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example is that one guy came in, went to the scales to pay for his two large bags of garbage and his bill was 2 bags at \$1.25 each or a total of \$2.50. Right after that a van came in and went across the scales and instead of paying for each bag of garbage, they had their vehicle weighed, then went to the building and unloaded 11 bags of garbage onto the building floor instead of taking it to the bag drop compacter. They then had the van reweighed after dropping off the bags and the bill based on weight was only \$1.37 for 11 bags!

Q. How was this process of not paying full price

for garbage allowed?

A. The scales were supposed to be used only for commercial haulers who get a break and pay at \$46/ton, or someone bringing construction debris or un-bagged but covered garbage, such as from a restaurant. So the company handling our transfer station gradually allowed this to continue and soon out-of-town people discovered it and have started coming to Union County to get a better deal on their garbage disposal. We are going to fix the problem and make the experience better for everyone. In the future there will be a minimum charge for crossing the scale.

Cummings... continued from Page 4B

He noticed one day that his dog slept under his bedroom window. So, late one evening he snuck a 2 X 10 board into his bedroom and hid it under his bed. After the family had settled down and got quiet he opened his bedroom window and ran the board outside to form a ramp. Then the young boy whistled for Bubba and with the help of a left over biscuit he coaxed the dog up the board and into his window. Patrick said this went on for months. Each night Ole Bubba slept with the Fix boy in his room. Each morning the pair would rise and Bubba would creep across the floor like a cat and Patrick would help him out the window and Mrs. Fix knew nothing of Patrick's bed mate. But, Bill, Patrick's father knew.

One day the boy and his father were down at the garden talking about his plans for a potato patch later in the spring. Soon the conversation made its way to Bubba. Bill chuckled and said, "Patrick, sooner or later you are gonna get caught". The boy grinned and maybe he should have listened to his wise old daddy.

A couple of weeks went

by and young Fix came down with a bad cold. It eventually turned into a croupy cough. So, Mrs. Fix began to give him medicine. She wanted to break up the congestion and cure that awful cough. The medicine caused young Fix to be a little groggy and he almost forgot to open the window for Bubba. But, right before he fell asleep Patrick opened the window and helped his dog into the room. The pair settled in for a long night's sleep.

Mrs. Fix awoke in the middle of the night and took the medicine into her son's room. She flipped on the light and walked over to the bed and placed her hand on what she thought was her son's head. But, it was lot more hairy than she remembered. She looked down at her hand and much to her surprise she had her hand on the muzzle of Bubba. The rest of the dog's body lay under the covers. Mrs. Fix let out a scream that scared young Fix to death. The boy awoke in a state of confusion. First, he'd heard the scream and now all he could hear was his dad's laughter. His dad hollered from across the hall, "I told you that you would get caught."

Riley... continued from Page 4B

In 1982, Mr. Hamilton generously donated his collection to the Fair, and they were transplanted in an area where they could be cared for and appreciated by thousands of visitors yearly. While every day is a special event in the Hamilton Gardens, peak viewing season usually occurs the last two weeks in April through the first two weeks in May. The plants and the gentle walking trails are maintained throughout the garden, and plant enthusiasts will find a selection of rhododendrons, azaleas, and other plants available for purchase at the gardens during the peak season".

Chest/Chatt RC&D true to their mission, provided help and funding during the development of these majestic gardens in 1983. The Gardens are now in need of renovation and are under the watch of a newly formed local non-profit group, Hamilton Gardens at Lake

Chatuge, Inc. This group is in need of financial help, tools, volunteers, chemicals, and anything that can be used to help restore the gardens to their former glory. An ATV is one of the most pressing needs and any donations for that would be greatly appreciated. The ATV would be used to transport people who cannot walk the trails, haul debris, tools, supplies, and any other uses that the group has a need for.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a part of this most worthwhile project is welcome to join in. For more information on Hamilton Gardens and other RC&D projects, contact Frank Riley, Executive Director of the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council at info.ccred@gmail.com or check our website at www.chestchattred.org or follow ChestChatt on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ChestChattRCD1 or on Twitter @Chestchattred1.

Drugs ... continued from Page 4B

experience any of the symptoms associated with Rohypnol, have someone take you to the health center or hospital immediately.

One trend is termed synthetic speedballing. This involves combining Ecstasy and Rohypnol to induce a stronger effect. To produce a "floating effect," Rohypnol is also used in combination with marijuana, cocaine, or heroin. College students typically use alcohol in combination with Rohypnol to create an enhanced feeling of drunkenness. High school students use the drug as a "cheap drunk" without the smell of alcohol. In some areas, it is associated with gangs and is known as a club drug. It is also popular in raves. Warning – when used in combination with other drugs including alcohol, Rohypnol presents great risk of overdose. Results are fatal because breathing stops. Combining Rohypnol with MDMA (Ecstasy) can lead to heart failure, coma, and death.

Rohypnol produces sedative effects, amnesia, muscle relaxation, and the slowing of psychomotor performance. Rohypnol is 10 times more potent than Valium and sedation occurs within 15 to 30 minutes after ingestion of a 2-mg tablet, and lasts for approximately 8 hours. Peak effect takes place after approximately 2 hours causing most victims to lose consciousness. Greatest physiological risk occurs when Rohypnol is used with other drugs. Users have great difficulty remembering what happened while they were under the influence of the drug; it wipes the memory clean.

