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fore each election. Applications must be made in writing. Military and overseas voters should see information on the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.ga.gov](http://www.sos.ga.gov) on how to request an absentee ballot. Early voting for the Nov. 6 election will be Oct. 15 through Nov. 2 this year.

### Q. What is absentee voting?

A. Absentee voting is a way to vote in the days prior to any election day by either applying in person to vote in the Election Office or by requesting an absentee ballot via the mail. It is no longer necessary to state an excuse in order to receive an absentee ballot.

### Q. How do I know which precinct to attend in order to vote?

A. After your county receives your voter registration form, you will receive a precinct card in the mail, which

will state the location of your polling place and your local, state and federal districts. If you do not receive your precinct card within 30 days, contact the voter registration office. If you do not have a card or would like to print your voter card, go to the Georgia My Voter Page through the Secretary of State's website at [www.mvp.sos.ga.gov](http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov). It will also tell you what precinct you will vote in and the directions to that precinct.

On Election Day, registered voters may only vote at their specific polling location. Your particular polling place is determined by the county precinct in which you live. That, of course, is determined by the street address that you list as your place of residence on your registration application. You may also access the Georgia My Voter Page through the Union County Website.

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then young workers will select a few worker larvae and feed them "royal jelly." The only difference between the worker bees and the queen bee is the diet that they are fed in the larval stage.

The role that bees fill as pollinators cannot be overstated. In some places in Georgia, bee hives are rented to pollinate apples, blueberries, cucumbers and watermelons. The nectar that the bees collect from different species of plants affects the flavor of the honey. By keeping track of which plants are flowering at different times of the year, beekeepers are able to separate out honey varieties. Clover honeys are found April through June. Sourwood trees are in bloom from mid-June to mid-August, and they produce a mild but unique flavor. These are considered premium honeys.

One issue that is of concern to honey bees is Colony Collapse Disorder, or CCD. CCD is caused by a variety of

diseases, pathogens and pests. Mites are a serious threat because they weaken bees, allowing viruses, fungi, and bacteria to attack bees.

Bees need abundant flowers from spring until fall. The removal of natural landscapes is very damaging to bee habitats. If flowers are damaged by a late frost, too much rain, not enough rain, or a number of other factors that affect flower production, bee colonies will be impacted as well. This year has been the worst year for honey production in 30 years. There is very little honey stored up in hives, which bees need to survive the winter. Therefore, beekeepers are having to supplement bee diets with sugar water syrup.

Contact your local Extension Office with questions. The Mountain Beekeepers' Association is also a wealth of knowledge about beekeeping specific to our area. The website is [mtn-beekeepers.org](http://mtn-beekeepers.org). Thanks to Glen Henderson for his help with writing this article.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

walking east to get back to the truck?" I held out the compass, which showed that we were walking in a westerly direction. He complained that he did not trust a compass. I said, "Well trust me, and let's walk toward the east. If I'm wrong, I'll buy you a steak at the Rock Spring Diner." When we got back to the truck, Calvin grumbled, "College boy, I was just testing you to make sure you won't get lost when I am not around."

Calvin was my best

friend even though we were more than 40 years apart in age. I could tell my Dad that I was going coon hunting with him and there were never any questions asked. If I were going to the movies and to hang out with friends, I had to be home by 11. But when coon hunting, there were many nights I would get home at 2 or 3 in the morning with no fear of punishment for being late.

Dad trusted the man, and so did I.

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

crease their risk of developing persistent subclinical psychotic symptoms," they add.

Participants included 1,009 boys recruited from Pittsburgh public schools when they were in the first and seventh grades. Self-reported frequency of marijuana use, subclinical psychotic symptoms, and other relevant data were collected annually from age 13 to 18 years.

The researchers found that for each year the teens engaged in weekly marijuana use, their level of subsequent subclinical psychotic symptoms rose by 21 percent. The increase was greatest for paranoia (133 percent) and hallucinations (92 percent). They did not find any evidence to support the self-medication theory; adolescents were not more likely to use marijuana regularly following an increase in their psychotic symptoms.

Limitations of the study include the fact that it was based on a longitudinal sample of urban boys who were followed from age 13 to 18 years in one

geographical area. Whether the findings hold for adolescent girls remains to be determined, the researchers note.

This research is "very timely," Christian Thurstone, MD, Department of Psychiatry, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, writes in an accompanying editorial. "This and other studies show a preponderance of evidence linking adolescent marijuana exposure to subsequent psychosis, and the findings have important research and clinical implications."

"The key point of this article," Dr. Thurstone told Medscape Medical News, "is that for certain vulnerable populations, such as adolescents, marijuana may not be 'just pot.' If this is the case, clinicians should screen for, treat, and refer patients with problematic marijuana use. At the same time, policy makers should take steps to increase access to effective treatments and prevent youth marijuana use in the first place."

## Buckman... continued from Page 4A

involved in the affairs of men.

Perhaps the author of that opinion piece might want to look in the mirror or check a higher opinion than his own before calling names and pointing fingers.

Yes, I am "happy now." Not because Donald Trump is

POTUS, but because my focus, my hopes, my peace, and my security do not rest in the hands of a man, a political party, or a nation, but in the hands of my God, who, whether you see it or not, has everything under control.

**Anniece Buckman**

## Sowers... continued from Page 4A

of survival and fighting each against the other, each believing they are the only righteous one. Even now, there are people who believe that they should be satisfied with what the earth provides. I don't know what label we have given them. Maybe they don't want a label.

