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all interested in making Union County a better place to live. All meet out of the Leon Dav-enport Veterans Building on Hwy 515. The Veterans groups are: American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion Riders, Sons of American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corp League, Navy Seabee Veterans of America, Navy Seabee Auxiliary, North Georgia Honor Guard, Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, Veterans of Foreign Wars,

and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Q. How many veterans are there in Union County?

A. According to statistics that were provided to us by the Department of Veterans Services for 2017, Union County has 2,437 veterans. Fannin County has 2,093, Rabun County has 1,431 and Towns County has 1,257. The total veteran population for the State of Georgia in 2017 was 699,322. We are proud of the service all of these ladies and gentlemen have provided to our nation. Thank you!

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Cummings family in Alabama became extremely bitter.

Some of John's sons never forgave him for the destruction of their family. He came back for a couple of visits, but, a couple of his sons would have nothing to do with him. But, time has a way of healing many sore spots. As the years went by John became more and more feeble. He made things right with my great grandfather, Lon. Lon was always close to his father even though he couldn't understand why John had left his mother. So, one Christmas Lon invited John to come home and spend some time with his family.

Lon invited the whole family for Christmas dinner. Some came and some refused. There was still bitterness in the hearts of Papa's uncles, Will and Riley. Lon's oldest daughter, Mabel (Papa's sister), had an idea. She bought her Papa a brand new pair of overalls. She

asked everyone to bring a gift for the old man. Mabel gathered all the gifts and stuffed them into the overalls. Next she sewed the leg openings together so the gifts would not fall out.

John was so old he had trouble seeing, but, he knew the overalls were new so he tried to put them on. But, he could not get his leg into them. So, he turned them upside down and reached his arm into the legs and began pulling out his gifts. Old John soon had about 10 gifts lying at his feet. Papa said his old grandfather had tears running down his face while he was laughing at the same time. John got more than he bargained for that Christmas. He received the gifts and received the forgiveness of his family. I think that is why Papa loves Christmas.

He was able to experience first-hand the true meaning of Christmas.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

by the Butternut Creek Golf Course in Blairsville. Activities will include: Pictures with Santa from 9 AM - 11 AM, Games, Mayor's Christmas Train, Gingerbread Village, Crafts, Family Photo Opportunities, Storytelling, Live Music, Refreshments, and plenty of fun for the whole family! All kids (0-99+) are invited! Admission: Free!

Easily becoming one of Downtown's signature events is Shop Late Thursday. Come join us each first Thursday of the month for 'Shop Late Thursday's' in Downtown Blairsville! Participating Downtown Blairsville businesses will be open additional hours from 5 PM - 8 PM and will feature deals, discounts and other exciting offers! So, avoid the crowds on the weekends and come spend some time in Downtown Blairsville!

Just look for a red balloon and you'll find a business that's happy to serve you!

This time of year, we need to take time to thank our many service organizations in our area. We have so many volunteers that donate their time and money to assist those in need. S.A.F.E. is just one of those organizations. On Saturday, December 8th, S.A.F.E.'s Thrift Store will host a Christmas Doll House Raffle from 10 AM - 5 PM. The main item being raffled is a Victorian Style Doll House, hand-made by Pat Thibodeaux.

Other items include at weekend at Rustic Cabin by Timber Ridge, a shopping spree at S.A.F.E. Thrift Stores, a vintage hand-painted China hostess set, and a hand-sculpted clay mirror. S.A.F.E.'s Thrift is located at 27 Pinebrook Drive, Blairsville, GA 30512.

Williams...

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able to last the entire Christmas season without drying out if you keep it well watered. There should always be water in the tree stand. Keep the water level above the cut on the tree so that the cut won't dry out and your tree is continually taking up water.

A couple of ideas for disposing of your Christmas tree after Christmas are chipping or a fish pond. Putting the tree in a fish pond whole creates a good fish habitat.

If you have any questions about Christmas trees contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Merry Christmas and happy tree shopping!

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

Experts are worried that the use of meth will spread much like heroin has, making its way into more rural areas and parts of the country with untapped markets. There is also a concern that meth is being combined with fentanyl, a highly potent opioid, which has been a major driver of overdose deaths in the U.S.

Meth produces a sense of euphoria that, at least initially, is beyond the impact of any other substance. It dramatically elevates dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with the brain's pleasure and reward system. If "normal" dopamine functioning is around 100 units, meth spikes it to 1250 units, well above the pleasure derived from food, sex, alcohol and cocaine.

