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curred during the war. During the War, the Home Guard had committed many atrocities. Men were killed for refusing to fight with the South. Even those which fought with the South were not immune to harassment by the Home Guard. Close to the end of the War, Aunt Jenny Johnson's husband came home on furlough from the War and in an effort to make money for his family he was making a run of white liquor. The Home Guard bushwacked and killed Mr. Johnson and his eldest son. Aunt Jenny and her other sons found her husband and son. The pair was buried and Aunt Jenny made her remaining sons vow to take vengeance against those individuals responsible for the murder of their father and brother. Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox. However, the War was just beginning for Aunt Jenny and her sons. The Sheriff and one of his deputies was a part of the Home Guard. Aunt Jenny and her sons set up an ambush for the man. Both men received their just rewards. One-by-one the men who had murdered Aunt Jenny's husband and son were killed. However, two of the men fled Alabama, and moved to Oklahoma and Texas. By this time Aunt Jen-

ny's sons were grown men. So, they followed the murderers out west. Both of the murderers were found and killed. However, the people of Texas did not appreciate the efforts of the Johnson Boys. So, a couple of them were hanged. The last remaining son fled Texas and came back home to Alabama. Old wounds just wouldn't heal and soon the last Johnson Boy found himself in a gunfight with a relative of a man whom had killed Mr. Johnson. The last Johnson Boy met his end in a gunfight with the law in Alabama. To this day there are families still pitted against one another due to the "War Between the States." Wyatt did not like what was happening to Winston County. So, he and Gincy moved their young family to Tennessee. But, their young son, John, never forgot about his home in North Alabama. John lived in Tennessee and northeastern Mississippi in Corinth. John was a blacksmith. In 1870 John and Martha moved their young family back to Franklin County, Alabama. John bought some land overlooking a creek and opened up a blacksmith shop and sawmill. John and Martha raised their family and my great grandfather, Lon, on that farm in North Alabama.

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positive flu tests. That is triple what they had in all of 2012. He said that the flu peaked in the middle of December and has been declining since then. Of those 170 that tested positive for flu, only 16 had received a flu shot. In speaking with the Health Dept. they report they still have plenty of flu vaccine and that it is not too late to get a flu shot. Just keep in mind that it takes two weeks to provide full protection. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Web site gives three actions to fight the flu: 1) Take time to get a flu vaccine 2) Take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs (wash hands and minimize being around others who may be sick). 3) Take flu antiviral drugs if and when your doctor prescribes them. Q. With all the rain we have had this past week, has the county had any flooding problems? A. Even with the large rainfall totals of 4.87 inches from Jan. 11 through today, Jan. 17th, we have been very fortunate. While we have received much needed rain,

it has been spread out over a few days and we have had few really heavy downpours, which usually cause the flooding problems. A few culverts were stopped up and allowed water to flow across a couple of county roads, but there has not been any severe damage. We had a report of one vehicle driving through a ford in the creek and the water drowned out the engine and flooded the vehicle with water up to the seats, but there was no personal injury, only a lot of water logged rescue personnel. Q. Are you concerned about what will happen if the rain continues? A. I sure am. We have all been riding the roads and looking for problems. Today worries me the most as it has been raining all morning and we have picked up another 1 and a half inches since yesterday, making the total in the past four days of 6.03 inches. We are watching the radar and hoping for a break in the rain after lunch. If we get the break in rain, then the freezing rain and ice/snow is right behind it, so we have to prepare for any eventual problem. Continued next week.

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*Oft I prove myself a pleasure – prove myself a priceless treasure – Or a menace past all measure – Thus is habit. Harmless as I sometimes seem – yet my strange forces like a magnet – Are like a great and heavy dragnet – I'm habit.*

*Though you sometimes fear or doubt me – no one has ever lived without me I am present all about thee – Thus is habit. Choose me well when you are starting – seldom is an easy parting – I'm a devil or a darling – I'm habit.*