Maybe they are thank-

ful for all the gifts provided, whether it's from the sun god that provides heat and light, whether it's the god in the sky that provides rainwater for life, whether it's the god of the trees that gives us shelter, or any of the other multiple gods.

They believe.

**Charles Sowers**

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One clear example of this is a caucus in the U.S. Congress called the Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus. This was begun by Citizens Climate Lobby to help our country work out its problems over climate change. It now consists of 43 Republicans and 43 Democrats sitting down at the table together to

work on common sense solutions to climate change. Certainly, it has not solved this monumental problem, but it is a start. We must have true dialogue if we have any hope of solving problems in our world. We are America, and we can and must do this.

**Vernon Dixon, MD**

## Riley... continued from Page 4A

port fire rescue and suppression entities; Focus on collaborative decision-making and citizen participation; and Develop and implement effective mitigation strategies.

CWPP plans are updated approximately every five years in conjunction with the county Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) provided communities with a tremendous opportunity to influence where and how federal agencies implement fuel reduction projects on federal lands. For more than a decade, Congress has made the protection of communities from wildfire a national priority. Yet, since the establishment of the National Fire Plan in 2000 and the HFRA in 2003, the issues regarding deteriorating health of our forests and the need for greater community protection from wildfire remain prominent.

Fire suppression costs have exceeded \$1 billion in recent fire seasons, so communities, interest groups, and land management agencies must continue to express their concerns to Congress regarding mounting risks to life, property and the environment. A CWPP is the most effective way to take advantage of this opportunity. Additionally, communities with these plans in place will be given priority for funding of hazardous fuels reduction projects carried out under the auspices of the HFRA.

Fires are usually costlier to suppress in the Wildland Urban Interface, the areas where homes are intermixed with forests and wildlands. Debris burning in the WUI is the most frequent human cause of wildfires, but these human-caused fires can be prevented and the excessive cost of fire suppression reduced. The first step in wildfire prevention education is to raise awareness of the responsibilities of living in a fire-prone environment.

The CWPP collaborative

## Fowler...

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Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:31-36). Abdu Murray, author of "Saving Truth," explains what this means for everyday life. "Freedom is linked to Truth, and that means that we have the freedom to do what we want, in accordance with what we should, based on what we are, creatures made in God's image."

With or without religious freedom, we still offer Jesus to our friends, and to a world deceived into captivity by truthlessness. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in a letter from a Nazi prison, wrote, "May God lead us kindly through these times, but above all, may God lead us to Himself." Well said. Only then can you be free indeed.

## Chamber...

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vided through the FFA Alumni. We hope you will come and support the Agriculture Education Program within the Union County School System.

Crane Creek Vineyards will be hosting Tomato Daze on Aug. 17 and Aug. 18 to showcase their farm-grown tomatoes and other veggies in a variety of ways. Free samples of several locally and regionally made tomato products will be available. For additional details, visit their website at [www.CraneCreekVineyards.com](http://www.CraneCreekVineyards.com).

Due to the changes in the chamber, we will have to postpone the Power Lunch until a later date.

We will post the new date as soon as possible.

## Dyer...

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20 years of service; six with 25 years of service; and one with at least 30 years of service in the department.

Union County Fire Department is very proud of the certifications and years of dedication of the firefighters to the department and community. It was a pleasure to recognize the achievements of these firefighters.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

## Combs...

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not wise enough to realize that they needed a Savior to get into heaven. Millions believe there is nothing else except what is here and now. My prayer is that anyone reading this article please take the time to search out the truth of God's Word. Put it to the test and see if it could possibly be what you have longed for but were never really sure that heaven and hell really existed. Take some advice from an old sinner boy like me, now saved over 26 years by God's amazing grace. Oh, how sweet the sound of the Name of Jesus Christ, the only way to glory forevermore. Amen.

**Frank F. Combs**

that all bases are covered in the planning process, that potential problems or roadblocks are identified and dealt with, and that good use is made of available time and money. It builds strong local support for the CWPP. Getting and keeping people engaged with the process is important to keep the process moving toward developing the emergency plan.

The local Firewise/FAC Citizens Coalitions that have been developed in our area in recent years are the collaborative group that make this happen and create among the members a sense of ownership that takes the process to the people to protect them from wildfire. For more info on CWPP, contact Frank Riley at [info.ccrd@gmail.com](mailto:info.ccrd@gmail.com).

process is effective in improving coordination and communication between emergency response agencies and the community. The goal of protecting communities and natural resources from wildfire cannot be accomplished by any one person or entity, so we must collaborate to identify and pursue a pathway to success. Collaboration is simply people working together to address a shared problem that no one of them could effectively resolve alone. Each participant brings to the effort knowledge, skills, ideas and resources, and these decision-makers need to stay actively engaged throughout the collaborative process, and the other participants need to know what the collaborative group's "decision space" is and how much weight its recommendations will carry with the decision-makers.

The use of a collaborative process is one of the requirements that Congress established for a CWPP. Developing and adopting a CWPP opens the door to significant local community benefits, including being able to: 1) define and set the boundaries of the community's WUI; 2) identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel-reduction treatments on USFS lands in the WUI; 3) recommend the types and methods of treatment to be used; and 4) influence how federal funds for projects on non-federal WUI lands may be obtained. Additionally, the collaboration should stimulate or strengthen local efforts to reduce structural ignitability, enhance emergency management and communication, and foster public education and action to reduce wildfire risk to life and property.

Perhaps most importantly, collaborative processes help build trust and good working relationships among participants. Effective collaboration ensures