Opinions

Straight

Shooting

Charles

Everybody has one...

Remembering Reece

The tours of the Reece Farm and Heritage Center have come

The Center's version of Black Friday took place Saturday and Sunday at the Reece Gift Shop and all things Reece were for sale. Numbers were down this year from the previous two seasons meaning, and this is just a guess, more

folks were Mall Shopping in the big cities this holiday season. As we remember Reece, we can't help but remember that he was

once a integral part of the North Geor-

Shortly after Harold West purchased the paper in 1953 from Ira Butts, Reece, and Harold West's brother, Don West, were the early staffers of the then four-page

The biggest story Harold West would ever remember was published June 5, 1958. West's publication broke the news to the world that beloved poet Byron Herbert Reece, a Pulitzer Prizenominee for poetry, who suffered from tuberculosis, had taken his own life after years of physical suffering.

On Dec. 4, 1958, it was then that Harold West's North Georgia News announced the need for a living memorial to Reece. Harold West wrote a rare front page editorial in the Dec. 4, 1958 edition, A Poet Was Among Us. "When a man is gone we may think of all the ways we might

have shown more of our appreciation. A good man leaves a big gap, a great emptiness. Lately, we've been thinking about all kind of memories appropriate to this mountain man and poet. Others have spoken of it. The NEWS hopes many more of our readers will think about it and lets us know your thinking."

In 1959, Harold West was a charter member of the *Byron*

Herbert Reece Society, one of 12 original members. The Society continues today in a different format, and has members from all With a circulation of 400 when he bought the newspaper Harold West soon learned the art of self promotion, as Publisher,

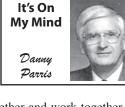
editor, reporter and typesetter, Harold West worked from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. He also started a printing business. His son, Kenneth West, continues his father's dream of

See **Duncan**, page 5A

Jesus, God's Peace Package

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:13-14). Franklin D. Roosevelt died at Warm Springs, Georgia. On

the night before he died, he was planning a trip to San Francisco to attend the organization of the United Nations. He wrote his speech that night, the last words he ever wrote. They were: "We seek Peace --- enduring Peace --- must cultivate the science of human relationships --- the ability



of all peoples of all kinds to live together and work together in the same world at Peace --- As we go forward toward the greatest contribution that any generation of human beings can make in the world --- the contribution of lasting Peace - I ask you to Peace, the subject much talked about and desperately

needed for man's safety, happiness, security and survival seems to elude men and nations. What is Peace anyway? Is it the absence of strife? Is it the cessation of war? Is it disarmament? Does stepping between two people to keep them from fighting mean they are at Peace? There may not be fighting in your home. but does that necessarily mean there is Peace? Nations may put down their weapons, but that does not mean they are at Peace War may weaken a nation and deplete its resources to the degree that it can't fight. That is not a declaration of Peace, but exhaustion. Peace then is not just the absence of negative events, emotions, experiences and enemies but rather the Presence of a host of friends: Namely, harmony, unity, concord, tranquility, serenity, calmness and security.

This whole package is the gift of a Person whose name is Jesus. The package comes with the person through the process of reconciliation. There is no possibility of Peace without reconciliation. We must be reconciled to God, ourselves, our families, our co-workers, our neighbors and nations. Without reconciliation there can never be Peace. Jesus is God's Peace Package (Eph 2: 13-17). Paul said, "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 5:1). Isn't See **Parris**, page 5A

TRANSPORTATION IN GEORGIA

Questions and Answers

This Q & A was created by the Tax Commissioner's Office in April of this year, so many of you have already had experience with the new state vehicle tax collection system. However, this is provided to remind you of some of the issues you may be dealing

Q. What is the process for renewal of motor vehicle tags?

A. Motor vehicle tag renewals are due on the owner's birthday. If you were a resident of Union County last year and renewed your tag in Union County last year, then you should re-

County Commissioner Paris

ceive a bill 60 days prior to your birthday if your address has not changed. If you did not, bring your registration with tag number to the Tax Commissioner's office.

Q. What is the penalty for late registration?

A. The penalty for late registration is 10 percent of the tax and 25 percent of the tag fee. These penalties begin immediately following the due date (midnight of your birthday). This is unless you fall under the new TAVT system. Q. Please explain what the new TAVT system is. A. TAVT stands for Title Ad Valorem Tax which is a one-

time tax (fee) replacing the "birthday tax". Generally, any motor vehicle purchased on or after March 1, 2013 and titled in Georgia is exempt from sales and use tax and the annual ad valorem tax also known as the "birthday tax." These taxes are replaced by a one-time tax called the title ad valorem tax fee (TAVT). Unlike sales tax, which is imposed on the price of the vehicle, the TAVT is imposed on the Fair Market Value of the motor vehicle. Q. What do I need to do if I buy a new car?

