

Paris... continued from Page 4A

A. The location you are referring to is in the City of Blairsville and typically not under our supervision. However, the county Economic Development Office works with different retailers, commercial businesses and industrial customers to assist when needed. Unfortunately, in the case of the old Bi-Lo Grocery building, it is owned by a conglomerate not from the Southeast.

The grocery store that was in the building after Bi-Lo, which was Food City, had a long-term lease on the building. So, the owners are being paid rent just as if the building was occupied. This means the owners are not in a hurry to rent the building out and actually can't lease it to someone else until some form of lease termination agreement can be reached. However, Food City has finally decided to try to sublease the property while they work through lease issues with the owner of the building. Our Economic Development office continues to try to work with the both the owners and Food City's broker to identify potential tenants but so far not successfully.

Q. When we recently

went to the Transfer Station (sometimes affectionately referred to as "the dump") we were asked to wear a hard hat when dumping our commercial or large load of trash into the building. Why is this?

A. New regulations and safety guidelines by the company require that if you are unloading your large loads under the roof of the transfer station building, that you must wear a hard hat. The reason is that there is always large equipment inside the building and when loading and unloading garbage, sometimes some of the debris catches on the side of the building and could then fall at a later time and hit someone in the head.

Q. Are loads on pickups and trailers required to have a tarp covering them when taking trash to the Transfer Station?

A. Yes, it is required. There is a significant fine for littering and bringing loads uncovered to any transfer station or being on a state or county highway. This is required to protect the public from garbage bags and other debris blowing off of trucks, trailers and especially pickup trucks.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

I have gone".

Most of the time Mom worked the evening shift, but, her schedule was changed so the next day she worked the morning shift. Over the past few weeks Cora had become weak and Mom knew her time would come soon. So, she went by Cora's room before leaving work. The kind elderly lady smiled, patted Mom's hand and said, "It will be over soon".

When Mom came back to work the next morning a young orderly met her and said you should have been here last night. A nurse working the night shift fussed at Mom for not being at work. Mother explained that her schedule had been changed. The nurse looked at her and said you missed 2 miracles.

Miss Cora had died at 4 AM. The nurse was with her when she passed and as she was attending to Cora the nurse heard singing. So, the nurse walked into the hall and there was Mr. Brown walking down the hall singing "Jesus Loves Me". Then the nurse felt a tug of her arm and there was Mrs. Jones. Her eyes were shining and she asked, "Do you see

that and she pointed down the hall toward Cora's room?" The nurse asked Mrs. Jones what she was seeing. Mrs. Jones said, "I can see them as well as I can see you. I can see Jesus and Cora walking down the hall".

By the time Mom got to Mr. Brown and Mrs. Jones rooms the miracles had passed. Mr. Brown was once again mute and confined to a wheel chair. Mrs. Jones could no longer see and was bedridden. However, one nurse and three other staff members all witnessed Mr. Brown singing and walking. They also saw Mrs. Jones walking around looking at things she hadn't seen in years. Every time my mother gets worried about something she thinks about those miracles that occurred in a nursing home in Dunlap, TN.

As we think about all the bad things going on in this world we should remember that God loves all of us. He cares about what we are experiencing. He loves us even though we may be unlovable. Isn't that the reason for this season? So, we should celebrate God's love for us during this time of year.

Riley... continued from Page 4A

one-third (32%) of the home Christmas tree structure fires. One in six (17%) occurred because some type of heat source was too close to the tree. Decorative lights on line voltage were involved in 12% of these incidents.

Seven percent of home Christmas tree fires were started by candles. Twenty percent of home Christmas tree structure fires were intentionally set. Half of the intentional Christmas tree fires occurred in the 20 days after Christmas. The risk of fire is higher with natural trees than artificial ones. Researchers found that dry natural trees burned easily but trees that had been kept moist are unlikely to catch fire unintentionally. Holiday lights and other decorative lighting with line voltage were involved in an estimated average of 150 home structure fires per year in this same period. Fifteen percent of these fires began with Christmas trees. Electrical failures or malfunctions were factors in nearly two-thirds (64%) of the fires involving holiday or decorative lights.

In a study of fall-related injuries during the holiday season, it was estimated that an annual average of roughly 5,800 fall injuries related to holiday decorating were treated at hospital emergency rooms between November 1 and January 31 in 2013-2017. Sixty-two percent of those injured were between 20 and 49 years of age, compared to 43% of the population in this age group. With 43% of the injuries resulting from falls from ladders and 13% caused by falls from

the roof, it appears that the majority of these falls occurred during outdoor decorating. Falls from furniture, typically inside the structure, accounted for 11% of the injuries. (Don't stand on chairs!) Some falls occurred when people tripped over or slipped on tree skirts or other decorations. I know that a lot of us leave our trees up for a while after Christmas; some just don't want to let the season go, or family members visit after Christmas, or some of us just don't get around to it as soon as we should. One of the most important safety tips when dealing with the old Christmas tree is to remove the tree from your home when it begins dropping needles and dispose of it properly because dried-out trees burn easily and should not be left in a garage or placed against the home, and always unplug or switch off all holiday lights before leaving home or going to sleep.

Take holiday lights down after the holidays, because holiday lights are for temporary, seasonal use up to 90 days. During the Holidays we create more fire risk for our homes, businesses, and even our lives, so we must be more diligent about fire safety.

Our local Firewise Citizen's Coalition is ready to help with information for our citizens to use to reduce their risk from a destructive fire. For more information on holiday Fires, Firewise, Ready Set Go, or wildfire education contact Frank Riley, Executive Director, Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council at www.frank.ccrd@gmail.com.

