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of three things. If you have weekly garbage pickup at your home, you can just place it in there to be picked up by your garbage service. You can take the litter in the orange bags to the Transfer Station on Deep South Farm Road or the Convenience Center at the intersection of Highway 515 and Highway 325. You will not be charged to dispose of the litter you have collected at these locations. Finally, you can call the Union County Road Department at (706) 439-6062 and coordinate a location for them to come and pick the bags up. This location could be at the end of your driveway or at

the beginning of the road you pick up, for example.

Q. How does this program benefit Union County and its citizens?

A. If someone adopts a portion of a road and cleans up the litter, that is just one more portion of a road that the county detainee crews do not have to clean up. This in turn saves the taxpayers the cost of that crew cleaning up that portion of the road, and the crew can be working on another project within the county. It has the potential to save the county thousands of dollars per year on litter clean up and helps keep your area of the county looking better.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

munities USA, Fire Adapted Communities, Ready-Set-Go, and other wildfire risk reduction education programs.

Many of you who moved to the mountains for the beauty and tranquility don't realize that with the good things also comes responsibility to do things to reduce the risk of losing all your "stuff" and maybe your life from a seeming small fire that gets out of control. We just ask that everyone take care of their own homes, and putting

it all together will take care of our whole community. If these mountains burn, nobody will want to live here or vacation here with a charred landscape. Implementing Firewise measures around your home can buy you time until the Fire Department can get there! Are you Firewise?

For more information on Firewise and Wildfire funding, contact Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D at info.ccrd@gmail.com.

Engler... continued from Page 4A

wouldn't harm a flea." And even, "My dog doesn't like to be leashed."

Truth be told, some folks (and their dogs) don't want to play nice. Since we've been using the dog park, we know of one dog that was mauled by another leash-less dog. And finally, just a couple of weeks ago, an elderly woman was walking her dog with a leash when another dog, unleashed, came running toward the woman and her dog. The woman's dog jumped at the

loose dog and dragged her off her feet. She fell to the ground face-first and wasn't immediately able to stand up; she also needed help to regain control of her dog and regain her composure.

Meeks Park is a fantastic natural resource. We should all be able to enjoy it, and we should all learn to follow the rules and play nice. Please, let's make it fun and safe for all park visitors. Respectfully,

Dale and Carol Engler

AARP Driver Safety class July 5th

Special offer for July. AARP Driver Safety will offer the AARP Smart Driver classroom course for \$10 to individuals insured by AARP Medicare Supplement Plans insured by United Healthcare Insurance Company in Georgia.

The AARP Smart Driver classroom course on Thursday, July 5, will be hosted by the Union County Senior Center located at 95 Senior Center Drive in Blairsville. Sign in time is 8:30 a.m. The classroom course starts promptly at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. Course fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Registration is recommended to secure your place in the classroom. Telephone the instructor, Rosemary Kerr, at (706) 745-7046.

Please speak clearly when leaving your name and telephone number for call back confirmation.

You will learn defensive driving techniques, proven safety strategies, new traffic laws, rules of the road and new vehicle technology innovations. No test to pass or writing required. The AARP Smart Driver Course is open to licensed drivers of all ages.

AARP is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all as we age. At the end of the course you will receive your AARP Smart Driving Certificate. You may also qualify for a multi-year discount on your automobile insurance as well as a reduction of points on your driver's license. NT(jun20/23)CA

Good Neighbors Auto Club Awards Scholarships



The Good Neighbors Auto Club has awarded six \$750 scholarships to area students. The students are Gabriel McCoy and Jonathan Wheaton from Murphy High School, Haley Edmondson from Hiwassee Dam High School in Cherokee County, NC, and Lauren Tatum, Logan Seabolt and Allison Kumler from Union County High School in Blairsville.

The Good Neighbors Auto Club was started in the early 1980s by a group of car enthusiasts from the Western North Carolina and North Georgia area. The club passion through the years has

been the restoration and preservation of the old car hobby, whether it is Classic, Antique or Special Interest cars and trucks.

For many years, club donations went to various charities in the area, but several years ago, it was suggested by Dr. F.L. Abernathy (local optometrist and club charter member) that the club sponsor scholarships for deserving kids in the area, and it has done so ever since. After Dr. Abernathy's passing, the scholarship was named in his memory.

The club has sponsored approximately \$30,000 in scholarship funds in the past 10 years and donated thousands of dollars to local charities and people in need throughout the club's history.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

As of September 2017, the website GoodRx.com reported that Gabapentin, approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1993, was among the most-dispensed prescriptions in the United States.

Gabapentin affects the brain and the nervous system and works to stabilize the electrical activity in the brain. Those who abuse Gabapentin may take it with other medicines, including opioids and anti-anxiety medications, to experience relaxation or a sense of calm, intense pleasure, and a high that some have described as like that of marijuana. People who use alcohol with Gabapentin may feel dizzy or increased sleepiness, the FDA warns.

