

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Habitat for Humanity

Literacy is so important. Here are some statistics: 82% of inmates are high school dropouts; 1/3 of juvenile offenders read below the fourth-grade level; 43% of adults who don't read well live in poverty, as opposed to 4% of adults with strong literacy skills; over a lifetime, high school dropouts earn an average of 42% less than those who completed high school.

As a former teacher, I can tell you that when I was working with elementary students, I could easily tell who was read to, and who was not. Those children whose caregivers routinely read to them not only had academic advantages, but they had better social skills, were generally more curious and eager to solve problems, and, in general, were more successful.

All that being said, we have wonderful libraries in both Union and Towns counties! When our four children were little, trips to the library were weekly occurrences. There is nothing they liked better than to snuggle up on the sofa and have someone read to them.

Here at the Habitat ReStore, we want to help kids have even more access to books. So, we installed a "Little Free Library"!

The Blairsville Kiwanis funded the project, and one of our ReStore Volunteers (who won't let me tell you who he is) built our Library. Parents can just open the door and grab some books that their kids can keep! It's just outside the ReStore front door, with 24/7 access to the public. The plan is for us to keep our Library full of exciting books at all times. Each Little Free Library, all over the world, has a number, and there is a map online so you can find them, no matter where you are!

The ReStore gets some great book donations to fill up the shelves of our Little Free Library. Once in a while, we will sneak in a few adult books and some DVDs, too!

We do need your help, though. First and foremost, please spread the word about our Library. The more it's used, the happier we will be! If you have some books around your house that the kids or the grandkids have outgrown, we would love it if you brought them to us. You can just put them in our library, or (if there's not room) drop them off inside the Store.

Thank you so much for your help!

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Habitat Happenings

Cathy Wheeler



Faults and Forgiveness

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards recently pardoned Homer Plessy. Plessy has been dead since 1925. What's this all about?

In the post-Civil War era, Plessy committed civil disobedience by violating a state law that required the separation of races in railroad cars. He appealed his case to the U.S. Supreme Court. In the Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) decision, the Court created the "separate but equal" doctrine. The lone dissenter was Justice Harlan who wrote, "Our Constitution is color-blind and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens."

In the Brown v. Board of Education (1954) ruling, the Court began to fix its faulty reading of the U.S. Constitution. The Civil Rights Act (1964) further clarified constitutional freedoms. That history ultimately led to the descendants of Plessy and Harlan gathering with Gov. Edwards for a moment of repentance, forgiveness and healing.

Another governor, George Wallace, stood in the way of freedom until an assassin's bullet paralyzed him. In 1979, he wheeled his chair into Martin Luther King, Jr.'s former church in Montgomery and admitted his faults. He said to them, "I can understand something of the pain black people have come to endure. I know I contributed to that pain, and I can only ask your forgiveness." They did. As MLK said years earlier, "Forgiveness does not mean ignoring what has been done...It means, rather, that the evil act no longer remains as a barrier to the relationship."

It takes courage to admit fault; it takes sacrifice to grant forgiveness. Courage, because humility is hard. Sacrifice, because you give up your right to retaliation. Repentance and forgiveness are part and parcel of the Christian experience because they express love for God and for one another.

Jesus told a story about a man who owed a great debt to the king. To settle the debt, the king planned to sell the man and his family as slaves. The man pled for leniency. The king felt compassion and forgave the entire debt. But the man went straight out and used harsh tactics to collect a small debt someone owed him. The king summoned the man and said, "Should you not also

All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q. We have already seen some winter weather this season. Can you tell us how much it costs the county to keep the roads clear during a similar event?

A. The extra cost to the county, while still an impact, is mostly within our budgeted amounts. When a snow/ice event lasts 3-5 days, costs can be upward of \$30,000. This includes salt, gravel and overtime costs. This does not include our normal labor costs or equipment time and repair costs.

