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In addition to these events several others occur at the Farmers Market Facility. The Cruisers have their antique autos there every 1st Saturday in the afternoons. FOCUS (Fellowship of Christians United to Serve) has their event on April 21st. There is at least one farm and home used equipment auction which will be April 28th. Relay For Life has their annual fundraising event there May 19th. There are several other activities there that are not set as of yet.

We are very thankful and proud to have this multi-use facility available to the people of Union County and appreciate the hard work of those operating the facility including Mickey Cummings, Kristi Penny, Bobby Burch and the many volunteers who are always willing to help. A special thanks also to the Master Gardeners who are always out volunteering, replanting and refreshing our landscape areas of the Farmers Market making it even more beautiful.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

their departure to Oklahoma. They also knew they would not be allowed to take much with them. He said they had about 100 pounds of gold that had been hidden a few days before the soldiers arrived. The old man related the gold had been hidden in a rock face above the Turkey's foot. This place was called the Turkey's foot because it was a place where 3 creeks came together to form one creek. From the top of the rock face the place looked just like the track of a turkey. Clifford and his sons looked for this gold for 40 years without ever finding an ounce of it. Clifford went to his grave longing to find the gold at the Turkey's foot.

How does this story relate back to Ausborn and Elizabeth Mabry? When this couple migrated to Oklahoma they settled in a place called

Briartown. Ausborn was some kind of minister. We have not determined whether he went to Oklahoma to be with family or did he go to serve the Cherokee on the mission field. Briartown is in Muscogee County and is a part of the reservation of the Western Band of the Cherokee Nation. We still do not know for sure that either Ausborn or Elizabeth were Cherokee. But, Clifford Hyde told my dad, "I am a Cherokee Indian and my ancestors came out of North Carolina". And the old Cherokee that came to the Hyde House in the 1920s told Clifford and his family that he stopped at their house because he knew they were of Cherokee descent.

It's a mystery my family has never solved. But, one thing is certain, Clifford nor his grandfather, Ausborn, ever found any gold.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

While it is correct that metabolized marijuana settles in the fat cells and can be detected for weeks, this primarily refers to chronic or on-going heavy cannabis use and not a one-time last weekend user.

This fact matters because continued use influences safety. Marijuana that is stored in fat cells is also stored in the brain and can cause impairment of multi-tasking motor-skills, memory function, and ability to operate safely at work.

Any drug test that detects THC reflects behavior that does not place safety first in the workplace. There are healthy boundaries that should be respected with mutual agreements of our highest priorities, and if your company mission, vision, values, and productive labor efforts are at the forefront of your workplace culture, odds are that pot use is not on the scale of importance.

If you are struggling with the emotional arguments about the harmlessness and safety of cannabis, remember two important things. First, those who are making this argument are buying into marijuana-industry-speak that also argues cannabis is not impairing. Think of it the same way Big Tobacco approached their infamous practices for recruiting young customers: Doctors approve, not addictive, harmless. Sound

familiar? It's a playbook—a playbook that worked for decades, much to the physical harm of U.S. citizens, and yet only now are we fully understanding the negative impact and actively reducing tobacco use, while on the tail end finding ourselves duped by the very same promotional slogans used by the cannabis industry.

Second, cling to safety first. Marijuana is an impairing drug that has become substantially more potent since recreational use came into play, with some products containing upwards of 60 percent THC. This was unheard of just five years ago. Compared to the 3 percent weed popular in the 1960s-70s, the new products have been called "Green crack" and free-basing marijuana. What is really happening here is that people are using arguments for a much weaker product that no longer exists.

If we were talking about Woodstock Weed, then it is likely that "harmless" would remain an over-arching argument that could win out. But not so in today's market. Extreme potencies mean longer-lasting periods of impairment, higher THC content stored in the body, and greater potential for abuse and addiction. Keep that in mind when the argument presents itself that this is no big deal. It is now ... a very big deal.

Clauson... continued from Page 4A

Now more than ever, it is essential to help those you know who are addicted to alcohol or drugs. Trying to help someone with an addiction can be more than frustrating. And although you just want to help, many times they fight against you as if you were the enemy. Don't be surprised if your loved even accuses you of contributing to their addiction. Hear them out and take their words into consideration but at the end of the day realize getting them sober and continuing to live is the most important thing.

These drugs have made it potentially life threatening

to be an abuser of any types of drugs. Get yourself educated. If one of your loved ones is struggling with addiction, get them into treatment. Don't wait until it is too late.

There are many different approaches to the challenge of how to help a substance abuser. For free information, learn the steps of how to get someone into treatment for heroin addiction. You can also visit <http://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/drug-abuse-information/heroin-addiction-and-abuse.html> or call 1 800-431-1754 to get help for your loved ones.
Ray Clauson

Wallace... continued from Page 4A

of roadway; exceptions (d) No two vehicles shall impede the normal flow of traffic by traveling side by side at the same time while in adjacent lanes, provided that this Code section shall not be construed to prevent vehicles traveling side by side in adjacent lanes because of congested traffic conditions.
§ 40-6-184. Impeding traffic flow; minimum speed

limits; passing lane Slowpoke Law "Keep Right Except to Pass"
§ 40-6-241.2. Writing, sending, or reading text based communication while operating motor vehicle prohibited; prohibited uses of wireless telecommunication devices by drivers of commercial vehicles; exceptions; penalties for violation
Thomas D. Wallace

S.A.F.E. needs volunteers

S.A.F.E. (Support in Abusive Family Emergencies): we are in need of volunteers for our Thrift stores and our Shelter! We need help in every area. Thrift store, mentoring, newsletters, childcare, life coaching, transporting, crafting, shelter repair, computer lessons, whatever skills you may have!

