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Q. What does this membership cover?

A. When you sign up for the membership with Air Methods/Airlife GA 14, you are signing up for a membership and not a service. This membership covers a medically necessary helicopter transfer to another hospital.

Q. Since Union County government and Union General Hospital paid the membership fee for almost 5000 people and families last year, will we have to pay the fee this year?

A. No. Union County Government and Union General Hospital have agreed to provide this service free to the public for one more year. There will be no cost for you

to sign up, but you MUST sign up to be eligible. We know of a few helicopter flights and patients that were charged and all they had to do is sign up for this FREE service. There will be no cost to you to sign up.

Q. How and where do we sign up for the Emergency Medical Helicopter Membership?

A. If you were a member last year, you can simply fill out the form when you receive it in the mail. For those who have never signed up before, the company will be providing details in the near future and when they are available, we will let you know in this space here and it will be publicized in the *North Georgia News* and on Facebook as well.

Allison ... continued from Page 5A

neering. He attended Auburn University and obtained degrees in both Electrical Engineering and Wireless Engineering. Upon graduation, Jeremy moved to Tallahassee, Florida where he worked for Talquin Electric Co-operative. Over the next ten years at Talquin, he worked his way up from the position of Engineer to Director of Engineering and Operations. While at Talquin, he also obtained his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Florida State University, as well as his Professional Engineering certification.

When asked what he enjoyed most about his job, he had this to say. My favorite thing about my job is interacting with the outstanding employees we have at the EMC. Each wants to do the right thing for our members.

I asked him to share something about him personally that may surprise our readers; Jeremy had this to say. While at Auburn, he marched in the Auburn University Marching Band, where he played the

tuba. Also, while in the band, he met his wife, Elizabeth. If you get to know them, you will find they are both very proud of their Alma Mater and may shout out on occasion "War Eagle"!

For all of you movie buffs, Jeremy's favorite movie hands down is *Tombstone*.

Jeremy, thank you for all that you do for Blue Ridge Mountain EMC. We are glad to have you and your family as a part of our community.

For our readers, be sure to mark your calendars for Thursday, March 23rd. The Board of Directors of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC will be hosting a Town Hall meeting at North Georgia Technical College from 6-7:30 p.m. that evening. For additional information, you can call Blue Ridge Mountain EMC at 706-379-3121.

For additional information about events in our area, be sure to go to the calendar of events on the Chamber website at VisitBlairsvilleGa.com.

Drugs ... continued from Page 5A

tible to addiction. Talking to teens about these risks can curb underage drinking.

Regular marijuana users most often started during their adolescence. Most high school seniors today do not think occasionally smoking marijuana carries any risk. More than 20 percent of teens report having used marijuana at least once in the past month.

Many prescription drugs have intoxicating effects, and this is no secret to most teens. Narcotic painkillers like Oxy-Contin, and benzodiazepines like Xanax, produce pleasurable effects that teens may seek out. These substances have high addictive potential and a risk of overdose. Nearly 40 percent of teens who abuse prescription medication obtain the drugs from their parents' medicine cabinet.

Methamphetamine — meth for short—is a white, bitter powder. Sometimes it's made into a white pill or a clear or white shiny rock (called a crystal). Meth powder can be eaten or snorted up the nose. It can also be mixed with liquid and injected into your body with a needle. Crystal meth is smoked in a small glass pipe. Meth at first causes a rush of good feelings, but then those who use it feel edgy, overly excited, angry, or afraid. Meth speeds up breathing and raises blood pressure and can make people hyperactive. People who use meth often scratch their skin, causing sores. They might have burns on their lips or fingers from holding a hot

meth pipe.

Heroin is becoming more popular among teens and is highly addictive as it enters the brain, crossing the blood-brain barrier rapidly. Over time, teens and others who abuse heroin develop a tolerance to the drug, meaning that they need more heroin to get high. Addiction to heroin occurs easily, as does physical dependence on the drug. Heroin withdrawal can happen as quickly as two hours after the last drug use. Heroin can kill the first time used.

Teens may also abuse over-the-counter medications. The substance dextromethorphan (DXM), a cough suppressing substance, is found in many common cold and flu medicines. DXM can cause intoxicating effects in high doses, and an overdose is a real possibility.

Inhalants are also a very popular way, especially with younger adolescents, for getting high. And inhalants could be anything that they could use. It could be an air freshener, or maybe even aerosol cans like computer duster or even whipped cream cans. And how they do that is through the aerosol that comes in them. Inhalants can be anything - even gasoline, or office whiteout liquid. It pays to really be aware of what is going on with your child on this one, especially if you are missing things or smell chemicals on your children or their clothes.

What is a "marijuana wet cigarette"? A marijuana wet cigarette is a marijuana joint that has been dipped in embalming fluid. What the kids are doing is dipping the marijuana cigarette in that fluid. It produces hallucinations. It also produces paranoia, and it can be very deadly.

What we really want to focus on is educating our children on the dangers of doing these drugs. Talking to your kids about staying healthy, and making safe choices is important to the well-being of the whole family.

