

## Townsend...continued from Page 1A

stereotypical of moonshiners," Tommy said. "They think they're crazy and they're mean."

"The stories that have been handed down through the years don't reflect that about Granddaddy Mimm. He was respected, some people hated him," Tommy said. "But, the most intriguing aspect about Granddaddy Mimm, with the money he made from moonshining, he made sure the people in Towns and Union counties who didn't have anything had something."

"He made sure a lot of folks had food on the table, he made sure their kids had clothes and shoes," Tommy said. "He was a spiritual man, maybe not religious, but he looked after the churches. He paved the driveway at old Brasstown Church. He helped people with his money."

"Some of those people that he helped were Georgia politicians," Tommy said with a smile. "That moonshine money also kept a lot of people in Towns and Union counties from starving to death."

Tommy sees the new line of whiskey as a tribute to his grandfather.

"I've always admired the outlaws; people who colored outside the lines," Tommy said. "I



Blairsville's Tommy Townsend and Waymore's Outlaws.

guess that's what intrigued me about Waylon Jennings. I've always compared my grandfather and Waylon.

"No one ever told my grandfather what to do, people were always coming to him for advice," Tommy said. "Waylon was kind of the same way."

Tommy grew up in Union County's Owltown community dreaming of becoming a Country Music singer. When he wasn't picking a guitar or writing songs, he was logging with his father Roy Townsend.

A trip with his parents to Lanierland's Concerts in

the Country as a young boy changed his life forever.

Waylon Jennings and the Waylors were performing. Tommy's Momma, Ida, talked to a member of Waylon's security team (an actual Hell's Angel member) about getting Tommy backstage to meet Waylon and getting a picture with the legendary performer.

The security team member told Roy that he didn't think that would be a problem. Waylon, you see was big on visiting with his younger fans and eager to make their day with a photo opportunity.

That chance meeting

turned into a lifetime friendship between Tommy and Waylon. Tommy and his now mentor, Waylon Jennings would collaborate on music the rest of Waylon's days.

The two collaborated several times over the remaining years of Waylon's life.

Waylon played and sang harmony on some tracks, and even co-produced a full album for Tommy with the Waylors' bass player, Jerry "Jigger" Bridges.

Waylon and Jigger took Tommy under their wings, recording in the studio, and occasionally, appearing with him out on the road.

Tommy and his wife Christy and their two children, Megan and Maggie, moved to Nashville in 1995 and still live there today.

"About three years ago, the band started talking about touring again. They called me and asked if I'd be the front man," he said. "I told them 'sure, I'd love to.' The last three years have been the most fun I've ever experienced in the music business."

Somewhere up there, Granddaddy Mimm and Waylon are sharing a smile.

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## Patriots Day...continued from Page 1A

arrived with a proclamation in hand officially declaring April 19th as Patriot's Day in Union County.

On Windstream Channel 4, the weekly feature *Common Cup* will honor the day with 18 aired segments of the SAR's day on the Courthouse Square. The segments will air at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It airs at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday.

Commissioner Paris said Patriot's Day is all about remembering service to country.

"When you're remem-

bering the guys who got out there and kept us from being British today, you have to remember the sacrifice," he said. "The celebration here in Union County is very unique. You don't see other communities in North Georgia out here celebrating the birth of a nation."

"I'm proud that they (SAR) take this day very seriously," he said. "It's a growing group of individuals, each year there are more and more of them in period dress and with period weapons. Patriot's Day is just something that we don't take for granted in Union County."

Patriot's Day is a civic holiday commemorating the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the first battles of the American Revolutionary War. It is observed during the third week in April. Observances and reenactments of these first battles are the custom in cities throughout the country.

The day also is a remembrance of the rides of Paul Revere and Williams Dawes, who rode throughout the countryside calling out warnings the whole way, "the British are coming!"

## Prayer...continued from Page 1A

parts of the community," Powell said.

"The churches, the governmental folks and the people all come together as a unit, offering up thanks and prayer to the Lord for all that he does for us," Powell said. "It's also a wonderful opportunity to bring people

from different denominations together for worship. I always look forward to seeing the different pastors from the county's different churches."

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said the day was a proud one for everyone

throughout the county.

"It's a day to pay tribute to our Creator and look to Him for guidance and enrichment," Commissioner Paris said. "It's a day when we acknowledge that we are still a Christian nation. We'll honor our Lord on May 3rd."

## Mock Trial...continued from Page 1A

Outstanding Attorney awards; Meagan Barnett and Evans Ferrell earned Outstanding Witness Awards.

Union County Schools Superintendent Gary Steppe said that he was amazed at just how competitive the Mock Trial team is.

"To be able to get up like they're able to get up, speak fluently and think on their feet, they are really impressive," Steppe said. They finished first in the region and they're real close to being one of the top four teams in the state."

The Mock Trial team is in its sixth year of existence. Over the last four years, the kids have really proved their mettle - this was their third consecutive Region 6 Championship, Payne said.

"I'm confident in saying what sets this team apart is not just the leadership from our attorneys who coach our team - Judge Miller, Mark Dehler and Beth Martin, but the leadership from within our team."

"We have students who have just stepped up and they make it happen," Payne said. "My job is extremely easy because they want it and they work for it and it happens."

In the first round, Union County Prosecution v. Northview Defense, a Union win;

Mt. Paran Christian Prosecution v. Union County Defense, a Mt. Paran win;

Second Round at state, Union County Prosecution v. Jonesboro De-



The 2012 Region 6 Champion Union County Mock Trial Team was honored last week by the Board of Education. Photo/Charles Duncan

fense - Jonesboro won;

Woodland Prosecution v. Union County Defense - a Union win.

The Panthers didn't make it to Second Sunday, Coach Brett Chatham said.

"Second Sunday is where it all happens," he

said. "That's where state championships are decided."

Chatham thought it was significant that Meagan Barnett has won Outstanding Witness Award all three years she has competed.

"She's amazing," he said.