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essed (revalued).

We are proud that we were able this year, and for the past three years, to slightly lower your property tax mill rate, allowing our property taxes to be slightly reduced.

While it is not a large reduction, at least it is not an increase.

Q. How are you able to pay for increased cost of government each year without

raising our property taxes?

A. First, we have a lot of hard working county employees. Second, your elected officials really watch their budgets and make the most out of every dollar spent. Third, all Department heads do the same as the elected officials. They make sure they are being fiscally responsible and they want to get the most out of their employees and their budgets.

Cummings ... continued from Page 4A

the grandest thing they'd ever seen. The old goat must have thought he'd died and gone to heaven. Those two boys were always feeding the goat an apple or fresh green onions. The two young'uns loved the goat. They hugged and petted the goat constantly. They could hitch the wagon to the goat and ride it anywhere.

They rode the wagon through the woods to their farm each and every day and the goat never faltered. He loved pulling the wagon as much as the boys loved riding the wagon. However, one day Pogy came for a visit. Pogy was my grandfather's fun loving brother who drank too much. As usual Pogy was drunk when he showed up at the farm and he decided he wanted to ride the old goat.

Without Granny's knowledge Pogy got on the old goat and started spurring the goat's sides. At first the goat complied, but, soon Pogy got too rough. The goat began running full speed and Pogy was laughing at the top of his lungs when all of the sudden the goat stopped. But, Pogy didn't. He sailed over the head of the goat and into a ditch. Paul said, "Pogy climbed from the ditch and his entire face was bleeding".

Pogy told the boys he was going to kill that goat as my Granny walked up to the scene. The boys began crying and Granny walked over to Pogy with her hoe handle extended. Pogy was scared of Granny. All she did was look

at him and he decided to leave. But, I guess the goat was still angry.

Later in the day Papa drew some water from the well and poured it into a big wash tub so his sons could take a bath. For some reason Papa bent over the wash tub to move it and the old goat noticed the target of Papa's rear end. Without any hesitation and before anyone could stop it the goat lowered his head and rammed Papa's butt. Papa went head first into that water. He must have been stunned because it took him a minute to recover. When he popped out of the water he turned and pointed his finger at the goat and said, "I will take care of you tomorrow". Paul and Bud knew exactly what that meant.

The next morning Lon Steele show up at the house to trade a fresh cow for Granny's old milk cow. After they had negotiated Lon told Granny, "Okay, I will trade with you". Granny then told Lon, "Okay, now what will you give me for the goat?" Lon was surprised, but, he quickly said, "I will give you 2 dollars for it". Granny smiled and agreed to the deal. Once again Granny had used her wiles to save the day. Although Paul and Bud were not happy about giving up their goat they knew their Daddy would have taken care of the goat when he got home. Besides, each boy had a dollar to spend the next time the peddler came by their house.

Coalition ... continued from Page 4A

ingesting marijuana releases THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) which acts on areas of the brain that influence pleasure, memory, concentration, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement — this is what produces a "high." The more frequently people use and the higher the dose, the greater the chance someone has of developing tolerance, and subsequently a dependence.

Beyond using the substance frequently, what else may play a role in dependence? The likelihood that someone becomes dependent on weed may be affected by factors such as age. Younger frequent users between 14 and 16 are more likely to become dependent. Some individuals also may have a genetic predisposition to addictive behavior. Other risk factors may include mental health markers such as low self-esteem, low self-control, and poor coping-skills.

In addition to the physical symptoms of dependence (appetite change, nausea, weight loss, etc.), psychological dependence on cannabis results when the individual doesn't feel "normal" or like they can't get through their day unless they use.

This is likely due to the THC withdrawal that changes the activity of nerve cells that house dopamine (a neurotransmitter involved in pleasure, motivation, and reward).

It can produce psychological effects including irritability, restlessness or trouble sleeping, fatigue, depressed

mood, anger and aggression. People who have developed psychological dependence may skip school or work, show behavioral changes, or stop putting effort into how they dress or groom themselves.

So how would a person know if they are becoming dependent on marijuana? The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies an individual as dependent to marijuana if they've used cannabis consistently and exhibit at least three of the following criteria:

They have a strong desire or a compulsion to use marijuana. They have difficulty controlling when they use, how often they use, or how much they use.

When they can't get their fix, they exhibit symptoms of physiological withdrawal such as appetite change, nausea or stomach pain, weight loss, shakiness, or sweating.

They either lose interest in or neglect other pleasurable activities because of their marijuana use. They are fully aware of obvious negative consequences, but continue to use marijuana anyway.

They develop a tolerance (the need to consume more to achieve the desired feelings).

While there's no medical treatment for marijuana dependence, working with a mental health provider in the form of cognitive behavioral therapy or motivational incentives has been shown to help some people kick their habit. If

you or someone you know has a concerning relationship with marijuana, it might be helpful to talk with a health care pro-

vider who can offer advice or refer you to resources that can help make that relationship a healthier one.

Duncan... continued from Page 4A

A close friend of mine, former Dawson County District 1 Commissioner Gary Pichon, has a unique perspective on what is happening in our society today.

