

## Paris ... from Page 4A

pecially those younger than 2), and people 65 years and older.

- A complete list is available at People Who Are at High Risk of Developing Flu-Related Complications (/flu/about/disease/high\_risk.htm).

- People who live with or care for others who are at high risk of developing serious complications (see list above).

- Household contacts and caregivers of people with certain medical conditions in-

cluding asthma, diabetes, and chronic lung disease.

- Household contacts and caregivers of infants less than 6 months old.

- Health care personnel.

On behalf of the employees of Union County, we want to wish you a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please be careful as you travel over the holidays and if you ever need assistance, please give the county a call at (706) 439-6000 and emergency calls to 911.

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from a frightened child. I was taught the secure way to attach my wig and beard, and the effective way to deal with whining, crying, squirming parents. (Usually, they were worse than the kids).

That first day of work I was nervous. I never had anxiety on stage before, but this was different. A kid can tell if Santa is authentic or not in a fraction of a second.

This performance could make or break a kid's heart, and I was taking that responsibility very seriously. I successfully pulled the caper off

(albeit, a bonded chest). My ho-ho-ho was delivered with adequate timber and I managed to keep that sparkle in my eye as I lifted hundreds of children on my knee in those next four weeks. In subsequent years, I put on the Santa outfit almost as many times as I've donned my nun's habit (many of you are all too familiar with that story). It was a great gig and I will always cherish the memories. Once in a while I allow my mind to wander about the number of family albums my picture graces, as I posed with each child for posterity.

## Williams...continued from Page 4A

to be successful at my job, I have them to thank for instilling in me the desire to work hard.

When I think about the joy that I receive from helping and being kind to others, I have them to thank for demonstrating compassion for those around them.

When I consider each of the qualities and skills for which I am proud to possess, my mind always turns to my parents who have guided me in

a direction that has been most rewarding for me.

I firmly believe that the key to our success as a community, as a society, as a nation, and as a world begins right at home with a loving family.

I am so blessed to carry the name Williams, and my burning desire is to pass on the lessons they have taught me.

May the family in the Manger be an inspiration for us all. Merry Christmas!

## Gray...from Page 4A

(built by stacking some concrete books that I found at a construction site. Many hours and many books were in my schedule.

Now in my grandmotherly years, I still love to find a quiet corner with a friend who shares adventures with me—and that friend is the same one I came to appreciate so many years ago: a book. Only these days, I head to my well-stocked Union County Public Library, use the computer there for a while, and then find another "friend" to bring home to share the evening firelight with. I am

grateful that my generation was not polluted by video games and texting and Facebook and My Space. "My Space" was truly the most rewarding! Sometimes my granddaughter in Minnesota will tell me about a book she loved reading, and when I read it, it's like she introduced me to a friend of hers! And it makes me glad to know that books still have the power to enthrall young minds...as well as some more seasoned ones.

**Arlene M. Gray**  
**Blairsville**

## Bryant...from Page 4A

Without such equipment he would be in extreme danger. He could have been overcome by the toxic smoke, become disorientated and would not be able to get back out of the building. The roof could have collapsed; he could have fallen through a hole in the floor or down a stairwell; especially with no lighting.

Dustin Lee knew very

well all the dangers, but because of his duty as a firefighter, and because of his extraordinary courage and dedication, he risked his life to save another person's life under extreme conditions.

That is why Dustin Lee is in my opinion a "Hero's Hero."

**Ira Bryant,**  
**Blairsville**

## Parris

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ried. However, he immersed himself, not in pity but in caring for the children of Boston. By the time he reached Bethlehem that December he was terribly despondent. On that Christmas Eve night in 1865, Phillip Brooks attended a five-hour service (from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.) that made a great impression upon his life. When he returned to America he still had "Palestine singing in his soul." From that experience, three years later he penned the words to *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. It was sung for the first time on Dec. 27, 1868 by six Sunday school teachers and 36 children. The last phrase of the first verse proclaims "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight."

Why don't you make yourself available as a living Christmas card to some lonely person this Christmas season?

## Cummings

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ley's eyes she remembered the words of Aunt Tudler. She looked right back at Fat Morgan and replied, "No sir, I won't because I like sugar cookies and cider." Fat Morgan roared with laughter. As the trio sang "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Mrs. Morgan brought out some Sorghum Cake and more hot cider.

