

## Williams ...continued from Page 4A

wall tapestry, luxury lotions, the most adorable holiday pajamas, Blairsville made BBQ sauce, and a fine leather belt. (I hope my family is not reading this!) The best part of the story is that I can proudly say that all these items were bought locally from members of our Chamber and members of this community who so rightly deserve my business. If you are interested in

learning more about the positive impact of eating, shopping, playing, and staying locally or about membership in the Chamber, I invite you to call our office at (706) 745-5789 or email me directly at president@blairsvillechamber.com. For a directory of local businesses eager to serve you, go to www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com.

## Leone... continued from Page 4A

Sometimes our searches bring us news we don't want to hear. Not long ago, I searched the internet for information on an old boyfriend who I had, at one time, seriously considered marriage. We split very amiably, but we never kept in contact. For the past 35 years, I've wondered how he was – always wishing him well with my heart. I Googled his name and his hometown, and the first search result was his obituary. He had died nine months before, at age 55.

The proverbial dagger sliced through my heart. I wasn't looking for him in hopes of rekindling any embers. I just wanted to take the opportunity to let him know he was always thought about fondly. Now, I've decided to write to his surviving mother. I believe it will mean as much to her to know her son is remembered. This Christmas, give

the gift of time to the elderly neighbor who can't drive anymore. Take her to lunch and see if there's some place she'd like to go shopping. Stop by the retirement home where your high school basketball coach now resides and play him a game of checkers and let him talk about the "old days". Pick up the phone and call the mother of your best friend in high school. Chances are she misses you, too. By taking time to spread good tidings, you will find your self gifted in reciprocal joy.

To the Union County Farmers Market staff, vendors and volunteers, I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas. To those of you that have been loyal Farmers Market attendees and/or loyal readers of this column, I want to thank you for the gift of your time each week. It makes my everyday a holiday!

## Paris ...continued from Page 4A

### out homes from commercial property?

A. Yes. This sales ratio study is done separately for several types of property, whether home, commercial or retail, vacant land or industrial, then all lumped together for the overall total. It is difficult, if not impossible, in these uncertain economic times, to really know what all property is worth. With vacant lots, for example, you may have a bank sell one lot in a subdivision for \$5,000.00 and then an individual may sell the adjacent lot for \$10,000. Again, based on actual sales, the Tax Assessor's office has been very consistent. As the number of sales continues to increase, values will hopefully be much easier to establish in the future.

**Q. If the county property values continue to go down as they did this past year by 10%, does that mean that our property taxes will also go down?**

A. Not necessarily. Our property taxes have been reduced a small amount over each of the past three years, but we will not be able to continue that decrease if our property values continue to fall. What

I have successfully tried to do the past few years is not increase property taxes, but at the same time, try to hold close to our current revenue numbers.

**Q. Will it be possible for our property taxes to continue to decrease as they have in the past few years?**

A. It is not likely unless our business and residential growth increases dramatically. We have cut our government cost by watching our expenses and at the same time have continued to reduce our work force primarily by attrition. However, we cannot continue this and still provide the services that our taxpayers have come to expect and demand.

We operate with one of the very lowest property tax rates in the state. When you do that there is not much room to handle additional expenses when the cost of gasoline, diesel, gravel, asphalt, vehicles and office supplies continue to rise despite our recession.

The Elected Officials and all county employees wish for you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Lamar Paris**  
Union County Commissioner

## Dampier ...continued from Page 4A

how the different companies share and lease service from each other. I have also learned that you can only shove so much sewage through a sewer pipe of a given size. The last being a metaphor for the situation we find ourselves in here in the mountains. Our ISP pipe is too darn small for the amount of data that is being shoved through it.

If you will notice the service begins to "Break Down" during certain peak demand times; when children and teenage students get home from school, in the evening when the families are watching movies "Streaming in" from NetFlix, Blockbuster and other sources accessed over the Internet together with the usual use for "Surfing the net" and communicating by email or Skype. DON'T BLAME THE KIDS OR ANYONE trying to use the service for which they are paying monthly fees. That is why they subscribe for the service.

Don't blame the local representatives or maintenance employees of the company selling the "service" (?). They are doing all they can with the resources they have been given to operate and maintain. I have always found them to be as helpful as they can be (again - with the system resources they have).

The problem as I see it is that the system resources

## Gray

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name and phone number and said she knew someone who might be interested in helping. She gave that information to me on a small piece of paper, and I humbly confess that I have lost that paper.

