# Opinions

#### Habitat for Humanity

What is community? Community is the force that bonds humans together. As humans, we crave comforts: food, shelter, companionship. Whatever our stories and backgrounds are, we have come together to form our community. Community invokes a sense of safety, and by showing compassion for fellow community members, we strengthen our community as a whole.

Recently we completed a Helping Hands project for our friend Melissa. After many months of trying to get her comfort of living up to par, Habitat was successful. Melissa is now a regular volunteer at our Re-Store, not only to repay her services, but also because she found a part of



our community which she loves. Melissa recently wrote:

"When NO one else was willing to lend a helping hand, (due to my unorthodox life choice to live affordably ... in a Shuttle bus), literally no one was willing to help me. One and a half years of living in a bus has taught me to take absolutely nothing for granted ... and how vital water is for sustainable living. Many thanks to: David, Charlotte, Stephanie, the Habitat board members, and all of the amazing souls at Union County Habitat. I'm truly beyond grateful to you all for not turning a blind eye, rising to the challenge and the altruistically benevolent blessing of running water that will truly change the quality of my life! You've all restored my faith in human kindness.

At Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties, we are driven by the principle "A Hand Up, not a Hand Out." We help those to help themselves, whether the return is volunteer related, or an interest free loan to fix your house. That being said, as of last Friday, Habitat officially has a waiting list of those in need through our Helping Hands Program. I challenge you to come forward and help our fellow community members. If you are a plumber, an electrician, a handyman or roofer, your skill sets are extremely valuable in changing the lives of others. Whether your intention is to serve others, serve your community, deepen your personal or professional goals, Habitat is a great way to lead by example.

Feel free to email operations@townsunionhabitat.org if you or someone you know is interested in getting involved with our Helping Hands Program.

#### Letters to the Editor

#### Re: "Road Rage"

Dear Mr. Brown,

I enjoyed your letter to the editor very much; it made me laugh. You see, we agree that Blairsville infrastructure could use a bit of help in handling the traffic. It is such a beautiful place, everyone wants to live here. However, my perception of that day is different from yours. What you saw on my face was fear, not anger. I really thought I was going to hit you. I never use my horn. But that day, I thought you did not see me coming, that you pulled out in front of me - I was alerting you. I was terrified! I apologize for using the horn, as I try to be a courteous driver. I was not rushing anywhere. In this climate of polarization, I'm happy we agree on something. I'm glad you got a chuckle out of it, though. My best to you, God bless you, and safe driving. Sr. Eileen

#### Roe v. Wade

#### Dear Editor,

One of the founding precepts of Joshua's Warriors is the Biblical sanctity of life (Genesis 9:6: 2 Peter 3:9). God's word is clear, life is a gift from Him (Deuteronomy 32:6; 1 Samuel 2:6; Psalm 139:13-16). Life is not arbitrarily designed. God knows each individual before they were born and already has plans for their lives (Exodus 21:22-23; Isaiah 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5). With this powerful evidence and authority of God's Word concerning life, it is abundantly clear that we do not have the right to destroy that which He holds so precious. To emphasize that more clearly, God commanded, "Thou Shall Not Kill!"(Deuteronomy 5:17). For nearly 50 years our nation has stood in opposition to God's Word. On June 24th, 2022, a decision was

## Everybody has one...

### Wiping Tears

I was visiting with a Samaritan's Purse chaplain the other day. He asked me how I would answer the question they hear so often when they are helping people suffering disaster and loss. "Why did God let this happen?"

Samaritan's Purse is a Christian service organization named after Jesus' parable about the Samaritan man who helped

a victim of robbery along the road. Their mission is to help hurting people. Think war (Ukraine), poverty (Haiti), mass casualty (Uvalde), and disease (COVID). No wonder they are challenged with that question so often.



The question assumes that

God exists, which is an important starting point. It also assumes that God is knowledgeable and powerful enough to affect what happens in this world. That implies He is also capable of having reasons for allowing evil to continue for now, reasons that are beyond human understanding.

But He has already done something about it. "If God has willingly suffered death on the cross," Vince Vitale writes, "He has made such an extravagant display of His love for us that it is rational to trust Him, even when we lack full understanding." God identifies with our suffering and meets us in the midst of it. He is the God who is for us even when life makes no sense, and loss seems so random and pointless.

