

**Paris...continued from Page 4A**

**Q. What happens if property taxes are paid past the due date?**

A. Property taxes that are paid or postmarked after Dec. 20, 2014 are charged 1 percent interest per month. Once the tax bill becomes 90 days past due the state requires a 10 percent penalty be added along with the 1 percent interest per month. Only properties with homestead exemption with a tax bill under \$500 are exempt from the 10 percent 90 day past due penalty. A FiFa or lien may be filed on your property by the tax commissioner once it is 90 days past due.

**Q. I am on a fixed income and do not have all the money to pay my taxes this year. What can I do?**

A. The Union County Tax Commissioner's Office will accept partial payments on property taxes. They will also contract a payment schedule to work with you if you are behind on your taxes. Please don't hesitate to contact the Tax Commissioner to set up a payment plan so you won't get further behind on your taxes or have a tax lien filed on your property.

**Q. Do you have any figures on tax collections and percentage of property taxes collected for 2013?**

A. Total property tax collection dollars for 2013 are \$19.3 million for School, County, and State taxes. The collection percentage for mobile homes is 97.5 percent and for real property (land and homes) the percentage collected is above 97.2 percent.

**Q. What does our property tax money go for and how is it spent?**

A. The Board of Education gets approximately 66 percent of your property tax. The county gets around 33 percent of your property tax and the state only gets 1/10 of 1 percent. Of all the taxes you pay, 99.9 percent of your property tax money stays here in Union County. Your tax dollars go toward the maintenance and operations to support administration of county government and the public school system. Your tax dollars pay to build and repair public buildings and bridges, to maintain county roads, to pay court expenses, county jail and law enforcement, recreation and to provide fire protection.

Your tax money also pays to provide for public health and sanitation. County government and the Board of Education salaries and benefits are also part of the expenses paid with your property taxes.

**Leone... continued from Page 4A**

cherry juice. Totally irresistible. There was another recipe we made each December, one that I have never seen on any other Christmas cookie tray other than my family's. It was the most time consuming cookie to prep, the most fragile to decorate, with the most expensive ingredients. We called them Cherry Dainties. The recipe must have been heaven sent, they are that delicious. This is a small, filled cookie, about 1 and a half inches long. The dough is comprised of a little flour and a good deal of cream cheese. Rolled out relatively thin, then cut into circles with a small juice glass, the dough is so delicate, it takes the patience of Job to fill them.

The filling is a wonderful date filling, with a hint of orange citrus. A slight teaspoon full of filling is dropped in the middle of the circle of dough, then squished with the fingers to make it log shaped before the dough is then brought up around the log of filling, and then lightly pinched in the middle. The next step is to take a flat wooden toothpick and lace it through the pinched dough area, so when they are baked, they will not split. Oh wait, there's one more step before they go into the oven. They now get rolled in granulated sugar and carefully placed on a cookie sheet. While they baked, they were watched with the oven light on, to be sure that they never browned too heavily. Once they came to room temperature, the toothpick was slowly twisted loose from the dough and pulled out with more concentration than a Jenga block, four levels off the top tower. It was almost time to

breathe a sigh of relief. Almost.

To complete these cookies, they had to be washed with a wet, translucent frosting made with grenadine and powdered sugar. A dish of maraschino cherries that had been quartered was close at hand. Before the wash could dry, a piece of cherry was secured to the top of the pinched dough, using the frost wash as adhesive.

If there was any example in my childhood that drove home how important it was to follow a project through from beginning to end, making sure to follow each step with precision, it was this one cookie. My attention span as a child was zero to none. My dexterity with my chubby little fingers was not measurable either. But when it came to participating in this art of the Cherry Dainty cookie, I mustered up every ounce of discipline and worked it right along with the rest of the family.

The laughter, the singing of Christmas songs, the scratching of your mom's nose when she couldn't do it for herself with her hands coated in flour, the smell of spices and fruits emanating from the oven, the bounty of wax paper that held layers of miniature masterpieces, stored in giant Tupperware that were only utilized at Christmas... these are the memories I hold so joyously in my heart. This Christmas, take time to make memories with the young. And when you are in the company of those whose cookie making days are over, ask them to share with you their Christmas memories. The time to listen is a precious gift.

**Ziegenbein ... continued from Page 4A**

We stood in the rain enjoying the singing and parade with an abundant crowd that supported all the weekend activities no matter what the weather.

To our community and visitors, you're all a bunch of "warm fuzzies" letting nothing stop you from attending all the activities our great city officials plan for our enjoyment.

Thank you to all the retailers, Farmers Market vendors, Friends of the Union County Library for your yummy desserts, the librarians for having the play, and those that participated in the parade.

Good job all the way around.

Yesserie Bob! North Georgia Mountains is the place to live 'cause we senior citizens don't just sit on a rocking chair, we keep up with the younguns! We live in a community that keeps us young. It's go, go, go! Thank you Editor for always posting the weekly activities,... and folks, it's worth reading the paper, it'll keep you on the move and healthy. So get up and get out, go have fun, there's so much going on! Happy Holidays, and God bless you,  
**Barbara Ziegenbein**

**Gray ... continued from Page 4A**

A hero was defined in sacred texts and history books, but a celebrity is defined (often fleetingly and until unseated by a new rising star) by public opinion, magazines and movie screens. We need to revert to using more specific speech in describing people and situations. A "hero" is a big man; the celebrity is merely a big name.

