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Installation?

A. There certainly are and I have no idea about many of them. However, for the Federal Government to participate in payment for guardrail, there is basically an 8' rule which means the guardrail has to be 8' from the edge of the pavement. The purpose of this is that if a vehicle hits a guardrail, then the chance of it coming back into the roadway is reduced significantly if the guardrail is located further from the pavement. However, if GDOT has sufficient state funds and federal funds don't have to be used, they can make an exception because it is rare on a mountain road to have an 8' shoulder.

Q. Why are we not allowed to use our own street name signs for our street?

A. The reason is safety.

Drugs ... continued from Page 4B

There are many signs that a teen is using drugs. It can be difficult to tell the difference between the pangs of adolescence and actual drug use, but parents can be proactive in talking to their teen to find out what's going on. Some common signs of teen drug abuse include bad grades, bloodshot eyes, laughing for no reason, loss of interest in activities, poor hygiene, diminished personal appearance, avoiding eye contact, frequent hunger or "munchies", smell of smoke on breath or clothes, secretive behavior, unusual tiredness and missing curfew.

It's up to parents to initiate a conversation with their children if they suspect drug use. One in five parents who suspect their teen is using drugs do not intervene to prevent further drug use.

The best way to get a teen to communicate about their drug use is by asking compassionate and understanding questions. Parents can ask straightforward questions when said in the right tone. Simply asking, "Have you been using drugs or alcohol?" or "Has anyone offered you drugs recently?" can be enough to get the conversation started.

Responding to a teen's admittance or denial of drug use in the right way is just as important as asking the right questions. Parents shouldn't overreact if their teen comes

The county has an ordinance that only green street signs can be used on county maintained roadways and blue signs on private roadways. There are specific guidelines for naming both types of roads which requires them to coordinate with our E-911 system. During an emergency call, should someone install a street sign that does not follow county guidelines, it could cause a lot of confusion for deputies, firefighters or ambulance drivers. All legitimate signs show up on our maps and E-911 directions, while others do not. We allow you to put a personal sign on your driveway, but it cannot be green or blue so as not to confuse public safety and first responder personnel which could possibly cost someone their life.

clear about using drugs. Overreacting or lashing out can prevent a teen from opening up about their experience. Getting teens to talk is important to determine if their drug use was a one-time thing or if it's becoming a problem.

Parents should explain how they care about their child and the child's future. Teens who feel supported and loved are also more likely to stop experimenting with drugs or seek help if they have an addiction.

Naturally, there is a possibility that teens may lie about their drug use. Parents should reassure their child that they are concerned and want to help. If a teen continues denying using drugs but the parent still suspects untruthfulness, a home drug test or professional help can uncover a teen drug problem. Therapists, pediatricians and addiction specialists can help diagnose a teen drug problem.

Teens who abuse drugs may have a greater risk of developing an addiction when they are adults. Teen drug abuse can have long-term cognitive and behavioral effects since the teenage brain is still developing. Recognition and prevention of drug use can end an emerging problem before it starts. Setting a good example and having talks about drug use are strong tools for teenage substance abuse prevention, and it all begins at home.

Cummings... continued from Page 4B

Then he tried to whistle. But, his mouth was so dry the whistling was more like a whisper.

Tommy knew it was time. He began to toss acorns and small pebbles in the dried leaves all around the camp. Hubert heard these acorns hitting the ground and he exclaimed, "Boys, they's a painter out there and he's a huntin' us". William told Tommy it was his imagination.

Bud recollected that he'd heard that Old Man Landers over at Dime had seen a black "painter" last week. Paul told Hubert that if he thought something was in the woods he should go out there and "stob" it with his Case Knife. None of his friends' words helped to relieve Hubert of his anxiety.

Finally, it was suggested that Hubert take the canteens over to the stream to refill them for their morning coffee. The stream was in view of the campfire, so, Hubert picked up the canteen and walked to the spring. Unknown to Hubert,

Tommy was on top of the bluff directly above the spring and was climbing down a slick, tall poplar. He came noiselessly while Hubert was filling the canteen. The other boys knew what was about to happen. Paul, with an urgent voice said, "Hubert, I think I hear something to the other side of us". Hubert looked away from the stream and toward the fire. This allowed Tommy to slide down the tree, sneak up behind his friend to wrap his arms around his friend's waist and let out a blood curdling yell. Hubert's feet went into hurry up mode. They were not touching the ground, but, they were running just like you would see in a cartoon.

When Hubert realized he was not moving any closer to the fire he cried out, "Hit's got a hold of me. Run boys and save yourselves. Whaaaaaagh". He also used other indiscernible words which cannot be mentioned in public.

These country boys knew how to have a good time.

Allison... continued from Page 4B

After physically in the upcoming year. A lot of people make resolutions to eat right and exercise but often find it difficult to make these changes long term.