Q. How many miles of road does the Road Dept. typically scrape and apply salt and gravel to?

A. The Union County Road Dept only treats county-maintained roads. The GDOT works the state roads. On average, the Union County Road Dept addresses more than 500 miles of road when it comes to ice and snow. Furthermore, when these events last for multiple days, the Road Dept often has to scrape and gravel some roads several times. The county and state crews do a heck of a job, and we appreciate that so many of you have recognized this. The City of Blairsville also does a very good job on maintaining the city streets.

Q. How many snowplows does the county utilize?

A. Soon after I took office in 2001, it was obvious that during a serious snow, we did not have adequate equipment to deal with the situation. Over the first two years, we began purchasing additional equipment so that not only could we maintain the main county roads but could also scrape and salt many of the smaller county roads. Now, during a regular snow event, we have 2 large spreader trucks with plows, 5 smaller 1 ton trucks with salt spreader boxes and plows, and 3 F250 trucks with blades and salt boxes. There are usually two Rd. Dept. employees per truck. The City of Blairsville has one truck with a snowplow and salt spreader box. GDOT usually has two trucks and sometimes three, so we have about 10 or 11 vehicles working in our county. There is no other rural county in Georgia that has this much equipment. In the event that we have a large snow (over 4"), we also have several privately owned motor graders in the county that have agreed to help when we call. The hospital also has available supplemental equipment from private contractors.

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



See *Paris*, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

Re: Let's Go Jesus

Dear Editor,

A recent letter writer to the North Georgia News expressed concern over a popular political euphemism that denigrates President Biden. Too bad such angst wasn't demonstrated when then-President Trump was viciously slandered and falsely accused of Russia "collusion" by a treasonous Congress and vilified by a complicit media hell-bent on ousting a duly-elected President from office. But such is the world of political theatre.

What should be disturbing is a federal government threatening military chaplains with court-martials for using The Bible and other religious materials. Michael L. Weinstein, founder

See *White*, page 5A

Track & Field Facility

Dear Editor,

I am following this letter up in support of a concern posted previously. I know that our Union County/Blairsville, Ga., families care about and support our youth. Most people do not know that our High School boys and girls Track and Field athletes do not have a regulation track to train on. The surface is asphalt, which is one of the reasons it is not regulation. Because of this type of surface, it causes possibilities of our athletes getting serious shin splint injuries. Many of our/your kids have had bad cases of shin splints and have been told by doctors not to train on the track while recuperating. Many of the Track and Field athletes train all

See *Holman*, page 5A

Small Town Heros

Dear Editor,

I want to thank the people at AutoZone in Blairsville for coming to my rescue Thursday, Jan. 6, for their amazing help. I had pulled into the Northeast Georgia Board of Realtors Office when a woman opened her door and stepped out right in front of my car. I reacted by heading away but hit something that tore a whole in my right front tire. After running in the board office I came out to find my car telling me to check the front tire pressure. I had only 18 psi in the tire and quickly drove down the street and pulled into AutoZone with it down to 3 psi. A couple of guys came out and offered to change the tire for me. I went there to feel safe while I was going to call AAA. It was pouring rain, but they wouldn't let me hold an umbrella, asking me instead to wait in the store out of the rain. They brought down my spare which had dry rot but was good enough to get me to Thomas Tire for another tire. One of the employees drove in front of me there.

