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awarded an additional \$100,000 from GDOT through their Local Maintenance and Improvements Grant to go toward the construction of this new entrance.

**Q. When can we expect construction to begin on the new entrance?**

A. We will begin moving dirt as soon as we receive a permit from GDOT. This road may not be completed this year, but we hope we will have a very good start.

**Q. Why is this new road project necessary?**

A. Right now, most people enter and exit the Farmers Market via Old Smokey Road and Weaver Road. We all know the sight distance when pulling out of Old Smokey Road onto Weaver Road is limited by the bank and the sharp curve on the hill, even after the county cut the bank back. Then it is also difficult to get pulled out onto the main highway from Weaver Road. When the highway widening occurs at the construction of Highway 515 East toward Young Harris, it will further complicate this intersection. We hope to be able to have GDOT expand the current red light to include turn lanes into and out of the Farmers Market area.

**Q. We noticed what looks like a covered bridge over near the Farmers Market being constructed. What**

**is going on over there?**

A. Once the new entrance is completed from Hwy 515, there will be a road that will lead along the creek and right straight to the Farmers Market. We had to construct a new bridge that will join with the road from the new entrance, so one of the staff members suggested a covered bridge. It was a brilliant idea which I agreed with and it will be another awesome asset to the Farmers Market.

**Q. Will this new access road from Highway 515 serve anything else besides the Farmers Market?**

A. Absolutely. Our future plans include constructing a youth ballfield complex (four fields) for younger kids, ranging from T-Ball, to Coaches Pitch, to our eight and under teams, including parking. There will still be additional property for future planning. We are very thankful to the Leon Davenport family (Barbara Davenport, Casey Friedly and Doug Davenport) who gave us the opportunity to expand with the purchase of their property. We also want to thank the Charlie Jenkins family, (Charles Jenkins, Edgar Jenkins, Marilyn Thomason, Patricia Chambers and Kenneth Jenkins, who helped make the intersection at Highway 515/ Gooch By Pass available for our use.

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on me and I want to thank you for helping me get started in life". Roy went on to explain that he'd made his heart right with God and he wanted to tell my dad about it.

Dad smiled and told Roy he had also made a change and had become a preacher. Roy smiled and said, "Good". He passed away a short time later. But, he died with an understanding that he had a positive influence on my father.

As you can see it is very important for each of us to remember that we influence

people every day. Earlier I told you of Mr. Reeves purchasing gloves or other things his players needed. He had purchased a glove for my dad that Dad cherished for years.

When I became a teenager and began to play America's game that glove was passed on to me. It remained in our family until it actually fell apart about the time I reached 19. Each time I placed the glove on my hand I remembered Roy Reeves and the positive influence he shared on the life of my dad and me.

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a nation starts coasting without a care in the world, then soon it will be going downhill, like a runaway train with no way to stop it.

Our nation needs desperately a group of leaders who know something other than the present godless fundamental beliefs. We need folks who know God personally, who know His Word and are obeying it. The great need in this country is a return to God. We brag about our achievements when our greatest need is to walk in a way that is pleasing to God and one that glorifies Him in all things. God never intended for mankind to run this world without His help, His wisdom and discernment, that is why He chose men who loved Him

to make a Constitution to govern our nation under the leadership of God Almighty, for God knew without His leadership we would fail miserably and that we have indeed.

The message of this story is man can do nothing without the help of God. Evolution and The Big Bang Theory lives on in the minds of many people to no avail. It is all a pipe dream that man made up to see if they were smarter than God, but my God knows the hearts of all and though man continue to swim upstream, God will have the last word. Proverbs 10:27- The fear of the Lord prolongs one's days, but the years of the wicked shall be shortened. Amen

**Frank Combs**

## Reed... continued from Page 4A

people for a career in health-care? Amazing. I couldn't have begun to imagine this in Union County fifty years ago. We didn't have enough money to be able to dissect "critters" in biology class. Mrs. Kathryn Davenport demonstrated it for the entire class, once. A fine arts center to give our young people an opportunity to show and hone their talent for the possibility of a career in music or theater? All we had was a noisy "gymnasium;" a gymnasium with a stage at one end and constructed entirely of metal. An agricultural center? We had the "Ag building" which was next to nothing compared to today's center. Most counties in the farming country of S. GA don't have such a facility.

Much of the new E-splott will pay for much needed repairs, upgrades and expansions on buildings and equipment throughout the system. We simply cannot allow what we have to fall behind and into disrepair, and there will not be enough state funds

to provide the proper upkeep. These kinds of expenditures aren't always glamorous enough for photo ops and vote getting. Politicians love to build new facilities and get credit for them, but once they are built they are often forgotten. I worked for state government for 34 years, and I can vouch for that.

Our children are our future. The more we invest in them now, the better our community and our nation will be in the future. As boomers we benefitted, and it is time for us to pay it forward so that the youth of Union County have a foundation on which to thrive. I for one have no problem continuing to pay a one-cent tax to support our schools. It is a small price to pay for our future. If we can afford the big homes on the ridges and drive the expensive cars up to them, we can afford to continue to pay a penny to support our youth AND the future of our county and our country.

**Ed Reed**

## Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

life course of 1,165 young adults from across the United States, most of whom come from a family with a history of alcoholism. Participants' habits were first assessed at age 12. After that, the researchers checked in on them at two-year intervals, up through age 25 to 34 for many of the subjects.

Kids from families with alcohol abuse followed patterns of first substance use and frequency of use that are typical of U.S. high school kids. But as they got older, the paths of those who used or became dependent on alcohol or pot as teens deviated from those of kids who stayed clean for the most part, the study reported.

