

**Paris... continued from Page 4A**

For example, there is an old dilapidated house that the owner received notice about and is going to have cleaned up. They found a contractor, but the contractor won't be able to do the work for a couple of months. So, these things take time, and we ask citizens to be patient and realize we are working on it as quickly as we can. Also, be patient with the county employees who are working on all these complaints as this has been added to their current work load.

**Q. What other types of things does the Building Inspection and Development Office work on?**

A. Building Inspection and Development and Environmental Enforcement are operated out of the same office with the same employees. So, between these two departments the employees will issue Building Permits, perform all building inspections, handle all trash, junkyard and environmental complaints, billboard

permitting, make all the county road signs, contractor training and license verification with the state, plan reviews, erosion and sediment permitting and road right of way acquisition. All of the above is in addition to citizens who come in or call with building or environmental related questions.

**Q. How many building inspections does the Building Inspection and Development Office perform?**

A. On average, for each new house that is permitted in Union County, there will be 10 inspections per house. This could be more per house if they do not pass all the inspections the first time. So far this year there have been 55 permits issued for new houses, including residential and spec houses, which equals at least 550 inspections. These numbers are just for new houses, this does not include inspections for garages or additions which would add to the overall number of inspections performed.

**Harper... continued from Page 4A**

They are located in Murphy at 33 Peachtree Street. There will be special promotions and door prizes. This will be a fun filled event. (www.dandelionsjourneytravel.com)

On 4/10 at 2 PM there will be a Ribbon Cutting for Unique Boutique at 294 Hwy 515 W, Suite A in Blairsville. Come see their fantastic selection of clothing and accessories. (www.facebook.com/alihogsed/)

There will be a Ribbon Cutting for the Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival on 4/13 at 12 noon. It will be held at the Union County Fine Arts Center at 926 Panther Over-

look. (www.gamountainstoryfest.org)

Business After Hours/ Business of the Quarter is scheduled for 4/12 at 5:30 to 7 PM. It will be held at SERVEPRO of Union, Towns, Fannin and Gilmer counties. The address is 117 Industrial Park Drive, Young Harris. The Chamber Business of the Quarter will be announced and celebrated at this event. Plan to attend!

Well that's it for this week. You can reach us at the Chamber at 706 745-5789 or check the website at www.visitblairsvilllega.com

Thank you for supporting your Chamber.

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

*in Science Advances Magazine* showed that rats exposed to alcohol were far more likely than other rats to push a lever that released cocaine. The researchers also found that the alcohol suppressed two genes that normally act as cutoff switches for the effects of cocaine, creating a "permissive environment" for the drug within the rodents' brains.

Most critical to the viability of gateway theory, both studies found there was no enabling effect when the order of the drugs was reversed. Taking cocaine did not make the rodents more susceptible to the effects of alcohol or nicotine, supporting the idea that some drugs are better than others as starter-drugs.

"Now that we've done the animal experiment, we see that using one drug changes your brain in such a way that using another drug becomes more rewarding," said Dr. Kandel, a professor of sociology at Columbia University. "And there is an order. Cocaine doesn't create this effect."

Critics are quick to point out the shortcomings in these studies, including the assumption that rodents and humans respond similarly to narcotics.

Dr. Ethan Nadelmann, the founder and former executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance noted that many previous studies showing how one drug enhances the effect of another have contradicted the gateway theory. A 2008 paper found that by taking marijuana, chronic-pain sufferers could reduce their doses of pain-relieving opioids, for example. And people who combine marijuana with prescription opioids are not more likely to abuse alcohol or other drugs, research has shown. And there is now mounting evidence that factors such as poverty and poor social environment are a greater predictor of hard drug use than

early exposure to soft drugs.

What the medical community knows about addiction has evolved significantly since the 1930s, when a team of researchers introduced an early version of the gateway concept. Known as Stepping Stone Theory, it was based on the researchers' observation that 100 percent of the heroin addicts they interviewed had first used marijuana. Their conclusion: Marijuana leads inexorably to heroin use.

Later versions of the theory focused less on the idea that using one drug necessarily causes use of the other and more on establishing the order in which addicts typically move through substances. "You're never really able to establish a clear causal connection because there are so many factors you can't control for," said Dr. Kandel, whose first paper on the topic is considered seminal. "All you can say is there is an association between the use of these drugs, and there tends to be a sequence."

Today, health advocates tend to rally around a concept known as common liability theory, which states that certain people, by virtue of biology, environment or both, are simply more likely than others to become addicted to drugs. Part of the appeal of the theory is it explains why so many people can use so-called gateway drugs and never become addicted.

According to this theory, parents looking to protect their kids from addiction should focus less on which substances their children might be using and more on the overall context of what else they have going on. Are there underlying psychological and mental issues not being treated? Is the person using this substance as a form of self-medication? Could coaching on positive decision-making skills be a benefit?

**Riley... continued from Page 4A**

borhoods and entire communities from future wildfire risk or current post-fire impacts.

The Towns County Citizens Firewise Coalition has plans for an event on the square on May 5th so come out and participate and see what these citizens are planning to help make your community and home safer from an out-of-control wildfire. There will be all sorts of activities and food on the square in Hiawassee that day, with Smokey over-seeing the activities.

Another of our events that day will be at Camp Rainey Mountain in Rabun County where we will have a wildfire preparedness day for 1200 Cub Scouts and their parents. Smokey will also be there visiting with the young scouts and giving them tips on how to prevent a wildfire. Plans are to have 5 stations around the lake, each with experts talking about various forestry subjects for the scouts to learn about forestry and fire.

A highlight for the day will be a demonstration of aerial fire-fighting techniques by the Georgia Forestry Commission's 2 new SEAT (Single-Engine-Air-Tanker) aircraft. The SEATs are Agricultural spraying airplanes with a 500-gallon

**Cummings... continued from Page 4A**

class that requested a parent/teacher conference.

After the conference my mom asked my dad "Is it any wonder these people of Kankakee call us hillbillies"? As we walked into the house Dad told Mom that I needed a spanking, immediately she responded, "No, you told him the story, this whole thing is your fault". So, I never got into trouble over this story, but, I did learn to verify the story before printing or telling it.

**Combs...**

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the Gospel united with Christ by faith and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to defeat the devil at every turn; for greater is He that lives within us, than he that lives in the world. We who believe in the Name of Jesus Christ have a bright future waiting for us soon and those who don't have no hope of a better day coming. I pray with all of my heart that they too can come to know the Lord Jesus Christ before it is too late. There is a clock ticking for mankind that hangs in the balance of God's sovereignty over all of His creation. Come and join Jesus Christ who died for all. Amen  
**Frank F. Combs**

**Fowler...**

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the Holy Spirit? It's surely Him if it moves you to understand and act on His written Word, love people, and reject sin. On other matters, consider what Jesus said. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me," Jesus said (John 10:27).

God can speak to you through the Bible, creation, the Holy Spirit, and also through prayer, circumstances, and other believers. The point is not so much how He speaks, but that He does. That raises our expectations and demands our response. There's no question God has spoken to you. The question is if you are listening.

**Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse**



**In Honor of Ethelene Dyer Jones**  
Genealogist  
by Eva and Jim Wike  
April 6, 2018

**In Honor of Shawn and Joy Foster**  
5th Anniversary  
by Joy Foster  
April 13, 2018

**In memory of Fred L. Miller Birthday**  
by Lorraine Miller  
April 19, 2018  
In memory of

**Virginia B. Meeks Anniversary**  
by Ginger and Terry Meeks  
April 28, 2018

**In memory of Dollie C. Meeks Birthday**  
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493