

Paris... continued from Page 4C

annually from these programs)
 Q. So, does this mean that if the population of Union County and Georgia is not accurate it could decrease our available funding from the Federal Government?

A. Yes, and it would negatively affect us for the next 10 years. Remember, these funds are YOUR federal tax dollars and we don't want them going to another state just because everyone in Union County wasn't counted. So, please do your part to insure we get our fair share in Union County.

Q. I'm concerned about my privacy. What steps does the Census Bureau take to ensure my personal information is protected?

A. The U.S. Census Bureau is a stand-alone agency and while it does release composite data on census tracks, municipalities, counties and states, personal data is held confidential for 72 years. Fed-

eral courts have consistently ruled in favor of confidentiality and the Census Bureau when other government agencies have attempted to obtain individual data. So, your personal data from the 2020 Census will not be released for genealogy purposes until 2092.

Q. I would like to respond online but my computer is in the repair shop. Are there any public computers available?

A. Libraries across the country have computer terminals available for public use. In addition, the libraries have partnered with the U.S. Census Bureau to set up special programs to make responding to the Census simple and easy using the library computers. Our Union County branch of the Mountain Regional Library System is part of this effort.

Thank you for supporting your county, city and your State!

Cummings... continued from Page 4C

"John Cummings, I will never fight a big man again. You have pert near kilt me." The two men visited Kimbrew, who received not one but, two whippings that day.

To make matters worse for him, both Cummings and West went into business together as well. There was a place on Little Bear Creek where the two men found a good spring. Next to this spring there was a round hole, "tunnel-like in nature," carved into a rock. This hole was probably used by the Native Americans as a granary. The hole was about 8-10 feet long, and a grown man could crawl through this hole from one side of the rock and out the other side. On the backside of this hole in the rock was a big crack between the boulder and the face of a 50-foot-high bluff. A nimble man could climb the face of the bluff to the top and watch, unseen, the happenings below.

The men built a large still 40 feet in front of this rock face and covered the hole in the rock with brush. John had a dog that was trained to grunt or woof instead of barking loud at the approach of a stranger. Three times in the early 1900s, lawmen visited the still of John and Champ. Each time, the still was busted. But, three times, the business partners got away. The dog would woof softly, and the partners would climb into the hole, covering the entrance with their brush pile. The men would crawl through the hole and out the backside. They quietly climbed up the rock face and sat on top while watching the law

men scour the creek bottoms looking for the whereabouts of themselves.

Kimbrew lost his business because John and Champ became very good at making liquor and evading the law. They were never caught, and their secret was kept for years until my Papa told me the story years later.

But, there is more to the story. John and Champ not only became business partners, they became good friends. John Cummings' son was Lon Cummings. Champ West's daughter Laura fell in love with Lon, and the two became my Great-Grandparents.

In 1976, TVA impounded Little Bear Creek and made a beautiful reservoir called Upper Little Bear Creek Lake. The still site is now underwater. I had mentioned the story to one of my nephews, and he became very interested. So a few years ago, I made the trip to Alabama with my canoe, and the pair of us put the canoe in the water. We traveled upstream from the Cummings Creek bridge and found where a rock face had broke loose from a bluff. We canoed into the crack between the boulder and the rock face. You can sit in the canoe and touch either side of the rocks without much of a stretch.

The granary is now under water, but, the crack in the rock is there above the surface of the lake. I closed my eyes and sat quietly. I thought I could hear the soft woof of a dog and the scrambling of my Great-Great Grandfathers up the face of that bluff.

Chamber... continued from Page 4C

Chamber of Commerce, while we continue to operate business as usual, we are nevertheless diligent in our efforts to keep everyone safe and encourage you to do the same — sanitizing surfaces throughout the day, washing hands with soap and water, and keeping them away from faces. Washing hands is preferred, but if you use hand sanitizer, let it stay wet on the skin for 20 seconds rather than rubbing it in. Stay hydrated and strive to maintain a healthy work and home environment to reduce transmission.

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies scheduled for the remainder of the month of March include Mountain Home Health Service on the 19th, North GA Mold and Air Duct Cleaning on the 24th, the dedication of the new pickleball court on the 26th, and Hunt No More Pet Service on March 31st. We hope you can make it out to welcome and support Blairsville's new businesses and enjoy networking with fellow entrepreneurs.

Mark your calendars for our Business After Hours/Business of the Quarter event on April 30 at Merchants Walk from 5:30-7 p.m. Participating merchants include Abide Coffee, S&S - Smoothies and Supplements, Tin Roof Creamery, Lala's Kitchen in the Mountains, and Rustic Mountain Décor. We will also be recognizing our Business of the Quarter. Thank you to our

sponsors, Homestead Hospice and Downtown Development Authority.

Finally, don't forget another opportunity to help your local community. This year's golf tournament, the Second Annual Shoot for the Stars, takes place on May 8th. Please call the Chamber today at 706-745-5789 to become a hole sponsor for this special event which helps make a difference in the lives of Union County students.

