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During the first day of the successional convention Chris Sheets was not allowed to speak. Eventually, he was thrown in jail and beaten for his stance on the subject of secession. Chris was held in the jail in Montgomery during the entire convention and was only released after the convention. As you know Alabama did secede from the Union and the War Between the States began. Many of the planters who had vigorously supported secession and war didn't fight and paid others to fight in their place during the war. Soon the state created a Home Guard to help protect the interests of the citizens of Alabama.

One of the objectives of the Home Guard was to encourage the enlistment of young men into the fighting ranks of the Confederate Army. At first the Home Guard was a decent group of people and they protected local interests. But, soon the Home Guard became infiltrated with less desirable men. In Winston County the Home Guard began to terrorize the very people they were supposed to protect.

Wyatt's neighbor was a man known only as Uncle Billy. One day the Home Guard came to his house and told him he needed to enlist in the Confederate Army. Uncle Billy refused. So, the Home Guard hung Uncle Billy and left him for dead. Soon Uncle Billy's son found him and cut

him down. Somehow Uncle Billy lived through the ordeal. A few months later the Home Guard came back and found Uncle Billy still alive and still adamant about not joining the war. Uncle Billy was hung a second time and lived through the hanging again. After the second hanging Uncle Billy lived another 30 years although he always had a crook in his neck.

Uncle Billy became the poster boy for resistance in Winston County. Although the Home Guard was in control most of the men of Winston County enlisted with the north. Wyatt and his brother, Absolem, enlisted with the 2nd Tennessee Mounted Infantry in Savannah, Tennessee. Absolem never came home from the war. He died from dysentery. Wyatt came home to a community torn in half as a result of the war.

The men who hung Uncle Billy were hunted down and killed (in horrid fashion). Other men who sided with the south were tracked all the way to Oklahoma and killed. Of course all these killings were without judge or jury.

Wyatt came home and found his wife and young family struggling. When he seen what had happened to his community he moved his family to western Tennessee and where he lived out his days. However, his oldest son John never forgot Winston and Franklin County and he came home to the mountains

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the Chamber Web site and spend some time looking at all the wonderful shops, you will be amazed what can be purchased right here in our county. In addition, we have a beautiful county and it is evident when you ride through Union County that it is a great place to live. The excellent roads, amenities, healthcare, friendly and giving people, many charity organizations and an unlimited compassion for those in need are just part of what makes us special.

While we certainly have not fully recovered from the economic downturn, we are thankful to have our unemployment numbers continuing to decline and hope that trend can continue through the winter.

We certainly know that there are still a lot of people looking for work and who are hurting financially, but I still think our recovery is positive and if all those who seem to make it their mission to downplay our country and the economy would just try to be more positive, it would hasten our recovery tremendously.

Q. Do you feel that our country is really in as bad an economic condition as many would have us believe?

A. I really do not want to go there as there is not

enough time or room to put my answer in the newspaper.

But I also believe much of the problem is politically motivated. Every member of Congress who has been there more than four years, no matter how dedicated, has contributed substantially to the serious problems we now are facing. Both political parties have held majorities in the past few years and yet neither has faced up to fixing America.

However, before we all think it is hopeless, it is not. We are still the greatest country on earth and we still have the best form of government and eventually it will work out the problems if we have faith and quit blaming everyone else.

Our stock market is still strong, we have a safe country and the vast majority of all Americans (more than 90 percent) have jobs. Many businesses are thriving in this country and many more are improving.

Most large retailers had record sales this Christmas season. So it could be a lot worse. Let's remember, if we have our faith and our health, we should be very thankful and quit spending every waking minute being mad at the world.

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beautifully crafted items. I give them a shout out this week because I know they use these winter months to "grow" their crops, so to speak.

They are like worker bees in the off season, building inventory to sell during Market.

Prior to this past Christmas, I got a call from a gentleman whose wife saw something she loved from one of our Kris Kringle crafters. He wanted to surprise her for Christmas. It took several phone calls and a lot of sleuthing to come up with who the right vendor was - but we lined them up, and last week, this peach of a husband called to thank me and let me know that his wife was surprised and elated on Christmas morning.

