation that promotes one to think about why they are grateful and what elements come into play. Appreciation for these elements is what makes up what we have gratitude for. Within our community, it's the workers that run our restaurants, the small business owners that work relentlessly day in and day out to make our community "quaint."

**Habitat Happenings Executive Director**

Charlotte Randall



For Habitat, it's our employees and volunteers who, whether paid or unpaid, pour a tremendous amount of work into ReStore, which then cycles into our Helping Hands projects and Habitat homes. For example, our truck drivers, who work extremely hard daily to bring donated items safely to ReStore, or the volunteers and ReStore staff who price and take care of the customers to create the positive energy that makes ReStore a success.

In the spirit of gratitude, our fearless ReStore manager, Stephanie Low, works tirelessly

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### Chamber of Commerce

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and was able to spend time with friends and family. Now that we had a chance to eat some goodies, it's time to exercise, and I can't think of anything better than to Shop Local. Before you go online or leave town, be sure you check out all the wonderful shops and restaurants of Union County. Don't forget about Jingle Bell Buys, where you can take advantage of tons of local specials to complete that shopping list.

The Chamber doesn't stop in December, so be sure to join us for Business After Hours on December 1st at Mountain Top Furniture, where you can do some networking and find the gift you've been looking for. If you want to know what the legislators will be doing in the next session, come to Eggs & Issues on December 15th at the Community Center.

The Tour of Trees begins on December 1st, so come vote for your favorite Tree, Wreath or Gingerbread House. You will be mesmerized by the

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**Blairsville - Union County Chamber President**

Steve Rowe



### Letters to the Editor

#### Election

Dear Editor,  
Superior Fulton County Judge Thomas A. Cox Jr. wants to decide the outcome of the Senate before the first vote is cast. In Warnock for Georgia vs State of Georgia, he ruled that counties can do Advance In Person (AIP) Saturday, Nov. 26. Why, "The court finds that the absence of the Saturday vote will irreparably harm the Plaintiffs," i.e. Warnock can't win if he is not able to bus in voters for Saturday AIP.

On appeal, the decision was upheld by the appellate court, and the SOS will not appeal. The result of this decision is, of 159 counties, 18 have enough full time staff to conduct early voting. The 18 are in metro areas that are predominantly Democrat. How this is fair to the voters across

See Burch, page 5A

#### Vote Pro Life

Dear Editor,  
The abortion battle is not over. The focus has now moved to the state level. Here in Georgia we have the Heartbeat Law, which makes abortion illegal once a fetal heartbeat is detected, which is usually around 6 weeks gestation. Obstetric ultrasounds have been performed for over 60 years and a heartbeat has been recognized as just that, a heartbeat. Even so, the pro-abortion industry (and their political puppets) have concocted a fairytale that it isn't really a heartbeat. A Georgia politician actually said, "It is a manufactured sound designed to convince people that men have the right to take control of a woman's body."

Woman choose abortion for various reasons, but a study, published in the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons, found that nearly three-quarters (73.8%) of women with a history of abortion surveyed admitted that they experienced at least subtle forms of pressure to terminate their pregnancies.

Our experience at GMPC Medical is that more often than not, a woman who comes to us thinking that abortion is her only choice is being pressured by a significant other, usually the boyfriend. For all the talk about a woman's choice, too often abortion is not her choice. To learn more about how pregnancy centers in the United States support these abortion-vulnerable women, go to pregnancycentertruth.com.

There are still 13 abortion centers here in Georgia. They are encouraging young women to come in as soon as they know they're pregnant and get started on the abortion pill regimen, to stay ahead of the Heartbeat Law ban.

Many women are now turning to the internet and ordering the pills online without any medical oversight or ultrasound to determine

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### Letters to the Editor

#### Trump to Run Again

Hoorah, hoorah, you son-of-a-gun, Donald Trump is going to run. He moved the U.S. Embassy inside Jerusalem's gate. He taught the Arabs how not to hate. Their hearts with love to fill. Not to burn but to build. If you have a guy like that, He will help the child and control the brat. And what's more He will lead them both to heaven's door. Once again our guns we can shoot. He will give the bad business deal the boot. On election day don't be a chump. Strut to vote and vote for Trump. **Billy Joe Parker** Prohibition Party of Georgia

#### On Transparency

Dear Editor,  
Transparency (behavior) from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: "As an ethic, transparency is operating in such a way that it is easy for others to see what actions are performed. Transparency implies openness, communication, and accountability." This is what we expect from our Board of Elections. We should not have to argue, coach or force information from our Board of Elections. It should be easy, it should be open, and we should be able to see the accountability. Fortunately, we were able to see the accountability in this election, and we should not ever need to question this mid-term election of Nov 8, 2022, in Union County.