Ketamine was developed in the 1960's as an anesthetic for surgeries. Today it is used mostly by veterinarians. Ketamine causes unconsciousness, hallucinations, loss of body

control and numbing. Overdose can be fatal. Ketamine is found in a white powder or a liquid and has a horrible, strong bitter flavor. Ketamine works very quickly, so if you tasted it in your drink you would only have a few seconds before losing consciousness.

Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) is an illicitly marketed substance that has recently gained popularity among body builders and party attendees as a drug of abuse. GHB is a depressant that acts on the central nervous system. It is purported as a strength enhancer, euphoriant and aphrodisiac and is one of several agents reported as being used as a "date rape" drug. Because of its central nervous system depressant effects, GHB can be lethal when combined with alcohol or other depressants. Currently, there is no accepted medical use for GHB, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has prohibited its manufacture and sale.

Tips on staying safe: Remember that alcohol is the number one date rape drug out of all drugs. Keep a clear head when socializing, especially off-campus and in bars by keeping track of your drinks. Never leave your drink unattended or hand it to anyone else. If you have not been watching your drink, get a new one. Set your boundaries and make sure they are clear. Trust your instincts. If a situation doesn't feel right, walk away. Unless in a bar, make your own drinks. Remember a glass or cup can have multiple drink equivalents.

You can be tested within 24 hours for GHB, Rohypnol or other substances if you think you have been drugged. These drugs become undetectable after just a short amount of time.

Allison ... continued from Page 4B

production of 3 Entrepreneurial Videos, 3 Tourism videos and a TV Commercial. We have increased our social media presence on Facebook as we now have over 6,000 followers. We honored Cabin Coffee and Spa and Deck Creations as Businesses of the Quarter. We put on a tremendous Buy Local Extravaganza event with over 60 vendors as well as another successful Buy Local Weekend. We had another great Fireworks show along with the VIP Parking event for the 4th of July. We hosted 5 Business Roundtables. We appeared on Local TV4 in Murphy twice, started a new TV show on Windstream Channel 4 entitled the Chamber Connection (2 episodes have aired already), made appearances with Dr. Larry on WUCG 93.1, Murphy radio, and weekly appearances on the Morning Dish 95.1 in Young Harris. We volunteered to help with the Arts and Crafts and Music Festival Downtown as well as with the Scottish Festival. We spoke to various civic groups such as the Mountain Movers and Shakers, the Kiwanis Club, Lions Club Tri-State Business Women and the Mountain Network Referral Group. We assisted the Community Center with the first Georgia Mountain Bridal

Fowler...

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works on prayer for formulaic rituals, nor his devotionals for warm feelings. His challenge is to invite God into the depths of your being and become aware of His reality in the ordinary, joyful, and troubling moments of your daily existence. Then you will be not just a church-goer, but like Tozer, a mystic.

Gray ...

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started centuries ago.

Probably most democrats won't want to watch it, which is a shame, but republicans and independents should surely spend a few dollars and a couple of hours to have their understanding opened to the reality of how politics works—and why so many are feeling disenfranchised by how our country has changed from its founding principles, and how many of our long-established freedoms have been eliminated or erased. It has been changing for a very long time, but the speed has increased a hundred-fold in the past 50 years, while I was asleep as it marched inch by inch across our land.

It is presently at Fieldstone Cinemas in Hiawassee until Thursday, August 18, and well-worth the 20/30 minute drive.

Arlene Gray

Mountain Shelter Board meeting

The Humane Society's Mountain Shelter Board of Directors will meet in the Community Room at United Community Bank in Blairsville at 5:30 p.m. on August 17th.

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many lives as possible and to keep the responders safe.

The organizations involved in the exercise were North Georgia Technical College, Union County Government, Union County Sheriff's Office, Blairsville Police Department, Union County Emergency Management & Homeland Security/Fire Department, Union County 911 Dispatch, Georgia State Patrol, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security, Union General Hospital, and Union General Ambulance Service.

With so much that happens publicly, there is also a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes as well that makes everything happen such as: maintaining the Calendar of Events, job postings, hot deals, member to member deals, and member listings on the website, sending out 2 weekly newsletters and text message reminders for ribbon cuttings. The other portion of the scope that the Chamber does is provide materials and information for visitors at our Welcome Center, send out information packets about Blairsville and Union County from the requests we receive from magazine advertisements in publications such as Southern Living. None of this would be possible without the help and support of our Chamber Members and the hard work and dedication of our Staff, Board Members and Ambassadors. I cannot thank all of you enough!! We consider it a pleasure to serve our community every day and we look forward to hearing from you soon!! To be a part of all that we do at the Chamber, give us a call at 706-745-5789. We have Chamber Members that range from Businesses, to Churches, volunteer organizations, to individuals. Be sure to check out our website at VisitBlairsville-GA.com for a complete listing of our Chamber Members and the calendar of events.

The active shoot scenario is something that we hope to never face but if such an event occurs, we want to be as prepared as possible. Working together, practicing procedures and conducting exercises is the best way to be prepared.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

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to drown. Make sure your yard is clear of debris such as buckets, tires, cans, and anything else that can hold water.