Jesus could have prevented his friend Lazarus from dying. But he didn't, and he wept over it. He explained to Lazarus' sister Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies" (John 11:25). Then he proved it by raising Lazarus from the dead. Tears are part of the journey for now, but by faith in Christ Jesus you will arrive in the place where "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourn-ing, or crying, or pain" (Rev. 21:4).

So with that explanation, here is a short answer to the question. "I cannot say anything that will take away your pain in this moment, nor can I explain why this happened. But you need to know that God loves you and knows what has happened to you. This is the same God that came to earth to endure human

#### See Fowler, page 5A

#### **Commissioner's Questions**

Q. I just received my annual property tax assessment notice last week and my home value has increased about 20%. Since I received an increase last year, I do not understand why I have received another value increase in just one year. Could you tell us why?

A. The reason that so many had their values increase last

year is because the Tax Assessors Office had been unable to keep up with all the value increases in the past few years due to the prosperous economy. They asked me if the county could budget to have an outside firm come in and reappraise all the property in the county. A firm called Georgia



Mass Appraisal Services (GMASS) came in and over a three-year period reassessed (appraised) all 22,500 parcels in the county. According to the Tax Assessors Office, property was reassessed because there were so many new sales in the county and because the values have continued to exceed the values that were set last year. Again, we have no choice. We must keep the market values current.

#### Q. Did the county do this to gain more tax revenue from the taxpayers?

A. Absolutely NOT. The state requires that our property and home values reflect a certain percentage of the actual home sales. If we do not comply, Union County Government will be fined by the Georgia Department of Revenue.

#### Q. Can you give us an example of why values have increased again this year?

A. According to the company performing the reassessments countywide, there were over 1,600 property sales that occurred in 2021, and the average increase in the actual sales prices of those properties compared to their previous appraised value, was an average increase of about 22%. In other words, if your home was valued at \$300,000 last year and you put it up for sale, it would have probably sold for \$360,000. In order for the county to stay in compliance of state guidelines, the new values had to be set based on actual sales of similar properties in our county.

Q. Do these new increased home values mean that our property taxes will go up as shown on the form as an "estimat-

See Paris, page 5A

#### Chamber of Commerce

As I'm writing this week's column, we are at the GACCE Executive Leadership Conference on the coast. The Conference is a great time to network with other Chambers from across the State. While there are sessions on Tech Trends, Employment Policies, and how to prepare the

perfect budget, I enjoy discussing what's going on in other parts of the State with other Chamber Executives. One thing for



sure is Georgia has become the go-to State.

The economy seems to currently be the driving force behind people wanting to come to Georgia, but as I have always said, it's the people keeping them coming back. Georgia's businessfriendly environment helps to attract many businesses to our state while the quality of life seems to seal the deal.

After talking with many of the Chambers, the mountains, hiking trails, and Vogel State Park are not the only unique qualities about Blairsville-Union County that attract business See Chamber, page 5A

#### **Pollinator Census**

2022 is the fourth annual Great Georgia Pollinator Census. Year after year the pollinator census is a huge success. It is the first of its kind and has really generated some great data on pollinators. It's also a great way for citizens to become involved, learn about, and protect pollinators. This year's census will be held August 19th on Watching and 20th. Let's talk about how you can and Working be involved this Jacob Williams year. The pollinator census comes together because of the hard work of Becky Griffin. Becky works at GMREC just south of Blairsville. With concerns about pollinator decline, the census allows us to capture critical data that can be used year after year to track the health and wellbeing of pollinators. Some locations will have guided counts. If you're unsure of how to participate, joining a guided count is a great way to be a part of the census. Check the GGPC website (https://ggapc. org/) to see if there is a count near you. If you would like to participate from home that is also possible. If you want to join the pollinator census at home it's very simple. Go to the ggapc.org website. There you will find the different categories of pollinators. Each census count will be done by observing a flowering plant for 15 minutes. For the census, there are eight categories that you count insects. They are: carpenter bee, bumblebee, honeybee, small bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, and other insects. Let's go through how to identify each of the insects in these categories. Carpenter bees are going to be the largest of the bees that we see. They look very similar to bumble bees. The major difference is that carpenter bees have no hair on their abdomen (also known as their hind end). Carpenter and bumble bees have yellow and black hair. Bumblebees will have all black hair on their abdomens. Honeybees are smaller than bumblebees and will have brown or blackish stripes mixed with golden-brown. They have hair down their whole body. Small bees are any bee smaller than a honeybee. We have many different species of small bees out there that are native pollinators. These native pollinators are very important for pollinating native plants. Small bees can be down to the length of a staple. Wasps include paper wasps and potter wasps. They are important pollinators for certain plants like rattlesnake master. Flies are pollinators too. They will only have two wings and large eyes. Some flies have coloring to make them look like a bee or wasps to avoid predators. In nature,



Court decision, "we lost our rights to abortion."

Not even close.

The Supreme Court did find that there is

### **Dear Editor**,

The writer says due to the recent Supreme

See Joshua's Warriors, page 5A

#### Good job, Lamar

#### Dear Editor,

Spring activity in all the venues makes us aware of how much the office of our Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris has done to improve family entertainment, athletics and recreation in the past 20 years. There are things going on all over town. Meeks Park and canoe run and dog park, the Agriscience Center, Chamber of Commerce and View Grill, pickleball courts and Sports Center, Performing Arts Center, the Farmers Market (remember its humble beginning in the parking lot outside the Commissioner's Office?). The list of accomplishments goes on and on, so get out and enjoy! A special job well done to Lamar and his (our) staff for bringing an Aldi grocer to Union County.

Just saying, Cindymae Tidwell

#### **Addressing Misinformation**

#### Dear Editor,

Kenneth West

I want to address the growing misinformation and misunderstanding concerning a Five-Commission Board. It would not increase cost to the county, and my expectation is cost would be reduced after the first year, directly attributed to a Five-Commission Board leadership.

Union County is fortunate to have so many citizens with exceptional skills that make our county a special place to live. While a Sole Commissioner structure in Union County and the State of Georgia was commonplace 20 years ago, this leadership structure has seen its day. Now is a time for change. For a narrative to be voiced that five Union County citizens, an elected Commission Board, could not hit the ground running and make Union County a better county is disparaging to our citizens.

Here are some of the ideas in discussion for the structure of how a Five-Commission Board governing body could look. Each commissioner shall be residents of their respective commission district, for at least 12 months. Union County shall be divided into five districts, possibly following the Union County School Board districts. See Lively, page 5A

Shawn Jarrard

Publisher/Owner General Manager/Editor Advertising Director Sports Editor

no specific right defined in the U.S. Constitution that refers to abortion at all.

The Constitution states that all authority NOT specifically delegated to the federal government reverts to the states' regulation.

Therefore, since there is no mention of abortion in the founders' document, it is up to the states to regulate or outlaw the practice.

See Tarter, page 5A

#### **Freedom of Speech Eroding Dear Editor**,

Our First Amendment rights are slowly eroding right here in our beautiful Union County. So inspired to see our younger generation concerned about the future of our country, involved in local government, and attending various board meetings and Sole Commissioner meetings. These patriotic citizens are well informed, respectful, and they ask intelligent questions. Sadly, they are being shut down, insulted, intimidated and on occasion escorted out of Sole

See Harper, page 5A

#### **Responding to "Road Rage"**

#### **Dear Editor**,

So, living here for 17 years and still ticking off other drivers, even a nun. I bet she prayed for you. I get the feeling I've met you a couple of times before when driving in the area. What kind of vehicle do you drive, if applicable include the dents. Smile, there is a minimal chance of me being freaking serious.

Frank Uhle

#### Time to Repeal

#### Dear Editor,

Common sense gun control appears unobtainable. The primary obstacle is the Second Amendment. The Second Amendment consists of 27 words. The original intent of the first 13 words is exactly the opposite of what actually occurred. The last 14 words have received the most attention. The last 14 words have been used by the NRA, GOP and a grievance-filled minority determined to force their will on the country. The definitive meaning of the Second Amendment has been debated for years in the courts over the right to purchase, possess, transport and own specific firearms. There was no definitive decision by the See Tornabene, page 5A

Todd Forrest Lowell Nicholson

Photographer

care system was really in its infancy. Around Antibiotics were just **The Farm** coming into use and many vaccines had Mickey not been invented. So, it was considered Cummings

a great day by many when word got out that scientists had come up with medicines which would prevent such diseases as scarlet fever, cholera, measles, mumps and polio. In 1947 there was no such thing as a local health department. To vaccinate children as quickly as possible officials would determine who the leaders were in a community and go to that home to give vaccinations to children in the community.

of the Depression and times were still very difficult

for people living in the Tennessee Valley. America

had just come out of a Word War and our health

So, when word got out that a nurse was coming to the home of Lon Cummings to vaccinate kids against diseases, most of the community was excited. However, there were a few that were skeptical. Laura Cummings told her husband and her sons that giving a person a shot would allow all their blood to leak out. Some of her grandsons overheard this conversation and a rebellion began to simmer.