Many doctors have been prescribing Gabapentin in place of opiates for bad backs and other nerve pain afflictions to quell the opiate crisis. In fact, Gabapentin has been thought to have a low addiction liability level. However, this drug is now being diverted at an alarming rate.

As of right now, Gabapentin is not scheduled under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), but that may change quickly. Several overdoses have been reported where Gabapentin has been abused with opiates like Oxycodone. Because of this, there is a call to place Gabapentin in the CSA.

Diversion occurs when someone diverts a medication from its intended purpose to an unlawful one. Theft is a great example of diversion. This may occur in a pharmacy robbery to steal drugs, or it may happen in a convalescent hospital when an employee or other trusted person steals medication from a patient. Theft of Gabapentin is just one way people are diverting the drug.

Another form of diversion is by doctor shopping. Here, a drug user may go to several doctors with the same symptoms or affliction in an effort to be prescribed Gabapentin. Although most states have a prescription monitoring program to detect doctor shopping, the system is only as good as the information going into it. Gabapentin diversion also occurs when people share

Fowler...

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bough." Ravi Zacharias adds, "The bird is singing its song. But the melody must first be sung in each of our hearts."

"God, who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6). Take heart, Christian! Ours is the God of creation and providence. The story of this world is His Story. The gospel of Christ Jesus is your story. The One who has shone light in you can yet brighten the darkest places on earth.

Thompson...

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They will lie to your face, steal whatever they can and pawn it for money. Whatever it takes to get that next dose.

Your child is the only one who can make themselves stop using drugs. It's their decision, live or die. Better yet - don't start. Be smarter than the other drug addicts.

Too many parents have already had to bury their own child from a drug-related death. Say no!

Charlotte Thompson

Dyer...

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We consider our job to be a calling that only a certain few are willing and able to do. Our profession is sacred to us all.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Combs...

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man in this story who received his sight would also experience the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. When you look at the cross of Jesus, who do you see? Just another man or the Savior of the world? Amen

Frank F. Combs

United Daughters of the Confederacy Smith's Legion #2699

United Daughters of the Confederacy Smith's Legion #2699 meet the fourth Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. at G and G Restaurant on Highway 515 in Blairsville.

can help you detox safely from the substance and help you into a treatment program where

you address your addiction and learn the tools to a healthy, drug-free life.

medication between each other or trade it on the street.

How bad is the problem and who is abusing this? Kentucky has seen a staggering 2,950% increase in Gabapentin misuse among prescription opioid abusers. Another study showed that up to 65% of opioid addicts have a Gabapentin prescription. Many addicts use the drug to treat their own addiction outside of medical care.

Most, but not all, of the people under the influence of Gabapentin will be using another drug like an opiate. This may cause some confusion, but the person will still be high. To put it simply, they will look like they are drunk, but you won't detect any odor of alcohol or they may test low or .00 on a blood alcohol screening test.

There's also concern that people who are in drug addiction recovery can easily abuse it for its euphoric effects. According to a report by StatNews.com, Gabapentin can enhance euphoric feelings caused by an opioid and keep drug withdrawal at bay. The medication also can get past the blocking effects of medicines used in addiction treatment, which means clients can still get high.

People who have abused Gabapentin and now find themselves addicted to the drug are advised to avoid going cold turkey. Instead, consider entering a professional addiction recovery treatment center that

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Garden Tours	Every Monday: GMREC (May-Oct.)	9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 a.m.
Kiwanis Club	Sammies Sub Shop	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 p.m.
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 p.m.
Tri State Bus. Women	Every Tuesday: Cabin Coffee	8 a.m.
Tuesday Strippers	Mtn Presbyterian Ch	9:30a-2:30p
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 p.m.
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 p.m.
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 p.m.
BINGO	Every Wednesday: Civic Center	7 p.m.
Butternut Ladies Golf	Every Thursday: Golf Course (April-Oct.)	8:30 a.m.
Masonic Luncheon	Cook's Restaurant	11:30 a.m.
Rotary Club	NGTC	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 p.m.
Blue Ridge Comm.	Fourth Monday of each month: McCaysville Lodge	7:30 p.m.
Compassionate Friends	Fourth Tuesday of each month: Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Dead Theologians Soc.	Cabin Coffee	Noon
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville UMC	12:30 p.m.
VFW Post #7394	Veteran's Center	6:30 p.m.
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 p.m.
No activities listed	Fourth Wednesday of each month:	
Lions Club	Fourth Thursday of each month: Cook's Restaurant	5:30 p.m.
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 p.m.
UT Home Builders	YH College	7 p.m.
Eastern Star #471	Fourth Friday of each month: Location not listed	7:30 p.m.
Youngeane Lodge #597	Fourth Saturday of each month: Lodge Hall	7:30 p.m.