

## Paris... continued from Page 4A

area?  
A. The Farmers Basket Dog Park is an "off-leash" facility that was created as a partnership between the Union County Government and interested members of the community. Recognizing that the Meeks Park Dog Park requires leash walking, there was a desire to also offer an off-leash option in the county. The Farmers Basket allows residents to release their dogs within the confines of the fencing so that they can play and socialize with other dogs.

**Q. How does this work? Walk me through the Farmers Basket experience.**

A. Dogs must be leashed prior to entering and exiting park. After closing the gate upon entrance into the actual

dog park, you can unleash your dog and allow them to play in the pen area with other dogs. There is an area for small dogs and one for larger dogs. Use of the dog park is at your own risk. Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries and damages caused by them. If your dog becomes aggressive, you must immediately leash the dog and exit the park. Equipment is designed for DOGS ONLY, children are not permitted on dog park equipment. We are excited to see so many residents enjoying this new facility. There is a covered seating area to keep you in the shade as your dog plays. A complete list of guidelines can be found on the Union County Government website.

## Chamber... continued from Page 4A

just about taste the juicy tomatoes farmers will be selling later this year.

We want to extend a special thank you to the community and vendors for your support of The North Georgia Wedding Expo. As Blairsville-Union County grows as a premier wedding destination, we were thrilled to execute this safely distanced event. Our Pivotal Partners are Union General Health Systems, United Community Bank, Downtown Development Authority, Enotah Valley Wedding & Event Center, Sharon Davis, Realtor, Homestead Hospice and the Barn at Young Harris, and our A La Carte Partners for the Expo were Sunflowers on the Square, Enotah Valley Event Center, Creekside Cottages, Blue Hills Entertainment, Wagon Wheel Event Center, Brasstown Valley Resort, Stacie Hart Photography, Kennedy Creek Resort, Melissa's Custom Cakes, Dixie Confexions Bakery & Café, The Flower Garden, Granddaddy Mimms Distilling Co., Plan-

ning Forever, SWBC Mortgage and The Beal Center. Please show your support to these local businesses who are always looking for ways to give back to our community.

Just yesterday, we spotted the Easter Bunny shopping local! Karyn Woody has partnered with the Chamber to sponsor a fun Community Easter Egg Hunt. Pick up your Easter Basket Map from participating businesses, Harry Norman Realtors, or the Chamber, and visit businesses listed on the map. You'll receive an egg with a treat and a coupon at each stop as well as a stamp on your Easter Basket Map. When you collect a minimum of 5 stamps, you can bring your map to sponsor, Karyn Woody at Harry Norman Realtors, to be entered in a grand prize drawing for a huge Easter Basket filled with Blairsville goodies. Make sure you don't miss out on the deals and the fun as we celebrate the dawning of spring here in our beautiful North Georgia Mountains.

## Walters-Taylor... continued from Page 4A

spans all 50 states, with posts in some territories and foreign countries. Headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, the Legion began making a difference as early as 1921 with the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, a pro-vet organization and the pre-cursor to many of the federal veterans programs we see today.

As a powerful lobbying organization, the Legion has supported scholarships for children of military members killed in active duty on or after 9/11, helping to break a voting deadlock on the Disabled Veteran's Tax, and assisting the passage of the Military Family Tax Relief Act (tax breaks for death benefits, sale of residence, Guard and Reserve expenses, homeowner's assistance, among others).

As a watchdog agency for veterans, the Legion was among those calling for resignations of VA leaders whose administration led a failing effort to assist veterans that led to the deaths of veterans waiting for care. In 2017, the Legion had a hand in the Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, which provides for the

termination of VA employees who do not hold the standard of the VA's missions.

So, we need to celebrate this organization. But how? JOIN! Or DONATE! You may mail donations to P.O. Box 2285, Blairsville, GA, to make sure your donation goes directly to the local post. Your donation can make a meaningful difference in the life of a veteran through the Legion's National Emergency Fund for post disaster efforts and "Operation Comfort Warriors," a program for helping with basic health and welfare needs of veterans – so make your donation in memory or in honor of a loved one, service member of not. And remember, your gift is tax deductible. Or come out to any of the many events by the Legion and its related entities the Sons of the American Legion, the Legion Riders (a motorcycle group) and the American Legion Auxiliary. Supporting families during a service member's deployment is another way to carry on the Legion's work.

Thanks for tuning in to the muse, and until we meet again, I bid you, "At Ease!"

## Riley... continued from Page 4A

and constantly looking for something to consume, do not let it be your house.

Call the local GFC office and ask for a home assessment, it is their job and your taxes paid for it. Community Wildfire Risk Assessment Tutorial ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) – public education section) This tool was developed to help engage and empower residents from the beginning of the Firewise USA® program.

This self-paced tutorial will help teach stakeholders to assess the strengths and vulnerabilities within their self-defined community and guide them in creating a Community Wildfire Risk Assessment, one of the most critical steps in the Firewise USA® recognition process.

The tutorial can be accessed in the Firewise USA®

section of [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org) and is open and available to all visitors, taking approximately 30 minutes to complete. Reminder, there is another self-paced online module, Understanding the Wildfire Threat to Homes, at the same [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) site that walks stakeholders through an overview of fire history, fire basics, and how homes burn.

Check these helpful, free, resources to see what you can do to reduce the fire risk around your home, business, or farm.