Teens addicted to any substance were less likely to achieve any of the life goals the study assessed. Fewer got married, went on to get a college degree, found a full-time job or earned a good salary. Even those teens who only used pot and alcohol without forming a habit wound up achieving less in their lives.

Male users had a harder time finding a full-time job and earning good pay, while female users were less likely to get a college degree. The findings were reported at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting in Atlanta.

"As America continues this momentum towards legalization of cannabis, results like these should serve as important speed bumps to remind us cannabis is not a harmless product," said Dr. Timothy Brennan, an attending physician with The Addiction Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. "When combined with alcohol, it can be quite problematic for people's lives."

Dr. Michael Ketteringham, medical director of integrated medicine and psychiatry with Staten Island University Hospital in New York City, said this sort of study probably won't stem the tide of marijuana legalization in America. He added that the easing of criminal penalties should not be considered evidence that adolescent cannabis use doesn't do harm.

Hesselbrock recommends that parents start talking about substance use with their kids at an early age. "You don't start talking to your kids about alcohol and drugs when they're 13, 14, 15 and probably have already initiated that and other types of high-risk behaviors," he said. "I would say start talking with your kids even beginning at age 6 or 7, then continue as they approach those danger years."

## Riley... continued from Page 4A

suppression costs if you cause a wildfire and do not have a permit... bulldozers, hot shot crews, and air tankers do not come cheap! So, think before you burn and get a permit, even for a small leaf pile in your yard. It's the cheapest insurance policy you can get (free).

Here are Smokey's Safe Debris burning tips: Comply with Local Regulations: Contact GFC in advance to confirm that burning is allowed and to find out if permits are being issued that day. The call must be made on the day you plan to burn and is only good for that day. You must call each day you plan to burn. Check the Weather Forecast - Weather fluctuations, such as sudden gusts of wind, could make debris burning spark a wildfire. Contact the GFC on the day you plan to burn to find out if the weather is safe enough to burn, and if it is not they will not issue a permit so don't light the match. Choose a Safe Burning Site - A safe site will be far away from power lines, overhanging limbs, buildings, automobiles, and equipment. It will have vertical clearance at least three times the height of the pile, as heat from the fire extends far past the actual flames that you see. It will have horizontal clearance twice the height of the debris pile. Prepare the Site Correctly: The ground around the burn site should be surrounded by gravel or dirt for at least ten feet in all directions. Keep the surrounding area watered down during the burn. Remain With your Fire - Most Important! - Stay with your fire until it is completely out. To ensure the fire has been completely extinguished, drown the fire with water, turn over the ashes with

a shovel and drown it again. Repeat several times. Check the burn area regularly over the next several days and up to several weeks following the burn, especially if the weather is warm, dry, and windy.

I once burned a large debris pile (with notification), and covered it with dirt to put it out at the end of the day, we had several rains, and 6 weeks later when I uncovered the mound, it still had fire inside so you must monitor it until you are completely sure that the fire is out. Also, other critters can spread your fire. On one of my annual burns on our farm in middle Georgia, we had it plowed and I was sure it was out, so we were relaxing on the porch after the long day and noticed that there was smoke billowing up from around the well house. When we checked there was a smoking possum that had caught fire and crossed the fire break and spread the fire across the line and it started burning toward the house, nature's helper. Keep it Legal - It is illegal to burn plastic, tires, and most other waste products not from a tree or shrub. It is illegal to burn any kind of building materials including lumber and the debris can only be natural material.

## Harper...

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cutting for CP FITPro. Celina Pizarro, fitness and wellness coach and owner is able to provide advice on how to add health and fitness to ones busy schedules. www.cpfitpro.com The event will be held at the Union County Community Center.

The last ribbon cutting of the month will be on 3/29 at 11 AM. It will be held at the Union County Community Center and will be for Alysia Hargus, Aflac Benefits Advisor. Alysia and Aflac (the duck) can provide supplemental health insurance benefits to many retirees in the county. Come and meet Alysia. www.facebook.com/aflacbenefitswithalysia/

Judy Bruce, (a Chamber member) judy.bruce@cruiseplanners.com is offering an Exploring Viking Cruises presentation on 3/21 at 5:30 PM. The event will be held at Hackney Warehouse, 11 Railroad St. in Murphy. Appetizers will be served from BISTRO 29.

That's it for this week. Please visit us at www.visitblairsvillega.com The Chamber phone # is 706-745-5789.

## Golnitz...

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ness include "weakened social support networks, government and business corruption and a declining confidence in public institutions". The report also cites "obesity, the opioid epidemic and depression as other issues affecting Americans' happiness."

It is interesting that the top four countries live in the dark for almost half the year. Based on the U.S. decline in the survey this past year, it seems that we as a country are heading for more darkness than light. Before someone suggests that I move to one of the top ten countries, the Easter faith that believers will celebrate on April 1st moves me to live here in this community to bear witness to the "Light Of The World" the "Darkness has not Overcome" ...and that is not an "April Fools" joke!

**Darrell Golnitz**

## Fowler...

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went forth, and followed thee. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him is mine; alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine." By faith, all this can be yours because of Jesus, and the cross. Rejoice!

## Dyer...

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preparedness and response; there is a job for everyone who would like to volunteer. To become a Union County CERT member, please contact Union County Fire Department at 706-439-6091 for more information.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

For more information on debris burning, burn permits, and wildfires, contact your local Georgia Forestry Commission

office, local fire department or the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D council. Frank.ccr@d@gmail.com