

Snow...from Page 1A

winter, but doing the math, and considering some of our worst weather ever happened in March, we're looking for another supply of salt."

Union County Emergency Management Agency Director Charles Worden said Union dodged a serious bullet.

"It could have been a lot worse," Chief Worden said. "The good thing is there were no fatalities, no serious injuries, and everybody got through it. As usual, we all pulled together in time of crisis."

"Thank goodness folks listened and heeded the warning to stay off the roads," Chief Worden said. "I say thank goodness, but, for the most part, our folks here know when to stay off the roads."

"We're blessed with a very understanding community," he said. "We had a few automobile accidents the first day, but none were serious. After that, it was quiet."

The Georgia State Patrol played a significant role in the days occupied by snow, said John George, Chief Deputy with the Union County Sheriff's Office.

"Everything worked out pretty good," George said. "We really had no issues. We had a very few accidents and the Georgia State Patrol worked those for us."

"I think Union County was very fortunate because some of our neighboring counties got a lot more snow than we did," George said. "I'd rather the weather service over estimate than under estimate."

"People just don't prepare if the weather system is under estimated," George said. "I think most of the people in the county prepared for this storm."

"We had some calls for service, one we delivered medicine to some folks that were seniors and couldn't get out," he said. "All-in-all, it was a good week and I think we were very fortunate and up to the task."

Commissioner Paris gave high praise to the Union County Road Department.

"They went day and night," Paris said. "Those four days seemed like an eternity to our folks. The time passed so slow, it seemed like that storm lasted forever."

Paris said that the biggest concern during the snow event was not knowing what would happen next.

"Every time there was a new forecast, we had to gear up to get ready for it," Paris said. "Each time, the temperatures weren't as cold as the weather service predicted. There wasn't as much snow as they called for; it was hard trying to put a strategy together. You didn't want to underestimate, but, at the same time, you didn't want to over do it."

To be honest, Paris said, "we dodged a big bullet."

"Things could have been significantly worse than they were," he said. "We were very fortunate last week."

Teamwork held us together, and teamwork saw us through the event.



Above, Georgia National Guardsmen arrive to help in Union County; middle, on frozen pond at Speedling; below a blanket of snow on Fairview Church Road.

Mary Ann Hitt to present Annual Heinze Lecture at YHC

Mary Anne Hitt, director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, will present the annual Heinze Lecture at Young Harris College on Monday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. in Wilson Lecture Hall of Goolsby Center on the YHC campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Through her lecture, titled "Beyond Coal: Building America's Clean Energy Future," Hitt will share her views on coal pollution, climate change, the rise of clean energy and economic transition in regions with ties to the

coal industry.

As director of the Beyond Coal Campaign, Hitt works to eliminate pollution from coal and repower the United States with clean energy.

Prior to her time at the Sierra Club, Hitt worked on Appalachian coal issues for more than a decade, serving as executive director of the Ecology Center, the Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project and Appalachian Voices, where she helped to create an award-winning campaign to end mountaintop removal.



Mary Anne Hitt

Hitt received her bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee and her master of science degree from the University of Montana. She was named one of the 10 most influential people of 2013 by SNL Energy and was listed as part of *Washingtonian Magazine's* "The New Guard: People Who are Shaping Washington."

Originally from the mountains of east Tennessee, Hitt currently resides in West Virginia with her family.

The annual Heinze Lecture brings speakers to campus to discuss themes and ideas that encourage college spirit and offer inspiration to the entire college community. Traditionally, the lecture focuses on Southern or Appalachian topics. Past events include lectures, concerts and community projects.

For more information about this event, call (706) 379-5139.