For more information on Firewise or anything about fire around your community, contact our local Georgia Forestry Commission unit your local fire department, or your Firewise Liaison (Chest-Chat RC&D) at [info.cccrd@gmail.com](mailto:info.cccrd@gmail.com).

## Lausier... continued from Page 4A

know what it means or have any medical training to use it.

Many people would agree that the cognitive problems belong to the left, which assigns racism to everything. Try having a calm discussion with a leftist and see that there is no reasoning or facts that will enter their grasp of the discussion. They see racism and hatred everywhere.

Math is now racist, a good work ethic is racist, 13-year-old children are claimed as racists, and the Bible is called a bigoted and racist book.

Well, go ahead and call me a racist – I DON'T CARE anymore, because the term no longer means anything. Any

disagreement with leftists gets you called a racist. So what! I am a racist because I believe in God, my Bible, right and wrong, laws and my country.

This frequent letter writer fails yet again to see the facts, fails to be grateful for the gifts of this country and the gift of liberty. Can we improve? Yes. Have we made mistakes? Yes – we are human.

When people in New York celebrate a law that allows murder of innocent babies with late term abortions, and Jerry Nadler states there is no place in Congress for God, then it is clear that we all have bigger problems than flying flags.  
**Eva Lausier**

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Daddy asked Paul which daughter he wished to take on a date. Dad smiled and said, "Shirley." Bill told the young suitor it would be fine if he promised to be home by 10. The young man added a little more to the conversation by asking the man if he knew Rod. Pawpaw never said a whole lot, but he nodded his head yes, to which the young man replied, "I think Rod wants to date your daughter as well, but he has a bad reputation. That old boy took a girl out the other

night and made her walk home because she would not give him a kiss." The older man told my Dad, "Thanks for the information, and if that boy comes by here, me and him will have ourselves a little talk."

Those two young people did go out to the Roxie, and not long after, my Dad was invited to a family dinner with the Baker family which were the grandparents of Shirley. The young couple walked into the home of Dad and Mommy Baker. Mommy greeted her Granddaughter's boyfriend with a smile. She then told her granddaughter to fetch some eggs from the henhouse. After she left, Mommy Baker seated Paul and began to ask him some questions. First, she wanted to know if he was a "heathern," to which he replied, "No ma'am, I am a Cummings." The kindly old lady smiled and asked where he went to church. He told her that his family went to Union Hill Church. She asked him about his salvation and had he been baptized? This was all very confusing to the young man, but it made him think about his spiritual awareness and would change his life in years to come. But, at the time, Mommy Baker was satisfied with his answers. A couple of years later the couple was married. The elderly grandmother told my parents years later that she had prayed that her granddaughter, Shirley, would marry a Baptist Preacher. My great-grandmother had a profound

## Williams...

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ground and burrow in, starting the 17-year cycle over again.

Cicadas will begin to emerge when soil temperatures reach 64 degrees. We typically start to hit those temperatures the end of April. Cicadas do provide some benefits. The nymphs in the soil burrow and create channels for roots. They are a source of food for a lot of wildlife like trout and wild turkeys. Moles also feast on the nymphs that are underground.

If you have questions about the cicadas contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## Fowler...

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14:6). He is the narrow way.

The neighboring states of Florida and North Carolina welcome Peach Pass holders to travel those privileged lanes. It is good to know that the way to travel is open to you. It is good to find the way, even if it is narrow.

*Prayer: Our Father in heaven lead me to turn from my own way, to know the Way, and to walk in Him.*

## Dyer...

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wildfire include fires that are unattended, fires at night, or fires that may be near a structure. The best information that a caller can provide is an exact location and possible source of the smoke. Knowing this information will help the fire department locate and determine the source of the smoke.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

## Ballard...

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The first shot was given at the Health Department with very few people in the room at one time. Only a limited number were allowed in the room at a given time. We were given the shot and waited the required 15 minutes with an extremely small number of people.

Now, why this narrative? I have been almost secluded trying to protect myself long-term during the pandemic, going out only to medical appointments and to get the vaccinations. My husband has done all the shopping and errands. All this for naught by having to be with a large number of people to get the vaccination.

I am convinced this is where I was infected. Recognizing there is a need to vaccinate as many people as possible, there has to be a better way.

Sincerely,  
**Mary B. Ballard**

## Benton MacKaye Trail Association hikes for March

The following hikes are sponsored by the Benton MacKaye Trail Association. The current social distancing and health rules are used by hike Leaders.

March 17 (Wednesday)  
- The Benton MacKaye Trail Association sponsors a moderate 7 mile hike of the Caney Creek Historical Community an the abandoned historical community on the Ocoee River. This tiny town existed from 1918-1941. Be prepared for an hour's drive on FS Rd 221 in the Cherokee National Forest. Hike leader Clare Sullivan.

For more information contact [hikeleaderCS2@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderCS2@bmtamail.org).

March 24 (Wednesday)  
- The Benton MacKaye Trail Association sponsor a moderate 5.5 mile hike on Cartecay Track Trails in Ellijay. Moderate 5.5 miles will include a couple miles of newly developed trail along the Cartecay River. Hike leader Carolyn Sewell.

For more information contact [hikeleaderCS@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderCS@bmtamail.org).

effect upon my family through her prayers. Oh, and one other bit of information. Old Rod lost

that bet and his \$10. He also lost his job as point guard and shortstop.