

# Emergency preparedness: are you ready for a disaster?

If a natural disaster or catastrophic event occurred and we were without our modern conveniences, do you have

the equipment and knowledge needed to save your life? At the September 3rd, Wednesday luncheon of the Tri-County

Women's Connection, our Special Feature Jane Garcia from Blairsville will tell us all we need to know to survive.



**Jane Garcia**

Jane was born and raised in Connecticut, but her job relocated her to Florida for over 30 years. A love of the North Georgia mountains convinced Jane and husband Dave to purchase property in 1985, build a home in 1986 and retire in 2000.

Jane will be teaching us how to use outdoor and backpacking equipment for emergency preparedness. She'll share "how to" on water purification, preserving medications and much more. This special feature will be interesting and informative—don't miss it!

We are delighted to welcome Hope Horkavey from Hiwassee who will be our music guest and speaker. A teacher who also sings professionally, Hope will entertain us with two songs. With her great sense of humor, we'll hear her story about "a shot in the dark" that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

Where's the only place you can have a great lunch, fun conversation, prepare you for an emergency, be musically serenaded and hear a life-changing story? Tri-County Women's Connection!

Join us at Monet's Café, 130 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville with check-in at 11:30, program 12-1:30. The cost is \$11 includes door prizes, lunch with coffee or tea, dessert, tax & tip, cash or check. Reserve your spot by calling Jocelyn Bowers, 706-781-1537 or email: jowabow@aol.com or Betty Taylor, 706-745-2248 or email: bgtaylor@windstream.net by Monday, September 1. Follow us on Facebook, Tri-County Women's Connection of North GA.

**Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse**

**August 26th**  
in memory of  
**William T. Meeks, Sr.**  
by Ginger & Terry Meeks  
Bell ringing information  
at 706-745-5493

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Dept., the Road Dept., the ambulance service or fire and rescue department, your call will be answered swiftly and those coming to your aid will be some of the best trained in the best vehicles, with the best rescue or lifesaving equipment, as anywhere else in the country! We will continue to provide you with the absolutely best services at the lowest cost possible.

Your kids and grandkids will continue to have some of the best recreation facilities available, we will be able to continue with the Farmers Market, and the pride it instills in so many. Our Arena will continue to offer some of the best livestock events in the region, our Civic Center will be able to continue to offer a place for very economical fundraising events for those in need, and our Community Center will be able to continue to serve the county as well as bring so many visitors to our area to spend money and help our economy. Our Senior Center will be able to continue their excellent Meals on Wheels program and many other programs, our Transportation program will be able to

continue to get some of our elderly folks to the grocery store, drug store and for doctor visits. Our library can continue to serve our children and adults alike, our Health Dept. can continue to offer the many needed services including flu shots for our adults and school children. Our Road Dept. will continue to be able to answer your hundreds of calls per year for assistance, including paving, repairing and mowing and salting so many roads, and so much more. Continuing all of this for just about a nickel per day tax increase per \$100,000 is a pretty dang good deal.

I challenge you to find a better place to live than Union County, with the amenities and services we have and the very low property tax rate. Thanks to our caring and service oriented community members and the many outstanding county employees, many of whom are prepared to risk their lives for you in an emergency. Union County is the best and with your help we will continue to be the best.

**Lamar Paris**  
Union County Commissioner

## Duncan...continued from Page 4A

EMC last week. Best wishes in your future endeavors.

All we hear from BRMEMC's current Board of Directors is "I didn't know anything about it."

Well, you knew about the personnel action handed down on Chris Kelley. And if you knew about that, then, you knew about the debt.

According to the report, the directors were a little vague in determining when they learned about Taylor and Taylor Construction's long over due debt.

The reason being, they also have a *duty of loyalty* to the membership. To admit they knew otherwise would be complicated.

The report throws BRMEMC's former general manager and a long-time member of the board of directors under the bus, and the latter can't defend himself.

Rest assured, you'll hear more from your former general manager at a later date.

The truth is, the debt that currently is on the books exists from July 2011 to date. Your former general manager retired December 2009.

Yes, current General Man-

ager Matthew Akins was reprimanded, but he wasn't demoted to a field hand. And, he still works as BRMEMC's general manager.

The report also states that employees at BRMEMC long knew of Taylor's debt. However, the whistleblower policy prevented them from reporting that information to a member of the board of directors.

We assume there is a "don't ask, don't tell" policy at BRMEMC when it comes to the board of directors.

And that dear membership is a crying shame. You deserve more from your board of directors and you should expect more.

Everything we've reported in the last few weeks the board of directors is admitting and apologizing for *on the record*.

They've taken some actions (we reported on those) and they're considering policy revisions.

Their future fiduciary responsibilities depend on those policy revisions.

Some have taken our reports personally. Some have said they were furious with us, and that we exaggerated our stories.

We think this report by Steven Minor addresses those concerns.

**Chamber of Commerce events**

For details and future events  
see events calendar at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com)

**Wednesday, August 27**

6 pm Every Wednesday Bingo - Haralson Memorial Civic Center

**Thursday, August 28**

8 am Trash and Treasures Sale - Union County Farmers Market

8 am Mountain Networking Referral Group - Cooks Country Kitchen

11:30 am Ribbon Cutting for Hometown Sign Company-307 Cleveland St., Ste. E

12 pm Rotary of Union County Meeting - 706-745-5565

3:30 pm After School Art Club - Inspire Art Studio, 51 Earnest St.

6:30 pm Trivia at The View - Union County Community Center

5 pm Bike Night - The Copperhead Lodge

6 pm Blairsville Cruisers Car Club General Meeting - blairsvillecruisers.com

6:30 pm Union County Lions Club - Steve's Steakhouse, The Cookie Jar

**Friday, August 29**

8 am Trash and Treasures Sale - Union County Farmers Market

6 pm The Beatals - The Copperhead Lodge

6 pm Friday Evening Tapas - Crane Creek Vineyards

6:30 pm Live Music - Monet's Café 130 Blue Ridge St.

7 pm Friday Night Concerts "Nearly Normal String Band" Bluegrass - Downtown on the Square

**Saturday, August 30**

7 am Union County Farmer's Market - 148 Old Smokey Rd.

10 am Mountain Heritage Festival & 5th Annual Tractor Show & Parade - Downtown Blairsville

12 pm Grape Stomping Festival - Paradise Hills Resort, Spa & Winery

1 pm Live Music - Odom Springs Vineyards

**Sunday, August 31**

10 am Mountain Heritage Festival - Downtown Blairsville

**Monday, September 1**

9 am Garden Tours - GA Mountain Research & Education Center

12 pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Weekly Meeting - Steve's Steakhouse

1:30 pm Misty Mountain Model Railroad Tours M,W,F & S-16 Misty Mtn. Lane

**Tuesday, September 2**

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

1 pm Tools for the Caregiver - Union General Hospital

3 pm Union County Farmers Market - 148 Old Smokey Rd

3:30 pm Kidzart Club - Inspire Art Studio, 51 Earnest St.

6:30 pm Smokey Mountain Melodies Chorus - First UMC of Union County

**Wednesday, September 3**

1 pm Better Breather's Club - Union General Hospital

5:30 pm Women & Wine Series - Paradise Hills, Resort, Spa & Winery

# UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

<b>Every Monday:</b>		
Garden Tours	GMREC (May-Oct)	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 pm
<b>Every Tuesday:</b>		
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
<b>Every Thursday:</b>		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Rotary Club	Cadence Bank	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
<b>First Monday of each month:</b>		
Volunteers/Handicap	First Baptist, H Bldg.	6 pm
Allegheny Lodge	Masonic Temple	6:30 pm
CERT	St. Francis of Assisi	6:30 pm
Lockheed-Martin Ret.	Blairsville Restaurant	9 am
Allegheny Masonic Lodge #114, off the square		6:30 pm
<b>First Tuesday of each month:</b>		
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. #2563	place TBA	7:30 am
Amateur Radio Club	Branan Lodge	7 pm
<b>First Wednesday of each month:</b>		
Tri-Cty Wom. Lunch	Monet's Rest.	Noon
Exercise class	Senior Citizens Center	10:30 am
<b>First Thursday of each month:</b>		
Awake America	City Hall	11:59 am
Blairsville Sorghum Fest.	Fort Sorghum	6:30 pm
Open Road ORV	Civic Center	8 pm
<b>First Friday of each month:</b>		
UG Hospital Aux	UC Nursing Home	Noon
Cruisers Block Party	Farmer's Market	5 pm (Apr-Oct)
Feel Good Friday	Wellness Center	7 pm
"Nailed" Book Club	G-N-G Bakery	10 am
<b>First Saturday of each month:</b>		
Cruise-In	On the Square	4 pm (Apr-Oct)