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and the other helicopter is located in Fannin County. They do coordinate in an emergency and cover for each other. If you choose to pay for the membership of the AirMedCare helicopter located in Fannin County, it does provide additional coverage as mentioned above, but it is still unlikely that you would need both.

Q. What is the name of the emergency medical helicopter service that is stationed in Union County at Union General Hospital?

A. It is called Air Methods/AirLife.

Q. Who is covered by the Union General Hospital stationed helicopter?

A. Anyone who lives in Union County or has a home in Union County.

Q. Who pays for the medical emergency helicopter service in Union County?

A. Union General Hospital and Union County Government share in the cost and pay for your membership so that there is no out of pocket cost to the user. You also do not need to sign up or fill out any forms.

Q. How much does a medical emergency helicop-

ter ride cost?

A. It varies based on the time and location of the delivery, but the cost ranges from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Q. So how is a medical emergency helicopter bill paid?

A. Generally, a bill will be delivered to the patient's home, and the "membership" covers all cost not covered by your personal medical insurance or Medicare or Medicaid. You will also have to show proof of residency to complete the billing process.

Q. Which service has the best helicopter equipment?

A. Union General Hospital has the only twin engine, IFR (instrument flight rated) helicopter. This allows it to fly in poorer weather conditions. It is larger and is easier to manage a patient from within. However, the other helicopter service in Fannin County also has excellent equipment, but it is a single engine and does not have IFR instrumented rating for flying in marginal weather.

If you have further questions, please contact Leslie Daniel of Union General Hospital at 706-745-2111.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

breath smelt like death. I knew that I had to get out of there."

Uncle Hollis was a heavy man, outweighing my grandfather by 50 pounds. He was built like an offensive lineman, while Coon Cummings was tall and lanky. Until that day, he could outrun his heavier friend by a large margin. Papa said, "The dead man inspired your great Uncle. He never even used the door of the house and jumped through the window, then he ran two miles before I could catch him." Hollis never ran that fast during the rest of his

life. He was totally surprised by the actions of the dead man. He didn't much want to go back and finish the body for burial, but the two men had promised the family they would take care of things. Besides that, Hollis had not shaved the man yet. So, reluctantly, the young men made their way back to the dead man's home.

But before he finished washing and shaving the fellow, Hollis retrieved a stout rope and tied down the body. He told Papa that he didn't want any more surprises.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

booths ready starting at 5:30 p.m. The Treat-or-Treat event is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Come join us the first Thursday of the month of November for "Shop Late Thursday's" in Downtown Blairsville! Participating Downtown Blairsville businesses will be open additional hours from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and feature deals, discounts and other exciting offers! So, avoid the crowds on the weekends and come spend some time in Downtown Blairsville on the first Thursday of the month! Just look for a red balloon and you'll find a business that's happy to serve you!

Plan on joining us in the Community Room at Union County Public Library on Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for a sale of previously loved Christmas treasures at bargain prices! All proceeds will benefit the library.

This Saturday, get ready for a great evening of entertainment to support a wonderful organization in our community. It is time for Dancing with North Georgia Stars Towns/Union 2018! It is being held at the Union County Fine Arts Center on Saturday, November 3rd. The doors to the Union County Fine Arts Center will open at 6:15 p.m. There will be a pre-show beginning at 6:20 p.m. The show/dance competition starts at 7 p.m. Each North Georgia Star is paired with a professional or semi-professional dancer from the region to present a variety of danc-

ing genres from modern jazz to classic ballroom. Each team will perform a choreographed dance routine before a live audience. The Chamber's very own Member Services Director Dawn Saraney will be dancing in the competition. Tickets can be purchased for Dancing with the North Georgia Stars and the Gala from members of the dance teams, online at dancingwithnorthgastars.com, or at the Fine Arts Center the night of the event. The teams will be judged on the night of the competition on their costume, choreography and technical performance by an impartial three-judge panel. The winning team will be awarded the Mirror Ball trophy.

Be sure to also get your ticket for the Gala After Party at North Georgia Technical College, which starts immediately after the show. You will enjoy some great music, dancing and a chance to meet the celebrities and their dance partners. Funds raised by this event will support Enotah CASA, a nonprofit organization that provides trained community volunteers, appointed by a juvenile judge, to advocate for the best interest of abused or neglected children in foster care from Towns, Union, Lumpkin and White counties. To learn more about becoming a volunteer or to donate, go to their website at EnotahCASA.org, or give them a call at 706-864-0300.

Don't forget to change your clocks Sunday November 4th! Go Panthers!

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

mind-altering substance in the applicant's system. That's one of many reasons pre-employment drug testing is so important. The hiring process at any company should always include asking about — and then testing for — substance abuse.