We all need to continue to get out to the polls and vote! Vote absentee if you need to, vote early or on day of election! But vote! It's your voice in our state and your choice to use it. **Marsha Lodes**

#### Way To Go Guys

Dear Editor,  
Why would Ingles Supermarket permit a juvenile cashier to handle alcohol at her cash register? I have been in several stores locally in which the juvenile cashier needed to switch places with an adult when the customer was purchasing alcohol. Not long ago you couldn't even buy alcohol in Union County. Seems to me the manager of Ingles should give the female cashier back her job. It was his responsibility to make sure she wasn't put in that situation. I also don't understand why the police chief would state the young female "showed

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### Country Boys

Hubert Brooks, William Shellnut and Tommy Trapp were lifelong friends of Paul and Bud Cummings. I have been told by my Father and Uncle that the boys were always together and had been since any of them could remember.

William's mother had died when he was very young and his father had a difficult time raising his sons afterward. Paw Henry was a kind and gentle man, but, he worked all the time, and the Cummings family had to help raise young William. My grandmother, Glenna Mae, loved to have William over to their house. Glenna Mae could not stand a dirty body, and William's body was dirty simply because he was a boy and hated taking baths. Spending the night at the Cummings house meant taking a bath in a big old washtub using lye soap. Glenna Mae would grab the boy by the hair of his head and scrub his ears and neck with a scrub brush. William acted as though he hated bathing. But, he secretly loved the attention he received from my grandmother. She loved William and could see that all he needed was a bath, some positive discipline and good home cooking.

Hubert Brooks and Tommy Trapp also spent a lot of time with their neighbors, Paul and Bud Cummings. The boys loved to camp out under the bluffs next to Turkey Creek on the Cummings Farm. Hubert was always very nervous and constantly had to be doing something. He loved to camp, but, he was also afraid of the dark. One night Hubert, Tommy, Paul, Bud and William decided to camp out next to the creek. Their camp was next to a bold spring head. They laid their blankets between the fire and the limestone face of the bluff. The rock face of the bluff would absorb the heat from the fire and help keep the boys warm during the cool evening. The boys had plans for Hubert that evening.

The boys met at the Cummings house, and when everyone had arrived, Tommy began complaining of a stomach ache. So, he finally told the group he would not be camping that evening. The other four left and walked east across the cotton field toward Turkey Creek. Tommy began walking north toward Trapptown. He let the boys get across the 200-yard-wide cotton field and began to follow the group of four boys. The boys settled into their usual camp site and caught a few fish for supper. After supper they cleaned up the camp and settled in for the evening. It was just beginning to get dark when the fun began.

Tommy was on top of the 65-foot-tall bluff and knew where Hubert was sitting. As the camp darkened Hubert began to get nervous and so he

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**Around The Farm**

Mickey Cummings



### Lime

Lime is a very important part of having healthy soil where we live. Knowing how much to apply and where to apply are very important considerations to effectively use lime. Let's talk about what lime does, why you need it, how much to apply, and how to apply it.

There are a couple of different types of lime that you can purchase. Ag lime is a very common type. It is made up of calcium, carbon, and oxygen. Ag lime will do a very good job of raising the pH in your soil. Dolomitic lime also raises the pH level of soil, but it has magnesium in it as well. If your soil is deficient in magnesium, dolomitic lime is a good option to raise the soil pH, and to increase the amount of magnesium in your soil. Both of these types of lime take 6-9 months to be fully active in the soil.

When you get to the bottom of it lime raises the pH in soil. If you recall from chemistry class, pH is basically a measure of the free hydrogen ions in a substance. In this case that substance is soil. pH is a scale that goes from 1 - 14. Numbers below 7 are acidic and numbers above 7 are basic. 7 is neutral. Our soil is going to be naturally acidic. I've seen soil reports with pH ranging from 4.5 - 5.5. Most plants like to have a pH of 6 - 6.5. pH is very important because it impacts how available the nutrients are to plants to be able to take them up. If the pH is low, then most plants won't be able to grow because they can't utilize the nutrients that are in the soil.

There's no way to accurately know how much lime you need to add with doing a soil test first. A soil test will make a recommendation for how much lime you should add based on your pH. It is possible to add too much lime. If you add lime year after year with looking at a soil test as a guide you may end up over liming your land. This can lead to a pH that is too high. You can run into similar issues as with a pH that is too low. A high pH is not common around here unless you've over applied lime. In the western half of the country soils naturally have a high pH.

