

Paris... continued from Page 4A

Creek School Rd, etc.

Q: If I live on a road that is closed and I have an emergency, what do I need to do?

A: If it is a life-threatening emergency, immediately call 911 for assistance. If you are concerned or there is a special need such as going to the hospital or having to get to work at the hospital, then please call the Road Department at 706-439-6062 and they will try to assist you.

Q: Can trucks that are spreading the salt on the roads turn off their equipment when meeting a vehicle so the salt does not hit our vehicle?

A: When trucks are out scraping the highways and spreading salt, it is normally not a good time for you to be out on the road. However, if you are and if you are on a state

highway, you should know that the spreader trucks do not typically slow down nor will they cut off the spreader, just because they meet a vehicle. Therefore, if you are following them, it is best for you to stay a little way behind them. If you are meeting them, you should either pull off to the side if there is a safe spot or at a minimum slow down so the impact will not be as harsh. They simply do not have enough time to slow down for every car they meet on the road. Our county salt trucks try to cut off the spreader when meeting a vehicle, but since we are on county roads and not state highways, with a lot less traffic during inclement weather, we typically can do this. However, once again, you are creating a problem for being out on the road, so please do not be there unless you really have to be.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

neglect responsibilities. There are plenty of people who have problems with it, in terms of things like concentration, short-term memory, and motivation," he said. "It's millions of people who use the drug who say that it causes problems."

Users or former users described lost jobs, lost marriages, lost houses, lost money, lost time. Foreclosures and divorces. Weight gain and mental-health problems. And one other thing: the problem of convincing other people that what they were experiencing was real. A few mentioned jokes about Doritos, and comments implying that the real issue was that they were lazy stoners. Others mentioned the common belief that you can be "psychologically" addicted to pot, but not "physically" or "really" addicted. The condition remains misunderstood, discounted, and strangely invisible, even as legalization pitches ahead.

The country is on the edge of the cliff on marijuana. The federal government still classifies cannabis as a Schedule I drug, with no accepted medical use. (Meth and PCP, among other drugs, are Schedule II.) Politicians still argue it is a gateway to the use of things like heroin and cocaine. The country still spends billions of dollars fighting it in a bloody and futile drug war, and still arrests more people for offenses related to cannabis than it does for all violent crimes combined.

Yet dozens of states have pushed ahead with legalization for medical or recreational purposes, given that for decades physicians have argued that marijuana's health risks have been overstated and its medical uses overlooked; activists have stressed prohibition's tremendous fiscal cost and far worse human cost; and researchers have convincingly argued that cannabis is far less dangerous than alcohol. A solid majority of Americans support legalization nowadays.

Academics and public-health officials, though, have raised the concern that cannabis's real risks have been overlooked or underplayed—perhaps as part of a counter-reaction to federal prohibition, and perhaps because millions of cannabis users have no problems controlling their use. "Part of how legalization was sold was with this assumption that there was no harm", Humphreys said. "I do think that not legalization, but the legalization movement, does have a lot on its conscience now," he said. "The mantra about how this is a harmless, natural, and non-addictive substance—it's now known by

everybody. And it's a lie."

Thousands of businesses, as well as local governments earning tax money from sales, are now literally invested in that lie. "The liquor companies are salivating," Matt Karnes of GreenWave Advisors has said. "They can't wait to come in full force." He added that Big Pharma was targeting the medical market, with Wall Street, Silicon Valley, food businesses, and tobacco companies aiming at the recreational market.

Sellers are targeting broad swaths of the consumer market—soccer moms, recent retirees, folks looking to replace their nightly glass of chardonnay with a precisely dosed, low-calorie, and hangover-free mint. Many have consciously played up cannabis as a lifestyle product, a gift to give yourself.

Lax regulatory standards and aggressive commercialization in some states have compounded some existing public-health risks, raised new ones, and failed to tamp down on others, experts argue. In terms of compounding risks, many cite the availability of hyper-potent marijuana products. Scientists are not sure how such high-octane products affect people's bodies and worry that they might have more potential for raising tolerance, introducing brain damage, and creating dependence.

In terms of long-standing risks, the lack of federal involvement in legalization has meant that marijuana products are not being safety-tested like pharmaceuticals; measured and dosed like food products; subjected to agricultural-safety and pesticide standards like crops; and held to labeling standards like alcohol. Different states have different rules and testing regimes, complicating things further.

Health experts also cited an uncomfortable truth about allowing a vice product to be widely available, loosely regulated, and fully commercialized. Heavy users will make up a huge share of sales, with businesses wanting them to buy more and spend more and use more, despite any health consequences. Our youth may be the most vulnerable to these marketing tactics.

"The reckless way that we are legalizing marijuana so far is mind-boggling from a public-health perspective," Kevin Sabet, an Obama administration official and a founder of the nonprofit Smart Approaches to Marijuana. "The issue now is that we have lobbyists, special interests, and people whose motivation is to make money that are writing all of these laws and taking control of the conversation."

Daniel... continued from Page 4A

able \$842,000 that home care would have cost.

Home care, like health care, depends on both private and public pay to stay in business. Without a wide array of providers in the marketplace, both public and private, we may not be able to find what we need, even if we can af-

ford it.

All of us should care about ending the wait for home services through increased funding for supports for older adults. It's both the smart thing to do and the right thing to do.

John Daniel
Blairsville

Williams... continued from Page 4A

ing with mistletoe infection. If you simply remove the mistletoe shoot it will mostly likely grow back, so repeated removal would be necessary. Pruning tree branches that are infected is an effective method of removing mistletoe. Remove the branch at least 14 inches below the point of infection. Ethephon is as chemical application that is a plant growth regulator that can be used to control mistletoe. Whenever you apply any chemical, read the label before application.

