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documents and Hilton's sentencing hearing, Hilton admitted killing John Bryant within the Nantahala National Forest in Macon County, NC using a firearm.

Hilton also admitted killing John Bryant's spouse, Irene Bryant, within the Pisgah National Forest in Transylvania County, NC.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the victims and while today's outcome cannot bring back John and Irene Bryant, it is our sincere hope that everyone impacted by Hilton's heinous crime can finally have

some closure," Tompkins said. "I also want to thank the prosecutors and our law enforcement partners who worked on this case for their hard work, professionalism and integrity."

At Hilton's sentencing hearing, U.S. District Judge Martin Reidinger ordered that Hilton's federal life sentences be served consecutively with the sentences he received for the state convictions in Florida and Georgia.

All federal sentences are served without the possibility of parole.

The federal prosecution was handled by Don Gast of the U.S. Attorney's Office in

Asheville.

Tompkins thanked the FBI, SBI, the U.S. Forest Service, the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office and the Macon County Sheriff's Office for their assistance in this investigation.

In April 2011, Hilton was convicted and received a death sentence for the murder of Cheryl Dunlap in Leon County, Florida.

Hilton also is serving a life sentence for his conviction related to the 2008 murder of Meredith Emerson in the Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area.

Hilton, then 61, abducted Emerson from the Byron

Herbert Reece Trail Head in late December 2007 in Union County.

In January 2008, Hilton led Dawson County Sheriff Billy Carlisle and then GBI Special Agent in Charge John Cagle to Emerson's decapitated body in the Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area.

After Hilton pled guilty and was sentenced to life in Dawson County Superior Court, Cagle was asked whether Hilton was a serial killer.

"Well, you don't wake up one day at 61 years old and just start killing people," Cagle said.

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the right hand is placed over the heart, and the pledge says, "I pledge allegiance to the Georgia State Flag and to the principals for which it stands, wisdom, justice, and moderation.

However, during the lesser known Salute to the Confederate Flag, the hand is held toward the Flag with palm up.

"I salute the Confederate Flag with affection, reverence, and undying devotion to the cause for which it stands," White said as he led the salute.

According to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the 'cause' mentioned resistance to nationalist tyranny and the preservation of states' rights and individual liberty.

"The Sons of the Confederate Veterans is dedicated to honoring on a statewide basis, those who served in the Confederate States of America and educating the general public on Confederate history," Commissioner Paris said.

Greg White read the charge of General Stephen Dill Lee, urging everyone to remember, the duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought," White read. "To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's



Commander Jay Craig poses with the Belles of the South during Saturday's remembrance of Confederate Memorial Day. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Union County citizens and the Sons of Confederate Veterans continued to honor the Confederate dead. In fact the Union County War Memorial has more names listed than the names of the dead of the other wars put together.

Through stories of bravery and patriotism, and the playing of bagpipes, Southern pride is alive and well in Union County, thanks to everyone who has donated their time and money to making Blairsville's War Memorial one of the finest in the entire state.

The last weekend in April will always be a time for

Union County and the South to honor those who died in defense of the Confederate States of America.

Some states observe Confederate Memorial Day in June, coinciding with the Confederate States of America President Jefferson Davis' birthday.

According to Commissioner Paris, the holiday is observed in April due to two significant events that occurred on April.

"The month of April bears special significance since it marks both the beginning and the ending of the War Between the States," Commissioner Paris said. "I would like to encourage all residents (of Union County) to increase their knowledge of the role played by the Confederate States of America in our country's history."

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leaves Union County Elementary School Principal Patricia Cook as the only returning Union County School System incumbent principal in the 2013-2014 school year.

Primary School Principal Troy Collins retired in March, and Middle School Principal Donnie Kelley is moving to Memphis, Tenn.

Their replacements were Millie Owenby, at the Primary School, and Gwen

Stone at the Middle School.

Connie Coker and John Hill will fill the assistant principal vacancies created by the Owenby and Stone promotions to principals at their respective schools, Union County Superintendent Gary Steppe said.

Sheila Collins and David Murphy became co-principals at Woody Gap to replace Taylor, Steppe said.

Troy Collins will con-

tinue in an advisory capacity for the school system.

The Board of Education has changed its May meeting date from May 13th to May 9th because of scheduling conflicts.

It's possible a new principal for UCHS will be named at the May 9th board meeting.

No further details were available at press time.

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town Development Authority's Program Manager Janet Hartman said. "We had something similar when the Tour de Georgia was here, but it wasn't a block party."

In an event that was originally scheduled for the Seasons Inn Plaza, the bash was moved indoors, at the last minute to the Civic Center. With local vendors setting up tables, selling, and sometimes giving away freely, everything from clothes and cosmetics, and chair massages to jewelry.

Thanks to social networking and innovative thinking by the party planners, the happening went as planned and didn't miss a beat.

"We tried to stay proactive by watching the weather forecasts," Hartman said. "With all the vendors setting up and the band with their equipment, we had to make a decision and it was better safe than sorry. Moving it inside didn't effect us at all. We did a lot of this through Facebook and that's how we got the word out that it was moved inside."

"We also hung up some signs but Facebook and word-of-mouth were the main reasons why we had such a good showing after moving inside," Hartman said.

Speaking of beats, music was provided by local favorites, Modern Vinyl, who kept the house a Rockin' well beyond the scheduled closing time of 9 p.m. As the partygoers requested encore after encore, Patrick Smith, Connor Smith, Micah Tanner, and Todd Forrest were happy to oblige.

The up-and-coming rock band kept the crowd upbeat and enthusiastic with their diverse repertoire of classic rock, country, and pop tunes from the 1950s through



There were lots of familiar faces at the Block Party as the community worked to put a stop to cancer and raise money for Relay for Life. Photo/Joelle Miller

today's chart toppers.

The Blairsville band had couples slow dancing to classics such as *Wonderful Tonight*, and *Stand by Me*. Heads were bobbing as the guys performed covers of The Doors, The Beatles, Tom Petty, and others.

"Everyone loved the band and had a blast," Hartman said.

When Modern Vinyl performed the 2012 smash hit, *Gangnam Style*, by South Korean rapper Psy, the entire auditorium broke out in the popular dance routine, bringing the event to a close.

A perfect ending for a party that almost didn't happen due to weather. Facing hurdle after hurdle, the city of Blairsville, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Development Authority worked their magic, regardless of Mother Nature and made lemonade out of a lemon of a day that could have easily gone sour.

Instead, the local community showed how deter-

mined they are to continue the fight against cancer and support cancer research.

"We had a good showing," Hartman said. "I don't have a total yet but we feel really good about what were able to give back to the community while helping out Relay for Life. I would also like to thank Akins and Davenport PC, Humane Society Thrift Store, the Brannan Lodge and everyone who came out."

The next scheduled Block Party for the Humane Society is set for July 27th, yet no further details are available at the moment.

Weather permitting, the second of three scheduled block parties could become an even bigger hit than the first one.

If the skies don't want to cooperate, you can bet that it won't break the spirit of Union County, which is determined to stamp out cancer once and for all, as well as bring awareness and prevent the abuse and neglect of animals.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse

In memory of
Lori Michelle Nuce's
April 28th Birthday
by Mom, Dad and Maryanne
Bell ringing information
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