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A. This is confusing to people, always has been and always will be. A “county-maintained road” is a designation that is given to roads that have been accepted by the county for maintenance and are obviously for public use and maintained with public funds. It may have become a county-maintained road for many different reasons through the years. These roads are identified by a GREEN street sign. As stated in the previous question, a public road legally is accessible by the general public but is not maintained by the county because the road is no longer needed by the traveling public or it does not comply with county road requirements.

Q. Are all county roads the same?

A. No. On some county roads, primarily the main roads,

such as Old Blue Ridge Highway, Pat Colwell Road, Gumlog Road, Town Creek School Road, the County actually owns the R/W which usually varies from 60 feet to 80 feet wide. These main roads were built with state funding and right-of-way purchase was usually required to receive the state funds. However, on many of the smaller county roads we do not have right of way that is owned by the County. Often, we may have easements or sometimes we only have prescriptive rights, or we may simply maintain the road based on classification by previous commissioners. In the past, county-maintained roads for which we have no right of way usually began to be maintained by the County for many different reasons, but almost always at the request of property owners along the road.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

ear. Lou finally had a good hold on the coon and she was trying to pull it off Sam’s back while it was still biting his ear. In the meantime Rufus and my dad were laying on the creek bank laughing so hard they were crying. Uncle Mack finally found his teeth and made his way up the bank of the creek. He looked at my daddy and said, “You’re dogs are pretty good dogs, but, you ain’t much help.”

It has been many years since my great uncles left this world. My dad is now 80 years

old but, Mack and Rufus Baker had quite an impact upon his young life and he cherishes their memories. The sight of a grown man trying to find his teeth in a creek while two dogs were fighting with a full grown raccoon is something that is etched into my father’s memory. And because he took the time to tell the story to me, I have it etched into my memory as well.

Please take the time to make some memories with a youngster this summer. It could have a major impact on a young one’s life.

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ington and Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, owned together more than 500 slaves. President Andrew Jackson derived his wealth at the Hermitage by slave labor. The Supreme Court of 1859 ruled in favor of slavery in certain states. Even the inventor of Coca-Cola, Dr. John Pemberton (yes, before Asa Candler) was a Confederate soldier. So, does this mean we tear down the Washington Monument and the Jefferson Memorial in Washington DC? Do we take Washington and Jefferson off of Mount Rushmore? Do we stop drinking Coca-Cola products? Fitzgerald is a town in south Georgia that seemed to get it right. Right after the war, leading citizens in the area wanted to create a refuge, or a town, where survivors of the war could come to

a peaceful and warm retirement climate. They built the town around famous names taken from the recent war. Streets, parks and boulevards, etc. You’ll see Grant Street, Lee Road, Monitor, Merrimack, Jackson (Stonewall) and so on. Firstly, it was for economic development, and the former soldiers flocked there; Union and Confederate. What a pleasant story, and how true. And how wrong it would be, following through, to rip up Fitzgerald Georgia, that is, half of it, the Confederate side of it. History is there, it is forever, and it cannot be changed. Let’s put the past away, sensibly, and instead of tearing it down, let us all learn from our mistakes, and move forward. Let common sense reign, otherwise, where does it stop?

Jim Steed

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

Drug Administration. Despite its widespread use and ease of online ordering, little clinical research has been conducted on this drug making it a risky substance, especially as it becomes increasingly popular with teen and young adults. Its effects can be severe with side effects including respiratory depression and psychosis. It is also highly addictive.

Synthetic drugs include synthetic cannabinoids such as Spice and K2. These drugs are manufactured chemicals that are often sprayed on dried plant material. This allows them to be smoked in a method similar to marijuana. Synthetic cannabinoids are also sold as liquids which can be vaporized in e-cigarettes. Often, these products are labeled as incense and do not come up on standard drug tests. Common street names include Spice, K2, Genie, Red Magic and Fake Weed.

Synthetic cathinones, referred to as “bath salts,” are similar in that they are manufactured substances and are often labeled as “not for human consumption” despite their widespread use as a drug. These mind-altering substances are unregulated stimulants often used as a substitute for cocaine or amphetamines. They can be swallowed, snorted, smoked, or injected and remain popular among teens and young adults. Common names include Flakka, Ivory Wave, Stardust, Cloud Nine, Meow Meow, Vanilla Sky, and White Knight or White Lightning.

Since synthetic drugs are largely unregulated and can be highly dangerous and unpredictable, it is imperative that parents familiarize themselves with these substances, which are often mistaken for benign incenses and can be purchased at many local gas stations and paraphernalia shops.

In recent years, there has been a resurgence of hallucinogens among young people. These include more commonly known substances such as LSD, which is often taken as a tablet or “blotter.” Its effects may be intense and include both visual and auditory hallucinations, altered perceptions, delusions and time distortions.

Psilocybin, also known as “Magic Mushrooms,” is a naturally-produced psychedelic compound found in species of mushrooms. Dried or fresh mushrooms are often ingested, prepared as a tea or consumed with other foods. Other substances include marijuana cigarettes, which are dipped in solutions like embalming fluid to enhance the hallucinogenic effects of THC. As one might imagine, this solution can produce disastrous effects, such as decreased lung function and an increased risk of cancer when used recreationally.

