

Paris... continued from Page 4A

A. The lowering of the ISO/PPC rating could mean lower insurance rates for home and business owners. Although there are many factors that make up the insurance rates, the lowering of the PPC™ can contribute to the reduction of the overall insurance premium. Some homes and businesses have seen an additional 10 to 20 percent reduction as a result of our last rating. However, it is up to the individual insurance companies to determine premiums, and not all are affected the same. If you have a question, contact your insurance company to make sure you are being rated properly. You can call the Union County Fire Department to confirm your ISO rating.

Q. What are the exact numbers we need to know to discuss this issue with our insurance company?

A. If a building or home is located within five road miles of a fire station and has a fire hydrant within 1,000 feet, it is considered a class 4 in Union County. If a building or home is located within five road miles of a fire station and there is NO fire hydrant within 1,000 feet, it is a class 4Y (formally

class 8B). All homes or buildings beyond five road miles of a fire station are classified as class 10.

Q. What are some of the major fire protection factors considered within a county?

A. The major elements that are considered in the FSRs are emergency communications, fire department, and water supply. It also has added a Community Risk Reduction section that recognizes community efforts to reduce losses through fire prevention, public fire safety education, and fire investigation.

Q. When will Union County be surveyed again for ISO ratings?

A. The last new ISO rating took effect on March 1, 2016. ISO expects to survey Union County's fire suppression efforts every three to four years or sooner if there have been any major changes to the dispatch center, fire department or water systems. Union County Fire Department works continuously to maintain and improve Union County's ISO PPC™ class. *Union County Fire Department – Our Family Protecting Your Family.*

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

have a hard winter. Just to double check the extended forecast, we found a persimmon tree loaded with fruit. She cut it open and on the inside was the design of a spoon instead of a fork. She said, "Yep, that is a sure sign that the winter is going to be snowy."

I spent the whole summer with my grandparents. I checked my hands each morning, and 55 years later, I still do not have warts. Also, our cow never went dry that summer, but there was some sound reasoning behind what she told me about the toad and many other things in life. The reason she did not want me playing with toads is that one of the de-

fense mechanisms of the toad is to urinate on the offending person's hands. I am sure this process causes problems for a little boy whose hands are constantly rubbing their eyes and scratching their nose. What about the myth concerning the cow drying up? Well, it is just wrong to mistreat any animal. So, my grandmother was trying to show me there are consequences for my actions. I fail to remember whether 1963 was a snowy year, but it is fun to remember. If you want to make a prediction for the winter of 2019, find yourself a persimmon and cut it open. Does it contain the outline of a spoon or a fork?

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

Throughout the fall, a couple of venues will be featuring weekly live music. The Union County Historical Society hosts free concerts every Friday night at the Union County Courthouse on the square. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the concerts begin at 7 p.m. For a list of artists, visit www.union-countyhistory.org. Paradise Hills will continue supporting local musicians by offering live music every Saturday and Sunday. A list of the artist lineup can be found at www.paradise-hillsga.com. Paradise Hills is located at 366 Paradise Road in Blairsville and can be reached at 706-745-7483 or info@paradisehillsga.com.

And for anyone looking for a great belly laugh, the Blue Ridge Community Theater is presenting the farce "Hotbed Hotel" from Sept. 20 through Oct. 7. This play runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons only. For additional details and to buy tickets, please call the box office at 706-632-9191 or visit www.blueridgecommunitytheater.com. Blue Ridge Community Theater is located

at 2591 East 1st Street in Blue Ridge.

If you haven't participated in one of our Monthly Mingle lunch and learn events, we'd love to have you "Fall into Monthly Mingle" on Wednesday, Sept. 19. This month's speaker is marketing expert Lee Bradshaw. He'll be teaching business owners how to simplify their message through the medium of story to ultimately generate additional cash flow. Lee works with clients across the country, including entrepreneurs, realtors, financial planners and coaches, just to name a few. The cost for the event is \$12 and includes a fajita bar lunch with all the trimmings catered by The View Grill. This month's lunch is sponsored by Sentinel Plastic Surgery. For more information or to register, please search "Monthly Mingle" on the Chamber website at visitblairsvillega.com.

Save the date! Make plans to attend our Power Lunch on Wednesday, Oct. 3. Barry White will be our guest speaker. More details to follow in next week's column.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

One thing piquing researchers' interest is whether marijuana use rates will be greater in states where users can buy buds and cannabis oils legally. In a survey conducted at the end of 2017, 28 percent of Nevada residents said they purchased marijuana in the previous six months, the majority of which were males in their 20s and 30s, as reported by The Nevada Independent.

A recent study in Colorado showed that about 15 percent of all workers use cannabis. Rates were highest among workers in the hotel, restaurant and entertainment industries, with a 30 percent usage rate. Among transportation workers, the number was about 10 percent, and even lower in other

fields that conduct regular drug testing. Regardless of the state where a business operates, routine drug testing greatly deters usage among employees.

Such wide acceptance and use of cannabis may encourage workers to think it is "no big deal" to show up high. After all, you are now permitted to buy it and smoke it, so perhaps it makes sense that you should be allowed to do anything while under the influence of marijuana.

Like other legal mind-altering substances, including alcohol and prescribed medications, the use of cannabis in states where it's been decriminalized remains restricted in some ways. For example, in Colorado, it is not legal to smoke pot in public or while in a car. Drivers can be charged for driving while intoxicated if they operate a vehicle while high on drugs or alcohol, legal or otherwise.

