

## Paris... continued from Page 4A

A. No. Certainly if there is a significant difference in price, you might want to go for value. I am only asking you to consider purchasing your fuel in Union County. It benefits everyone. Most people do not think about how much we are contributing to building schools and lowering taxes in the other counties where we make purchases.

### Q. Does this same principal apply to other businesses in Union County?

A. Certainly it does. I often hear people say they like to shop at Lowe's because they get better service and a different product line. While I am not against Lowe's, we have several hardware stores in Union County. All I am saying is that in these tough times, every penny we can bring to Union County is SO important. It is important to our sales tax, but it is more important to our merchants whose livelihoods are being threatened by recent events. This impacts every facet of this county including our citizens. I am simply asking you to keep this in mind.

### Q. Will the Christmas season impact our economy?

A. The Christmas season is one of the most important seasons for any merchant. We have all been guilty - including me - of making a Christmas shopping list, going down to a mall in Gwinnett or Hall County, and trying to get all shopping over with in a day. However, there are very few items that can not be found in Union County or ordered from a store in Union County. We have just

about every kind of store and if you will get creative, you will not have to leave town and get tied up in traffic and waste gas this Christmas season. You will also be purchasing more meals in our county which is vital for our restaurants. The benefit to the county government, schools and your own property taxes will be huge, but not nearly as huge as the impact you could have on our local merchants who many are struggling.

### Q. What about purchasing autos? Where does that sales tax go?

A. Auto sales tax comes back to the county in which the auto is registered or titled in. So as long as you purchase a Union County tag, the sales tax will come to this county. Some other products delivered to Union County from out of town companies should send their sales tax to Union County, but we do not think that is practiced very often.

### Q. Why do you not know how much different businesses pay in sales tax to the county?

A. The Department of Revenue keeps all information from counties except that they will give us general categories. This makes it impossible to compare month to month or even to know if everyone is paying sales taxes that should be.

We are very thankful for all of you and for all of the spending currently done in Union County. We are seeing our sales tax revenues exceed prior years - even during these Covid-19 times.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

contained an anvil, a forge, a bunch of tools, and it smelled of steel and charcoal. The farm also had a meal shed which was used to grind corn for meal to make cornbread. Each fall we would also bring the harvested peanuts to this shed, where we would pull off the peanuts from the dead vines. The peanuts would be dried here and then stored in the root cellar. One of Mom's favorite sweet treats was peanut brittle which her mother would make each fall and winter.

His farm also had a barn on it where the animals were kept. There were milk cows which supplied milk for drinking as well as making butter. Hogs were kept there to be fattened and later slaughtered. From the hogs the family made bacon, sausage and country ham. Also, they made lard for cooking. The hogs were always butchered in the late fall because temperatures were cool enough to prevent the meat from spoiling before it could be preserved in the smokehouse. The barn also contained a stall for Uncle T. D.'s horse.

Mom and Sherwon would wait until after her uncles had all gone to work and then they would ride his horse nearly all day. They always took the time to brush the horse before they placed him back in his stall. She said her uncle never let on that he knew anything about them riding his horse. But I think he

always knew. Yet he never said a word because he knew they took good care of the horse.

Next to the Baker House a storm cellar was located. But, during wet times there was always a couple of inches in it. Mom and her cousins loved playing in the cellar during the heat of the day. Close to the house there was a large garden in which the family grew green beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, okra, peas, butterbeans and cabbage.

The whole family would gather in the summertime to pick and preserve the produce and fruit which was grown in the garden. Mom especially enjoyed making hominy. She said it was one her favorite things to make from the garden. She was fascinated by the big black pot which was used to cook the hominy. Another of her favorite activities was picking blackberries. She said the whole family would gather to go berry-picking. She said, "I wore some old overalls, a long-sleeved shirt and old shoes." She would wipe coal oil (kerosene) around her ankles and wrists to prevent chiggers and ticks from biting her. The kids were not allowed to go by themselves due to rattlesnakes and copperheads.

The family was extremely close and did many things together, even after all the kids were grown. The Baker Farm was a great place to raise children.

## Riley... continued from Page 4A

home structure fires and civilian fire deaths reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. were higher for properties with smoke alarms that did not operate or with no smoke alarms than in fires in which smoke alarms operated.

Smoke alarms give us a sense of security, so we can sleep, but if they aren't maintained, that sense of security will be false and can lead to death by smoke. Most home smoke alarms use either ionization, photoelectric, or both sensing systems to detect a fire. Ionization-type smoke alarms have a small amount of radioactive material between two electrically charged plates which ionize the air and cause current to flow between the plates. When smoke enters the chamber, it disrupts the flow of ions, reducing the flow of current and activating the alarm. Photoelectric-type alarms aim a light source into a sensing chamber at an angle away from the sensor. Smoke enters the chamber, scattering light onto the light sensor and triggering the alarm. Photoelectric alarms respond slightly faster to smoldering fires; ionization alarms respond slightly faster to flaming fires. Ionization alarms are less expensive and the most widely used.