Fat Morgan never guessed the identity of the trio and they all enjoyed the cake and cookies prepared by Mrs. Morgan. Later in the day the three left Fat's house for the walk back to Tudler's house. While walking back to the main road they had to cross a mud hole and little Shirley stretched her short legs as far as possible but, missed the dry ground by about a foot. The little girl's shoe came off in the mud and she began to cry for fear of getting into trouble for losing the shoe. She then heard the voice of her Aunt, "Don't be afraid Sis, we'll find your shoe." All three of the ladies began searching for the shoe and soon found it in the bottom of the mud hole. Soon they were back at home warming themselves by the fire. Although most of these people are now gone, the sweet memory of their Christmas Serenade at Fat Morgan's home lives on in the mind of my mother.

Last week while at the Farmers Market I too found a special memory. I was dressed as Santa Claus and this young girl came up to me and sat in my lap. She told me she had been a good girl and all she wanted for Christmas was for her teacher, Mr. Butler, to get well and come back to school. I didn't know what to say so I looked at her Mom. Her mother explained that the little girl's teacher had been recently diagnosed with cancer and was being treated. I was amazed the girl asked for no toys and nothing for herself. She simply wished for another person to get well. I promised to pray for this teacher from Towns County. It is a lesson to me that a 10-year-old girl would place the needs of someone else before her own wishes. I will never forget that request and I hope you will also pray for Mr. Butler. Merry Christmas!

## Shofner...

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"news"paper is free.

**Nancy Shofner,**

**Blairsville**

**Editor's Note: Nancy, our newspaper isn't free. In the upper righthand corner on the front page, you'll see that it costs 50 cents. Also, Tea Party Movie Night is submitted copy. We print it because we live in a country where freedom of speech is a privilege. Just like we're printing your letter to the editor, and, like we printed Tea Party Movie Night, this newspaper believes in freedom of speech.**

## Mitchell...

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dressing ourselves to eventually separating from our parents and carving out our own lives.

Are we becoming a Nation of unfledged infants, dependent on our electronic toys to do our thinking and remembering for us?

Is this perpetual dependence?

Is this electronic facility creating intellectual stupidity?

Are we evolving downward?

**George Mitchell**  
**Blairsville**

### Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events

see events calendar at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com)

**Wednesday, December 25**

10:30 am Christmas Day Worship Service- All Saints Lutheran Church  
9 am Tour of Trees through December 28-Union County Community Center  
12 pm Christmas Day Family Buffet - Brasstown Valley Resort  
2 pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane

**Thursday, December 26**

11 am Holiday Farm/Studio Open House-Lardworks Studio at Lasso The Moon Alpaca Farm

**Friday, December 27**

11 am Holiday Farm/Studio Open House-Lardworks Studio at Lasso The Moon Alpaca Farm

**Saturday, December 28**

11 am Holiday Farm/Studio Open House-Lardworks Studio at Lasso The Moon Alpaca Farm

**Monday, December 30**

11 am Holiday Farm/Studio Open House-Lardworks Studio at Lasso The Moon Alpaca Farm

**Tuesday, December 31**

11 am Holiday Farm/Studio Open House-Lardworks Studio at Lasso The Moon Alpaca Farm  
8 pm New Year's Eve Gala - Brasstown Valley Resort

## UNION COUNTY

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Boy Scouts #101	<b>Every Monday:</b> United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Sweet Adelines	<b>Every Tuesday:</b> United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Masonic Luncheon	<b>Every Thursday:</b> Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	Cadence Bank	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Volunteers/Handicap	<b>First Monday of each month:</b> First Baptist, H Bldg.	6 pm
Allegheny Lodge	Masonic Temple	6:30 pm
CERT	St. Francis of Assisi	6:30 pm
Lockheed-Martin Ret.	Blairsville Restaurant	9 am
Allegheny Masonic Lodge #114, off the square		6:30 pm
Blairsville City Coun.	<b>First Tuesday of each month:</b> City Hall	6 pm
Brownie Scouts	United Methodist Ch	3-5 pm
Enotah Ch. #24 RAM	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
Gaddistown Hmakers	Woody Gap	7 pm
Business Women	Cook's Restaurant	8 am
Knights/Colum. #2563	place TBA	7:30 pm
Amateur Radio Club	Branan Lodge	7 pm
Tri-Cty Wom. Lunch	<b>First Wednesday of each month:</b> Monet's Rest.	Noon
Exercise class	Senior Citizens Center	10:30 am
Awake America	<b>First Thursday of each month:</b> City Hall	11:59 am
Blairsville Sorghum Festival, Fort Sorghum		6:30 pm
Open Road ORV	Civic Center	8 pm
UG Hospital Aux	<b>First Friday of each month:</b> UC Nursing Home	Noon
Feel Good Friday	Wellness Center	7 pm
"Nailed" Book Club	G-N-G Bakery	10 am
Firefighters Bkfst.	Hole in the Wall Rest.	9 am