The day of the vaccinations arrived, and the entire community showed up at the Cummings home, including all of Dad's cousins. All the kids were in line and ready to receive their shots. One of the Thomas girls was first, and when the nurse pulled out the syringe there was a soft murmur from all the kids. When the needle was inserted she let out a howl, and the impact upon all the other children was immediate. Uncle Pick's kids ran for the cotton field. Uncle C. L.'s kids ran for the storm cellar. Jimmy ran just to run. But, Dad and Bud ran for the house. Their Grandmother was waiting and directed them toward the bedroom and under the bed. Papa knew where they were going and followed them to the bed. He pulled Paul from under the bed, and as he reached for Bud, the previous son would run to the other side of the bed and crawl underneath. During the process his mother was standing behind him swatting his rear end with a broom. Eventually, both boys were corralled and hauled out to the nurse.

Papa had each boy by the ankle holding them upside down. As he dangled them upside down, the nurse approached Bud with the syringe. She was gently smiling at the boy as she reached for his arm. At her grasp and through gritted teeth and a face full of tears, he said, "Lady, I don't want my blood to leak out. So, I am a telling ye, ifin you stick me with that needle, I'll have to kill ye.'

Another time the boys were over at their grandparents' house. They were to meet their See Cummings, page 5A



See Williams, page 5A

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### **Paris**... continued from Page 4A

ed tax" and the county will make more money off of us?

A. Absolutely NOT. The Tax Assessors Office is required by state law to keep the values at fair market value. The reason the county will not make any more money off of the new assessments is because we will lower our mil rate. We are aiming for a balance or offset.

**O.** So the county is not purposefully trying to increase the property tax collections of the existing property owners?

A. Absolutely NOT. We are aiming to "offset" the value increases by lowering the mil rate.

Q. If we do not agree with the new value placed on our home, property or business, what can we do?

A You can file an appeal with the Tax Assessors Office. Once filed, your property will be reexamined to see if any mistakes were made or adjustments are needed. If you are still not satisfied, you can appeal to the Board of Equalization and finally if still no satisfaction, you may file to Superior Court.

#### Q. These reassessments all seem so unnecessary. Are you saying that the pressure from state requirements is driving this situation?

A. Yes, but above all, the end goal is to make the values fair. What many do not understand, the county creates a budget, which is the amount

One member of the board shall

of money estimated to maintain the county government. So, to us, the value of your land or property does not change our budget needs. So if the property values were to remain the same for many years, it would not negatively impact the property tax collection. However, state law does require that all property must be valued fair and equitable and the only way to maintain those values is to reassess and adjust values based on the market sales values.

Q. Does this mean the county will only receive a set amount of money from existing property values no matter

decrease, then the mil rate goes higher. If the values increase, then the mil rate can decrease. Either way, the county will only collect the money needed for its budget to operate and maintain your county in a way we all appreciate and expect.

A. Yes they will. We have to address economic climate changes as they occur annually. There is no way to predict value, so we will try to make adjustments to the mil rate as necessary to keep a somewhat consistent property

what they are?

A. Yes, if county values

Q. If we have a recession next year as some experts are suggesting and the sale value of our property decreases, will our property values also decrease?

tax collection.

### Cummings... continued from Page 4A

cousins Harold, Jimmy, Billy, Rayford and Wallace to go fishing. His grandmother Laura told him to come to the house to get a snack. I guess Harold was trying to impress his cousins by sassing his grandmother. With a laugh Harold said, "No, I am going fishing." Laura started toward Harold and he took off running while his 65-year-old grandmother gave chase. Dad and the other cousins knew Harold was in trouble and tried to stop him. Harold thought this was great fun and continued his laughing while everyone tried to catch him.

Dad and Bud ran up beside their elderly grandmother and told her they would catch their younger cousin. The feisty little

#### Williams... continued from Page 4A this is called mimicry.

Butterflies are usually pretty easy to identify because

of their wings and variation of colors. The other category includes all other insects that may land on the plant while you're watching it. This could be beetles, dragonflies, lacewings, or ants.

After you've done your count for 15 minutes go to ggapc.org to enter your results. You can do the census as many times as you'd like on the 19th and 20th. If you see an insect leave your plant and come back count that as a new visitor.