But wait – how high is too high to drive?

According to Nevada law, a driver can be charged if a urine sample "shows at least 10 nanograms of marijuana per milliliter (or 15 nanograms per milliliter of marijuana metabolite) or the blood test shows two nanograms of marijuana per milliliter (or five nanograms per milliliter of marijuana metabolite)."

The law in Colorado reflects similar allowable metabolite amounts, but the statute also grants law enforcement the power to determine a driver's intoxication based on "observed impairment."

So, what does this mean for employers? With government officials conceding the difficulty in determining a sci-

Williams... continued from Page 4A

trated herbicide. More of the herbicide will be active in the root using this method. Repeat herbicide applications may be required to eradicate the kudzu. As always, read and follow the label before using any pesticide.

If you have any questions about kudzu or other weeds and control methods for them, contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler... continued from Page 4A

To carry each other's luggage "is the law of Christ, the law of the cross, a sacrificial law."

Loneliness and tragedy call for love. If you are like Jesus, you sacrifice your time or treasure for others, and find tangible ways to love those whose burdens are heavy. "While we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (Gal. 6:10). Don't wait for community to find you; create it yourself by following the law of Christ: love your neighbors by bearing their burdens.

Tilton... continued from Page 4A

upwards of 15 to 20 minutes to respond to this, which was mentioned in the story about how there were other things being responded to. However, the good Samaritans who were there prior deserve a little recognition, especially for trying to help out those kids who were in and out of consciousness and keep them as calm as possible.

I don't think our good Samaritans or nurses for that matter get enough mentions ever. Not trying to say you should take away from the story, but you did mention the EMS and whatnot, which are expected to be there. But off-duty nurses, good Samaritans or any off-duty emergency workers never get enough credit where credit is due.

Anyway, I thought I would share my humble opinion (and minor knowledge of the situation) as a reader.

Christina Tilton

Combs... continued from Page 4A

control the upbringing of their children. Sadly, both federal and district courts dismissed the case. Parents then went to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in California, but the judges ruled in favor of the school district that education is not merely about teaching, reading, writing and arithmetic. Education, they said, serves higher civil and social functions, including the rearing of children into healthy and responsible adults. In other words, "Parents, get lost." Mr. Dobson went on to say, "I can envision the Founding Fathers rolling over in their graves and thinking, 'Is this what we fought the American Revolution for?'" Parents across the nation need to hear things like this that don't make the headlines in newspapers, the media and national television.

On a brighter side, President Trump has nominated 44 judges who have been confirmed to the bench, with 88 more in the works to help in the courts. This is an outrage to every parent that needs to know what is going on in our sick society, especially having complete control over our own children. What will the future look like for our children and grandchildren? It's time to strike while the iron is hot. Parents need to get involved in their local schools and learn what new approaches are being set in stone that might prohibit parents from having anything to say of what the school system can and can't do with their own children.

For God's sake, act while you can on behalf of your loved ones.

Frank F. Combs

entific measure for marijuana impairment, law enforcement and employers alike must rely on informed observations to determine whether someone is driving or working while impaired by marijuana.

In short, most experts agree that no amount of marijuana intoxication is safe for activities requiring attention

and concentration. A company's drug and alcohol policy is an employer's first line of defense for handling incidents where there is reason to believe a worker is impaired by cannabis. With a clearly detailed policy, employers have a consistent, written process to follow every time, regardless of who is involved.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Garden Tours	Every Monday: GMREC (May-Oct)	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 a.m.
Kiwanis Club	Sammies Sub Shop	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 p.m.
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 p.m.
Get Fit	Every Tuesday: First UMC	5:15 p.m.
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 p.m.
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 p.m.
BINGO	Every Wednesday: Civic Center	7 p.m.
Butternut Ladies Golf	Every Thursday: Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 a.m.
Mason Luncheon	Cook's Restaurant	11:30 a.m.
Rotary Club	NGTC	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 p.m.
Third Monday of each month:		
Shape Note Music	Old Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
High Country Artisan	U.C.Bank Com Room	6:30 p.m.
Allegheny Lodge #114	Masonic Lodge	6:30 p.m.
Exp Aviation Assoc #1211	Blairsville Airport	7 p.m.
Third Tuesday of each month:		
UC Homemakers	Dooley Chapter	Noon
Healthy Hearts Support	UGH 2nd Floor Class	2 p.m.
American Legion, Aux	Veteran's Center	6:30 p.m.
Chatuge Gun Club	Senior Center, Hia.	7 p.m.
Compassionate Friends	UCB Community Room	7 p.m.
Third Wednesday of each month:		
Quilts of Valor	Coosa Methodist Ch	9:30 a.m.
Blairsville Garden Club	Location not listed	1 p.m.
Friends of the Library	Library Com Room	2 p.m.
Beta Sigma Phi, Iota Iota	So. Bank & Trust	7 p.m.
Third Thursday of each month:		
MMQG	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Kinship Care	Civic Center	Noon
Commissioner's Meet.	County Courthouse	6 p.m.
Good N'bers Auto	Rib Country, Murphy	6:30 p.m.
UT Home Builders	Moschetto's	6:30 p.m.
Cub Scouts Trp. #101	United Methodist Ch.	6:30 p.m.
Beta Sigma Phi	Civic Center	7 p.m.
Tip-off Club	UC High School	7 p.m.
UC Saddle Club	Arena Clubhouse	7 p.m.