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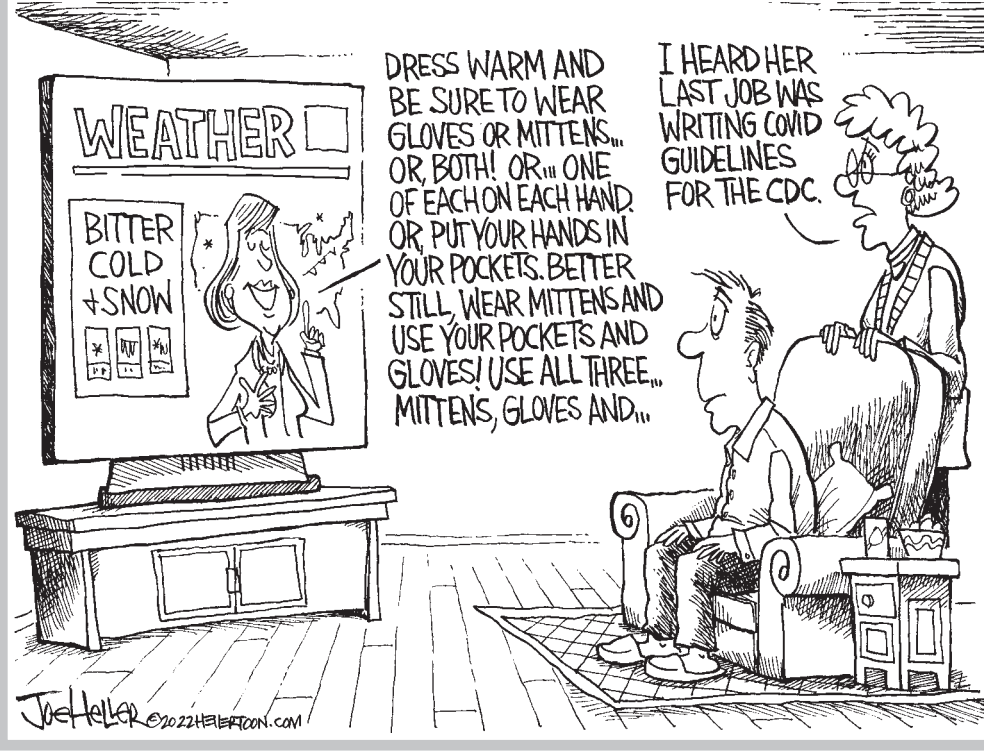
Fear Factor

Dear Editor,

We are living in trying times like never seen before, and with all these different types of viruses coming at us in droves, it is difficult to know exactly what to do. Where to go or not. Do we throw our hands up and give into the fear factor? Satan loves nothing better than to see our society in a state of panic, which alters our thinking based on fear.

Yes, we all need to be careful and wear masks if that be your choice, but we cannot allow Satan to stop events from happening in God's churches. What is the difference between having 300 people worshipping together on Sunday morning and not one person is wearing a mask? Why do we continue having dinners at church, yet we pick and choose which event is OK while others are being canceled due to COVID issues? We were meant as part of God's family to meet in our House of Worship no matter the issues. Satan wants God's people to be scattered and not be as one in Christ, and I for one refuse to let Satan have his way in God's church. As for

See *Combs*, page 5A



Benefits of No-till Farming

No-till farming is a way of growing crops or pasture from year to year without disturbing the soil through tillage. No-till is an agricultural technique which increases the amount of water that infiltrates into the soil and increases organic matter retention and cycling of nutrients in the soil. In many agricultural regions it can reduce or eliminate soil erosion. It increases the amount and variety of life in and on the soil, including disease-causing organisms and disease suppression organisms.

The most powerful benefit of no-tillage is improvement in soil biological fertility, making soils more resilient. Farm operations are made much more efficient, particularly improved time of sowing and better trafficability of farm operations.

"No-till farming" sounds dull at first, but it is an important idea. Plowing and tillage are major sources of soil erosion around the world — they were key factors behind the Dust Bowl in the 1930s. With every passing year, more and more farmers are switching from conventional tillage to no till farming, and it is no wonder! Less work, higher crop yields, increased soil preservation, and more profitability are just a few of the reasons to consider making the switch to no till farming. We're proud to be an industry leader that is helping to improve no till techniques, resources, parts, and equipment. Corn plants wash away due to lack of mulch in the row.

Less Soil Compaction: Multiple passes over a field with heavy equipment compacts the soil more than no till planting. In addition, bare soil can easily become compacted by rainfall. Tillage also breaks up the soil structure, which makes it more susceptible to compaction. On the other hand, ground that is not tilled is less compacted — before, during, and after the planting process. In no till farming, because the soil is not being turned over, less soil blows away and less soil washes away.

The vegetative cover that is left behind in no till planting helps control the loss of topsoil on steep slopes from runoff and helps prevent wind erosion. Those same plant residues that are left behind in no tillage also capture water, help keep the soil moist, and minimize the evaporative effects of the wind and sun.