(All volunteers must submit to a criminal background check and depending upon your area of interest, may be required to obtain fingerprinting at our cost.)

You can make a difference in your community. Our purpose is to help those who

have been affected by abuse. Any time, any skill can help us achieve our goals. If you can help in any way please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Robin O'Neill at 706-379-1901.

S.A.F.E. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides services to domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse in Towns, and Union counties. For information on available workshops or to volunteer for S.A.F.E. please contact (706) 379-1901. If you are a victim of Domestic Violence or sexual Assault or know someone who is, call S.A.F.E. for confidential assistance 24 hours a day, (706) 379-1901.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

in October 2017. This fire was among more than a dozen major wildfires, many of which were started from human-related ignitions. Acknowledging that fact is important, particularly right now when we have evidence that climate is changing, and climate is warming, and that fires are increasing in size and the fire season is increasing. You can see evidence of that along Skyline Drive in Virginia. The view offers an Appalachian panorama - rolling mountains carpeted in deep oak and pine forests. But it's not all green, as can be seen from the side of the highway at Two-Mile Run Overlook at Shenandoah National Park. Right below stands a grove of blackened trees; a few patches of green needles on surviving pines are the only green.

The Rocky Mount mountain below is the namesake for

the Rocky Mount fire, which burned more than 10,000 acres last year. The park's fire manager ran firefighting teams that spent almost two weeks stopping it. They were 10-plus days without rain before the fire, so it was expected. It was the time of year when fire activity is expected. It was April, and spring and fall are when forests in the east usually burn. To have a fire, you need the fuel, which is available each spring and fall with the leaf litter, which is constantly here, and the ignition source, and then weather conditions that would allow the fire to burn. That ignition source at Rocky Mount is thought to have been people. There was no lightning at the time; and lightning fires happen more during summer storms.

Experts say there is a solution: Ironically, it means starting more fires. Prescribed

Harper... continued from Page 4A

the Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival will be held at the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center, 926 Panther Overlook, Blairsville. If you have not experienced the new Fine Arts Center you are in for a treat. The festival will showcase the art of story telling with a focus on Appalachian stories. There will be storytelling and music for all ages. The event is free to the public!

The featured storytellers are: Regi Carpenter (www.regicarpenter.com); Lyn Ford

(www.storytellerlynford.com); Michael Reno Harrell (www.michaelreno.com); Andy Offutt Irwin (www.andyirwin.com); and Rev. Robert Jones, Sr (www.revrobertjones.com).

Come out on Monday April 16th at 11 AM to 12 noon for an open house celebration for Georgia Mountain Positive Choices. The GMPC has now been open for one year. Come and meet the Executive Director, Kathy Davis and learn about their vision to educate, encourage and equip our youth to make positive choices and avoid risky behavior in life.

The Chamber appreciates your support. If we can be of help to your business please let us know. 706-745-5789; www.visitblairsville.com

Fowler...

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sure" (Phil. 2:13). It is authentic faith that embraces Christ's work on the cross in the past, His work in you today, and His plans for your future.

Paul wrote in his last letter, "The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:6-7). A lifetime of serving others, living purposefully, and trusting God is the life that finishes strong.

Mitchell...

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After a while, I walked him into the restaurant, helped him with his order.

He asked if I'd mind some company.

"Absolutely not. I'd be honored."

Over the next forty minutes, I sat and listened as he opened up a few pages of his personal life's library compiled in the WWII Navy and beyond: Eight years before, during and after: Atlantic, Pacific, North Africa, North Atlantic.

On his lookout duty station in the North Atlantic, he was strapped in, high and low. The wind sheared off the white tops of fifty foot-tall waves. The spray froze instantly on the superstructure of the ship, making the ship top heavy, endangering the ship and its crew.

He said that it was "pretty cold up there, on the masthead." He has four children: three girls (all three are college professors) and a son who is a self-made millionaire, grand children and great-grandchildren.

Using his Navy-taught skills, for more than thirty years, he taught high school Math and Chemistry. (He had no degree, having been raised in an Ohio orphanage and having dropped out of school after the 5th grade. He enlisted at 17.) He was pleased to have been chosen as Teacher of the Year.

He and four other boys were raised in the orphanage together and enlisted together. Among the five, he was the only survivor of the War. One of his fellow orphan enlistees was on board the Indianapolis when she was torpedoed on her way back from dropping off components for Little Boy at Tinian. He was one of 300 sailors who didn't survive the sinking.

He never learned what happened to the other three orphans.

When he hesitated in his narrative, I knew enough about WWII history to prompt him — to which he responded almost instantly with eagerness and exceptional clarity.

He had trouble hearing and fussed at the VA for not providing him with hearing aids because he only has Tinnitus.

Had I not driven off with my shotgun case on Mosby's bed cover, I'd have missed out on a guided visit to one of our local museums.

George A. Mitchell

Combs...

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out a shadow of a doubt how much God truly loves you, all the way from glory. Amen
Frank F. Combs

fires are intentionally lit - they burn off leaf litter and underbrush that would otherwise fuel bigger wildfires. Controlled fires also help germinate the seeds of many tree species. But people don't like them nearby; they're smoky and sometime get loose. Now the question is, can we live with the amount of prescribed fires that we need in

ecosystems? Can we live with the smoke that comes off those fires? The research suggests that the alternative is a year-round season of bigger, more damaging fires. Good fires prevent bad ones! For more information on good fires and bad fires contact Frank Riley at info.ccrd@gmail.com or call 706-891-1591