# Opinions

# Everybody has one...

#### **School Walkthroughs**

Back to school is the buzz right now, and everyone is getting back to that routine. Last week, Union County Fire Department and dispatchers from Union County E911 conducted the annual Union County School walkthroughs. These walkthroughs involved all of the buildings and the school campus. The purpose of the walkthroughs is to familiarize responders and dispatchers with the school buildings and the Fire Dept.

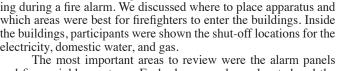
from Union

County

Fire Chief

emergency systems of each. Being familiar with these systems and procedures will help responders if there is an emergency.

The first matter to review was where to enter each school campus to avoid students evacuating the build-



and fire sprinkler systems. Each alarm panel was located and the procedure for operating each panel was reviewed. These panels can tell firefighters where the fire is most likely located and the extent Firefighters also reviewed the many fire sprinkler systems

and how to operate each system. Firefighters must know how to determine if a sprinkler head has been activated and how to support that sprinkler with the fire engine. We must also know how to cut the water off to that sprinkler head after the fire is out. This is to minimize water damage. It is not like the movies; only the sprinkler heads that have been activated will spray water, not all of them. There are several other advantages to performing the walk-

throughs at the schools. Dispatchers and firefighters are able to meet school staff, thus building relationships which will be helpful in the event of an emergency. The participants also become aware of the campus and the multiple buildings. This can be helpful knowing where to respond during an emergency at the schools. Union County Fire Department and Union County E911

would like to thank the Union County School Board members, the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, principals, teachers, faculty, staff, Police Chief Chad Deyton and his staff for allowing

See **Dver**, page 5A

### Grace Pictures #5

"No one is above the law!" demand the detractors. "There's a two-tiered system of justice!" say the supporters. Today's political news is more likely to be about scandal and justice than statesmanship and the national good.

Why would I risk losing you, dear reader, by bringing up politics, scandal, and justice? Because something good has come from a scandal about justice. The

Wayne

courtroom, a place of justice, is also All Things a picture of God's scandalous grace. New

Critics complain that Christianity makes people feel guilty. But it's our inherent sense of right and wrong that makes us feel guilty because we are - nobody's perfect

(Rom. 3:23). "The line separating good and evil passes right through every human heart," writes Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. Christianity offers the only solution to that deep, soul-searching We want justice for others, but innocence for ourselves. If

not innocent, then we try to avoid detection and consequences.

I know no one who enjoys being accused in court. Well, maybe

except Greta Thunberg, the young climate activist who keeps

defying the courts. I forgot a jury summons once. It was quite uncomfortable knowing the judge could have fined or jailed me. Say you are in a courtroom facing a bench trial - no jury. The prosecutor tells the judge all you have done. Your reputation has preceded you. The judge looks at you, the accused. You drop your eyes, feeling your guilt. At that moment your advocate steps forward. "I vouch for this one. She's innocent." The judge drops all charges and throws out the case for lack of evidence. It's a scandal because you, formerly guilty as accused, walk out

of the courtroom blameless and joyful. The Bible says, "He who believes in Him is not judged" (John 3:18). Jesus Christ our Lord is able to "make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy" (Jude 24). God is "just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Rom. 3:26). And the great question is, if "every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Heb. 2:2-3).

Your response to that probing question is faith and repen-

See **Fowler**, page 5A

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

Q. What is the blue building sitting on the hill overlooking Hwy 515 across from Brackett's way? A. The Leon Davenport Veterans Center - A previously un-

used Chamber of Commerce Building - was expanded in 2016 to give a home to our Veterans Organizations for meetings and related project planning. Several different civic groups have used the building as well. The structure

is owned and maintained by Union from Union County Q. What are the veterans' Commissioner

groups that meet in the Veterans

A. We are blessed to have sev-

Paris eral Veterans organizations - all interested in making Union County a better place to live. Several meet in the Veterans Center. The Veterans groups are: American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion Riders, Sons of American Legion, Sons of the Confederacy, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corp League, Mountain Area Support Alliance, Navy Seabee Veterans of America, Navy Seabee Support Alliance, North Georgia Honor Guard, Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Vietnam

