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ty-maintained roads that need restriping?

A. Last week I signed off on our county road striping list for this coming season. We normally budget \$50,000 for striping and this season it will be well over \$100,000. The need for this much striping is largely caused by the enormous amount of rain we have received, the increases in traffic flow and construction traffic on our county-maintained roads. Our county restriping list this year includes most of the main county roads: Pat Haralson Drive, Old Blue Ridge Highway, Jones Creek, Nottely Dam Road, Skeenah

Gap, Gumlog Road, Smyrna Road, Ivylog Road, Trackrock Church Road, Loving Road, Mulky Gap, Pat Colwell Road, Town Creek School Road, Deavers Road and Owtown. This will end up being a little over 70 miles of county roads that will be striped. We hope to have this completed by May or June of 2019, but that will also be dependent on the amount of rain we receive in the upcoming paving season. If you want to call and make your own request to GDOT, the local GDOT number is 706-781-3957 and the District Office in Gainesville is 770-532-5526.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

A vaping guide has been created for parents to help you understand what vaping is, the appeal to youth and what research has to say about both the risks and unknowns. It has also identified some signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned that your child may try or is vaping and offer some advice on what to say when answering some of your child's tough questions about vaping. This guide can be found on the website www.drugfree.org by the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids.

Although many substances can be vaped, three are most common: flavored e-liquids, flavored e-liquids with nicotine, and marijuana. The e-liquids come in small bottles or in pre-filled pods or cartridges. Pods are the component that contain the e-liquid.

Flavored e-liquids come in thousands of flavors, including bubble gum, cotton candy and grape, but also hot dog, banana bread and King Crab legs. Flavored e-liquids may also contain different levels of nicotine, ranging from 2mg/ml to 59mg/ml. One of the more popular vape devices, Juul, contains 59mg/ml of nicotine in each pod. Each Juul pod is equal to one pack of cigarettes.

Nicotine exposure in teens and young adults is wor-

risome because nicotine can be highly addictive. Since the brain is undergoing massive changes during adolescence through the mid-to late 20's, nicotine use may rewire the brain, making it easier to get hooked on other substances and contribute to problems with concentration, learning and impulse control.

Marijuana can be vaped in both the leaf form or using THC and/or CBD oil. Selling equipment to vape marijuana in dab (concentrated wax-like substance) or oil or leaf form is a booming business. For example, Pax Labs, formerly Ploom, was founded in 2007 and is a relatively well-known brand for vaping dry leaf marijuana. The company has introduced the Pax 3, which they describe as the "Apple iPhone" of vaporizers as it allows you to vape both dry leaf and wax concentrates. It includes a free Android or iOS app to control temperature, play free games, manage firmware and lock the device.

Juul can also be used to vape marijuana; however, it should be noted that as of now, Juul does not offer marijuana products. The device must be hacked in order to use it with THC oils. There are also companies making pods that fit a Juul, so a THC oil pod may be in the future.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

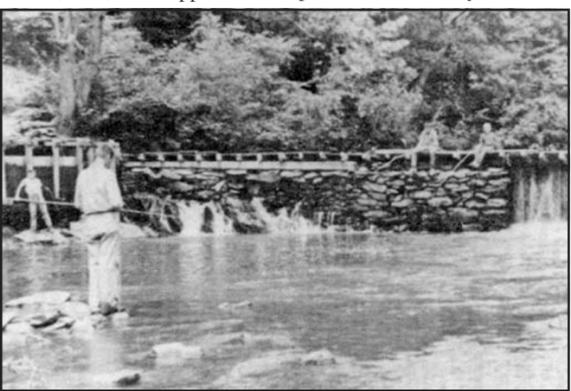
bringing their grain to be ground and very few of them had cash to pay for the grinding service. So, the miller at the mill would keep 1/4 of the product milled instead of cash. The person bringing the grain would keep 3/4 of the product. The flour and meal from the mill was then sold locally and hauled to Gainesville to be sold.

In 1921 Ab Martin purchased the mill from Lucius England by trading a farm and some cash for it. He added a generator in 1928 which supplied electricity to some of Blairsville until the mid 1940s. Bud said there were a small number of street lights around the Courthouse which were powered by the old mill. One of these can still be seen behind the Mock House just south of the Old Courthouse. If you visit the mill site today the building which housed the turbine is still standing. The floor of this power house is made of concrete reinforced with steel. Much of the foundation walls of the mill itself are still present, however, the dam is no longer present.

Another friend, Harold Dyer, told me about his adventures of going to this mill. He said it was one of his favorite places to visit because a lot of the time the mill would be busy and they would have to wait for the process to take place. This would allow him the opportunity to fish above the dam. There must've been quite a lot of water in front of this large dam because many of the people I talked with told me of the good fishing in the deep hole. Mr. Dyer told me he caught catfish, bass, and crappie in the

hole. He said, "I always carried a fishing pole with me when we went to the Old River Mill." He also told me about a suspension bridge above the dam. He said, "You could walk on that old bridge and it would bounce and swing above the river. You could also walk across the dam as well. My Daddy would always caution me to be careful when walking across that old bridge or the dam."