Smoke alarms are appliances, just like toasters, televisions, and furnaces. Unlike other appliances, these devices function quietly in the background, and its alarm, in response to a real smoke situation or to testing, is the only evidence that it works.

A television that will not play will not lead to tragedy, but a smoke alarm that fails to

sound in a fire, could. Roughly half of the smoke alarms collected as inoperable and studied in the National Smoke Detector Project were more than 10 years old, hence older than the currently recommended replacement age. Alarms designed solely to detect smoke should be replaced every 10 years.

Buying, installing, testing, and maintaining home smoke alarms is essential protection from fire, but it is not enough. Many households have not developed the escape plans that would allow them to use the extra warning time smoke alarms provide effectively.

Escape plans identify any obstacles to secondary exits if the main door is blocked, a meeting place outside the home for household members to gather and makes provisions for household members who need help. We can "Firewise" the outside of our homes to lower the risk of destruction by a wildfire, but we also need to protect our families on the inside by installing, maintaining, and regularly testing our smoke alarms that are our first-line of defense against fire and smoke while we sleep. Monitored security systems are not expensive (around \$15/month) and if something triggers an alarm goes off, the monitors will call you to let you know that there is a problem, and if it is real, they will call 911 to get help on the way.

For more information on Smoke Alarms, contact your local Fire Rescue Department or Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D at: info.ccrd@gmail.com.

## Chamber... continued from Page 4A

in. What has remained the same is the persevering spirit of our people, the ingenuity of our merchants, and the beautiful mountain backdrop that always sets the stage for the season. Speaking of backdrops, have you noticed all the fabulous photo opportunities downtown? From the old farm truck holding a Christmas tree to the painted hay bales, to the murals popping up, there are ample spots to capture your family memories Blairsville-style. If you get a great shot, we'd love to feature you in our social media, so be sure to

send it to us at sarah@blairsvillechamber.com.

Make sure you are following us on all our social media platforms. We'll be keeping you up to date on local light displays, shopping opportunities, and other holiday events. Also, be sure to visit our website: visitblairsvillega.com and click on our blog tab. This year, Blairsville chefs came together to create a holiday menu complete with recipes, photos, and a bio about each area chef. You can literally cook with

the Blairsville culinary greats this Christmas. So be sure to take advantage of that, and as

always, stay safe, and may you enjoy good health and joy during this special season.

## Williams...

### continued from Page 4A

will tell you about how digestible your hay is and how much energy is in it. Armed with this knowledge you can make decisions about which animals will get which hay. Animals have a limited amount of space in their belly, so making sure that space is filled with forage that will provide them with enough energy is important. If you would like to test your hay, let me know. I'd be happy to help.

If you have questions about increasing your hay efficiency contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

## Fowler...

### continued from Page 4A

because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

Just a few years after my enlightenment about Santa, that true Light cast the shadows from my soul. I believed in the Christ of Christmas and Calvary. That was the coming of age that mattered.

## Richardson...

### continued from Page 4A

I am asymptomatic and have COVID-19.

As to the letter writer's comments that people who don't wear a mask are very disrespectful of people who do, and people who wear a mask are not respectful of those who don't, I have not found that to be true in Blairsville. I have found that the people not wearing masks are the same people who do not distance 6 feet apart, and there are some that do not correctly wash their hands, either.

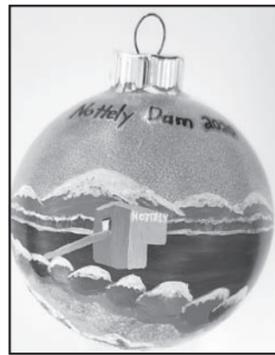
All you have to do is go into Ingles where it clearly states on the front door that you are to wear a mask inside. However, there are many people who do not, and they also walk the wrong way on the aisles and come too close to other shoppers. Personally, I think that is a LACK of respect for others. Is it truly so hard to wear a mask for the one hour or possibly two that you are in a public place? If face masks do not work, then why do nurses and doctors wear full PPE every day that they work?

You are right, Mr. Letter Writer, that it is every citizen's duty to combat COVID, and that is done by wearing masks, socially distancing, and washing your hands the correct way. Every country has said this from the beginning. It might not completely contain COVID-19, but it will reduce the amount of cases and deaths.

So, please stop saying that those of us who choose to wear a mask do so in fear. Wearing masks is NOT from fear. It is from respect for others, which apparently your "freedom" tells you that you don't need.

Colleen Richardson

## Union County Historical Society 2020 Ornament



This year's hand-painted ornament features Nottely Dam and was painted by local artist Nathan Meunier of The Art Department Studio in Blairville.

We have a limited supply available.

Each hand-painted ornament is \$16 including tax.

All proceeds benefit the upkeep of the Old Courthouse on the Downtown Blairsville Square.

Call and reserve your ornament, 706-745-5493.