Lamar

Q. Did Union County also pay for installation of the flag poles at the Leon Davenport Veterans Building?

A. No. This project was funded with donations from the Veterans groups who were assisted by Woodmen Life and its local Chapter 1180. The county employees as well as The Carlton Colwell Detention Center, the Union County Jail crew, and Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, were honored to assist with the installa-

Q. A military tank has appeared in the front yard of the Veterans' Center. What is the story behind the tank?

A. Veterans Bill Richardson and Richard Hoibraten were instrumental in procuring the decommissioned tank to display as a reminder of the great sacrifices and valour of those who fought abroad. The process began in 2013, and in 2022, Union County learned that a tank would be arriving. Site preparation included

See Paris, page 5A

pouring a concrete pad in front of the Veterans' Center on Hwy

#### No Sweetheart Plea Deal

In an unexpected twist, Hunter Biden's sweetheart plea deal fell apart recently.

After reaching a plea agreement with his father's Department of Justice, Hunter was set to plead guilty to two federal misdemeanor counts of failure to pay federal income taxes, as well as enter a pretrial di-

version agreement regarding a separate charge of illegally owning a gun while being a drug user. Yet during his first court appearance on



July 26, Hunter Biden pleaded not guilty after his preferential plea deal collapsed.

In short, Judge Maryellen Noreika did not accept the DOJ-Hunter plea agreement due to concerns about its constitutionality. Specifically, the judge was uncomfortable with the diversion agreement related to Hunter's felony gun charge. She rejected the portion which would require her to determine whether charges should be brought against the President's son if Hunter were to breach the diversion agreement. Judge Noreika

See Clyde, page 5A **Letters to the Editor** 

**Population Explosion** 

great places to live. The mountains are beautiful

and the experience of living here is so grand that

be a little concerned about the population explo-

people and more sales bring in greater revenue

through the collection of sales tax. Events are

planned to assist in this goal. However, the traf-

the speeds at which they drive is disconcerting,

to say the least. The campgrounds are full and

overflowing. The campers, recreational vehicles

and tiny houses are so close to each other in some

facilities that it poses a hazard in case an emer-

gency should occur. Campers and tiny houses are

being placed on lots with existing residences and

are being set up, or so it appears, as permanent

See Vickers, page 5A

**Honoring the Fallen** 

people who live here have a lot of faith in God

and Country. We all need to draw together and

celebrate our American flag, our National An-

them, our Constitution and our Fighting Forces.

should all put a candle in a window of our home.

That particular date will be the second anniver-

sary of the complete withdrawal from Afghani-

sonnel lost their lives. Numerous others were

maimed and injured. Let's remember and cel-

A Call To Action

can political system today is the voters them-

selves. Too many believe that one person cannot

make a difference. They believe that it takes a

very large number of people to make a change,

and that you need an army to win a war. Num-

bers most often do make the difference, espe-

cially when it comes to money. The one with the

most money will usually win. And a big gun can

end a fight quickly. And if you've got several

big guns, with lots of money, it's probably go-

ing to be a short war. So the little guy doesn't

See Brookins, page 5A

The most troubling thing with the Ameri-

We all love our town of Blairsville. The

At 2100 (9 p.m.) on Aug. 30, 2023, we

During this withdrawal, 13 military per-

fic is getting to be problematic.

installations.

Dear Editor.

stan. Let freedom ring!

ebrate their lives.

Stephanie Miller

Sincerely,

Dear Editor,

Towns and Union Counties are absolutely

Some officials are happy because more

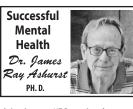
The sheer number of cars on the roads and