Opioids continue to be popular among all age groups, including young adults. Young adults consume more prescription medications recreationally than any other age group,

sometimes in combination with alcohol, placing them at increased risk for respiratory failure. They are also at high risk for addiction and dependence. Often these drugs were illegally and unknowingly obtained from a family member or friend.

The internet is a primary source of information about drugs for most young people, with entire sites devoted to explaining drug use. Additionally, young people often report obtaining drugs from websites on the “Dark Web,” a part of the internet that requires special software or authorization to access and is not found on regular search engines, making them largely untraceable. These drugs are sent via mail, sometimes to a post office box where they can be received without a parent’s knowledge. Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin may also be a source of payment, creating a largely anonymous purchase experience.

What Can Parents Do? Pay attention to unexplained changes in your child’s behavior including school/work performance, general mood, sleeping patterns, etc. These changes may be signs of substance use.

Pay attention to what is happening on computers in your home. Check browsing history regularly and do not ignore unexplained software on your computer. Check for deleted browsing histories and ask questions.

If you discover your child is experimenting with drugs, consider consulting a professional as opposed to trying to figure out the problem yourself.

The most significant thing a parent can do to help kids is to spend time with them. This is just as true with adolescents and young adults as it is for young children. Communicating with your kids and being clear about expectations are a parent’s best tools for guiding kids to make healthier choices.

Dyer...

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and how well everyone worked together.

Valuable lessons were learned with each scenario and, although this exercise was conducted at the school, an active shooter event can happen anywhere. Training and exercises help prepare all emergency services to respond to these events.

The partners involved in this exercise were Union County School System, Union County Sheriff’s Office, Blairsville Police Department, Union County Emergency Management & Homeland Security, and Union County Fire Department. The exercise was observed by representatives of Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security.

Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

Riley... continued from Page 4A

other days of the week all over the country. These markets give us a place to meet and greet our neighbors and take home local grown produce that is much better for us and a lot tastier than those products that are grown somewhere far away. Buying local also keeps our money in the community and helps turn us back toward at least a partial self-sustaining life style. It is a lot more rewarding to plant and harvest our own gardens or buy the local grown vegetables than it is to drive to the grocery store to buy stuff that we have no clue as to where it came from, how it was grown, what it has been treated with, or how long it has been since it was harvested.

Harper...

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the event. Plan to attend and see first hand what our businesses and merchants have to offer. We are thankful to our sponsors, United Community Bank, Dixie Confections and Amazing Grace Catering, Rustic Mountain Décor and Blue Ridge Cotton Company. We have only 2 more sponsorships available.

Our ticket sales continue for the July 4th fire works show at Meeks Park. For a \$10 donation per ticket the holder can win \$1,000. The drawing will be held prior to the fireworks show that evening. Ticket holders need not be present to win. You can obtain a ticket(s) at the chamber office or from any board member and/or Chamber Ambassador. The tickets have been sponsored by Melissa’s Custom Cakes and provides a \$5 off coupon toward any purchase of \$25 or more at the bakery.

The first of two 2018 Northeast Georgia ARTS Tours will begin on June 8, 9 and 10. The tour will cover Habersham, Rabun, Towns, Union and White counties. Check it out at artstour.org or on facebook at [NGAARTSTOUR](https://www.facebook.com/NGAARTSTOUR).

Please visit our web site at www.visitblairsvillega.com where you can click on “Explore Blairsville” and then click on “Events” and view a list of upcoming community events. If you are trying to think of things to do or places to go, try it out!

Join us on radio 95.1 FM on Thursdays at 8:45 AM with the summary of Chamber events for the coming week.

You can communicate with me at president@blairsvillechamber.com or my office 706 745-5789. I welcome all of your thoughts and ideas. You can also connect with me on LinkedIn.com at www.linkedin.com/in/alharpermba.

We are working to help local businesses to increase their sales and reduce their costs.

Thank you for your support!

Fowler...

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is a prayer He will hear. I don’t know Berkowitz’s heart, but I can say this. If he’s too bad for God to forgive, then we all are. Heaven will be full of people redeemed from even more wickedness than shown on cable TV. The feast is booked, paid in full by Jesus. See you there!

Combs...

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Jesus waited two days was He wanted to show off His power and authority. Absolutely not! The reason was to show those who were gathered around the tomb of Lazarus God’s Deity and resurrecting power to raise the dead and that day many believed and received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Would you have been one of those who saw this miracle and believed or would you have walked away, doubting the Deity of Christ? Food to ponder when in doubt. Amen

Frank F. Combs

O’Brien...

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In my work with the Association, I understand the disease’s physical and emotional costs.

Alzheimer’s is the most expensive disease in the U.S. Alzheimer’s costs the country more than \$277 billion a year, which is why we need the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act. If we are going to end Alzheimer’s disease, then we must start treating it like the public health threat it is.

Join me in thanking Doug Collins and asking Sen. Johnny Isakson and Sen. David Perdue to fight for the millions of Americans affected by Alzheimer’s by sponsoring the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act.

Michael O’Brien
Alzheimer’s Association
of North Georgia

your local farmers, it’s good for us and good for the community. For more information on locally grown, farmers mar-

kets, contact Frank M. Riley, Jr., Executive Director - Chestate/Chattahoochee RC&D Council. email: info.ccrd@gmail.com