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forded to you. If you believe in a thriving economy and prosperity for local business, you are a great candidate for chamber membership. **Myth 2: The Chamber is simply a festival planning organization.** Reality: While it is true that we play a significant role in helping promote local festivals because festivals equate to increased visitation and increased revenues for local businesses, that is not our only responsibility. A quick look at our program of work will tell you that our organization annually offers a number of networking and educational events for our members to grow and develop their business. This includes training classes, a business expo, buy local events, and business roundtables to name a few. We offer a number of marketing and advertising avenues across a variety of platforms including online, print, mobile, and social media. We also are extremely proud to serve on committees that work for the development of local business. Some examples of community designations we have received over the last few years are Entrepreneur Friendly, Camera Ready, Appalachian Trail Community, and Georgia Work Ready. By partnering with a variety of local and regional

entities, we are continuously spreading the word about the positive aspects of Union County and therefore working for the betterment of all who live and conduct business here. **Myth 3: The Chamber is a "clique" to which outsiders don't belong.** Reality: The Chamber is only as strong as our membership. Therefore, we welcome all businesses, organizations, and individuals who support our mission. Chamber members no doubt share a strong bond. Our members believe that relationships are key to business success and make a conscience effort to support other members. However, time and time again, I have seen new members enter the Chamber and instantly feel the support, connection, and boost that come as part of the membership. Again, if you share our vision of a strong business community, we welcome you into the Chamber. Stay tuned for more myths surrounding the Chamber of Commerce in next week's column. In the meantime, should you have questions regarding the Chamber please contact us at (706) 745-5789, online at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com) or me directly at [president@blairsvillechamber.com](mailto:president@blairsvillechamber.com).

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correctly. This wasn't where there was a room or two that was habitable. This was a full basement that was studded. There was a studded closet, a studded bathroom (with working sink, toilet and metal shower stall) studded laundry room, which also housed an additional stove and a freezer and then the main room that was studded and had shelving on the studs. Cement walls ran the perimeter. Each area was poorly illuminated by a single bulb with a string. What was on these shelves was a treasure trove of my parent's efforts from the previous garden harvest. There were quart jars of peaches and pears, as well as applesauce. Jams and jellies lined up along side a variety of cucumber pickles. The jars that held the highest premium were the jars of pickled green peppers and those of the sliced eggplant. These aren't pickled in brine. They are actually nestled in a bath of olive oil, garlic, spices and some acid, most probably vinegar. These were the Sicilian recipes that had been handed down from generation to generation. The jars were opened on special occasions, or when company came that would be honored by our finest antipasti.

down the stair stepper. I hear Mickey Cummings tell me the astronomical number of jars that were canned in just the end of the season at our new Canning Plant. And I find my mind wandering to my Grandmother's kitchen table, where we sit with a cup of tea and a box of Stella Dora cookies and she tells me how everything old is new again.

I remember my Grandmother Leone telling me stories of their root cellar when my Dad was growing up. I'd imagine her walking into a room of dirt and groping through the worms to find a potato with a hundred eyes and a bunch of carrots with the bright green hairy tops still in tact. I felt the cold dampness and smelled the decaying earth and decided that our modern, "partially finished" basement was light years ahead of that food storage from medieval times. Now, I thumb through magazines and see kits for modern root cellars. I talk to folks at the Farmers Market who buy up bushels of late season potatoes and sweet potatoes to store in their dirt cellars. I watch my friends at the Wellness Center go miles on the treadmill and up and

Chamber of Commerce events	
For details and future events see events calendar at <a href="http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com">www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com</a>	
<b>Wednesday, January 23</b>	
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
6 pm	Women's Issues - NGTC
<b>Thursday, January 24</b>	
8 am	Mountain Networking Referral Group Meeting – Cook's Country Kitchen
12 pm	Rotary Club of Union County – Cadence Bank
6 pm	Lion's Club Meeting – Steve's Steakhouse & Cookie Jar Restaurant
<b>Friday, January 25</b>	
11 am	Ribbon Cutting for Premier Designs Jewelry by Alysia Hargus The Chamber of Commerce
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
<b>Saturday, January 26</b>	
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
<b>Sunday, January 27</b>	
10:30 am	Sunday Brunch - The Lodge at Copperhead
<b>Monday, January 28</b>	
11 am	Ribbon Cutting for Habersham Weight Loss – 108 Blue Ridge Hwy., Ste. # 3, Blairsville
12 pm	Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting – Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
<b>Tuesday, January 29</b>	
8 am	Tri-State Business Women's Meeting – Cook's Restaurant
<b>Wednesday, January 30</b>	
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
6 pm	Women's Health Issues - NGTC

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# 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
Every Thursday:		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	Cadence Bank	Noon