Whether dryland (rain-fed) or irrigation, this "water-saving" effect of no till farming has considerable importance. Because the soil is not constantly being stirred with tillage, phosphorus fertilizers remain effective for longer.

RC&D Executive Director

Frank Riley



See *Riley*, page 5A

Servicing

Words can have a profound affect upon our everyday lives. If you say a word with few specifics attached, I may not fully understand what you are trying to communicate. And I may completely miss what you are saying. If you tell a person from the North to crack that window, that person may think you want the window to be physically broken. However, those of us from the Southern Appalachians know we want you to roll down the window. So, keep this in mind as you read the following story.

As two young boys, my Dad and his brother Bud experienced a word that confused them, or so they said. The word at the source of the confusion was "service." The two young boys had heard the word many times. But it took time for them to fully comprehend that the word could have many different meanings.

Immediately after World War II, Papa was able to purchase a new truck to be used on their farm. A tractor was also purchased in quick succession. A few months after the purchase Papa took the vehicles back to the dealer to have them "serviced." Dad and Bud watched the mechanic work on changing fan belts, changing the oil and greasing the joints of the vehicles. The two boys were fascinated by the way the grease gun worked and wished to try out this contraption. However, the mechanic was wise in the ways of young boys and realized the mess which would be created by two boys with a grease gun.

Another way they had heard the word used was associated with the local Church. They had been to church "services." They had watched old Mattie sit on the right side of the church using a deep baritone voice to laugh out loud and holler "Amen" when the preacher said something that blessed his soul. They also watched as the big man chawed "Blood Hound" tobacco and spat the juice out the window on hot summer days.

It was at a service as this one where their friend, Tucker, slipped outside during the preaching and placed nails in front of old man Newell's logging truck in hopes of him getting a flat tire. The two Cummings boys slipped out during the ending prayer and tried to retrieve these nails. The boys knew that Tucker was wrong for placing the nails in front of the truck, and they also knew they would get the blame. Their pockets were nearly full and they were retrieving the last nail when the old man found the two. He grabbed them by the arm and drug them to their Daddy. Papa asked them about the nails and the two boys didn't utter a word. They would not give up their friend, Tucker. As a result, the two boys received

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



See *Cummings*, page 5A

Chamber of Commerce

Our Annual Awards Gala is always one of our favorite events but it's hard to believe we are already celebrating another year of successes with our Chamber members and it's also the Chamber's 40th anniversary! Last year was a year like no other, we had individuals and businesses that had an outstanding year and we are honored to be able to recognize them and shine some light on the impact they are making in our community. There are a couple of individuals from our past that we are excited to reintroduce to everyone, but we can't tell you about them just yet, you will have to visit our Facebook page after the event on January 20th or grab next weeks newspaper to get the scoop.

It's been a few years since we've had him here in Blairsville, but we are happy to announce that Chris Clark, President and CEO of the Georgia Chamber, will be joining us for an Eggs & Issues event on February 2nd at the Community Center. Chris will deliver the tourism forecast

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber President

Steve Rowe



Blueberry Pruning

Blueberries grow pretty well in Georgia. Rabbiteye blueberries are native to the Southeast, so they're well adapted to our climate. Let's talk specifically about pruning blueberries.

Blueberries don't need to be pruned every year to be fruitful. However, if you start doing some cane renewal pruning every year on a mature plant the bushes will be more fruitful and have more longevity. The ideal time to prune blueberries is late winter because the plants are dormant. February is late winter for us in the mountains. Plants in their dormant state are going to be less prone to infection or stress from the pruning.

Blueberry is a multi-stemmed bush. Each one of the stems that comes out of the ground is called a cane. Cane renewal pruning is removing old canes from the plant so that there is space for new canes to grow. Ideally, under cane renewal pruning you'll remove old canes each year so that in five years all the canes on the plant will be completely different. Each year go through the plant and cut out the oldest canes that you find. Also, remove any diseased or dead canes. Ideally, you don't want to remove more than 25% of the canes in a single year. If you have a blueberry bush that hasn't been pruned for a couple of years it may take a couple years to get it back into shape. If you have a blueberry bush that hasn't been pruned for many, many years cane renewal pruning probably isn't going to get the plants back into shape. In that situation, I'd recommend something that may seem very drastic, but is better for the plants in the end. Mow the bushes down to the ground. Mature plants will be able to take this hit, and put up new suckers, that turn into canes. This is going to give you fresh growth, and a new healthier plant. You'll go without blueberries for a couple of years. Therefore, if you have several plants that need to be mowed, you could do a couple a year, until they are all back under control.