A. If you buy a vehicle from a dealer, all vehicles must be

the state of Georgia without a title applied for at the time of registration or a dealer/lien holder applying for a title. Other items you 1. Acceptable proof of insurance

registered within 30 days of purchase. No one can register a car in

2. Georgia Driver's License or copy of primary owner's Driver's License with Union County address

Q. What do I need to do if I buy a used vehicle from an

See Paris, page 5A

Letters to the Editor ...

Thank you

Thank you for putting my letter in the paper. It has already brought some action. The large hole on Jewell Mason was patched yesterday. Even though it is another poor patch, it's better than a big hole. They also put a large 30 foot patch on Pat Colwell at Deyton Road where the big trucks using Pat Colwell had caused the road to cave in on the side. That patch is not perfect, but it should prevent more damage. My hope is other drivers in the county will report many other poorly prepared patches. Thank you.

Richard Howard

Kindness is a phone call away

As Thanksgiving Day fast approaches the word kindness comes to mind. How can I show kindness to others and keep the spirit of this season alive, maybe showing kindness by giving to a family in need, without them knowing who gave it. Kindness can be just a phone call away to that one you have been meaning to call, but just never seemed to be the right time. Showing kindness to a stranger is like entertaining angels unaware.

See Combs, page 5A

Awake America

Thanksgiving is over, dishes are put away, and even the leftovers are gone. Families gathered around the table, conversation flowed, memories were shared. On occasions like this, differences among relatives are politely sequestered, buffered perhaps by a caring grandmother whose aim is to serve; the in-laws, the annoying cousin are welcomed—because, of course, this is a family.

That is what being a Christian is like, when

See **Gray**, page 5A

All about the dollar

Dear Editor,

Now that Commissioner Paris has laid out his decision to increase property taxes to pay for what he says are necessary increases in County expenditures, what will the Union County School Board do to reduce expenses and to hold the line — or, perhaps, roll back property taxes? Let's not forget that the bulk of property

thinking about each administrator's teaching one class per day and concomitantly cutting each and every administrator's and manager's salary and office expenses by at least half. Even at that, those salaries would still be far in excess to what teachers are paid - you

taxes are levied by the school board. I am still

know, for actually being in a classroom, teaching every day, all year. It's all about what the school board thinks

is important. Tete a tete.

George Mitchell

A bit verbose

Dear Editor,

Prevaricating no longer, I proliferate after much contemplation and extensive recurring mathematical calculation that letter-writer Thibodeaux in the Nov. 26 North Georgia News exhaustively performed long-windedly and exercised overarching and, I venture even to extrapolate, a penultimate verbosity in his 120syllable second paragraph to Governor Deal and to you. Here it is:

"Reliable news reports indicate that many of these persons may have multiple criminal convictions, membership in organized drug cartels and a prevalent use of fraudulent identification

See **Bennett**, page 5A





STATE

Ready – Set – Go! saves lives, homes and property

The Ready, Set, Go! Program seeks to develop and improve the dialogue between fire departments and the residents they serve. The

program helps fire departments teach individuals live in high risk wildfire areas - and the Wildland-urban (WUI) - how to best pre-



pare themselves and their properties against Wildland fire threats. The program's tenets help residents be Ready with preparedness understanding, be Set with situational awareness when fire threatens, and to Go early when The RSG! Program works in comple-

mentary and collaborative fashion with existing Wildland fire public education efforts, like Firewise, and amplifies their messages to individuals. NFPA's Firewise Communities Program encourages local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters and others in creating fire-adapted communities - places where people and property are safer from the risk of brush, grass and forest fires.

Firewise principles can help individuals and communities accomplish the "Ready' tenet of RSG by providing the proven steps to empower individual homeowners to lower their property's wildfire risk and to work with their neighbors to make their community safer. Used together, the Ready, Set, Go! and Firewise Communities programs can save lives and property by: Defining the risk and responsibility. Fire is a natural process and plays an important role in our environment. However, loss of homes to wildfire is not inevitable. Once residents understand what causes homes to ignite, they have a better understanding of their role in protecting their families, homes and property from wildfire – all year round.

Empowering individual action, Ready, Set, Go! and Firewise provide residents with specific guidelines for reducing risk within the home ignition zone -which includes the home and extends out to 100 to 200 feet. This includes clearing property of debris and maintaining the landscape, as well as recommendations for fire-resistant home design and construction, such as Class A roofing and tempered glass windows. Encouraging community-level engagement by taking a fire-adapted community approach to wildfire preparedness, communities can greatly reduce their wildfire vulnerability. The Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program facilitates this process with a framework for communities to work with partners including state forestry and local fire departments to organize, plan, and conduct

See **Riley**, page 5A

Skull Practice

In 1954 Uncle Bud was entering his freshman year of high school at Phil Campbell. Dad and Uncle Bud's cousin, Junior, was an 11th grader. Dad said that before the first day of football practice his younger brother came to him

for advice. Bud was worried about something. Finally, Bud blurted out, "I think I may not go to practice after all". This state of Bud's reluc-



tance really puzzled Paul. Bud had talked about nothing but football practice for one month. Finally, Dad got Uncle Bud to tell the reason for his doubts about football. Junior had told Bud to be prepared for skull practice. The way Junior explained it made Bud think Skull Practice was when younger players were made to ram a block wall head first without the protection of the old leather helmets.