#### Inner Tapes - II

CRODOSHERETOON COM

Our mental tapes are messages that we have heard from childhood. The tapes can be positive or negative in nature. Let's say you go shopping with a good friend. You find a department store that has exactly what you want. You look over the merchandise. You mull over it, ask

your friend about it, and no decision can be made because the tapes you heard as a child are sending you a message from Ray Ashurs your parents from an early age, while



you were shopping with them. "You don't need that. You are always wanting to spend money. Why can't you be happy with what you have?" And then instantly your "adult tape" begins its message. "You have the resources, so purchase it. You deserve a reward for all the things you have done today. Why are you hesitating?" Talk about a double message. You are being bombarded by conflicting messages. Hopefully, you soon begin to realize what is going on within your three-pound brain. What to do? First of all, don't panic in the department store aisle. It doesn't make for a nice picture. Secondly, take some deep breaths in order to relax. Thirdly, don't make a decision right then. Return later with a clearer mind. Lastly, maintain your inner power — it allows you to think clearly, act maturely, and feel safely. Go with your inner power. It usually does not steer

you wrong. Positive tapes promote our self-esteem while negative tapes destroy our self-worth. And everybody has tapes! Whether the person telling you the negative message meant it to be intentional or not, the fact is that destructive tapes are lodged in our subconscious mind. Depending on which type of tape is playing (positive or negative), our thoughts, feelings, and actions can be

All of us make mistakes due to what is going on in our minds at the time. The idea is to personally own our mistakes. Stop blaming others. Be accountable for one's own mistakes.

Once we begin examining the negative tapes, then we have a head start on the processing of those tapes. If the tapes happen to be negative, we can expect a certain degree of emotional pain. The pain that you feel will be temporary. It

If the tapes happen to be positive, then you will feel the comfort and stability of a worthwhile self-esteem. Your self-image will be wholesome, and your friends will find it delightful to be around you.

All of our tapes — positive and negative - are permanent. Some are healthy while others are destructive. The wonderful news is that

See Ashurst, page 5A

Recently, I heard a story about my greatgreat-grandfather, Alfred West, concerning a chestnut bur. He stated there was an older boy named Alton that moved into his community. Now, this boy thought he knew more than everyone else. Anything you could do he could

do better. If you were plowing he would tell you that you were plowing wrong. Or if you were fishing a certain way he would tell you another



I WISH I WAS OLD ENOUGH TO

BEA SENATOR!

way of fishing. So, one day the two young men were plowing a field of corn. As usual the boy began telling the younger West boy how he was plowing wrong. So, during a water break, Alfred found a chestnut bur and slipped it under the collar of the mule (the mule Alton was using to plow). A collar was used by farmers to hook mules and horses to plows and wagons. So, naturally it would be bothersome to the animal.

After the water break Alton pulled on the reigns of the mule to turn him back into the field. Immediately the mule began bucking and kicking. Alton let go for a minute and tried again. The mule began to buck and kick again. This went on for 20 minutes until Alfred went to the front of the mule and secretly pulled out the chestnut bur while whispering something into the mule's ear. At first Alton thought his friend was strange because of his whispering to the mule. But, every time he pulled on the reigns of the mule it responded and worked just fine. For years Alton thought his friend Alfred was the one man that knew more about mules than anyone else. He went around telling everyone that Alfred West had a special way with mules and horses.

This reputation with horses and mules soon spread to other types of livestock, and my great-grandfather soon found himself practicing medicine on animals. He never earned a degree from any college, but, he used a lot of horse sense when dealing with sick animals. One day around the turn of the century a man showed up at the West house asking for Alfred. Understand that West was maybe 5 feet 7 inches tall and topped the scale at possibly 100 pounds. So, as he walked around the corner of the house, the man sized him up and stated, "You are not what I pictured in my mind. After listening to Alton I figgered you must be 7 feet tall a-weighing around 300 pounds. Anyway, he says you're good with critters and I have a sick Jersey Bull."

Alfred hooked up his buggy and, along with his 17-year-old daughter Laura, rode off the Newburgh Mountain to the man's farm in a little community called Mt. Hope. They found the man at the barn with the bull in a stable. This

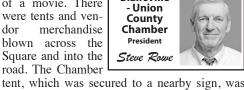
See Cummings, page 5A

## Chamber of Commerce

I know many have seen the coverage by the North Georgia News of the storm that hit the Downtown Blairsville area, the weekend of the recent Mountain Moonshine Festival. As it turned out, we were leaving the concert at the same time the storm hit. Our downtown looked like something out Blairsville

of a movie. There were tents and vendor merchandise blown across the Square and into the road. The Chamber





being blown around in the road with the frame crumpled. The storm only lasted five to ten minutes, but looking at the scene, the impression would be that the area would not be cleared till morning. The Blairsville Police, Sheriff's Department and Georgia State Patrol were on the scene to block traffic since the roads were im-We were blessed to have a team of vol-

unteers and vendors that arrived on the scene and got to work. They began to clear the roads