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

## Chamber...

continued from Page 4A to our community. When discussing community needs. Union County definitely rises to the top. I may be biased, but the way our community leaders work together sets us apart from many other communities. Our schools are working to address our workforce issues, our health care systems are expanding to provide the services needed for our ever-changing population, and our Mayor and Commissioner are working to help make it all happen. It's refreshing to live in a community where things get done.

While the coast is a great place to visit, I can't wait to get back to our wonderful mountains.

Life is Better in Blairsville!

#### Fowler... continued from Page 4A

suffering just like you. He did that to take away your sin and offer you a home with Him in eternity where there is no suffering. Until then, He will be with you. And He has sent me woman said, "No, you won't; I will." At this point Laura hid at the corner of the house. Harold came running around the corner laughing at the top of his voice. Laura reached out and grabbed him by his topknot. Harold was stunned that this little old woman had caught him, at least until she wrapped that peach tree limb around his legs. Harold never sassed his grandmother Laura again.

She was hard nosed and demanded respect. But, everyone knew she loved her grandchildren. She demonstrated this love through her servant's heart. She was a servant to those around her. Each Sunday after church the whole family including aunts, uncles, cousins and people from the community came to her home for dinner. The rule at her house was that all kids ate before any adult could eat, and nobody violated that rule. Also, every person in her family was expected to attend church each Sunday. If you missed, there better be a good reason

The next Old Courthouse Lecture will be held on July 25 at 6 p.m. Our speaker will be Tommy Townsend on moonshining. Townsend owns Grandaddy Mimm's Moonshine Distillery, which will be hosting the Mountain Music & Moonshine Festival in Downtown Blairsville July

**Tarter...** continued from Page 4A At this writing Planned Parenthood in Lawrenceville

and in Marietta are still performing abortions or prescribing the abortion pills to young mothers.

The Supreme Court did not remove any "rights" at all. It just defined who could regulate the (distasteful) practice.

Roe v. Wade famously held that abortion was a private matter and therefore none of the government's business.

One of the justices supporting the decision at the time opined that if science proved that the fetus was a baby they would have to review the case anew

None other than Ruth Bader Ginsberg famously held that Roe was a faulty decision

that needed a redo to be good jurisprudence.

In my opinion, everyone has their "right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," but only up to the point where your rights trample another person's similar rights.

A woman has a right to her body but not to kill another person. Personal Freedom is not anarchy, it comes with responsibility for our actions.

Only human mothers would plan to kill their children. Try getting between a Mama Bear and her cubs and report back. And try living the rest of your life thinking of that innocent child that you casually "offed."

Ask me. J. Murray Tarter

### Joshua's Warriors... from Page 4A

made by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) that overturned Roe v. Wade, thus ending nationwide abortion.

SCOTUS has determined that this is now each State's responsibility to decide. We thank God for this decision and ask that you will join us in praying that every individual State legislature will now affirm and uphold this ruling and preserve life in the womb and end the sin of abortion.

Pray for peace and healing, and courage for God's people to stand strong in their faith. God bless our nation during this turbulent time in our history. (2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.")

Joshua's Warriors Blairsville, GA

be elected from each district. These commissioners will appoint one member to be chairman. The five-member board shall employ a county manager. The five commissioners will not be full-time positions; however, the chairman may receive a higher pay. The Union County manager pay would be based on comparable positions in counties of the same size. The preceding is a brief description to put to rest some of the most outlandish misinformation being voiced. Let it be very clear this is a move for better representation and management. This is an overview of the five-commissioner structure in discussion.

Any concerned citizen can gather more in-depth information and contribute at the Union County Town Hall meetings at 6 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at the Compass meeting room, 417A Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville. At these meeting everyone is respected, and ideas are encouraged.

The following is a breakdown of salaries now being paid to Union County Commissioner and Union County Manager, via open records report from Union County dated March / 2022: Sole Commissioner \$114,269.95; County Manager \$103,688. This does not include retirement and additional monetary perks or the cost of health care. The proposal of a five-member county commission would combine these two salaries and establish pay in a manner that would pay each District Commissioner for time served and have a full-time nonelected county manager. In the past two weeks our Sole Commissioner has published information which is misleading and incorrect. The definition of a sole commissioner in Wikipedia: "A Sole Commissioner government is a county commission with only one seat. The sole commissioner typically holds all legislative and executive powers in the county. Even though with one commissioner there is no voiced debate among the commission, or citizens. Sole commissioners typically hold public meetings to allow public input on decisions, however this is at their discretion. Though the structure was historically more

Lively... continued from Page 4A widespread, now Georgia is the only state in the United States to have counties governed by a sole commissioner. Most counties with sole commissioners are small and rural." As you see, this does not correspond with the definition by Commissioner Paris.