In order to help give our members tools to succeed in this area of their lives, we invited Ann Marie Stanczyk to lead the first Business Breakout on January 11th. Ann Marie is a nutritionist with a passion for helping people to live healthy lives by taking simple steps in making wise choices with the food they eat.

I appreciate her taking time to meet with the Chamber Team months ago and share her passion for nutrition. It was very insightful and informative

and made you stop, think, and pay attention more to the types of foods you eat and how your body reacts to them. It was very informative and we saw just how much this impacted our overall health in the short term and long term.

As always, the Business Break Outs are free for Chamber Members. We have chosen different topics each month from Curb Appeal to Leadership, Marketing your Business and Customer Service. For more information, go to the Chamber website at VisitBlairsvilleGA.com or give us a call at the Chamber office at 706-745-5789. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mattee ... continued from Page 4B

Getting a poinsettia to reflower is no easy task. These plants have strict light requirements for them to form the yellow flowers and colored bracts. In the first week of October, the plant needs complete darkness for fourteen hours every night. You can move the plant into an area of the house that gets no light, or putting a box over it. The plant also needs about six or seven hours of bright sunlight each day. Though this seems demanding, after eight to ten weeks, you should see colored bracts start to grow

and the plant will fully come into bloom once again in November and December.

Dyer ... continued from Page 4B

low firefighter who is part of our fire department family. It was another great job in a very stressful situation. Be proud and thankful for having such skilled, professional and dedicated responders.

~Union County Fire Department - Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Riley ... continued from Page 4B

"I am convinced it gave us a chance," he said. "Without having done this, it would not have mattered. Our house would just be one more foundation left out here."

The burned areas a few yards from his doorstep indicate just how close the fire was to sending the whole place up. "I would be working in the back to blow away hot spots, then I would have to dash to the front and there would be two feet of leaves blown across the front of the house. "Then it was back to the back to get the hot spots." It went on that way for hours.

Kathaleen was outside spotting trouble on one side of the house while David was hard at work on the other. "I don't think I ever got to a point of despair," he said. "I was too focused on the task I had to do at that second. I realized if the house burnt, we were probably not going to make it. So, suddenly I had a whole lot of adrenaline and a whole lot of incentive to put out every hot spot."

He pushed a stack of firewood down a hill to get it farther away from his home. He said a rain so light "it barely got my shirt wet" came around 11:30 p.m., and he could sit in a lawn chair to rest. He had received a call from a neighbor who was out of town and wanted to know about his place. Loveland could walk to the foundation that was left of that residence and send his neighbor a picture of the bad news. Then it was back to work as the sprinkle left and the fire did not. At about 4 a.m. a more substantial rain came, giving Loveland a chance to sleep.

The string of houses on the ridge were burnt to the ground as were houses down the side of the hill leading to the Spur below him. A burnt skeleton of a car sat next to the spot where the tree had fallen that had blocked the road preventing their escape. "They apparently tried to get out after we did," he said. He said one neighbor had just finished having some trees cleared, but the cut trees had not been moved off the property. The home was the first to burn to the ground.

The 17,000-acre blaze should be a lesson for people as they rebuild here. He said "the possibility of the fire happening again is very real". "It is part of living in a wild land," he said. "You are just going to have to accept the fact that leaf litter burns". "You are living in an area that is available to burn

Fowler...

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deed, His purpose is personal. Remember the story of Esther, who lived for "such a time as this"? He knows the world you live in, having determined your appointed times and the boundaries of your habitation, that you would seek Him. When things happen that make you yearn for the good, the loving, and the merciful, they point to something outside ourselves. Paul concluded that yearning is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. (Esth. 4:14, Acts 17:26, Phil. 3:10)

With the Christmas story of peace and goodwill fresh on our hearts, we rest assured that God is unsurprised and undaunted. Nothing can separate us from the love of God, especially not the events now inscribed in the history book of 2016.

Mitchell ...

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price for his service -- and the price paid wasn't his alone.

Recently, at the Blue Ridge Dairy Queen, I shook the thin -- but wiry -- hand of an 80+ year-old man who was wearing a KOREAN WAR VETERAN cap. I mentioned to him that my brother-in-law had been wounded in that country during the same, so-called, "Police Action." I told him that I held him and men like him in deep reverence. He didn't say anything but his eyes filled with tears. I didn't press him further.

Young ones have their own life stories, abbreviated, of course, but, if you want an education -- the kind that books and movies can only hint at second-hand -- if you want to get a feel for living History, you must gently open those two-legged books with the faded and worn covers, torn bindings, stained pages, missing introductions, highlighted passages, omitted chapters.

Walking libraries. They're all around us and, if approached properly, they'll open the pages of their lives -- if only briefly.

Just listening to them is an education not contained in any library.

George A. Mitchell

Mr. Loveland can testify that home preparation using Firewise principles work and can save your home and your

life! For more information on Firewise, Ready-Set-Go and wildfires, contact Frank Riley: info.ccrd@gmail.com