See Chamber, page 5A

#### Seed Saving

Seed saving is an old practice that has become less common in recent years. Before World War II, seed catalogues that offered varieties of seeds from all over were not common, so if you planted a garden you would have to save your own seed each year to be able to plant again next

year. Very recently seed saving has risen in popularity again as a way become more self sufficient or to preserve old varieties of plants that



otherwise would go extinct. It's also a great way to save some money on buying plants for next year. Let's talk some of the basics of seed sav-

To save quality seed is a bit more complicated than simply picking seeds from the garden. Plants have a couple of different mechanisms of pollination that they might use. Some are cross pollinated which means the pollen has to move from the anther of one plant to the stigma of a different plant. Apples are an example. Selfpollinated means that the pollen travels from the anther of a plant to the stigma on the same plant. Tomatoes are an example.

Plants that can cross pollinate are more difficult to save seed. This is because they could have cross pollinated with a different variety that was also planted nearby. The resulting seed from this cross would not have the same characteristics as its parents. Self-pollinated plants like tomatoes and beans are a good place to start for beginner seed savers. As you master easy plants you can move onto more difficult plants like cucumber, squash, or carrots.

You want to harvest seed when the fruit has reached physiological maturity. To reach physiological maturity plants have to be allowed to grow beyond the stage where you would normally harvest them. Reaching physiological maturity means that the seeds will have better germination and vigor. Wet-seeded crops have seeds that are embedded in the fruit. Think tomato or squash. Wet-seeds need to be scooped out, washed, and dried. Some wet-seeds need to go through a fermentation process. Place the seeds into a jar and add an equal amount of water. Place the jar out of sunlight for 4 to 5 days. stirring daily. Viable seeds will sink to the bottom. Bad seeds will float on the top. Let the good seeds dry out for a week before storing. Dryseeded crops have seeds in husks or pods on the plant. Think corn, beans, or broccoli. Dry-seeds can be separated from the plant and brought indoors to dry before storing.

Storage of seeds is very important to maintain good germination rates and seed longevity.

See Williams, page 5A

## North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

Derek Richards Todd Forrest Lowell Nicholson **Kenneth West** Shawn Jarrard Publisher/Owner General Manager/Editor Advertising Director Sports Editor Website: www.nganews.com • Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com • Mail: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514

The North Georgia News is an independent and nonpartisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

#### **Publication No: 001505**

Advertising, News deadlines Friday at 4 p.m. • Mail Service for all subscriptions except 30512, 30514 & 30572 (Union County) - One Year \$45 INCLUDING UNION COUNTY CUSTOMER REQUESTS MAIL SERVICE. In county, carrier delivered subscription is \$10. All subscriptions must be paid in advance. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is published weekly by NGN/TCH, Inc., 266 Cleveland Street, Blairsville, Georgia, 30512. Entered as Second Class Matter as of Dec. 24, 1988, at the Post Office in Blairsville. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. **Phone**: 706-745-6343 **Fax**: 706-745-1830 • P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514

515, up the side yard of the property, and onto the concrete pad. The tank was already demilitarized, the hatch was welded closed, and the vehicle was primed and painted by Chris Reece, who donated 80+ hours to the project.

#### Q. What kind of tank is on display in front of the Veterans' Center?

A. The tank is an M551 Sheridan – an Armored Reconnaissance Airborne Assault Vehicle. The combat vehicle was named after the Civil War General, Phillip Sheridan. Approximately 1,662 Sheridan tanks were built. The tanks were utilized in the Vietnam War, Operation Just Cause, Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Shield, and Operation Desert Storm. It was designed to be a true light tank with the capabilities of being dropped by parachute from aircraft. The Sheridan also had

Q. I have not had the opportunity to stop by and see the M551 Sheridan tank up close. How big is it?

A. The vehicle is 20.7 ft long; 9.17 ft wide; and 9.7 ft high. Its ground clearance is 19 inches, and during service, it held 4 people. They included the Commander, the Gunner, the Driver, and the Loader. It had a Detroit Diesel engine and could reach maximum speed at 43 mph. It carried a 152 mm, a grenade launcher, and a missile launcher. It also used a .50 cal M2 Browning machine gun and a .30 cal M73/M219 ma-

Union County Governanticipates installing large descriptive table signage near the tank to help identify the parts and functions of the displayed tank.

