

Paris...continued from Page 4A

decisions for the future.
Q. What is being done now to increase incentives to help attract new businesses to locate here?

A. Union County offers many incentives for manufacturers to locate here. The Economic Development Authority through its Director, Mitch Griggs, is always working on bringing in more industry and manufacturing. Some of these

incentives are our lower property taxes, reliable and competitive utility rates, industrial revenue bonds, specialized financing for qualifying businesses, non-union pro-business environment, prepared industrial sites already in place, and a superior quality of life, just to name the most important.

Part III on Industry and Jobs Next Week

Fowler ... continued from Page 4A

Chesterton connects the idea of home to that great mystery of God's coming in the flesh, not to house or inn, but a foul stable of beasts. Yet in that non-home, we find the home that a searching soul longs for. Looking into that scene, we see that God reveals His love as an Innocent who would take away our sins. At once, Bethlehem acknowledges the battle and blazing harshness of life, but offers an open door, a journey's

end, and eternity's miracle. "Come to me," Jesus said, "and I will give you rest," an invitation to come home.

Chesterton once said that "joy is the gigantic secret of the Christian." As the angel expressed to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people." In today's fearful world, we need good news and great joy, a Christmas gift meant for you.

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

"Famous Amos" the 1984 Ralston Purina Dog of the Year in 1984 and yes the dog is buried in this cemetery. One funeral at the cemetery attracted more than 400 hunters and coon dogs from as far away as Illinois.

The first dog buried at the cemetery was old "Troop" owned by a fellow named Key Underwood. Key was a friend of my Papa and his father was the family doctor of my grandparents and my granny's parents. In fact papa's dogs "Lou and Sam" were descendants of this old dog. When Troop died in 1937 Key Underwood decided to bury him at their favorite hunting camp deep in the wilderness of the Freedom Hills near Cherokee, Alabama. Key remembered many of the tall tales recanted around the campfire at this particular hunting camp and decided to bury Troop at this place. Underwood never intended for the place to turn into what it is today. All he wanted was to do something

special for his favorite dog.

This week the Farmers Market will host the annual "Kris Kringle Market" on Friday and Saturday. The Friday market will be held from 4 until 8 p.m. and the Saturday market will be held from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. You will be able to purchase produce as well as crafts. Santa Claus will be with us on both days. Children will be able to hear the Christmas Story and ride our Christmas Market Train. Live entertainment will be at the market on both days. Saturday morning at 11 the Farmers Market will honor the memory of Tricia Calise with a plaque in her honor to be placed at the market. Finally, do not forget the Canning Plant will host an "Apple Sauce Making Demonstration" at the canning Plant on Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Union County Young Farmer Program and the Union County Farmers Market/Canning Plant.

Williams ... continued from Page 4A

Christmas carols for a little bit. Our favorite event of the year is the Holly Jolly Christmas filled with cheer. There are musical performances, refreshments and trees but best of all is Mr. and Mrs. Claus for all the big and little kids to see.

Festive and fun with savings galore Blairsville-Union County has it all!

There is so much around you can't even perceive it Blairsville-Union County - Believe It

The Tour of Trees will take place the entire month of December at the Union County Community Center. There are over 35 beautifully decorated trees and wreaths by local businesses on display. Jingle Bell Buys will be held Thursday through Saturday, December 3rd through 5th and features 50% off and Buy One Get One Free items at your favorite Chamber member businesses. Coupons are available through the Chamber or online at VisitBlairsvilleGA.com. The Blairsville Stop and Shop will be held Friday, December 4th and Saturday, December 5th from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Union County Civic Center. There will be over 50 home based business vendors participating. The Kris Kringle Market will take place Friday, December 4th from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturday, December 5th from 10am-3pm at the Union County Farmers Market. Enjoy music, children's area, and more than 60 vendors. Roast chestnuts, sing carols, sit on Santa's lap, and warm up by a bonfire with s'mores. The Blairsville Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 5th at 4pm in Downtown Blairsville.

Holly Jolly Christmas takes place Saturday, December 12th from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. at the Union County Community Center and includes beautiful decorated trees and wreaths, face painting, storytelling, children's crafts, musical performances, and refreshments. There will be a community Caroling on the Square event on Tuesday, December 22nd from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

For more ideas on winter activities and detailed local area information including dining, lodging, and upcoming event information please stop by the Welcome Center located in the Union County Community Center at 129 Union County Recreation Road, call 706-745-5789, email tourism@blairsvillechamber.com or visit us online at www.VisitBlairsvilleGa.com.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Children's Story Time	Every Monday: Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
A Course in Miracles	UC Comm Cntr., Rm 101	2 pm
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
	Every Tuesday:	
Tri State Bus. Women	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
MMQG Tues. Strippers	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
Spiritual Living Group	UC Comm Cntr., Rm 101	6:30 pm
	Every Wednesday:	
BINGO	Civic Center	7 pm
	Every Thursday:	
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
	Second Monday of each month:	
MMQG Sewcials	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 am-3 pm
	Second Tuesday of each month:	
FPL Retirees	Hole in Wall Rest.	9 am
Historical Society Bd.	Old Courthouse	9:30 am
Mtn Laurel Arts/Crafts	Union County Library	10 am
Active/Retired Fed Emp.	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer	Sr. Citizens Center	1:30-3:30 pm
Mountain Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
Blairsville PTO	UC Primary School	6 pm
Blue Ridge Mtn Jeepers	Steve's Steakhouse	6:30 pm
Beta Sigma Phi	Kappa Alpha Chapter	7 pm
Mtn. Reg. Arts/Crafts	Library - Young Harris	7 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
	Second Wednesday of each month:	
GA Mtn Writers Club	So. Bank & Trust	10 am
Parkinson's Sup. Grp.	So. Bank & Trust	3 pm
	Second Thursday of each month:	
UC Interagency Grp.	Civic Cntr. Conf. Rm.	12 noon
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Appalachian Shrine Club	Clubhouse, Industrial Blvd.	6:00 pm
Democratic Party	UC Senior Center	6:30 pm
Trout Unlimited	So. Bank & Trust	6:30 pm
Sons Confederate Vet.	UCB Community Rm	7 pm
Knights of Columbus	Marian Hall	7:30 pm
	Second Friday of each month:	
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
	Second Saturday of each month:	
His Victory Riders	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am

Cough Syrup ... continued from Page 4A

because they want to protect themselves from consequences.