New plants should be pruned to have the healthiest plants. Prune back 2/3 of the top growth on bare root plants, and 1/2 of the top growth on potted plants. If the new plant has many canes, prune out all but 1-3 of the best looking ones. You also don't want a first year plant to produce fruit, so pick off any flower buds. If you prune plants like this the first year, the second year won't need much pruning. In the second year pick off flower buds again, and remove any diseased canes. The third year, remove diseased canes, but you can leave the flower buds on vigorous shoots. The fourth year, the plant should be able to handle full crop, but if you have some weak

Watching and Working

Jacob Williams



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Q. How do you decide what roads to treat during a snow event?

A. We try to scrape/ salt all main roads first. We then go to the secondary roads, and actually do not apply salt on roads that are paved with tar and gravel (surface treatment). The salt will eat the tar out of the road with time and ruin the pavement. However, we do apply sand and gravel to those roads. After they get everything around town, the smaller trucks go out to each of the precincts and the 2 big trucks handle the larger roads like Blue Ridge Hwy., Loving Road, Pat Colwell, Town Creek School Rd, etc.

Q. When you say you use a salt mixture what is this

exactly?

A. You are right; it is not pure salt but a mixture of salt and what we call 89 gravel (small diameter, size of pea gravel). For instance, during a one-day event, we can use approximately 60 tons of salt mixture for a total material cost of \$2,760. Again, a special thanks should go out to our Road Department, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and to the City of Blairsville, all who coordinate and work together to make sure the public has as safe of road conditions as possible. We also hope that for the winter we are in the clear and can begin the process of prioritizing our paving projects for the spring and summer – but we never know for sure.

Chamber...continued from Page 4A

for 2022 and give us an update on travel trends showing who is visiting us, where they are from, and what visitation patterns we can follow to help plan for each of our businesses. Chris is Georgia Chamber's longest-running CEO and was just announced as one of Georgia Trend's 100 Most Influential Georgians. This Eggs & Issues is just around the corner, you'll need to call us quick to reserve your seat!

We thank you for con-

tinuing to support the important work the Chamber does, the experiences, and the friendships, it's truly an honor to serve the Blairsville community. If you are reading this and aren't a Chamber member, or don't know about the programs we offer or how we can help your small business, please call or stop in to see us. We thrive on helping and building our community and want to see everyone on board to making everything "Better in Blairsville!"

Riley...continued from Page 4A

The more soil the P fertilizers are exposed to, the more they react chemically with the soil particles and become bound or fixed into forms that are not available to the plant.

With no till farming, you only must go over the field 1 or 2 to times to establish your crop, not 3 to 5 times, which drastically reduces fuel and labor costs. There is also less equipment needed, and less wear and tear on machinery. Crop yields with no till farming should equal or exceed those of conventional tillage, particularly if you use the right equipment.

For most of human history, farmers plowed their soil to plant crops. The advent of tractors in the 20th century made it even easier to churn up fields. The advent of new herbicides such as atrazine and paraquat in the 1940s and 1950s allowed farmers to kill weeds without plowing up more soil. And the invention of specialized no-till seeding equipment in the 1960s allowed farmers to plant while barely disturbing the soil.

The pros and cons of no-till: As the technique became more widely used, U.S. farmers found that they

could conserve water, reduce erosion, and use less fossil fuel and labor to grow crops. Cropland erosion in the United States dropped 40 percent between 1982 and 1997. But the practice can have downsides too: For one, it often leads to heavier use of chemical herbicides to kill weeds, which makes many farmers and consumers uneasy. It is worth noting, however, that heavy herbicide use may not be inevitable, because it can be reduced through the use of cover crops and other techniques.

