

Top Story...continued from Page 1A

for me," he said. "I pledge to do my very best to give the citizens of Union County the best quality law enforcement that we can give them. I pledge to treat everybody fair and honest and be a full-time sheriff."

Mason was sworn in on Dec. 18th by Probate Judge Dwain Brackett, who also enjoyed a landslide win in the July Primary.

Knight won by 2,129 votes over his Democratic opponent Larry Truelove.

He thanked his supporters and his family. He tipped his hat to his opponent for running a clean race.

Knight claimed 59.82 percent of the vote to become Union County's next tax commissioner.

"I've had a lot of help getting here," Knight said. "I appreciate all the people that have supported me. It's been one of the hardest things I've ever done. I put more effort into this than anything I have ever done in my life."

Knight was sworn in Dec. 17th, also by Judge Brackett.

Byers defeated Demo-



Retiring Union County Tax Commissioner J.W. Payne served while the Beatles were still together, while Neil Armstrong walked on the moon and served during the administrations of seven U.S. presidents. Photo/Todd Forrest

still be in good hands because we have Godly people in those seats. This whole election has been humbling to me because Carlton is such a fine person."

Change wasn't the case in the Sole Commissioner's race.

Lamar Paris returned to office with a solid victory over Republican challenger Charles Rich. Actually, the race wasn't even close as Paris won the race by exactly 2,000 votes.

Paris didn't lose a precinct and finished with 59.18 percent of the 86 percent voter turnout.

"I am both honored and humbled by the confidence that has been placed in me to continue as your commissioner,"

Davenport wiped his brow after the absentee votes from the Blairsville precinct came in on Election Night.

Davenport, a Blairsville Democrat, defeated his opponent, political newcomer and Republican Patricia Bertuna by 104 votes in a tightly contested race.

Davenport thanked his supporters, his family and everyone that voted for him. He finished with 50.49 percent of the local vote.

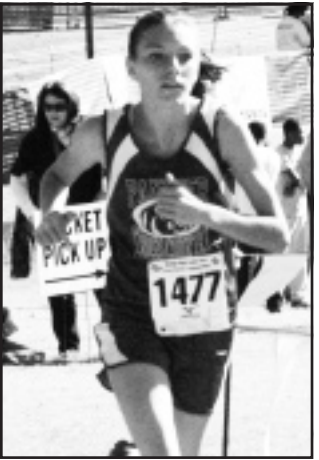
"Whew, it was the closest race of the night no doubt," Davenport said. "I was really surprised that there were about 11,000 people voting. It was back and forth all night. Looking at the District 3 board race,

ny Erwin and Incumbent State House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison, both Republicans, both collected more than 70 percent of the local vote to return to their respective offices.

U.S. Rep. Doug Collins was the landslide winner for the 9th District Congressional Seat over Democrat Jody Cooley.

District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch was unopposed in the November election.

There was a lot more that went on in 2012. Check out the *North Georgia News* archives on the Web to refresh your memories.



Emma Garrison

cratic Incumbent District 3 BOE member Carlton Collins by a large margin - 2,028 votes. Collins conceded the race early on and wished Byers the best.

Byers thanked her many supporters and her family for helping her survive the campaign season.

"I'm truly humbled," Byers said. "I just want to do a good job. I want to do what's best for the school and for the kids. This is about our kids and it's important that they see us do things with respect, with dignity, and acting like adults. Again, it's very humbling. I'm excited."

Byers tipped her hat to Collins.

"If I couldn't win without trashing my opponent, I didn't want to win," she said. "I was blessed in this election. Carlton is a good man. If he won, the school board would



Union County's softball tradition continued with a state championship effort from the 12-U Girls. Photo/Todd Forrest

he said.

The chairman of the board remained in office.

District 1 BOE Incumbent and Board Chairman Gary

I was very fortunate.

"I'd like to thank everybody that supported me and voted for me," he said.

Incumbent Coroner Ben-



Cassidy Davis was the 2012 Homecoming Queen, Katie Rittenhouse and Lorie Irvin finished First Runner-Up and Second Runner-Up respectfully. Photo/Todd Forrest

Hunters invited to attend upcoming public meeting

Hunters and other interested citizens are invited to attend any of eight upcoming public meetings regarding the development of hunting regulations for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 hunting seasons. These meetings, sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division, are specifically designed to give the public a chance to provide input in the development process. "Public input is important and valuable," said John Bowers, assistant chief of

the Game Management Section. "We're seeking input that simplifies regulations, encourages hunting participation, maximizes opportunity, and is biologically appropriate."

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m., Thursday, January 10 at Rabun County Courthouse (25 Courthouse Square, Clayton, GA).

Any participant at a meeting may present data, make a statement or comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument, either orally or in writing. Statements should be concise to permit everyone an opportunity to speak.

Participants must register upon arrival and notify the registering official of their intent to give a statement. Those unable to attend a meeting may submit input either electronically or in written statement form. Input must be received by January 18, 2013.

Written statements should be mailed to: GA DNR/Wildlife Resources Division/Game Management Section; Attn: John W. Bowers; 2070 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.; Social Circle, GA 30025. Statements may be electronically submitted at: www.georgiawildlife.com/Hunting/SubmitComments.

Hunting regulation proposals will be available in

April and will be considered by the Board of Natural Resources in May 2013.

For more information, visit www.georgiawildlife.com/Hunting/Meetings or contact Hunter Services at (770) 761-3045. NT(Dec26,A1)SH

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