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his Uncle Daniel's house and borrowed his truck. Clifford soon found himself sitting at the controls of a knuckle boom loading the statue of the Rebel Soldier onto the log truck.

The next morning the good people of Dawsonville found their brand new statue missing from the courthouse lawn.

They found their beloved statue on the lawn of Shoal Creek Baptist Church.

Nobody ever found out that Clifford had stolen the statue.

But, Clifford told me that my great-great Grandfather had fought in the "War of Northern Aggression." So, Clifford figured that his great grandfather deserved that statue at his resting place there at Shoal Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

Clifford said, "None of them town boys had folks to fight in that war anyway".

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how far from an intersection to start looking for an address. It has also been a very big improvement for delivery trucks including UPS and FedEx.

If your address sign is damaged or leaning, you can call the Road Dept at (706) 439-6000 to have it repaired.

Q. I see articles in the newspaper occasionally referring to the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition (HRWC) doing projects or having meetings in Union County. What does this group do for our county?

A. HRWC is an environmental organization that works with and is supported partly by all local governments in the Hiwassee River Watershed.

This includes Union and Towns in Georgia and Cherokee and Clay Counties in North Carolina. They provide education for our schools and the public, water quality testing in our streams and lakes, and stream buffer restoration projects along many of our rivers and tributaries.

Q. Is the HRWC a volunteer organization?

A. While they do have a few paid staff, mostly from grants, they rely on donations of both money and time from members of our communities to continue their progress in improving the water quality in our mountains.

Q. What projects are the HRWC doing in Union County?

A. With the help of many volunteers plus high school and college students, they perform water quality testing in critical parts of our watershed. If the tests demonstrate problems, it is easy to find and address them before they become serious.

But most importantly, almost all the streams and creeks in Union County eventually feed into Lake Nottely. So if we have water quality problems upstream, they will be obvious in the water quality of our lake.

In addition, they have done several stream buffer restoration projects at Meeks Park and most recently at the Farmers Market. They remove "invasive species" which are wild plants that do not help the water quality and plant new shrubs and trees that help protect the water quality.

Q. Who runs the Hiwassee River Watershed Organization?

A. The director is Callie Moore. She and her staff are very dedicated and we appreciate all the work they do for our county.

Q. I thought that TVA did the water quality testing for Lake Nottely?

A. They have done it for years, but because of budget cuts, they are no longer performing that function. HRWC asked me recently if the county could provide some additional funding to help them perform that task and I agreed.

Q. How much money does Union County pay to support HRWC?

A. We pay \$ 5,000 for our county's support of the program and recently have added an additional \$2,500 to pay for water quality testing of Lake Nottely. For more information on the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition or to volunteer, contact Callie Moore at (828) 837-5414 or email cmoore@hrwc.net. Protecting the streams in our county is a responsibility we all share.

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looking to achieve so that one can be certain if the goal was achieved.

Attainable – when setting goals, be certain that they are attainable. Telling yourself that you want to increase sales by 500 percent may sound great in theory, but realistically, there is little motivation if the goal is too far out of reach.

Relevant – each of the goals that you set should be relevant to the mission of your business or organization and help you move in the direction which is for the greater good.

Time Bound – goals should always define a time frame for completion. In our example, the goal setter may chose to aim for increased sales over the year 2013 or may elect to shorten the time frame to a quarterly or monthly schedule. Taking into account each of the above elements, a bet-

ter defined goal would read, "To increase gross revenue in the widget department by 5 percent during the first six months of 2013 without sacrificing quality or margins" assuming this aligns with the organization's mission and is perceived as achievable based on past performance or industry research.

While any time is a great time to resolve to improve your business or your personal life, why not take a moment at the beginning at 2013 to craft S.M.A.R.T goals?

I'm certain, in the long run, you will be glad you did. The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce invites you to explore our many business and community offerings by visiting our Web site at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com or by calling (706) 745-5789. I can be reached directly at president@blairsvillechamber.com.

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Bob is Italian, too. (hint: name ends in a vowel that isn't preceded by the letters "sk".)

Raised in Philadelphia, his Dad owned one of those ethnic bars that was as renowned for its grub as it was for the brew. I so enjoy his stories as he reminisces about those glory days. When Bob flew the coup he headed to the galley of a navy ship. From his grandparents Sunday table (about 26 people), to the bar/ restaurant and then onto cooking for a crew at sea, Bob doesn't have an inkling about making just a quart or two of soup.

Over the holidays, I did my share of entertaining. I also was blessed to have been at the table of many friends. Somehow, through all the chow, I ended up without a ham bone. If I make ham or one of the other friends that don't make soup are the ham chefs, I get the bone. This year Bob made the ham so he gets to claim the bone. No bone means no bean, pea or lentil soup is concocted in my kitchen. Thus, I get Bob's seconds. Much appreciated and always delicious, but just not the same as using my own soup pot. I've got the ham bone blues.

Here's a quick recipe for a delicious light, healthy, low calorie soup that is packed with flavor, and takes only a short time to prepare. It's a variation of the traditional

Jewish chicken soup, which will help heal you on those days you suffer from a winter cold.

Mediterranean Chicken Soup

4 raw boneless chicken breasts;
One small sweet onion, finely chopped;
One package of frozen chopped spinach;
Salt and pepper to taste;
3 tablespoons of dried oregano;
1 tablespoon of dried cilantro;
8 cups of water.

In a 4-6 quart soup pot, add salt, pepper, water and chicken. Bring to a boil and then simmer until the chicken is cooked (about 45 minutes). Remove chicken and add all the other ingredients. Bring to a boil, then simmer. Meanwhile, pulse the chicken breasts in a food processor until they are like medium fine grain. Add to soup. Cook for about 15 minutes and serve.

The canning factory at the Farmers Market was much abuzz late in the season, and many of those canning were putting up soups. Now, they merely reach up on the shelf, pop the jar seal, heat it up and revel in the glory and goodness of the veggies they purchased at the Market. Whatever soup you choose to indulge this winter, may you share it with those you love most in this world. That's where the real healing power lies.

Weber

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for two and a quarter centuries.

The Republican majority in the House said that it is up to them to offer strong, loyal opposition in Congress if we are to prevent "a cataclysmic change" in our way of life. Meanwhile, we need to offer support for those lawmakers who are willing to wage a successful resistance movement.

AMAC will be there, exerting its influence where it can in Washington. And, the association's membership should do what they can as individuals to exert influence in their communities.

There are many challenges ahead for the nation, not the least of which are crushing debt and Social Security and Medicare reform.

Thus, we urge lawmakers in the House to put up a valiant fight for significant government spending cuts when it comes time to increase the debt ceiling in the coming months.

And, they must use what leverage they have to address the pressing need for reforms that will ensure the viability of Social Security and Medicare for our children and grandchildren.

Dan Weber

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

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
Third Monday of each month:		
High Country Artisan	U.C.Bank Com Room	6:30 pm
Exp Aviation Assoc #1211	Blairsville Airport	7 pm
Allegheny Lodge	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
Prostate Cancer Sup.	U.C. Cancer Center	5 pm
Third Tuesday of each month:		
UC Anti-Drug Coal.	Conference Room	Noon
American Legion, Aux	Civic Center	7 pm
Chatuge Gun Club	Senior Center, Hia.	7 pm
UC Homemakers	Dooley Chapter	Noon
Am. Legion Post 121	Old Civic Center	7 pm
Ladies Aux. Post 121	Old Civic Center	7 pm
Third Wednesday of each month:		
Blairsville Garden Club	Location not listed	1 pm
Friends of the Library	Library Com Room	2 pm
Beta Sigma Phi, Iota Iota	Cadence Bank	7 pm
Third Thursday of each month:		
Jaycees	Fort Sorghum	7:30 pm
Good N'bors Auto	Meeks Park	7 pm
Tip-off Club	UC High School	7 pm
UC Saddle Club	Arena Clubhouse	7 pm
Commissioner's Meet.	County Courthouse	6 pm
UT Home Builders	Moschetto's	6:30 pm
Shape Note Music	Old Courthouse	6:30 pm
Kinship Care	Civic Center	Noon
MOPS	First Baptist Church	6 pm
Third Friday of each month:		
No activities listed		
Third Saturday of each month:		
Goldwing Road Riders	Daniels Steak House	11 am