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ing authorities to send warnings via broadcast, cable, satellite and wireline communication pathways. Wireless Emergency Alerts or WEA are emergency messages sent by an authorized government alerting authority through your mobile carrier. The same messages are sent through both systems. So, someone who does not receive the message via cellphone can still receive the message through other outlets such as their landline, radio or television.

Q. What types of alerts will I be receiving?

A. There are presently three categories of alerts sent through WEA: imminent threat alerts about threatening emergencies in an area including extreme weather, AMBER alerts, and presidential alerts about emergencies of national consequence. Users may opt out of receiving alerts in the imminent threat and AMBER alert categories but cannot opt out of receiving presidential alerts.

Q. Why is FEMA conducting a joint WEA and EAS test?

A. The nationwide WEA (Wireless Emergency Alerts) and EAS (Emergency Alert System) test will provide FEMA with valuable information on the effectiveness of WEA accompanying an EAS for a national presidential alert. Nationwide EAS tests have been conducted the past two years. 2018 will be the first

year for the nationwide test to include both EAS and WEA. In the event of a national emergency and/or disaster, WEA is just one of several channels that will be used to warn the public and communicate what protective action to take. Successful alerting requires using multiple channels to ensure the largest portion of the public possible receives an alert. Testing allows FEMA to evaluate a portion of the nation's alerting capabilities. Nationwide EAS-WEA testing helps FEMA and industry participants to maintain and improve alert and warning capabilities at the federal, state, local, tribal and territorial levels, together with testing the nationwide WEA capability for the first time.

Q. Is this the same alert system that we can sign up for through the county?

A. No, this is a separate alert system. IPAWS alerts and the test that will occur on Oct. 3 are through the national system, and you do not have to sign up for that. The Union County Alert System that you sign up for with the county notifies you of local emergencies including but not limited to severe weather emergencies, evacuations and boil water advisories. If you have questions regarding any of the information contained in this Q&A you can contact the Union County Fire Department at 706-439-6091.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

grand openings, marketing education and communication departments. He was instrumental in starting the Chick-fil-A Collegiate Licensing program as well as establishing restaurants on university campuses, airports and hospitals. During his time with the organization, he also served in the Operations Department as vice president of the Southeast Region.

This is sure to make both an insightful and informative afternoon. Reservations can be made through the Chamber of Commerce by calling 706-745-5789 or by logging onto www.visitblairsvillega.com. The cost for this event is \$20 per person for Chamber members and \$35 per person for non-Chamber members. We would love to have you join us.

On Wednesday, Oct. 17, Julie Judkins, the director of Outreach and Education for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, will be heading over from Asheville, North Carolina, to speak at our Monthly Mingle Luncheon. In addition to sharing about Union County being an official Appalachian Trail

Community since 2011, she will be discussing the importance and impact of this prized jewel located in our own backyard. The mission of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is to preserve and manage the A.T., ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural heritage can be shared and enjoyed today, tomorrow and for centuries to come. For anyone interested in learning more about the A.T. or wanting to become involved with hiking groups or preservation of this gem, this is a must-do event. The Monthly Mingle lunch is open to everyone in our community and will be held at the Union County Community Center on the 17th from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. The all-inclusive lunch costs \$12 and is being catered by The View Grill. To register for the luncheon online, go to visitblairsvillega.com and or call the Chamber at 706-745-5789.

We look forward to continuing to provide wonderful educational opportunities that are beneficial to our entire community.

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and rather obscene size never intended by the Founding Fathers.

To respond to another issue in reference to differing belief systems in the Christian churches, the letter writer seems to think this invalidates the Christian faith. Actually, churches are like families. During holidays, families celebrate with big get-togethers, fellowship, conversation and lots of food – even though some skip the sweet potatoes and the rutabagas, and only want the turkey leg. Every family has a type of crotchety Uncle Yokum who gets under the skin of other family members, but he is always invited, because they are all family! Christians like choosing their “diet,” too. I’d like to paint a visual word-picture describing Christians:

wherever there is Unity in the Essentials, and Tolerance in the Non-essentials, that is what matters – just as in all families. I love to gather with folks from various denominations in that core of Essential Beliefs, knowing I am part of a truly great family of God.

As we get older – and hopefully wiser – we often change both our political party and our denomination. I’ve heard that those who refuse to consider different sides of an issue have minds firmly set like concrete and are not able to evaluate the merits of an opposing viewpoint. I hope this writer and I are not in that category, and I’ve enjoyed sharing “The Other Side of the Story” with him.

Arlene M. Gray

Attention UCES families

You are invited to Union County Elementary School for our Annual Title I Meeting on Oct. 25, 2018, at 11:30 a.m. At this event, we will review and discuss our school's Title I program. Topics include: A Title I School receives federal funding based on the income of families to help all students meet the same high standards; Review of the Schoolwide Program; Curriculum and Assessments; Parent and Family Engagement Policy; School-Family Compact; and Ways to be involved. Hope to see you there!

Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America has joined with Ira Weaver American Legion Post 121, 78 Old Blue Ridge Highway, Blairsville, for the upcoming holiday season. Wreaths Across America, with the help of individuals, families, small business and corporations, gathers money to place holiday wreaths on the graves of veterans. The efforts between Ira Weaver Post 121 and Wreaths Across America will ensure that any donation made to Wreaths Across America using the donation form obtained from American Legion Post 121 goes directly to placing Holiday Wreaths

on the graves at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton. Last Christmas, there were insufficient Wreaths for all graves in Canton.

Effective 9-11-18, the donation form can be viewed and download from the American Legion Post 121 website by visiting LegionPost121.org. If questions arise, please contact Stephen Stratman at smstratman@legionpost121.org or call 912-856-7951.

Please help Wreaths Across America and American Legion Post 121, Blairsville, GA to place a wreath on the grave of a veteran who gave so much to this great country of ours.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

them crying. He fussed at Effie and told all of them to follow him to the fishing hole down at the creek. He never liked sad songs. To this day, whenever my Dad hears the song “I Will Meet You in The Morning” he thinks of Aunt Evie.

Toward the end of the war and after Dad and Uncle Bud became wise to the ways of politics, they found another way to aggravate Uncle Luther. The two boys knew he was a staunch Republican. They also knew he was not a fan of Roosevelt or Mr. Truman. One day, the boys rode with Papa to Phil Campbell, and as usual, they stopped in at the store. Uncle Luther came out to fill up the old truck. When the

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11:35, Luke 19:41)

You need a fresh perspective not filtered by your own memories and biases. Psychologist Daniel Kahneman says, “Odd as it may seem I am my remembering self, and the experiencing self who does my living is like a stranger to me.” But you are not limited by that. In Christ, you are a new creation and you have His mind to appraise things the way He does (2 Cor. 5:17, 1 Cor. 2:16). His indwelling Spirit means you have your Father’s eyes, a clear and eternal perspective.

Dyer...

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These are a few ideas on how to better prepare for disasters and emergencies during this National Preparedness Month. Take the time to plan and discuss with your family. Visit www.Ready.gov or follow our Facebook page for more information.

Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

Kissel...

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down so we can give more to the community.

Again, thank you for all you do in assisting, advising and guiding us as we endeavor to serve the citizens, more especially the children, of Blairsville and Union County with our fundraising events. We truly appreciate your kindness and generosity. In the future, if I or any member of Allegheny Lodge can be of assistance to you in any way, please feel free to let us know.

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

Walter Kissel
Worship Master 2018,
Allegheny Lodge #114

Drug Free...

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have long-lasting or permanent effects on the developing adolescent brain. Negative effects include difficulty with critical-thinking skills like attention, problem solving and memory, impaired reaction time and coordination, especially as it relates to driving, and decline in school performance.

Research also shows that about one in six teens who repeatedly use marijuana can become addicted, as compared to one in nine adults. There is an increased risk of mental health issues including depression or anxiety, and in some cases psychosis where there is a family history of it.

It's important for parents and caregivers to note that these impacts of marijuana differ from the impacts on a fully mature adult brain. Delaying substance use of any kind, including marijuana, gives your child the best opportunity to have optimal brain functioning.

Set clear expectations. Express your understanding of the risks, but also why a person may want to vape. Share why you don't want him/her vaping, and remember, it's important to avoid scare tactics. Be honest.

Teach refusal skills. It's likely that your teen or young adult will be introduced to vaping marijuana by a friend or older sibling. It helps to rehearse what he/she will say if that happens.

Have your loved one talk to other trusted adults who can reinforce your message. Sometimes, messages coming from your pediatrician, school counselor, favorite aunt or uncle, etc., can be more impactful.

Model healthy behaviors. If you come home from work and discuss what a tough day it's been while popping open a beer, pouring a glass of wine or smoking a joint, you are conveying this is how you handle stress. It's healthier for your child – and you – if you take a walk with the dog or go for a run rather than turn to substances as stress busters.

you start on me about Harry Truman.”

Dad and Uncle Bud would always play innocent and wonder out loud at what Luther was talking about. Then, Luther would turn to Papa and say, “Coon, them's the two meanest boys whatever was.” After driving away, the boys would holler out, “Luther

looks just like Harry Truman,” at which Luther would always sling a rock that never came close to its target.

That pile of rocks stayed by that gas pump for years afterward, even after Dad moved away. But each time we drove by the store, a smile of remembrance came across the face of my father.

The rock never made it far enough to make contact, but it scared my Dad nonetheless.

Thereafter, Uncle Luther kept a pile of rocks at the gas pump. Each time Papa would stop, Luther would say, “Boys, don't

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mination will only be effective if the source of contamination has been removed. Flush the well again in the same manner described earlier using an outdoor faucet. If you use an indoor faucet you run the risk of highly chlorinated water in the septic system killing the beneficial bacteria.

Finally, test your water for Coliform bacteria. The Extension Office has kits available for testing your water. Contact your local Extension Office for more information on Coliform testing or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Towns & Union County Extension are having a Master Gardeners training course that will begin Jan. 29. This is a 10-week course that will teach about horticultural practices and includes volunteer opportunities. The cost is \$175. Contact your local Extension Office for more information or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.