The specialized equipment can also cost more upfront, even if it eventually saves time and fuel. In addition, the transition in farming methods can often be difficult, because farmers are reluctant to change to something unknown. They risk losing a year's crop if it fails. There are still some clear advantages to conventional tilling, which can, for instance, allow farmers to start planting earlier in the year after heavy rains, since plowing helps dry out the soil sooner.

For more info on no till contact your local USDA NRCS office.

White...continued from Page 4A

of Military Religious Freedom Foundation, has called Bibles and Christian proselytizing a "national security threat." Christians in our armed forces are being intimidated for passing out Bibles and witnessing to their faith. These hostile directives and threats were initiated during the Obama administration, and have been renewed under Biden, a purported Roman Catholic that openly supports abortion, same-sex marriage, more than two genders, and government-dependency. Weinstein has described religious observance by the military as "spiritual rape, sedition and treason. It should be punished." An Air Force officer was told to remove his personal Bible from his work desk because it "might appear that he was condoning a particular religion." A choral group visiting the V.A. hospital in Augusta was instructed to refrain from singing Christmas carols. A similar government facility in Dallas refused Christmas cards because of such offending messages as "Merry Christmas" and "God Bless

You." An Army chaplain was punished for telling a suicide-prevention class how his faith in God helped him counter depression. Soldiers at Fort Hood were informed those that donated money to evangelical Christian organizations could be subject to discipline under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

This is a nation and culture in severe moral decline, far different from 1776 when General George Washington ordered his commanders to secure Christian chaplains for his soldiers as they fought for American independence. This great man fully understood the importance of Christian instruction and guidance. The incremental assault on our heritage, history and Christian traditions, is not lost on this writer. Actions employed by an out-of-control, overbearing government should be of more concern than freedom of speech expressed by Americans over an incompetent and politically corrupt President of the United States.

Greg C. White

Holman...continued from Page 4A

year round to be able to compete for their team (your home team) and as individuals at their very best, but do not have the proper facilities to do so. This also involves our Cross Country athletes, as they use the track for speed training. As far as I know, none of the other schools we compete against have this disadvantage. The track is also not regulation in length nor does it have the correct amount of lanes. Union County High School cannot host home Track and Field events for these athletes, friends, parents/grandparents and those who faithfully support this sport.

There has been talk of a new track facility for the past four years, and yet there has been nothing done. Union County has had many athletes compete and place at the state

level and has had both an individual Girl State Champion and a Boys Team State Championship in Cross Country — the only team state championship for the school. These athletes and their property owning/tax-paying parents and grandparents just don't understand. Football, baseball, softball and basketball all have top-notch facilities to train and host home games.

In closing, we know the Track and Field and Cross Country coaches lead these kids with a desire for them to be their best on and off the track. The coaches and athletes of Track and Field and Cross Country all deserve to have the same facilities as the other coaches and sports at Union County High School. Let's make it happen!

Thank you,
Mike Holman

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

a severe whipping.

Other ways in which the word "service" was used included funerals. When my father was about 7, a young girl in the community named Imogene died from Scarlet Fever. She was the only child in her family and was adored by her Daddy. So, naturally there was much grief in the family. My great-grandfather Lon was a master of many trades, including sawyer, miller and blacksmith. He was very good at woodworking, and it was his tradition to make many caskets for people in the community. I've been told that he made more than 300 coffins for his neighbors during his life time. I digress, so let me get back to the story. After the girl's death,

my grandparents traveled to Haleyville, Alabama, on a cold and icy day to purchase the lining for the coffin of this little girl while Lon built the coffin of hand-planed white-oak boards.

Paul went with his Daddy and Papa to the Wynn Home and retrieved the little girl. They placed her inside the coffin, then loaded the coffin in the back of the wagon and hauled her 1.5 miles to Union Hill Church. After the service, Paul watched as the coffin was placed in the ground and covered with soil.

Another way the word "service" was used was when Paul's older cousin joined the "service" during the Korean war. He sacrificed his life while saving a wounded soldier from capture during this war.

