

Weekend...from Page 1A

Also on Saturday, Dec. 6, the Butt-Mock House Open House is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Patrons are urged to visit the Mountain Life Museum to celebrate the holidays as they did in the mid-1800s. Visit all month to see the full-size Nativity scene.

Santa Claus is scheduled to visit the Historic Courthouse on the Square on Saturday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The word on the street is that children in line by 3 p.m. will get to see Santa and his elves, and can have their pictures taken.

Blairsville-Union

County Chamber of Commerce President Cindy Williams reminds us that Jingle Bell Buys is scheduled for Dec. 4-6. Store coupons are available at VisitBlairsville-GA.com, for those interested in doing a little Christmas shopping.

Dec. 1-31 is the An-

nual Tour of Trees. Wreaths and trees at the Union County Community Center will be on display for public viewing, Williams said.

Bring the family out this weekend for a joyous holiday adventure in Blairsville-Union County.

Pearl...from Page 1A

Johnson spent five years in the Atlantic fleet before transferring to the Pacific fleet in 1944.

"In 1944, I had Christmas dinner in Pearl Harbor," said Johnson. "It hurt - when my ship that I was on came in to Pearl Harbor, our whole squadron of ships, of course, we went to attention, everybody. The captain had everybody lined up in full dress uniform on the ships when we came in to Pearl Harbor."

The men had lined up to honor the USS Arizona, one of the many ships sunk that day in 1941.

Today, the retired USS Missouri floats forever watchful over the memorial of the USS Arizona. Johnson served on the Missouri just three months following the Japanese surrender aboard the same ship.



Bud Johnson

"I'm going to go back," said Johnson. "My daughter promised me she's going to take me back to Pearl. I've been a donor from day one to the beautiful memorial and museum and everything out there that's built right there over the Arizona."

And Johnson remembers where he was the day the Japanese surrendered.

"The war had been over in June in Europe, and it was a long time coming," said Johnson. "But it was absolute mayhem. I was in New York, and I went up to Times Square. I was waiting to be reassigned to duty over here, and I got on the subway, a bunch of us, and

went up to Times Square, and that's where we celebrated for 12 hours."

Many World War II photos are now famous, but one photo in particular captures the pure elation over the end of the war - the photo by Alfred Eisenstaedt of the sailor kissing the nurse in Times Square. Johnson's not the one kissing the nurse, but he shared in that excitement right along with his fellow Americans.

For Johnson, remembering Pearl Harbor is as important now as it was in 1941.

"People tend to forget the heroes out there, so that's why I always make sure that we recognize that," said Johnson. "They don't get them much in history anymore, do they? They don't. It's a shame that we have lost the ability to give our heirs and our children things like this that happened, because it's a lesson. It's always a lesson."

Having served in the Navy for 36 years, four months and four days, Johnson spent much of his life on military ships.

He retired as a chief petty officer, and during World War II, he saw the raising of

both flags at Iwo Jima from the water, and survived the detonation of a German mine off the U.S. East Coast on the YMS-21, a minesweeper ship.

"I made first class petty officer on there, and she got deployed to Europe, and she got sunk," said Johnson of the YMS-21 after his transfer to another ship. "Out of a crew of 48, only two men survived."

A man of strong faith, 92-year-old Bud Johnson puts his good fortune and long life down to having a purpose.

"God has been with me," said Johnson. "God blessed me and has given me the years he has, because I've been kamikazed, I've been torpedoed, mines, gunshot - a survivor."

Johnson has compiled books on Pearl Harbor, Iwo Jima and is working on his extensive autobiography. He has taken up a call to arms in serving veterans within the community, and that has become a large part of his purpose these days.

"As long as God gives me breath, I will honor these precious people out there who sacrificed for our freedom," said Johnson. "They paid the full price."

One injured in Georgia 515 West crash

By Charles Duncan
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A 78-year-old Hiawassee man was injured last week when his 2002 Dodge Durango left the roadway, and veered across Georgia 515,



Convicted...

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Osborn said.

"He was a convicted sex offender in North Carolina," Sgt. Osborn said.

Sgt. Osborn said the victim was 3 years old when the molestations began.

"All the torment of the victim began in 1995," Sgt. Osborn said. "The victim was 21 when they reported the crimes to the Union County Sheriff's Office last November."

Union County Sheriff's Capt. Pat Williams was the investigator on the case.

In Georgia, the law requires victims to come forward about their child sexual abuse within seven years of their 18th birthday.

This victim was well within that time frame, Sgt. Osborn said.

"The important part is that the victim put their faith in the criminal justice system and it worked for them," Sgt. Osborn said.

Georgia Department of Corrections records indicate that Mitchell is scheduled for release from state prison on Dec. 16th, 2038.

Mitchell is in the Georgia Diagnostic Prison awaiting assignment to his permanent correctional housing, state GDC records show.

Steppe...

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of Associate Superintendent and a \$7,500 a year raise, Davenport said.

"This will be effective July 1, 2014," Davenport said. "This changes his title from Assistant Superintendent to Associate Superintendent."

Steppe's salary increase also takes place July 1, Davenport said.

"Mr. Steppe hasn't had a raise since he's been with us," Davenport said. "He took less money when we cut our administrators."

Steppe's extension runs from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, Davenport said.

Steppe told the board that he appreciated their level of confidence in him.

"We appreciate the job y'all do," Davenport said, referring to Steppe and Williams. "We know that you do us a great job, we know what we have and thank you very much."

In other business, the board heard an update from Kendall Dutton of Bowen & Watson General Contractors.

The Fine Arts Building (the performing arts center) is ahead of construction schedule. It looks to be on time for opening in August 2015, the board learned.

including the median, before it came to rest on the running trail at Meeks Park, the Georgia State Patrol said.

The Durango climbed a hill and traveled down a steep embankment before it overturned and finally came to rest

on its wheels, the Patrol said.

Henry Cline Noblet, 78, of Hiawassee, was life-flighted to Erlanger Medical Center with unspecified injuries, the Patrol said.

There were no other injuries reported in the accident.