Dad explained that Skull Practice was studying the play book and Uncle Bud went to his first high school football practice. He went on to start at left tackle as a freshman on the Phil Campbell High School Football team. Bud was athletic and big weighing in at 210 pounds. But, Uncle Bud lacked two things. First, he was inexperienced. Second, Uncle Bud lacked a mean streak. What Uncle Bud lacked, Junior made up for. Junior weighed close to 230 pounds. My Dad has told me he watched Junior carry 2 bales of hay (1 in each hand) and toss each one 10 feet in the air on top of a hay wagon using only one arm. Junior also had a mean streak. He was the leader of the team because he was the meanest, toughest and strongest boy on the team. But, he

took care of his friends and family. The first game of the year the boys from Phil Campbell rode 12 miles south on Highway 181 to the little town of Hackleburgh. The Hackleburgh Team was good; they had made the state playoffs for a number of years consecutively. There was one boy that played with Hackleburgh that was a senior and was headed to play college football. He was recruited by Alabama, Auburn and Mississippi State. The boy's name was Hovater and he was big, experienced and mean as the boys from Phil Campbell were about to find out.

Phil Campbell had the ball on the 20 yard line on the first play from the line of scrimmage. Uncle Bud found himself playing left tackle and directly across the line was this monster of a man named Hovater. As the quarterback from Phil Campbell began running through his cadence the Hovater boy yelled, "Hut" and Phil Campbell's center snapped the ball. Before the referee could blow the whistle the defensive line of Hackelburgh crashed through the young line of Phil Campbell and gang tackled the quarterback of Phil Campbell. A new quarterback had to come into the game because the starter was hurt on the first play of the game. This was a

See Cummings, page 5A

Catch the Christmas Spirit! We are entering the most wonderful time

of the year, and I couldn't be happier. Coming off of a wonderful Thanksgiving cele-Blairsville

bration with friends and family, it is time to begin the preparation for the Christmas season and all the magnificent joy



it brings. The Blairsville-Union County community will be offering many great opportunities to celebrate the season. The following are three such events brought to you by the Cham-Jingle Bell Buys: In case you missed last

week's article or need a last minute reminder, our Jingle Bell Buys event happens this weekend. For three days only, Thursday, December 4 through Saturday, December 6, 30 local merchants are offering a variety of Buy One Get One Free items or 50% off items to help you save time and money this holiday season. Find and print the full list of coupons on the homepage of our website at VisitBlairsvilleGA.com This event is cosponsored by Busy Bee Printing & Signs and Huddle House. The Chamber reminds you to shop local this Christmas!

Tour of Trees: Our very popular Tour of Trees has begun. Our local businesses have put their creativity into action, and we now have over 35 Christmas trees and wreaths on display at the Union County Community Center located at 129 Union County Recreation Road. The trees and wreaths will be on display throughout the entire

See Williams, page 5A

Santa Enlists Your Help

Good day. I hope that you will forgive my intrusion. I've hijacked Ms. Leone's column space for just a few minutes while she is in the air on her way to Texas Turkey. Let me introduce myself to you. My given name is Nicho-

las Claus, but most folks call me Santa. Yes, that Santa. The first of De-

cember is here. As

vou can well imag-

ine, I'm beside my-

Market JoAnne



self with production delays at the toy factory, Mrs. Claus is visiting family in Florida (November just got too cold for her up here at the Pole) and I'm overbooked with international personal appearances.

This coming Friday evening, I'll be visiting the children in Union County and the surrounding area at the Kris Kringle Market from 4:30 till 7:30. This is my fourth annual outing to this delightful Farmers Market. I understand that this year it is bigger than ever. There will be 80+ vendors, booths festively decorated, with an amazing array of goodies to choose from.

The produce vendors will be there with their own winter crops, but are also allowed to smuggle in, just this one time, fruits from warmer climates such as Florida citrus and South Georgia pecans. Then the bakers will be bringing treats from their kitchens to entice even the most dedicated dieter. Jams jellies and butters will be barely decipherable from the many colors and fragrances of locally made soaps and

The artisans from this region have made quite an impression on me over the years. This year their works available to collect or to gift include woven baskets, quilts, woven scarves and hats, leather work, wooden toys, handmade furniture and so many different varieties of beautifully designed jewelry. The whole market promises to be a feast for all of your senses.

Kris Kringle is also about the children. They most often look forward to their time spent with me, but at this event they also get an opportunity to ride the train around the Market on Saturday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Oh, did I fail to mention this is a two-day event? Yes, its Friday, Dec. 5th from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., allowing all the children to

See **Leone**, page 5A

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