Control of mistletoe on old and socially significant trees can be important. Having a mistletoe infection does not necessarily mean that death is imminent for a tree, but mistletoe can have a drastic impact on the tree's ability to thrive. If you have any ques-

tions about mistletoe contact your local Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler...

continued from Page 4A

Jesus promises that His Spirit "abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans" (John 14:17-18). He remains with you until that day when "there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain" (Rev. 21:4). So Christmas is the right time to celebrate God's promises even in the midst of your pain. His is the ministry of presence, then, now, and forever. He is God with us.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

upstairs to show my Dad and found him asleep on the sofa. My young scientific mind deduced my sleeping Dad would be a good subject on which to determine the effectiveness of my "Wake-up gas". I placed the vial of "Wake-up gas" under his nose. My assumption was the "Wake-up gas" would wake him from his sound sleep. I was correct. The stuff worked very well. It shook him from his slumber and invigorated him. I can remember being chased by my barefooted, half-dressed Daddy down a road for a half mile.

Another great memory involves my Papa and Granny. He and I were out squirrel hunting in late November. We were walking around the top of a bluff when he said, "Come over here I want to show you something". My aged grandfather was standing next to a massive Beech Tree. As I walked closer he pointed to the following initials, "CBC + GMC" (Columbus Buern Cummings + Glenna Mae Cummings). Papa had carved these initials into the tree sometime in the late 1930s. I found my Dad's and Uncle initials carved into another Beech Tree about 25

Riley...

continued from Page 4A

into the communities and bring the citizens and agencies to the table like RC&Ds can. They don't have time or the expertise to do this, and many of them are not from "around these parts" so they don't know the community or the people. RC&Ds are made up of people who grew up or live and work in the communities and these are the folks who can make things come together for a common goal.

In 2015, Tony Tooke, who was the USFS Region 8 Forester asked me if we could duplicate our work from Towns County up the Appalachians into Virginia, and I said Yes and the rest is history, and here we are today having grown from one county in 2016 to 59 today with the Appalachian RC&D FAC Coalition pumping on all 6 RC&D cylinders. Where did the time go? The Coalition is made up of 6 RC&D's working in this Appalachian region covering 59 counties.

Since the kickoff in February 2017, the RC&D Coalition and partners have participated in 385 meetings and presented the FAC message to 6,950 citizens and community officials. We have been Busy! The Results of our efforts in North Georgia for 2016 - 2018 are: Fannin county - 63 wildfires - No FAC & No Firewise USA communities: Union County - 54 wildfires - No FAC & 3 Firewise USA communities (we are working in Union now): Towns County - 9 wildfires - active FAC & 22 Firewise USA communities: Zero (0) wildfires in Towns County in 2018 which proves that citizen wildfire risk mitigation education can reduce wildfires.

Towns Wildfire calls have declined +75% since the Firewise USA program was started in 2009. All of this isn't rocket science because our ancestors had to be "Firewise" since they didn't have a fire department with a truck to call when a fire broke out. It was either make their home safe or risk losing everything they had to a fire. Where we go from here with all of this is only limited by funding available and since my motto from Hannibal in 183 BC is: "We will either find a way or make one!" Watch us grow!

For more information on Firewise USA, FAC, Appalachian RC&D FAC Coalition and other Chestatee-Chat-tahoochee RC&D projects and programs contact: Frank Riley Executive Director at info.ccred@gmail.com or check our web sites at: www.chestchattred.org and www.appcofac.org and follow us on Facebook at Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D, and Kim says we are on Twitter also.

Appalachian Saint Andrew's offering Bagpipe instruction

The Appalachian Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums Bagpipe Band is offering free instruction to all who want to learn how to play the Great Highland Bagpipe or to learn Regimental Drumming.

The band meets each Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 12 noon in the Parish Hall of St. Clare's Episcopal Church for instruction and practice.

For further information, call 770-833-5411 or 1-828-557-3812.

in an effort to topple the tree. I can still hear Papa saying, "Glenna Mae, one of these days a snag is going to fall out of a tree and knock you in the head". And it did in 1970. We were walking through the woods and Granny spotted a dead Virginia Pine. She laughed as she took off running launching herself into the trunk of the tree. It broke off 10 feet above her head and fell. The log hit her in the top of the head pile driving her into the ground. The scene

reminded me of a nail being driven into a board. Except, Granny was the nail. She went down and we ran to her side. Papa shook her a little to wake her up and she smiled and asked, "Did I knock it down"?

I must say the Good Lord has been gracious to me. I have many wonderful memories. But, I hope to make many more. I hope you will also make many good memories this Christmas and the surrounding Holidays.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

throughout the Union County Community Center. Our local businesses have outdone themselves and displayed their decorating talents throughout the Community Center. Come and vote on your favorite and see the amazing Gingerbread Villages through December 31st.

A Grinch Christmas - Come and see the Union County High School students as the perform A Grinch Christmas. If you have not seen a performance by the students you are missing a treat. The program is December 14, 2018 at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. The lobby opens at 5:45 with seating starting at 6 PM. Tickets available at the

door only. The Union County Fine Arts Center is located at 926 Panther Overlook by the Union County High School.

Christmas on the Square and Parade - The Parade was rescheduled to December 16 due to inclement weather. Come out and have your picture taken with Santa at the Historic Courthouse from 4 PM-6 PM and enjoy the rest of the evening enjoying the Christmas Parade which starts at 6 PM. The tree lighting & caroling will follow the parade. Located in Downtown Blairsville. Admission is FREE!

Until next week, shop local and have a blessed week!