I hope the gentleman (whose first name is Jim, I believe) will give me a second chance. I would be most interested in helping him get his story published. If he reads this, perhaps he will contact the Library and give them his name and contact information again, and forgive me for the inadvertent loss of the information the first time.

**Arlene Gray**

## Cummings ...continued from Page 4A

her mutter, "Boy, this coffee sure is gritty". After she finished her coffee Mrs. Cummings' upper lip had a yellow circle of dust around it.

This event happened about 46 years ago and I now realize Mrs. Cummings could have been harsher in her dealings with me. I wish I could tell her that she was a truly remarkable teacher and person. Well, I can't tell Mrs. Cummings, but, I can tell some other people. For example, the vendors at the Farmers Market are a great group of people. These vendors made the Union County Farmers Market a great place to be this past summer. These people helped bring more than 160,000 people to the market. Next, let me thank the people who helped run the market; Bobby Burch, JoAnne Leone,

Peggy Deyton, Larry Garrett, Yazi Burnette and of course Lamar Paris. I also should thank Captain Richard Jones and all the local Firemen who helped us park cars all summer. Also, the Master Gardeners gave away free gardening advice each week at the Farmers Market. Finally, a big thanks is well deserved for the volunteers at the Union County Canning Plant. These include Patrick Fix, Bethany Brown, Kristy Peney, Kristy Kumler, Bob and Lynn Kirby, Mike Thomasson and the contractors that installed all the new equipment. Also, I need to thank Bud Nichols for his help and Dr. Estes Reynolds for all of his help. These people made the Farmers Market and the Canning Plant a great place to be this past summer.

## Parris ...continued from Page 4A

mering and stuttering tongue tell them one more time about angels, wise men and creation announcing Christ's birth. It is a special time and the story never grows old. It is a birth-

day celebration not a memorial service. Glory to God in the highest and on earth goodwill toward men. Merry Christmas to you all!

## Weaver...continued from Page 4A

Unselfishly they come and give their time, money, and love to people in need. If I could hug each one and tell them thank you so much I would.

Because of their sacrifice my children have had a Christmas each year since we moved back here. Something they would not have had at all if it wasn't for you all. I have given my entire Christian life to ministry work and to be ministered to myself is the work of our Heavenly Father blessing all of you who bless others.

What a wonderful community we live in. Thank you, each and everyone!

**From a struggling mom, thank you.**  
Cindy Weaver

## Adams...continued from Page 4A

in order to win a re-election.

I hate that our President placed politics and re-election above the truth regarding the four Americans who died during a terrorist attack in Benghazi over four months ago.

I hate that our children are being fed liberal propaganda by a teachers union in California who produced a cartoon narrated by Ed Asner, a self-proclaimed socialist, showing a rich person urinating on the poor as a demonstration of the trickle-down effect.

I hate that our President will allow us to go over the fis-

cal cliff just so he can protect his insane spending for entitlements and still blame the Republicans for a tax increase due to his refusal to negotiate.

I hate that our elected officials can vote themselves pay raises, lifetime income and medical plus exemplary benefits on the backs of the people that elected them.

I hate that We the People have to live within our means but our government does not.

I hate that this newspaper does not have enough space for me to continue.

**John Q. Adams III**

allocated to handle the "Traffic" on the Internet have not been kept at pace with the demands and that responsibility lies with those responsible for funding improvements, renting the necessary bandwidth and whatever else is necessary for continued, reliable Internet service to the subscribers who are paying for same.

Don't take the "Canned answer" any longer. Make your dissatisfaction known where it will be heard. The names and addresses are available online IF you will take the time and search at off peak times. Also "Squeaking wheels" do eventually get grease. Call Customer Service and don't accept the usual "\$15 Credit" offer they will make. If you are not getting what you are paying for tell them and demand better service. If the representative you are speaking with does not have authority to help you then ask for their boss and/or the "Customer Loyalty" Department.

I would not complain about the monthly subscription fee IF I were getting the service I pay for. I did not complain for years until the service level dropped to unac-

### Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



December 11, 1982  
October 15, 2004

In memory of

**Matthew Allen King**

by Mom, Dad & Daniel

December 5, 2012

In memory of

**Michael Fowler**

by John, Andrea, Jacob,

Lindsay, Nana & Granddad

May 1, 1928

December 9, 2001

In memory of

**Ann Farabee**

by Maurice Farabee

Bell ringing information

at 706-745-5493