Apply now for Beta Epsilon Educator Scholarship

The Future Key Woman Educator Scholarship is awarded by Beta Epsilon chapter of Psi State - Georgia of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. This chapter includes members from Fannin, Towns and Union counties. The scholarship is awarded to a female resident of one of these three counties who is a rising junior or senior at the college or university level in an accredited education program who has demonstrated high academic achievement, leadership experience, involvement in ex-

tracurricular activities, community and civic involvement, and a commitment to pursue a degree in education. The 2019 scholarship amount is \$1000.

The deadline for completed application is February 28, 2019 and successful applicants will be notified by April 1, 2019. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The application is available at www.deltakappagamma.org/GA-betaepsilon/scholarship.htm. For more information, please email be.psi.dkg@gmail.com.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

selling CBD, with the market estimated to grow to \$2.1 billion by 2020. CBD tinctures, edibles, sprays, vaping liquid, capsules and items such as gels, hand lotions and shampoos are widely available, varying in price and CBD content.

Some of these products are illegal, while others can be purchased in supermarkets and health stores by anyone. The legality of CBD varies by state, often based upon whether it is hemp-derived or marijuana-derived. Hemp and marijuana both originate from the cannabis plant, but cannabis crops grown for their flowers have high THC levels, while when grown for their fibers and stalks are usually called hemp.

Georgia's medical marijuana law, first passed in 2015, refers to the legal possession and use of "low-THC" cannabis oil, which is defined as any oil containing "no more than 5% THC, and an amount of CBD that is equal to or greater than the THC content."

The U.S. in general is becoming increasingly interested in CBD because it is seen as a potential medicine without the side effects typically associated with marijuana — especially

for cancer, serious chronic pain and epilepsy. For the first time, the FDA approved a new drug based upon CBD derived from marijuana called Epidiolex in June 2018. It provides patients with a concentrated dose of CBD to treat seizures in rare forms of epilepsy.

The biggest problem with CBD is that there is a lack of well-controlled trials and little understanding of the long-term effects. Further, the trials are focused on the action and benefits of the purified CBD compound, not an extract of CBD, which is typically found in commercial products. CBD products are for the most part unregulated, so users must rely on the quality assurances of the companies that manufacture and sell them.

CBD does not appear to be dangerous in and of itself for short-term use, but many CBD products contain dangerous chemicals or synthetic CBD oil. For example, there were 52 cases of serious adverse effects including seizures, loss of consciousness, vomiting, nausea and altered mental status, in Utah from 2017 to 2018 after people ingested a CBD product. Surprisingly, no CBD was

found in blood samples, only 4-cyano CUMYL-BUTINACA (4-CCB), or fake CBD oil.

For the most part, side effects from CBD alone are minor (dry mouth, dizziness, nausea), but they can be serious if the CBD products interact with other medications. CBD and other plant cannabinoids can interact with many pharmaceuticals by hindering the activity of a group of liver enzymes, so other drugs don't metabolize as expected. Steroids, antihistamines, calcium channel blockers, immune modulators, benzodiazepines, antibiotics, anesthetics, antipsychotics, antidepressants, anti-epileptics and beta blockers could all po-

tentially cause an adverse reaction when taken with CBD.

It may be hard to know if your child is consuming CBD because of the minimal side effects and absence of a psychoactive effect. If you learn that your child is using CBD without a doctor's or your permission, you should question it, and may even want to discuss the health impacts of it with your child's doctor.

The World Health Organization declared CBD non-addictive, writing, "In humans, CBD exhibits no effects indicative of any abuse or dependence potential." They do not, however, recommend consumption.

Williams... continued from Page 4A

all the benefits that they bring. This just goes to show that not all outside species that are brought in are bad, but we should take great care when bringing in new species because the impact that they will have is largely unknown.

Dyer...

continued from Page 4A

traveling. You never know when an emergency may happen. Having these skills will make you better prepared when an emergency happens to you, your family or you neighbors. Citizens should take the time to learn the lifesaving skills of CPR/First aid and do their part to make Union County a more prepared and resilient community.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Fowler...

continued from Page 4A

God provided these clues to various people over the span of centuries. Then, "when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman" (Gal. 4:4). Jesus, eternal Son of Man, stepped into history via Bethlehem and Egypt as the revelation of the mystery. He is God's gift to you. As the angel explained, "I bring you good news of great joy which be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). Mystery solved.

Give the gift of food to a senior this holiday season

Share the gift of a meal with home-bound senior citizens in Union County this holiday season through the Home Delivered Meal Holiday Gift Certificate Program. Purchase a holiday gift certificate through Union County Senior Center and meals will be delivered to a home-bound senior through our Meals on Wheels program.

You can provide a meal for one day, a week, month or year. The cost of one meal is \$3.80, one week is \$19, one month is \$83.60, and one year is \$1,003.20. We are a 501(c)3 and all gifts are tax deductible.

Checks should be made payable to Union County Senior Center, "Holiday Gift Certificate Program" and should be mailed or delivered to the following address: Union County Senior Center, 95 Senior Center Drive, Blairsville, GA 30512.

From Thanksgiving until New Year's Day all meals will be delivered to senior citizens along with a special card wishing them Happy Holidays from the gift giver. Funding is essential and we have suffered budget cuts in state and federal funding, yet the demand for meals is steadily increasing. Please assist us in preserving this vital program. Thank you for making a difference in your community!

For more information, call 706-439-6105.

Allegheny Masonic Lodge

Allegheny Masonic Lodge #114 meets 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Dinner 6:30 PM and meeting 7:30 PM.