As you can see, the word "service" was used many different ways during the young life of Paul Cummings. So, it came as no surprise when one morning at breakfast the boys heard their father say, "Today, I am going to take the old sow over to the Pinkard's to be serviced." The two boys really wanted to see this event. But their mother refused to let them go. They were told they had to split stove wood. After Papa left, the boys were working at making a big pile of split wood. Granny brought each of them a biscuit for a late morning snack when Paul decided to ask a question. He had been thinking all morning about that word service and he needed clarification.

So, as they each sat down for their break, he asked, "Mom, is Papa taking the old sow to church?" Granny was puzzled at the question and told him no. He continued and said that is the only service he could think of when Bud chimed in, "No, Papa is taking the old sow to Russellville to get serviced at the place where they worked on our tractor, ain't he Mom." The questions continued in quick succession. "Well, is he going to place her in a coffin like they did with Imogene? Is the Old sow going to the Army? How are they going to get the grease from that grease gun into her legs? You know there ain't no fittins on her hocks?" Granny was nearly beside herself with all these questions. She had a look of puzzlement on her face and yet she looked as if she would laugh at any time. About this time Papa came back in the driveway, and Granny said, "Boys, you need to ask your Daddy?" They never got their questions answered, and that word "service" still puzzles my Dad to this day.

Habitat...

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And, to quote Dr. Seuss, always remember ... "You're never too old, too wacky, or wild, to pick up a book and read to a child!"

Wold...

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AutoZone would not accept payment for taking their time. The manager said he took care of his guys.

I have never had such kindness from a group of strangers. AutoZone, you are so awesome, thank you. Thank you Crystal and guys for coming to my rescue. And thanks to Michael at Thomas Tire for providing me with a used tire that matched mine for very low cost. I was one lucky lady to make it there and home to Ellijay safely. Hope they all realize how grateful I am and hope they enjoyed the pizza lunch I sent to both business. Small town heroes are the best!

Just thought you might want to hear about your wonderful townspeople.

Kathie Wold
Ellijay

Fowler...

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have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?" (Matt. 18:21ff).

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable," wrote C.S. Lewis, "because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." When you grasp how much you have been forgiven, you will be a forgiver. The Bible says, "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32).

The U.S. Supreme Court has more work to do in fixing its faults from the past. But whether it does or not, you have your own work to do. Be a forgiver, as you have been forgiven.

Williams...

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looking canes, thin out the buds to prevent over fruiting, which can cause permanent bending of canes from the weight.

Each year after harvest is completed cut plants back so that they don't become too tall. Tall plants are more difficult to harvest for people; bears and birds probably won't have that same problem.

If you have questions about pruning blueberries, contact you County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Combs...

continued from Page 4A

our house, my wife Jane and I will continue to worship every time the doors of our church are opened. Don't let the fear factor control your life.

Yes, these are the last days we are living in before our Savior Jesus Christ comes back to gather His chosen ones unto Himself. God's word says: Rejoicing in all things and bringing glory to our heavenly Father should be foremost on our minds. Greater is He that lives in us, then he that lives in the world.

Frank F. Combs

Weekly Patriot Reflection



Refresh the Vision

In 1787, after the Constitutional Congress, as Dr. Benjamin Franklin watched the last members sign the Constitution, he glanced up at the President's chair, and hanging behind it was a picture of a rising sun. He drew attention to it from some of the members nearby and said, "It is hard to distinguish whether the artist had drawn a rising or setting sun. I have often gazed on that as we debated our course, sometimes with great fear, difficulty and hardship with the issues involved and wondered whether it was rising or setting. But now, at the end of this day I have the happiness to know that it is a rising, and not a setting sun." What he meant was our nation would prove to be a success!

The question for each one reading this would be: What would Franklin say today as to whether our present republic is in ascendancy or declining? The belief of a vast majority is that it represents a setting sun. We as a people have not followed the admonition of our Founding Fathers! An old adage helps explain why it is setting: "A people must from time to time, refresh themselves at the wellspring of their origin, lest they perish."

A good North Georgia translation simply says, "When we lose sight of the plumb line and want to move away from it, we will perish. Let's get back to seeing and striving for what our Founding Fathers believed and fought for."

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