New Narcotics Anonymous group

A new open Narcotics Anonymous group called "Hardcore" has started meeting every Tuesday night from 6-7 p.m. at the Church of Christ in Blairsville. For further questions about Narcotics Anonymous please call the NA Help Line at 1-888-947-7262.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Fourth Monday of each month: | | |
| Blue Ridge Comm. | McCaysville Lodge | 7:30 pm |
| Fourth Tuesday of each month: | | |
| Compassionate Friends | Grinds & Glazes | Noon |
| Dead Theologians Soc. | Cabin Coffee | Noon |
| Misty Mtn Quilt Guild | Blairsville UMC | 12:30 pm |
| VFW Post #7394 | Veteran's Center | 6:30 pm |
| Eastern Star #304 | Location not listed | 7:30 pm |
| Every Monday: | | |
| Children's Story Time | Union County Library | 11 am |
| Kiwanis Club | Steve's Steakhouse | Noon |
| Civil Air Patrol | Blairsville Airport | 6 pm |
| Boy Scouts #101 | United Methodist Ch | 7 pm |
| Every Tuesday: | | |
| Tri State Bus. Women | Blairsville Restaurant | 8 am |
| Get Fit | First UMC | 5:15 pm |
| Smoky Mtn. Melodies | United Methodist Ch | 6:30 pm |
| Hi Country Harmonizers | Branan Lodge | 6:30 pm |
| Every Wednesday: | | |
| BINGO | Civic Center | 7 pm |
| Every Thursday: | | |
| Masonic Luncheon | Cooks Restaurant | 11:30 am |
| Rotary Club | So. Bank & Trust | Noon |
| Get Fit | First UMC | 5:15 pm |

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

morning by the familiar booming voice of Old Man Newell screaming out the words, "Your boys put my wagon on top of my barn". Papa called his sons into the kitchen for breakfast and asked them about Newell's claims. The boys couldn't lie to their daddy considering the fact that they had not cleaned the wagon grease from their hands from their escapades of the night before. The boys confessed their crimes to their daddy and explained why they had committed them. Their daddy listened and stated that he understood. However, they were told to go and take the wagon down from the top of the barn. They were also told to go and get the other boys to help the old man.

When the boys drove

up the old man began screaming. He stood at the bottom of the barn and watched to make sure the job was done to his satisfaction. Tommy Trapp asked the other boys, "How are we going to do this"? The old man screamed, "The same way you got it up there". So, Tommy shrugged his shoulders and began taking apart the buggy. He pulled the iron wheel from the axle after the hub was removed and said, "Watch this". Tommy let go of the wheel right above Old Man Newell and it rolled down the sloped roof of the barn. The wheel came within 6 inches of Old Man Newell's head. He must've got the message because he left the boys alone to finish the job and Old Man Newell never again screamed at the boys from Trapptown.

Mitchell ...

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money which the Assembly has to play with to the taxpayers of this State?

When Saxby Chambliss was one of Georgia's United States Senators, he was all about another superhighway diagonally crossing our State.

That project was wisely, thankfully, quashed.

Widening the Murphy Highway is unnecessary and unwise and will bring unanticipated disruption to northern Union County and additional expense to all of Union County.

Do Casino visitors really need to drive that fast in their haste to gamble?

George A. Mitchell

Mattee...

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allergy to develop.

Keep an eye out for plants that produce a lot of pollen and try to remove them from your property or avoid them during pollen season. Do not pull goldenrod though! Many of the allergies blamed on goldenrod are actually caused by ragweed. This is because though goldenrod does have pollen, its particles are smooth and round, whereas ragweed's are coarse and rough, irritating eyes and sinuses. Goldenrod is important for pollinators so it's a great plant to have on your property.

Though they may seem inconvenient, these steps will greatly help to reduce the amount of pollen in your home and let you and your guests enjoy spring without runny noses and weepy eyes.

Fowler ...


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his hand about seven feet off the ground.

In his book, "Angels," Billy Graham recounts encounters that might be explained as supernatural. Contrary to popular thought, angels aren't cherub babies with wings, or deceased humans. The word "angel" means messenger, but the Biblical account expands that role to helper (Heb. 1:14), protector (Psa. 91:11), and warrior (Dan. 10).

So that began my friendship with KT, and his brother was OK. I'm not claiming that an angel was in my yard, but whoever it was, I appreciate the message.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



March 4, 2017
In memory of
Betty Kelly Williams
Birthday
by UC Historical Society

March 11, 2017
In memory of
Paula Paris Johnson
Anniversary
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

March 15, 2017
In honor of
Ira T. Harkins Birthday
by UC Historical Society

March 19, 2017
in honor of
Harry and Shirley Walker
63rd Wedding Anniversary
by Shirley Walker

March 27, 2017
In memory of
Gertrude W. Shuler
by Betty J. Shuler

March 31, 2017
In memory of
Harry Walker
88th Birthday
by Shirley Walker

Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493