Meth can be swallowed, smoked, snorted or injected. Paraphernalia associated with meth use are pipes, needles, crumpled foil, spoons, straws and broken light bulbs. Physical signs of use include heavy sweating as body temperature is elevated, dilated pupils, body odor that smells like ammonia, and burn marks on fingers and mouth. Often a person's physical appearance deteriorates, especially from skin or hair picking, weight loss and dental decay, also referred to as "meth mouth."

It can also produce significant changes in behavior. People engaged in meth use often stay up for days and then crash. Other signs of use include angry outbursts and mood swings, paranoia with concerns about being watched, and tweaking. "Tweaking" refers to engaging in frantic and compulsive behaviors for hours on end, often feeling hypersensitive, irritable and impulsive. Common tweaking behaviors include repetitively picking at one's face or arms, obsessive cleaning, or taking things apart for no apparent reason.

Continued use of meth appears to impact multiple areas of the brain, including the ability to experience pleasure, remember events, learn and perform basic verbal tasks, motor skills and judgment.

A person using meth experiencing high blood pressure, accelerated heart rate, elevated body temperature, changes in breathing, anger or aggression, and paranoia may be experiencing an overdose. A meth overdose can result in a stroke, heart attack, organ failure or death. Factors that can contribute to an overdose can be taking more meth than a person is used to, combining it with other substances (i.e. "speedballing" — using meth and opioids like heroin, but also combining with alcohol, benzodiazepines, etc.) and/or

Fowler...

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until and beyond his retirement in 1983. The last few years of his life, he emphasized relationships with God, family, and friends. "I'm satisfied as long as I can have those three things," he said.

Retired Navy Lt. Downing lived life well, faithful to this truth: "I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

Combs...

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struction for God's people, but we are more than conquerors through Christ, Jesus. When Satan comes carrying his own evil deeds, then we who have studied God's word will be equipped to deal with Satan and put him in his rightful place. No matter what happens in this life, God's word will prevail, for there will always be a remnant to hang our hat on when things go wrong. Amen.

Frank F. Combs

Porter...

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and wants. We may think Heaven is so far away. We may be praying, and He could be under our very own roof. How near is He, in our homes, our hearts and life? Has our memory of Him been gone so long we have forgotten Him? He doesn't have any memory loss, remember? Do we remember Him as being His child? Will He say depart from me, I never knew you? Your name is not in My book of remembrance!


Call on Him today. He will remember your call and answer it, person to person. He did mine.

Irene Porter
Suches

cover from meth use, and some damage can be permanent. Getting a loved one to a reputable

treatment program, whether outpatient or inpatient and supporting recovery, is crucial.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



December 2, 2018
In loving memory of our son
Brandon Young
Praying for a cure for cancer by Brandon's Family

December 10, 2018
In honor of
Shirley Walker Birthday
by Ellen, Joan and Taylor
Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Children's Story Time	Every Monday: Union County Library	11 a.m.
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 p.m.
Tri State Bus. Women	Every Tuesday: Cabin Coffee	8 a.m.
MMQG Tues. Strippers	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30 p.m.
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 p.m.
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 p.m.
Kiwanis Club	Every Wednesday: The Griddle	Noon
BINGO	Civic Center	7 p.m.
Masonic Luncheon	Every Thursday: Cook's Restaurant	11:30 a.m.
Rotary Club	NGTC	Noon
MMQG Sewcials	Second Monday of each month: Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Enotah Chapter #24	Masonic Lodge	7:30 p.m.
Disabled A.m. Veterans	Veterans Center	7 p.m. (Jan-Oct)
FPL Retirees	Second Tuesday of each month: Hole in Wall Rest.	9 a.m.
Historical Society Bd.	Old Courthouse	10:30 a.m.
Mtn Laurel Arts/Crafts	Union County Library	10 a.m.
Active/Retired Fed Emp.	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer	Sr. Citizens Center	1:30-3:30 p.m.
Mountain Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 p.m.
Blairsville PTO	UC Primary School	6 p.m.
Blue Ridge Mtn Jeepers	Sammie's Sub Shop	6:00 p.m.
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 p.m.
Appalachian Shrine Club	Second Thursday of each month: Shrine Building	6:30 p.m.
Democratic Party	Unity Church of B'ville	6:30 p.m.
Trout Unlimited	UC Community Cntr - A	6:30 p.m.
Sons Confederate Vet.	UCB Community Rm	7 p.m.
Knights of Columbus	Marian Hall	7:30 p.m.
Eastern Star #471	Second Friday of each month: Location not listed	7:30 p.m.
No activities listed	Second Saturday of each month:	
PFLAG	Second Sunday of each month: Call 706-389-5269 for Info	