After Blue Ridge Mountain EMC began providing electricity to Union County the generator shut down. However, Bob Hood still ran the mill for a time. But, a major flood occurred around 1960 which washed a lot of the structure of the mill away. Another flood in the 1980s washed more away. Bud Akins told me he and a crew built a private bridge across the river at the mill site. A storm moved through the area which dumped a lot of rainfall. So much rain fell that the river swelled to almost the bottom of the bridge. Afterward most of the rock of the dam had been pushed downstream. There was a house just downstream of the mill that was completely washed away. If you visit the site today all that is left are some foundation stones and the turbine house. If these old pieces of this mill could talk we could learn a lot. But, they cannot therefore, we rely on people who lived through the days of the Old River Mill to relate their experiences to us. Or, we rely on the Union County Historical Society to preserve and tell us stories of the past and what life was like for the people of Union County.



River Mill Dam (1950s)



Site of the dam at River Mill (2019)

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

his service on the Board of Directors for more than a decade, including a term as Chairman. It is dedicated individuals like these that help the Chamber grow and make Blairsville-Union County a great place to live, work, and play.

Another highlight of the evening was the passing of the gavel to our new Chair, Dr. Renee Deibert of North Georgia Technical College. After introduction of the new Board members, Dr. Deibert called upon Mayor Conley to swear them into their new positions. We are excited to announce our new Chamber board members: Jeff Davis with Jeff Davis State Farm Insurance, David Murphy, the Assistant Superintendent of Union County Public Schools, Cory Payne with Advanced Digital Cable, Buck Levins, Assistant District

Fowler...

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of believers stimulates that new way in you.

As Rufus Webb lay dying, he spoke with the Vicar, "I have served Him and feared Him with all my heart." "That may be: but you have neither loved Him nor trusted Him, and by your unbelief you have crucified Him afresh." "I wonder if you are right, and if I have misjudged Him all these years." "I am sure of it."

God wants you free to bear the fruit of love, joy, and peace. "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25).

Dyer...

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Thursday, Feb. 7 – Lightning Safety

Friday, Feb. 8 – Flood Safety

On Wednesday, when tornado safety is emphasized, residents, schools and businesses statewide can participate in Ready Georgia's PrepareAthon! For Tornado Safety, a statewide tornado drill. Residents should know what to do during a tornado and practice these skills.

We encourage everyone to take the time to research and prepare for these severe weather incidents. For more information about Severe Weather Preparedness Week and events occurring locally, visit our Facebook page @ucfd1 or contact Union County EMA at 706-439-6091.

Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

Williams...

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that remains to be seen. However, as of writing this column on January 24 the information that I've included is up to date. There are a number of other agricultural services that I haven't talked about here that are in limbo. Clearly, the longer the shutdown continues the greater the impact will be on our agriculture and natural resources. When government offices resume normal operations there will be a backlog of work to go through.

Throughout the shutdown the Extension Office will continue to be open. We are funded by the state and county, so our funding is not affected. So don't be worried about contacting your Extension Office or sending me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu during this shutdown. We are still here to serve you!

GMRC Workforce Board meeting

The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, Workforce Development Board will meet on January 31, 2019 at 4 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Hall County Commission Office located at 2875 Browns Bridge Road, Gainesville, GA 30504.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



January 2, 2019
In memory of
Virginia B. Meeks
Birthday

by Ginger and Terry Meeks

January 21, 2019
In memory of
Dollie C. Meeks
Anniversary

by Ginger and Terry Meeks

Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493

Riley... continued from Page 4A

the welfare of future generations was a commitment taken very seriously by early district officials.

A report from Nolen J. Fuqua of Oklahoma exemplifies that commitment: "We reorganized into a state organization at the beginning of soil conservation work in 1937. This was due to government men who came down telling us what we needed to do to serve as supervisors. We thought organization would help us and we voted unanimously last week to associate ourselves with the National Association. Four of every five acres in Oklahoma farms and ranches are now being damaged by soil erosion or have lost some of the precious topsoil before soil conservation treatment was applied. Less than 5,000,000 acres of farmlands have suffered no erosion damages, but more than three-fourths of the topsoil has been lost from 8,543,000 acres.

Farmers and ranchers, with the help of Soil Conservation Service technicians, have developed 34,000 coordinated conservation plans. These plans provide for sound land use, the proper combination of conservation practices, improvement of soil productivity, and an economical system of farming whereby man can not only save soil, but improve it and at the same time, increase his financial return from the land.

Oklahoma has made the most outstanding record in the United States in seeding land removed from cultivation to native grasses. Almost a half-million acres have been seeded

under the Soil Conservation Districts' program. However, there is a big conservation job yet to be done." Conservation districts set out to create a national organization in 1946 so that they could deliver a unified message to policy makers on conservation-related issues and better coordinate district activities on a countrywide scale.

Today we continue to reap the benefits of the conservation legacy our early district leaders left to us. As we look to the future, it is critical that conservation districts continue to have a national, unified voice. In the words of R. Neil Sampson, author of *For Love of the Land: A History of the National Association of Conservation Districts*: "the accomplishments of the first half-century are impressive, but the challenges ahead seem equally awesome." Sampson believed the greatest challenge to the implementation of conservation was "moving people to constructive action." Surmounting that challenge, he said, would depend on the recognition of the "potential that lies in the dedication, commitment and skill of those who love the land—the people of the soil conservation districts." NACD's purpose and mission is to provide that recognition of conservation districts; to promote their stories, to support their initiatives, and to be their voice—the voice of conservation.

For more information on NACD and Soil & Water Conservation Districts, contact Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D at info.ccrd@gmail.com.