Visit us online Visit-BlairsvilleGa.com to see all our upcoming events and be sure to subscribe to our weekly events newsletter so you can stay in the know on what is happening in Union County.

Fowler...

continued from Page 4C

God" (1 Cor. 1). To know Him is to know Wisdom.

No one wants to be a fool. You need wisdom to make sense of the world, discern whose counsel to accept, and anticipate the consequences of your choices. The good news is that the Creator offers the benefit of wisdom to those who ask. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously" (Jam. 1:5).

Lincoln's charge is still valid today. Heed his warning to be humble and remember to pray that God grant you wisdom far superior to your own.

Berkman... continued from Page 4C

Nothing about is tantamount to praying for disease, if not actually amounting to intentional irresponsibility. The Corona Virus in question does not have a political point of view; nor does it have a concern with the morality of it's behavior. It simply attacks without regard to politics or moral behavior.

Stay home except for necessary outings such as going to the grocery or pharmacy or hospital, don't participate in activities that involve a lot of people, wash your hands and follow the CDC recommendations so that you may live long and prosper without the knowl-

edge that you contributed to behaviors that may have had irreversible impacts on your family, your friends and neighbors.

Michael S. Berkman

Free AARP tax preparation

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offering a free in-person tax preparation service at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 7 Ewing Street, Blue Ridge, GA every Friday from February 7 - April 10, 2020, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call or text (706) 455-9175 for an appointment. Walk-ins welcome, first come, first serve.

Riley... continued from Page 4C

to stabilize the marketplace. The Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service was established in virtually every county in the nation to catalog our nation's farmland, and work with farm families to increase productivity and take care of the land.

Today, Title I is designed to provide specific forms of income assistance without interfering with the market and is compatible with our free trade goals and obligations under the World Trade Organization. Crops covered include barley, corn, pulse crops, rice, sorghum, soybeans, wheat, and minor oilseeds.

Dairy and sugar also have provisions under Title I. Under the most recent 2014 Farm Bill, several significant changes were adopted. Income assistance is only provided in cases of significant yield losses in an area or deep price-based losses. Cotton was eliminated as a program crop. Dairy was transitioned to a margin protection program, and livestock producers were given additional protections. Spending on Title I programs is far less than it has been historically and for the last 10 years has been less than one-quarter of percent of our federal budget.

Americans enjoy the most stable and least expensive food supply of any people in the history of mankind and have not experienced a major disruption in the food supply in our history.

Title II: Conservation
 As noted, conservation was one of the primary purposes of the original farm bill as incentives were created to allow farmers to cut back on their acreage. Starting in the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) organized and worked with locally led Soil and Water Conservation Districts to help farmers with terraces, shelterbelts, and other conservation techniques.

In the 1950s, a "soil bank" was created to put the most highly erodible ground back into grass or other conservation uses. In the 1970s, new authorities were created to help farmers as other laws like the Clean Water, Clean Air, and the

Endangered Species Acts came into existence.

The 1985 Farm Bill created, for the first time, a conservation title with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

Since 1996, the conservation title has focused more on working lands cost-share assistance through programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Spending on conservation programs has grown to roughly \$5 billion per year.

These programs are important tools for farmers, as often conservation practices do not translate to profit. From its desperate beginnings in the Dust bowl, the NRCS has worked with farm families to create the most sustainable and efficient agricultural industry in history.

For more information on the Farm Bill check it out on www.chestchattred.org or www.usda.gov.

Williams...

continued from Page 4C

nial, a pre-emergent like Prowl, won't be effective. For the 2,4-D to be effective the timing of the application is critical. If you see buttercup flowers, it's too late. The 2,4-D application must be done when the buttercup plant is still small. Ideally, you want daytime temperatures to be 50 for two or three consecutive days. 2,4-D does have haying and grazing restrictions. Generally, you must wait 30 days before haying after spraying, and wait 14 days before grazing lactating dairy animals. As always, follow the label.

If you have questions about buttercup, identification or control contact you County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

I will be hosting a Spring Garden Kickoff class. April 1 will be in the Union County Civic Center, and April 2 will be the same program in the Towns County Civic Center. Each time the program will run from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

If you are interested in attending, please call the Union County Extension Office at 706-439-6030 or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fire...

continued from Page 4C

Older people and people with severe chronic conditions should take special precautions outlined by the CDC because they are at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness. Some of these special precautions include being prepared by having supplies such as extra medications, household items and groceries so that you will be prepared to stay at home for a period of time. Other considerations are to avoid close contact with people who are sick, take everyday preventive actions, avoid crowds and stay home as much as possible.

The various organizations throughout Union County, from the local and state governments to the private sector, have been communicating and taking steps to prevent or minimize the impact of this illness. It will take a community effort to overcome this situation. Everyone should do their part to stay informed, follow recommendations, and take reasonable precautions.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~