Valentine's Day is fast

approaching. If you'd like to be put in touch with any of our crafters for gift ideas over the off season, please call (706) 781-3306 or e-mail me at ucfarmersmarket@gmail.com and I'll help you out.

With the new year already upon us, many organizations are planning events for 2013/14.

The Farmers Market is a great venue for events all year long. It is reasonable to rent the facility. Organizations like the Mountain Shelter Humane Society, Union County Relay for Life and the Tri-State Business Women all have enjoyed great success with this venue.

For more details, contact Mickey Cummings at (706) 439-6030. Have a wonderful week and stay warm!

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- complete with presents and a visit from Santa. Additionally, they provide scholarships for local students and have recently made a substantial contribution to Family Connection, which

will allow opportunities to the youth of Union County that would not otherwise have been possible.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I recognize the Blairsville Jaycees for their tremendous impact on Union County.

I encourage you to nominate our next deserving business or organization.

Forms can be obtained at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com. Click on Chamber Programs, fill out the application, and submit to the Chamber.

You may also contact the Chamber of Commerce at (706) 745-5789. I can be reached any time at President@Blairsville-Chamber.com.

Quigley

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principles. While many hospitals in Atlanta and even in our region laid off employees, she never did. Her personal concern for her employees went beyond the requirements of her job.

She is too humble to want the recognition. Dr. Gowder will be a fine leader for the hospital, but her shoes will be hard to fill. She will be missed.

Sincerely,
Debora Quigley


AARP Driver Safety Program

There will be an AARP Driver Safety class taught at the Blairsville United Community Bank on Thursday, February 7, 2013.

AARP's Driver Safety is the nation's first and largest course especially designed for drivers aged 50 and older. It addresses age-related physical changes that can affect our driving ability and provides compensating techniques for use in the driving environment. More importantly, the Driver Safety class helps participants identify individual problem areas, which helps to improve their own driving behavior. Completing this course and submitting your certificate to your insurance company may result in a reduction in your insurance premiums.

Cost for this class is \$14, but AARP members receive a \$2 discount. All participants must register for the class prior to February 1st by calling Kelly Collins at the bank at 706-745-2151. N(Jan16,28)

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



January 2
In memory of
Virginia B. Meeks
by Ginger & Terry Meeks

January 21
In memory of
Dolly C. Meeks
by Ginger & Terry Meeks

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

Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com

Wednesday, January 16

2pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
2pm Friends of Union County Library Meeting - Room 303

Thursday, January 17

8am Mountain Networking Referral Group Meeting - Cooks Country Kitchen
9am Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit - St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
12pm Rotary Club of Union County - Cadence Bank
6:30pm Shape Note Singing - Old Union County Courthouse

Friday, January 18

2pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
4pm Ribbon Cutting for Mary Kay Cosmetics Sarah Heyne - The Chamber of Commerce

Saturday, January 19

2pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
4pm Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser - The Gold Academy, Young Harris

Sunday, January 20

10:30am Sunday Brunch - The Lodge at Copperhead

Monday, January 21

12pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting - Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
6pm Optimizing Diet & Lifestyles for People over 50 - NGTC

Tuesday, January 22

8am Tri-State Business Women's Meeting - Cooks Restaurant

Wednesday, January 23

2pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
6pm Women's Health Issues - NGTC

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Monday:		
Garden Tours	GMREC	9 am - 1 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Every Tuesday:		
Mtn. Woodcarvers	Senior Center	6 pm
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Every Thursday:		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	Cadence Bank	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Fourth Tuesday of each month:		
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Blairsville UMC	12:30
Cub Scouts Trp. #101	UC Elementary School	7 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
VFW Post #7394	78 Old Blue Ridge Hwy.	11:30 am
Compassionate Friends	Grinds & Glazes	Noon
Mtn. Sounds Dulcimer	Sr. Citizens Center	1:30-3:30 pm
Fourth Wednesday of each month:		
No activities listed		
Fourth Thursday of each month:		
UT Homebuilders	YH College	7 pm
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Cruisers Club Meeting	Sr. Center pavilion	6 pm
Fourth Friday of each month		
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
Fourth Saturday of each month:		
Youngcane Lodge #597	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm