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that Jesus is the Son of God. Myrrh is a gift for one who is going to die. This substance was actually an embalming fluid. It was used to anoint the body of a dead person. The gift of Myrrh was witness to the fact that Jesus came to die for the sins of mankind.

The worship due Him

demands my life, my soul, my all! Please don't **DEPLORE**, nor **IGNORE** Christ, but **EXPLORE** then you will **ADORE** Christ the Lord. When you **EXPLORE** and **ADORE** Christ, you will help to **RESTORE** the true meaning of the Christmas season.

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feeble. He made things right with my great grandfather, Lon. Lon was always close to his father even though he couldn't understand why John had left his mother. So, one Christmas Lon invited John to come home and spend some time with his family.

Lon invited the whole family for Christmas dinner. Some came and some refused. There was still much bitterness among some of the boys. Lon's oldest daughter, Mabel (Papa's sister), had an idea. She bought her Papa a brand new pair of overalls. She asked everyone to bring a gift for the old man. Mabel gathered all the gifts and stuffed them into the overalls. Next she sewed the leg openings together so the gifts would not fall out. John was so old he had trouble seeing, but, he knew the overalls were new so he tried to put them on. But, he could not get his leg into them. So, he turned them upside down and reached his arm into the legs and began

pulling out his gifts. Old John soon had about 10 gifts lying at his feet. Papa said he had tears running down his face and he was laughing at the same time. John got more than he bargained for that Christmas. He received the gifts and received the forgiveness of his family. I think that is why Papa loves Christmas. He was able to experience first-hand the true meaning of Christmas.

I want to thank the following folks at the Union County Road Department for their help with the Farmers Market and the Canning Plant this past year: James Beise, Jon Berdux, Ricky Brown, Scott Brown, "Yank" Brown, Dean Cook, Bud Davidson, Tony Deyton, Joe Edwards, Ken Etheridge, David Green, Tony Henderson, Harold Ingram, David Land, Hubert Plott, Bob Schaaf, Charles Shirley, Stacy Stephens, Corey Sullivan, Dell Tanner, Eddie Tanner, Tommy Tanner, and Charles Wright.

Leone... continued from Page 4A

up in my desk. When the rest of the class was ready and I was still trying to get that book released from the grips of hell, she decided enough was enough. She marched (actually, she waddled, but that's beside the point) back to me, picked up my desk and shook it with the intentions of displaying the contents all over the floor. Nothing. I mean nothing emptied out. It was all so jammed together that even her robust efforts would not release a single thing. The class filled with laughter at her failure to embarrass me. I'm sure my grades paid a price that report period.

Farmers and gardeners do very much the same thing I do. I know gardeners who never give up hope on their roses. Farmers won't let one; two or

three draught seasons in a row deter them. They reflect on the bounty, critique their failed efforts, accept what could not or will not be changed and then take time to start perusing the seed catalogs, optimistic for the next growing cycle.

As you reflect on the past year, I hope that you consider the time you spent at the Farmer's Market as one of the highlights. And if you should be in the habit of making resolutions, please consider being more involved at the market in 2013.

And beginning January first, you will be able to visit our website to read this column, including all the articles from the past year, which will be archived. Just visit www.UCFarmersMarket.com/meet.html. Happy New Year!

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als would likely have missed many of the wonderful attractions, restaurants, and shops in our community. A strong Chamber means greater community impact and more dollars spent in Union County.

In addition to the membership, another key component of success within our organization is the leadership. The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce is served by a seventeen member Board of Directors who volunteer countless hours to ensure valuable output from the organization. I would like to say a special thanks to the following retiring Board Members who complete their terms in 2012: Erik Brinke of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC who has served a total of nine years on the Chamber Board

including two years as Chair, Marcie Culpepper of M-Design who served three years, Laura Mowell of Blairsville Pack & Ship who served three years, Luke Colwell of Colwell Construction who served two years, and Tony Stewart of Wal-Mart who served one year. It is directly because of the vision, knowledge and involvement of these individuals that we are able to boast such a great organization.

If you are interested in learning more about any aspect of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, I invite you to contact us at 706-745-5789 or email me directly at [president@blairsvillechamber.com](mailto:blairsvillechamber.com). Here's to a great 2012 and even better 2013!

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Q. Do a lot of people use the bus service?

A. Yes. From July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 there were 4,653 trips made on the two buses. 1,579 trips for medical reasons, 757 for employment, 1,741 for personal reasons and 576 for shopping. Last year the two buses traveled 42,802 miles!!

Q. What are the hours of operation?

A. Hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed on holidays. It is advisable to call 24 hours in advance to arrange for transportation especially if you are going to a doctor's appointment (706- 439-6050).

As the program grows we hope to be able to schedule weekly or bi-weekly trips to areas outside the county such as Gainesville, Murphy or even Atlanta. This is a great service for the citizens of Union County and I hope more people will take advantage of it in the future. You may call Phyllis Townsend at the above number if you have additional questions.

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Also, I want to thank outgoing Tax Commissioner, J.W. Payne, for his 44 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Union County. We will all miss his smiling face and wish only the best for him in retirement. He has been an example of a true public servant.

Sheriff Stephens will also be missed. I want to

Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events

see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com

Wednesday, December 26

11am Event at Lardworks Studio at Lasso the Moon Alpaca Farm
2pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad
2pm Friends of Union County Library Meeting

Thursday, December 27

8am Mountain Networking Referral Group monthly meeting – Cooks Restaurant
12pm Rotary Club of Union County – Cadence Bank
7pm Thursday Night Karaoke – You Be The Star! – The Lodge at Copperhead

Friday, December 28

2pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad

Saturday, December 29

11am 4th Annual Alpaca Holidays Open House – Lardworks Studio @ Lasso The Moon Alpaca Farm
2pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad
6pm McElvis – LIVE - Lodge at Copperhead

Sunday, December 30

11am 4th Annual Alpaca Holidays Open House – Lardworks Studio @ Lasso The Moon Alpaca Farm
6pm Nashville Unleashed with Jack & Diane – Lodge at Copperhead

Monday, December 31

11am 4th Annual Alpaca Holidays Open House – Lardworks Studio @ Lasso The Moon Alpaca Farm
12pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting – Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
8pm New Years Eve Gala – Lodge at Copperhead
8pm New Years Eve Gala - Brasstown Valley Resort

Tuesday, January 1

8am Tri-State Business Women's meeting – Cooks Restaurant

Wednesday, January 2

2pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad

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:

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|------------------|------------------|----------|
| Masonic Luncheon | Cooks Restaurant | 11:30 am |
| Rotary Club | Cadence Bank | Noon |
| Get Fit | First UMC | 5:15 pm |

First Monday of each month:

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|----------------------|------------------------|---------|
| Volunteers/Handicap | First Baptist, H Bldg. | 6 pm |
| Allegheny Lodge | Masonic Temple | 7:30 pm |
| CERT | St. Francis of Assisi | 6:30 pm |
| Lockheed-Martin Ret. | Blairsville Restaurant | 9 am |

First Tuesday of each month:

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|---------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| UC Amer. Red Cross | Red Cross Office | Noon |
| Blairsville City Coun. | City Hall | 6 pm |
| Brownie Scouts | United Methodist Ch | 3-5 pm |
| Enotah Ch. #24 RAM | Masonic Temple | 7:30 pm |
| Gaddistown Hmakers | Woody Gap | 7 pm |
| Business Women | Cook's Restaurant | 8 am |
| Knights/Colum. #2563place | TBA | 7:30 pm |
| Amateur Radio Club | Branan Lodge | 7 pm |

First Wednesday of each month:

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|--------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Tri-Cty Wom. Lunch | Antonietta's Rest. | Noon |
| Exercise class | Senior Citizens Center | 10:30 am |

First Thursday of each month:

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|---------------|--------------|---------|
| Jaycees | Fort Sorghum | 7:30 pm |
| Open Road ORV | Civic Center | 8 pm |

First Friday of each month:

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|---------------------|------------------------|---------|
| UG Hospital Aux | UC Nursing Home | Noon |
| Feel Good Friday | Wellness Center | 7 pm |
| "Nailed" Book Club | G-N-G Bakery | 10:30am |
| Firefighters Bkfst. | Hole in the Wall Rest. | 9 am |