Heroes are those who rush into danger to save the lives of others. Hundreds of them died on 9/11 when they rushed into the buildings sacrificing their own lives in hopes of saving others. Our servicemen and women fall into that category, as well as ordinary citizens who react to danger around them and make a decision to do the right thing.

Our culture tends to worship and adore sports figures and entertainers, but to call them heroes begs the question that asks where have our values gone? No wonder

the response from middle and high school students who respond to the question "What would you like to become when you get out of school?" is often a desire to be in the sports or entertainment fields.

A person can hire a press agent to blow hot air into the empty balloon of a big name, but no agent can ever make a man great. Unless a person aspires to truly great things, he will never become a real hero at all, and to use the term flippantly reduces its true meaning. Respectfully submitted,  
**Arlene M. Gray**

**Schramke... continued from Page 4A**

hard work and the passion you put into what you do; it shows.

A shout-out to Young Harris College for hosting these groups, and to the band and chorus students; you guys were awesome. Thanks!  
**Margie Schramke**

**Parris ... continued from Page 4A**

other preacher's wife shouted out "Walnut." But, by cracker jacks, I knew the next four: "What nut should be given to bad children?" Hickory nut – thanks to my mom. "A nut imported from South America?" Brazil nut – thanks to my geography teacher. "A nut named after a girl?" Hazelnut – thanks to my male instinct. "A nut popular in Ohio?" Buckeye – thanks to my football knowledge. I am a vegetable nut but I missed that one – "A vegetable nut" – of course, a Peanut, that really made me feel small. I fi-

nally got enough answers right to at least retain my license to preach.

In a nutshell, let me tell you what Christmas is all about – This world of sin was a tough nut to crack but God was nuts about us (means He loved us with an everlasting love) and sent Jesus, His only Son to die on a cruel cross that He might save us from an eternal nuthouse – Hell itself. At this Christmas season don't let the world drive you nuts, but be nuts about Jesus, our Savior!

**Cummings...continued from Page 4A**

this recipe." The ladies sponsored this bake sale to raise funds for one of their missionaries in Brazil and Betty Sue's cake was purchased by a visiting minister at a cost of \$100. She never told anyone about the wine in the cake. After all her husband was the pastor.

Mom still enjoys cooking cakes and I must say she is a very good cook. One of her best cakes is an ice box fruit cake. But, the one I am looking forward to the most is her "Rum" Cake. Ask her about that and you might like to try the Blackberry Wine Cake. Following is the recipe, but, remember to insert the wine before cooking not afterwards.

The ingredients for the

cake are: 1 box of white cake mix, 1 3 ounce box of blackberry gelatin, 4 eggs, ½ cup of oil, 1 cup of blackberry wine, 1 cup of chopped pecans. And the ingredients for the glaze are: 1 1/3 cup of powdered sugar, ½ cup of blackberry wine, ½ cup of margarine.

Now, follow these directions: Combine cake mix, gelatin and nuts. Add the eggs, oil and 1 cup of wine. Mix well. Bake in a Bundt pan for 40-45 minutes at 350 degrees. Meanwhile, mix together powdered sugar, ½ cup of wine and margarine. When the cake has cooled remove it from the pan and drizzle with glaze.

**Williams ...**

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My favorite quote is, "I'm Your Huckleberry" by Doc Holiday from the movie Tombstone.

4. If you won the lottery what is the first thing you would do?

That's a tough one. First I would take care of my family and friends. Then I would probably go to Vegas and try to double my money. Just kidding. I would take a long vacation though.

5. What is your favorite hobby?

I love the outdoors. Hunting and fishing are my favorites. Also I love sports (Go Dawgs, Cindy). I play a lot of softball and basketball and enjoy coaching with the Union County Recreation Department.

For more information on the Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center call (706) 745-2655 or go online to [www.gmrec.uga.edu](http://www.gmrec.uga.edu). The GMREC is located three miles south of Blairsville on Highway 129.

**Combs ...**

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we ponder what to give to others, remember Christ came and He give of Himself a sacrificial offering that has stood the test of time. The beauty of Christmas is not wrapped up in boxes lying under a tree, but a man called Jesus Christ who willingly came and died on an old rugged tree for you and me. The bottom line is do you know this Jesus who died a cruel death, but yet arose on the third day as He promised He would, so that you and me can celebrate the real reason for this Christmas season; the miracle of a little baby boy lying in a manger bringing hope to the lost and light to a dark world. When you look upon your Christmas tree this month, remember what Christ gave to you, eternal life with Him in Heaven, and all you have to do is to believe on His Name. Sounds like a gift you can cherish for eternity. Amen.

**Frank F. Combs**

**Barnes...**

**continued from Page 4A**

fashioned manger scene made out of plain plywood and straw and proper figurines is what it is all about. And I heard not even one Christmas song was played on the intercom system either just the one song from the *Frozen* movie.

Oh well, to each his own preference and all. And as I have said it was a "nice" little Winter Parade. But hopefully next year if we are all living, we can get back to the main theme of the season... Jesus Christ!

Have a wonderful safe and very Merry Christmas! Thank You,  
**Mrs. D. Barnes**

**Bell Ringing Union  
County Old Courthouse**



**Bell ringing information  
at 706-745-5493**