We are very proud of all the efforts that went into procuring and restoring the valuable keepsake.

#### Clyde... continued from Page 4A

ultimately believes such decisions should be made by the executive branch, not the judicial branch.

Additionally, Judge Noreika had serious concerns regarding the scope of Hunter Biden's immunity. Since prosecutors confirmed that Hunter is currently under active investigation, the judge was rightfully troubled with rubber stamping a deal that provides the President's son with blanket immunity for potential future charges.

At every turn, Hunter Biden has received suspicious special treatment — treatment no other American would

receive. Thankfully, Judge Noreika refused to turn a blind eye to the Department of Justice's blatant two-tiered system of justice.

It's simple: Our government should never tip the scales of justice, especially if your last name is Biden.

As this court battle continues, please know that House Republicans are continuing our important work of investigating the Biden family's criminal behavior. Unlike the corrupt DOJ, the House Republican majority is unwavering in our commitment to uncover the truth and deliver accountability to the American people.

## Chamber... continued from Page 4A

of broken tents and vendor merchandise, carefully stacking the merchandise in the area where the tents and shelving once stood. They used what was left of the tent canvas to protect the merchandise from the rain while local store owners opened their doors to allow some products to be stored overnight. Members of the Blairsville City Maintenance Department arrived within minutes to help pick up the debris. This was definitely one of those moments that we are proud to live in a community like Blairsville, Georgia.

While some of the vendors were not able to re-open, the same volunteers helped pack their belongings and salvage what they could. Others paid a visit to Walmart by purchasing every tent in stock and proceeded to prepare to open Sunday morning. Those that had extra

stand a chance. Who wants to

tents loaned them to others and the work began. If you visited the festival on Sunday, it would be difficult to tell there was a storm the night before.

I would like to give a big Thank You to all those members of the community, the first responders, and City employees for all they did in a time of need. While speaking to the vendors, they were very appreciative to all, and for several, they helped salvage their weekend, which could have been financially devastating. It's great to know that our COMMUNITY is alive and well in Blairsville-Union County, Georgia.

Remember, a kind word warms the heart, a kind gesture never goes unnoticed, and there is always time to help someone

Thanks to all for helping make Life Better in Blairsville!

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

fight a losing war? It seems far more reasonable to sit it out and hope for the best, but did David kill Goliath with a big heavily financed army?Some people claim they are too busy and don't have the time to take on new projects. Have you ever noticed that if people really want to do something, they can always make time for it? The question is, are you busy with important stuff, or busy with things that have no real value, like watching television, or Facebook binging? To change our corrupt political system, you have to get off the pot. Will it be easy? No! Do nothing, and accomplish nothing. Our country has gotten to the point that even doing nothing is dangerous. It's like sitting on a railroad track watching the train speed towards you. Doing nothing will get you killed.If you are just going to sit around and watch, at least become an informed voter.

Do your own research. If you don't look for reliable information, you will become an influenced voter. Do not depend on the state-controlled news media, or on friends and relatives that can't tell you why they dislike, or like, a particular candidate. Don't be a lemming and blissfully jump off the cliff. Go to County Commissioner meetings, City Council meetings, county political par-

ty meetings, go to other group meetings, (especially if they have guest speakers that will give you ideas of what you can do), network with other likeminded people, use the internet to research the issues that are most important to you so that you will KNOW what you are talking about!

One of the greatest concerns right now is election integrity, and this interest is growing at an exponential rate, among ALL voters - right, left, Libertarian, independent, etc. If we can't trust our voting procedures, then you know that we don't have a government Of the People, For the People, or By the people. Do you care if the ruling elite, of both parties, are controlling the vote? Are you so unconcerned that you will let the train run over you? The reason our country is in the shape that it is in is because for decades we have ignored what we know is happening. It's my fault. It's your fault. It's the fault of about 300 million Americans.