> Misinformation: the counties listed in Paris Q&A in the July 6 issue of The North Georgia News were all wrong, as to population, including Union County, "Paris' own county." In an answer, the population of Union County was reported as 23,999. The 2021 census actually has Union County's population at 26,329. Also Walker County has not had a Sole Commissioner since 2020. The actual seventh county is Murray County. Georgia has 159 counties. Only seven have a sole commissioner. In all of America, there are 3,146 counties (or the equivalent) and 3,139 have multiple commissioners. Union County has one!

> In the 2000 census, Georgia had a population of 8,186,453, and in the 2020 census Georgia had a population of 10,711,908, an increase of 30%. From 2000 to 2020 the state of Georgia increased its Congressional Representatives from 11 to 13. The U.S. Constitution allows for adjustments as population changes. In the 2000 census, Union County had a population of 17,289, and in the 2020 census Union County had a population of 26,329, an increase of 52%. From 2000 to 2020 Union County representation has remained the same. Having a District Commissioner to address the needs of their district is well overdue in Union County. The movement to a multiple County Commission representation will provide better communication. Issues that may not have been approved in the past three years with a five-member board include: raising property taxes well after the appeal date, buying property without public input, appointing all non-elected department heads, and having a \$29,000+ one-question ballot for T-SPLOST. These are just a few reasons Union County is too large and has outpaced a Sole Commissioner structure. **Doy Lively** Union County Taxpayer since 1987

### Tornabene... continued from Page 4A

courts on "what rights the Second Amendment protects." The SCOTUS in 2008 ruled on the side of the "individual right" essentially, the right to possess and carry. Additionally, the Republican Senate majority leader manipulated the confirmation hearings for replacing three judges on the Supreme Court, nominated by two different presidents, enabling a Republican president to replace three judges on the Supreme Court. The end result was stacking the majority of the judges in the Supreme Court that supported the Republican political platform. Subsequently, the SCOTUS ruled protection for a developing child in the womb but wobbling on protection of the developing child from gun violence once it is outside of the womb. The recently proposed gun safety law is a farce and a slap in the face. Common sense and maturity are not always related to age and there will always be emo-

tional "hot heads" and people with mental health issues that will use any weapon available to them. Because of the Second Amendment, we are continuing to live under "a set of rules cobbled together by men, long dead, who never imagined how a decision made in 1787 would wreak havoc in 2022." It is time to repeal the Second Amendment - "No one has the absolute right to own any weapon they want."

I recognize that Union County probably has more guns than teeth, it is devoutly Republican and, in the recent primaries, registered Republicans almost unanimously voted for Hershel Walker (a Trumpendorsed candidate). The election is only a few months away and it is essential to review the qualification of each candidate and to vote for the candidate that will act for the good of all the people.

**Thomas G. Tornabene** 

here to make sure you know that."

Samaritan's Purse chaplains are wiping tears from the eyes of people whom God loves. Shall we do the same?

#### Harper... continued from Page 4A

Commissioner meetings. I was shocked to see how they and others are treated. The strategy for allowing questions and comments from the public seems to change before each meeting to further limit our freedom of speech.

The county has grown significantly since the Sole Commissioner began his term over 20 years ago. He has done a decent job, but Union County's growth justifies a multimember Board of Commissioners to share the responsibilities and provide representation for all citizens of Union County. The petition being circulated for a referendum to change from a Sole Commissioner to a multi-member Board of Commissioners government should be seriously considered by all voters. Let the citizens decide. **Maureen Harper** 



#### Citizens For A **Better America** meeting July 21st

Calling all patriots! There is a meeting of Citizens For A Better America and you are invited. Thursday, July 21, eat at 5 PM, meeting is at 6-7:30 PM at the Brasstown Community Center, 55 Settawig Road, Brasstown. There will be a food truck on site. Everyone is invited and bring a friend. United we stand!

For more information: Website: http://www. CitizensForABetterAmerica. com; email: Contact@ CitizensForABetterAmerica. com; call: (828) 361-5422.