The following suggestions can help you not only frame your initial conversation, but your action plan as well:

1. Go into the conversation with an assertion, not a question. Don't set up a debate by asking, "How did this many empty bottles or containers end up in your backpack?" or, "Did you and Danny drink cough syrup at his house Friday night?" Instead, make a non-threatening, but clear statement like, "I am concerned about your misuse of over-the-counter medication."

2. Have a plan for at least one "next step." My suggestion is to have an appointment in place with a substance abuse counselor. This may take a bit of footwork, navigating insurance companies and procuring referrals. Do this in advance of your conversation if at all possible, so that unforeseen roadblocks do not deter you; and, so that one of your next statements can be, "You have an appointment a week from Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. with a counselor for an evaluation." Don't let them talk you out of this important step.

3. Do the research. Find out all you need to know about what medications are abusable and why they are dangerous. This is not a time to cover for your teenager or their friends. Parents need to partner with one another to share information and close up access points. Furthermore, use your teen's school guidance counselor, a social worker and/or nurses as resources. Often, in an effort to protect their teenager's "reputation," parents avoid seeking help from the professionals and other parents that can help them the most. Mental and physical health and safety must trump reputation.

4. Resist shutting down their social lives entirely. Many parents' first reaction is to ground their teen, take their devices away and shut down all social activity. Unfortunately, this allows teenagers to focus on perceived injustices rather than on the dangerous decisions they are making. This is likely to create an atmosphere ripe for underground activity, lies and resentment, hardly the building blocks for addressing a serious

issue. Instead consider partnering with your teenager around limitations that you both can be comfortable with. This may seem counterintuitive, but providing your teenager with support rather than restriction will pay off as you begin to navigate their substance use.

5. Show some humility. Humility is not a sign of weakness. Instead, it is a sign of authenticity, openness and a willingness to learn and change. We are asking that of our teenagers, so in return we need to ask it of ourselves. Without humility, there is little chance of partnership or sustained change. Here is a good time to say, "I had no idea this was happening and I am scared," or, "I feel like I may have been sloppy with my own use of medication." State your truth, but stay resolute about the plan of action.

There are no quick and easy solutions where substances and experimentation are concerned. Seeking help is not a sign of weakness, but commitment to doing the best parenting job possible. Sometimes teenagers give it up once they are caught and educated. Other times, the journey is more arduous, especially where a history of use and abuse are at play. In either case, get the parenting support you need through counseling, 12-step programs and guidance from experts, as well as those parents who have walked, limped and tripped on the same path.

Leone... continued from Page 4A

ready to shoot those smiles as they pass you, waving.

Entertainment on Friday evening will be from 6-7 p.m. as we are once again are honored to have the Union County High School Choir joining us with their Christmas musical program. On Saturday, we have the very talented Fred Bruder, "The Singing Ranger" not only filling in for Santa that day, but he will take two twenty minute breaks from listening to the kiddies and he'll be singing all of our favorite Christmas classics. So be sure to join us for these musical treats.

Every year, BiLo has been the sponsor of our Friday evening free s'more's around the bonfire. This year, Food City has wholeheartedly donated all the fixins of marshmallows, chocolate and graham crackers to this community event. The fun of a family creating their own delight begins at 5:30 on Friday until 7 p.m. (look for the bonfire near the Canning Plant. Sticks will be provided for roasting marshmallows).

It isn't called a "Market" for no reason. This year we have over 80 vendors who will be sharing their goods for your shopping pleasure. There will be crafters, bakers and candy makers, produce and pecans, holiday decorations, Christmas gifts for your granny and your pets. From knitted items to jewelry, fabric bags to Christmas cards and tags, we've got so many different talents joining us this year. We trust that you will enjoy shopping local, supporting these folks who have worked hard to bring you a wonderful assortment of goods to choose from.

The Market is open from 4-8 p.m. on Friday evening and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday. Come both days and plan on eating with us, too. Millie has her crew working overtime and she promises to be serving from the food trailer some bumped up fare this Market, including her scrumptious chili and her homemade BBQ sandwiches. We hope you'll plan on having dinner or lunch with us at Kris Kringle.

I've got to get my list out to see what I need to finish up my seasonal preparations. I'm at that stage of life where I have to make a list, if it's going to be remembered.

Now, I think I need to ask Santa for a gadget that keeps track of where I put my list...See you at Kris Kringle

Arts & Crafts Guild meeting

Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild meets monthly on the second Tuesday of every month at Calvary Chapel, 1390 US Hwy 76 East in Hiawassee, GA. Calvary Chapel is in the Chatuge Harbor Shopping center across from the Towns County Schools. The Guild meeting begins at

6:30 p.m. Plan on arriving at 6 p.m. for networking with members.

Anyone interested in the Guild are invited to come to any monthly Guild meeting and are encouraged to bring a sample of your work. For more information, call ArtWorks at 706-896-0932. NT(Dec2,22)CA