Hiring managers and HR professionals should make every effort to gain an absolute commitment to a drug and alcohol-free workplace from every applicant who is being seriously considered for employment. Then, once the person is hired, workplace drug testing should of course continue. Drug and alcohol testing, when implemented properly, protects not only the business, but the employees, customers, and clients.

For some companies — because the unemployment rate is at the lowest in almost 20 years — finding good, honest, reliable, and dependable drug-free job applicants has become more difficult. But that is not an acceptable reason for lowering hiring standards. It is always easier and much less expensive to avoid hiring drug abusers than to have to fire them later.

Substance abusers typically suffer from the following problems: frequent absences, including excessive use of sick days; increased rates of tardi-

ness; frequent disappearances from work and improbable excuses; higher rates of workplace accidents; reductions in productivity; more frequent and more expensive medical claims; moving from job to job, creating turnover problems for companies; problems with employee morale; unreliability in keeping appointments and meeting deadlines; high and low productivity that alternates between long periods; errors and oversights of simple tasks; personal and professional isolation; confusion or difficulty recalling conversations. These are just a few of the problems that can be caused by substance abusing employees.

The reliability, dependability, and integrity of employees is central to a company's success. If these qualities are forsaken just because it becomes a little more difficult to find workers, the trust of good employees, customers, and clients will be undermined.

Union/Towns

Volunteers

monthly meeting

The Union/Towns Volunteers meet the first Monday of the month, 7 p.m., at First United Methodist Church in Blairsville.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

window for the fall was rapidly closing, so we approached Gilbert Banks at White County Farmers Exchange about our plans for the CIG and the need for four acres of land, and he immediately knew the perfect spot: North Georgia Technical College (NGTC) in Clarksville.

We approached NGTC about using four acres for our two-year conservation project, and they gave us our choice of any of their farm lands that one day will be where agricultural students at NGTC will learn about agriculture. NGTC has plans to start an agricultural program soon, and our CIG is the first step in starting their ag program. We will use NGTC students for data collection and other analytical projects during the two-year project.

We divided a four-acre

Fowler...

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uniquely understands the nature, problem, and salvation of humankind as fundamentally relational. We were made for a relationship with God, we lost our relationship with God through sin against him, and we can be brought back into the relationship through his salvation and grace."

This formula corresponds to the world as we know it. Despite the horrors, ugliness, and evil in the world, glimpses of love and beauty make our hearts yearn for what ought to be. We want ultimate meaning, but we cannot create a deeply satisfying purpose for ourselves. The grace of God is the only solution for a fallen world, and you'll only find His relational solution after you admit that your problem is you.

Williams...

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would need a unique soil sample done. When you receive the results from the lab, they will have recommendations for you based on the types of plants that you have growing.

Bring soil samples into your local county Extension Office. For Union County, you can bring them Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In Towns County, you can bring the samples in Tuesday morning or Thursday. Soil samples will take seven to 10 business days to process. We will collect samples throughout the week until shipping out on Friday at 2 p.m. A basic soil sample cost \$10, cash or checks only.

If you have questions regarding soil sampling or the results, you can call your local Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Combs...

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sus on His way.

Oh, to be a little fly on Bartimaeus' shoulder and hear him rejoicing and praising his Lord and Savior for a miracle from God.

Have you ever experienced a miracle from God? Actually, we all have when we were born. When we came out screaming and crying for the breath of life, even in our daily walk, we see the miracles of God in all of His creation, and we marvel at the wonder of it all.

God cares for humanity and He wants to have a personal relationship with those who choose to come as you are and let God's miracle of mercy, grace and love be upon you in your time of need. It is thrilling to think that Bartimaeus followed Jesus now with his eyes wide open, yet in a few days he would see Jesus dying on the cross.

Are you blind? Or have you, too, seen Jesus dying for you? If you don't know Him as your Savior and miracle worker, He awaits to hear your cry for help in times of need. What can Jesus do for you today? Amen

Frank F. Combs

Trail

Improvement Day

The Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association (CTHA) and the Northeast Georgia Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (NE GA SORBA) Monthly Multiuse Trail Improvement Day takes place the first Friday of each month. Equestrians, hikers and mountain bikers - please join us! Meet at Jake Mountain Parking Lot, off Niblewill Church Road, Chattahoochee National Forest, Dahlonega, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch provided by CTHA with RSVP.

Contact Debbie Crowe at georgiacrowes22@bellsouth.net.

Through the NRCS CIG program, public and private grantees develop the tools, technologies, and strategies to support next-generation conservation efforts on working lands and develop market-based solutions to resource challenges. CIG projects inspire creative problem-solving that boosts production on farms, ranches,

and private forests. Ultimately, they improve water quality, soil health and wildlife habitat.

We will report the results or our tests in the spring. For more information on CIG and CCRCD, go to www.chestchattcfd.org, or to Facebook at Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D.