In small areas lime can be applied with a push spreader. You want the lime to make as much contact with the soil as possible, so it may take a few days to water it in. Lime does not dissolve very well in water so it may take a while for the lime to take full effect. Lime can be bought in powder form or pelletized. Both work well, but the pelletized may make less of a mess. Liquid lime or fast acting lime start to work in the soil more quickly, but their effect does not last as long, meaning that you will need to re-apply lime every year. Ag lime and dolomitic lime

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**UGA extension Watching and Working**

Jacob Williams



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money so that items can be purchased?

A. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check out to the Union County Food Pantry and you are welcome to mail your payment to the Union County Commissioner's Office, C/O Union County Food Pantry, 65 Courthouse Street, Box 1, Blairsville, GA 30512, or come by our office in the courthouse. Any money received is used to purchase food items needed.

**Q. What other Union**

**County resources are available to address food insecurity?**

A. Various churches provide dry pantry goods to those in need. The Family Connections program also provides a weekend backpack for children as well as addresses short term emergency food issues for children. Additionally, the Union County Senior Center offers a meals on wheels service for those 60 and over, and they accept donations for a free lunch for this age group Monday – Friday at 11:30 AM.

## Habitat... continued from Page 4A

every day to make the store a positive place to be, and keeps the store profitable, which allows us to complete construction of homes and help these individuals, and Barb Lorello, Specialty Manager at Home Depot, who has worked with me to secure \$10,946 in grants this year that go directly to our construction projects.

The gratitude shown by Helping Hands recipients and Habitat Homeowners leave a more hopeful outcome and positive impact on these individuals within the community. When members of our community are shown appreciation

for their services, the mentality of our citizens becomes a more positive and hopeful place. Let's go forward showing gratitude to others, and by paying it forward, so together we can create a more enjoyable community.

From George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1789:

"To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us—and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best."

## Ware... continued from Page 4A

how far along they are and if there are any possible complications. The FDA has only approved the use of these pills up to 10 weeks. One online provider, which is what a woman in a heartbeat bill state (GA and SC) or no abortions legal state (TN and AL) would use, operates as follows: the woman fills out an online form, no sonogram required, receives a "consult" with a doctor in Europe, then receives a prescription which she emails to a pharmacy in India and receives the pills in 3-4 weeks.

There are many possible unwanted effects from taking these pills, including if she has an undiagnosed ectopic pregnancy, which could cause her death.

Our mission at GMPC Medical is to educate, encourage and empower women who are in an unplanned pregnancy to choose life. All of our services such as pregnancy testing and ultrasound are free. We care about women including women who are post abortive. We offer post abortion group counseling.

Keep in mind that the Biden-Harris administration are determined to use the full weight of the federal government to impose abortion on demand up to the time of birth with no limits, paid for by taxpayers, nationwide. "Their agenda is wildly out of step with America," said SBA Pro-Life America President Marjorie Dannenfelser. "The goal of abortion advocates is not the safety and well-being of women, but merely the death of as many unborn humans as possible through expansion of abortion by any means."

Planned Parenthood will invest \$5 million in the state of North Carolina ahead of the midterm elections this November. This is the same organization that is investing \$50 million across our nation to keep themselves in business. The same organization that our tax dollars pays over \$600 million a year for the purpose of ending the lives of innocent pre-born children. Please join us in this battle, vote pro life.

**Dana Ware RN**  
GMPC Medical

## Burch...

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the state was not addressed by the court.

What now? Well, early voting goes through Friday, Dec. 2, and Election Day is Dec. 6. This is an unfair election because, with only 18 Democrat counties voting Saturday, how do we fight back? Only a large turnout for Herschel Walker will show Judge Cox and Warnock that they cannot steal an election by changing the rules in the middle of the game.

One last note, in the court document related to this case there is no mention of voters. It appears from the document that voters are of no importance in determining the outcome of this election.

**George Burch**

## Fowler...

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of the Lord. He turns it wherever He wishes" (Prov. 21:1).

Jesus said you are in the world, but not of the world (John 17:11,14). You are a citizen of heaven, so you have no reason to fear the outcome of earthly politics. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?" (Psa. 27:1). Elections happen and you might be stunned at what's changed, but the Lord is neither surprised nor deterred.

There you have it - politics and religion. Elections matter, but heaven's citizens have other ways to catalyze change. Now join me in praying, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Amen.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

pulled out his pocket knife to whittle. Then he tried to whistle. But, his mouth was so dry the whistling was more like a whisper. Tommy knew it was time. He began to toss acorns and small pebbles in the dried leaves all around the camp. Hubert heard these acorns hitting the ground and exclaimed, "Boys, they's a painter out there and he's a huntin' us." William told Tommy it was his imagi-

## Williams...

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should last about three years. Because they take months to become effective applying lime at this time of year is a good idea. Ashes can also be used to raise soil pH, but be careful as they may raise the pH higher than desired.