Gary says that today, only fools and idiots believe that old statues are signs that we want the days of slavery to return. However, there are fools and idiots, and he is thankful that there are only a small handful of them. A few of those idiots are in the streets shouting Nazi trash, and a few of them are on city councils voting to punish bronze memorials.

He adds that by the standards of political correctness, the Washington Monument should be destroyed, Monticello should be bulldozed, and the Lincoln Memorial razed.

Washington owned

slaves, and likewise, Jefferson owned slaves.

Lincoln did not free all the slaves. He freed only those in the U.S. territory. Those in territory not controlled by the U.S. government were still bound by slavery.

Gary says that demolishing statues that memorialize dead soldiers will not erase the memories of that war. He adds that you can't erase the past. Mr. Pichon says that we should try to remember our past so we don't stumble down that same road in the not so distant future.

I've always considered Gary Pichon a very smart man. I still do, and will continue to hold him in high esteem in the days ahead.

Likewise, I don't believe destroying history will ease the pains of our turbulent past.

Fowler ...

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if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."

What you dwell on can lift you up, but when the news drags you down, you have recourse. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-8). Now there's a way to find peace despite today's news!

Mattee ...

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have insect damage. Once the nuts are clean and dry, cure them by storing them in a cool, dry place away from sunlight for about two weeks. Nuts are properly cured when the kernel breaks with a crisp snap. You can then store the nuts until you are ready to shell them.

When you are ready to enjoy your walnuts, soak them in hot water the day before to prevent the kernels from shattering upon shelling. Nutmeat can be refrigerated for nine months, or frozen for even longer to use at a later date.

Rasmussen ...

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or oversight of property use. A permit is only required if protected water is polluted or destroyed. The rule maintains existing exemptions under the Clean Water Act for normal farming and ranching practices such as planting, harvesting, or moving livestock. Much to my husband's surprise, what I shared did not align with the concerns he had heard of the rule being a land grab or overreach of power. Instead, it affirmed his daily practices of protecting the land and water that is critical not only to our livelihood, but to the water sources our neighbors rely on for drinking water, agriculture, and recreation.

A formal public comment period on the reinstatement of the previous set of regulations was opened on July 27, and will remain open through Sept. 27, 2017, 30 days longer than originally published. During this period, the Environmental Protection Agency is only seeking comments as to whether the regulation in place before the 2015 Clean Water Rule should be recodified. A second phase of the rulemaking process will encompass efforts to redefine the waters of the U.S. and will include an accompanying comment period. The guidelines and definitions under the 2015 Clean Water Rule provide clarity for farmers and ranchers while protecting vital water resources. My husband and I will submit a comment asking the Environmental Protection Agency to not take a step backward and wipe away the Clean Water Rule. We encourage you to do the same.

Jordan Rasmussen

Allison... continued from Page 4A

hung out for a while blocking some from viewing the total eclipse. I wish that would not have been, so everyone in the county could enjoy the full total eclipse experience. I will encourage you to search out local photographers via social media or their websites to view their pictures of the events. They have captured some amazing images.

With an event of this magnitude, there was a lot of planning and preparation coordinating agencies in case of emergency. I had the privilege to attend the final EMA meeting with Tobie Chandler, Chamber Tourism Director, a few days prior to the eclipse. The room was filled; over 60 people in attendance. There were representatives from law enforcement agencies, fire and rescue, the coast guard, and the U.S. Forest Service to name a few. They had spent months working on this; they had their bases covered and were ready. Thank you to Chief Dyer for all your hard work. Taking the lead role in these preparations was quite an undertaking. You did a fantastic job! Thank you for your service to our community.

With the Great American Solar Eclipse in our rearview mirror, I want to thank our entire community for your patience and your hospitality. We greeted visitors in the welcome center from near and far. Some coming up for the day from Atlanta or Marietta, while some travelled great distances such as Ohio, Missouri, and even Hawaii.

We had many visitors in the welcome center in the weeks leading up to the event and on the day, itself. I want to thank several special volunteers for helping at the Chamber office: Sharon Penner, Paula Pendleton, Janet Chapman and my husband Stephen Allison.

We cannot thank you enough for helping to sell glasses & t-shirts, greeting visitors and answering questions about the eclipse and our area.

I would like to thank the Chamber staff for all your hard work during this time. You did an awesome job!

I would like to say a special thank you to Tobie Chandler. You did a fantastic job promoting our community and all the eclipse events in our area.

Combs... continued from Page 4A

was backed up by a pandemic influenza virus that killed 50 million people worldwide. Even to this day we are still dealing with different types of viruses, some still unknown.

Will I be here when the next eclipse comes in the year 2024? Only by God's grace and this one that is coming seven years from now.

It will come from the Northeast and make its way across the path of 2017 eclipse and in the middle of the states.

Both will meet at a point of interest called the New Madrid fault line. Will this be the time for a massive earthquake

to take place just by chance?

God doesn't deal in chances, only facts and the facts are right before our eyes, if we will just open them to what God is trying to warn us about.

Even when Christ died on the cross for our sins in mid-afternoon, the skies darkened and an earthquake took place, yet another warning to the people of signs and wonders to come.

What are you wondering about today?

I pray it be a relationship with God.

Frank F. Combs