America, Georgia, and Union County need informed, activist voters. Yes, we have numerous problems, but they are not going to fix themselves. So, are you going to be a part of the solution, or a part of the problem? Time is running out. Do something now, or get run over by the train.

**David Brookins** 

# MOUNTAIR

## 2023 Miss Georgia **Mountain Fair Pageant**

The Georgia Mountain Fair is looking for young ladies 17-24 to participate in the 2023 Miss GMF Pageant.

The Pageant will be held Thursday, August 17 in the Anderson Music Hall at the fairgrounds in Hiawassee.

Entry forms and Pageant rules are available on the Georgia Mountain Fair website. Deadline to enter is August 3. Great experience and cash prizes!

# Cumnings...continued from Page 4A

fellow opened the door, and as Alfred walked through the door the man latched the door from the outside. Immediately the bull charged Great Grandpaw West. The man and the bull went round and around in the stable. The bull nearly got the upper hand at one point by butting Alfred and knocking him into the wall of the stable. His body hit the wall hard enough to crack and break one of the rough-sawed planks into two pieces.

Alfred nor his daughter ever panicked. Each had a job to do. He eventually worked his long bony fingers into each nostril of the bull and twisted its nose until the bull stopped and began emitting a long, low and pitiful groan from its throat. When the bull stopped, Laura opened the door and walked into the stable with her father. She reached into his doctor bag and handed him the instrument he needed to correct the bull's problem. When she and her father finished the job, Alfred let go of the bull and the pair walked out of the stable,

#### Ashurst... continued from Page 4A

the negative ones can be redirected. And the positive ones need to be enhanced and selfpromoted on a continual basis.

#### Dyer ... continued from Page 4A

us to perform the walkthroughs and for all the assistance that they provide to the department.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

#### Vickers ... continued from Page 4A

The extra revenue from sales taxes, even if it were directed at infrastructure, cannot possibly keep up and repair our roads and bridges, add additional law enforcement and EMS personnel to keep up and meet the needs of the people. The same could be said about life flights when required to transport patients to larger facilities.

The huge influx of people may increase revenue in the form of sales taxes collected, but at some point, the wear and tear on our infrastructure, and the strain put on our First Responders, will leave its mark, and everyone living in our beautiful area will suffer because of it.

Gene Vickers

#### Williams... continued from Page 4A

Seeds should be stored in a cool, dark place. Storing seeds in a refrigerator can add several

years to how long a seed lasts. Seeds that have been dried down to 5-7% moisture and are frozen will give the best viability. Minimize temperature and moisture fluctuations as much as possible. Pests like rodents and insects will also feed on seeds if they are

The oldest seed to germinate is a date palm from Israel that was about 2,000 years old! You should not expect your saved seed to last anywhere near that long. Plant your saved seed the following season for

If you have questions about saving seed contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@

There is also a seed saving starter guide on the UGA Extension website that has a lot of great information.

#### **Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse**



August 2, 2023 In memory of Charlie McGraw on his birthday by Allyson McGraw

August 14, 2023 In loving memory of **Robert Larry Ashley** 

August 26, 2023 In memory of Dr. William T. Meeks Sr. on the occasion

by Ginger and Terry Meeks **Bell ringing information** at 706-745-5493

of his birthday

leaving the bull in a calm and peaceful state. The owner of the bull stared in amazement at the father and daughter team. As the man stared, my greatgrandfather reached up and punched the man square in the nose, knocking him to the ground. Alfred West left that day with two things: the man's respect and a country-cured ham. It all started with a chest-

### Fowler...

nut bur and Alton.

#### continued from Page 4A

tance. To those who reason that forgiveness enables more sin, "the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires" (Titus 2:11-12). It's not "what I can get away with," but "what I can do away with" in living the blameless life. When you grasp God's grace, it changes you.

The Bible says that Christ crucified is "scandalon" (Greek, 1 Cor. 1:23). It's scandalous because God the Son took the blame so you might be blameless. The forgiveness granted in that celestial courtroom is good, and it's for you. That is a picture of grace!