If you have questions about lime contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

## Dyer...

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responses from the fire department. Completing this trauma course provided a great refresher on trauma and the various treatments. It also provided the most up to date information that enables firefighters to better respond to these types of emergencies.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

## Davis...

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no remorse." Let me see, what does a juvenile female do when confronted in a room full of men? She wants the humiliation to stop. But it doesn't because everyone in this town now knows. And of course another male, the staff writer, has to further humiliate her.

Perhaps Ingles Supermarket should never place another juvenile in this situation again. If she were my daughter, an attorney would be seeking restitution for her. Way to go guys!

Regards,  
**Patricia Davis**

## Chamber...

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works of our local decorators.

If you are looking for something for the entire family, mark your calendar for December 3rd for a day beginning with Breakfast with Santa at the Community Center, then Santa will that a short break before he spends time at the Historical Courthouse downtown, then he will kick off this year's Christmas Parade. Checkout visit-blairsvillega.com to find a calendar of our local happenings.

Please remember to say a kind word to someone! Life is better in Blairsville!

## Copperhill American Legion Post 96 meeting

Copperhill American Legion Post 96 meets the first Saturday of the month; at 10 AM, Hwy. 64 Gym, 5800 US 64, 37317. Or call Mike Pingetzer at 706-455-9503 for information.



## December Garden Chores from your Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

Trees and Shrubs - Trees, shrubs, and perennials can still be planted or transplanted to a new location this month if the ground is not too frozen to work properly. Some trees and shrubs that will provide food for birds are dogwood, crabapple, holly, hawthorn, and pyracantha.

Continue raking leaves from your lawn and apply lime if your soil test indicates that it is needed. A hand-held shredder that acts like a vacuum is an alternative to raking. The shredded, bagged leaves can then be deposited in your garden.

If you have not already done so, mulch all trees, shrubs, perennials, and bulbs. A four to six-inch layer of mulch is good, placing the mulch close but not touching the stem or trunk of the plant.

Deciduous trees and shrubs can be pruned as needed when they are fully dormant. Rake and dispose of fruit and leaves around fruit trees to help minimize over-wintering insects and diseases. If rain and snowfall are inadequate, water all new plantings and bulb beds.

Flower Beds - Cut chrysanthemums back to about two to three inches once blooming is complete.

To keep your pansies healthy and blooming, dead-head (remove faded blooms) and fertilize, following label directions. Spring flowering

bulbs can still be planted this month. Clean up flowerbeds and remove annuals killed by frost. Work old mulch and organic matter into beds before the soil freezes. Apply pre-emergent herbicides to control winter weeds.

Vegetables - Plan ahead. Order gardening catalogs and start planning your spring vegetable and flower gardens.

Prepare next year's garden soil by turning it over and incorporating organic materials such as pine bark, compost, or shredded leaves.

Pull any weeds that remain in your garden. Cut any remaining tops off of asparagus plants and add a winter dressing of aged manure to the bed.

Houseplants - Do not over water houseplants during the winter months as this could lead to root rot.

Miscellaneous - As winter approaches, take time to review your past gardening year. Look at your successes and failures and make your next year's plans and goals accordingly.

If you decorate for the holidays with a cut Christmas tree, recycle the tree by pruning off boughs for use as frost and wind protection for tender and newly planted perennials and shrubs.

Prepare your garden tools for winter storage. Clean, sharpen, and store them in a

bucket filled with oiled, coarse sand. They will be ready for you when spring arrives.

If you have not already done so, shut down outdoor irrigation systems to prevent freezing and drain garden hoses and store indoors.

Don't forget to feed the birds because as winter approaches, they may not be able to find an adequate supply of food. Keep fresh water out for the birds as well.

Lightly trim evergreens in your garden to use for holiday decorations. Magnolia, euonymus, boxwood, laurel, holly, cypress, and juniper all make long-lasting cut stems indoors.

Look for after Christmas sales on garden tools and equipment. Make a wreath of dried herbs and flowers from your garden.

If you do not have a garden journal, get one and start keeping records of your garden. Record information such as future plans for design, plant and seed orders, planting schedules, insect appearances, garden highlights (like the date when you first see blooms on your spring bulbs), and more.

Celebrate the winter solstice (the arrival of winter) December 21st.

*Jo Anne Allen*  
Master Gardener  
Extension Volunteer  
706-400-8139