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West is dry snow and most snow in the East is wet. It takes 20 inches to 30 inches of dry snow to equal 1 inch of rainfall. Dry snow does not melt as easily and we have certainly seen the results of that.

Q. With this last snow-storm, was our snow “dry” or “wet?”

A. This may sound like a politician, but it was part of each. If you tried to make a snowball out of it, you could, but it required much more pressure and squeezing. It would be very difficult to make a snowman, but could be done. However, on the roads, unless packed by a lot of traffic, the snow remained with the characteristics of dry snow and provided reasonable traction for driving as long as it was not a steep slope.

If this had been wet snow, it would be frozen by now and just about like solid ice. It would also probably be melted much sooner. However, even today, Thursday night after the snow began on Tuesday morning, this snow is still soft and pliable with just a slight crust on it. So as bad as this winter storm has been, it could have been much worse. I suspect the snow in Atlanta was similar but with a little more moisture which allowed it to freeze and basically turn to ice on the roadways almost instantly.

Q. When will our roads be back to normal as I am getting cabin fever?

A. I want to thank so many people that have realized what a great road crew we have. We have seven salt trucks all with blades, plus we also spread gravel with an additional truck. But this snow will NOT go away. Even today, there are still many icy spots and most are either in shady areas or on

the North slope where they do not receive much sunshine.

Friday evening should just about wrap up the worst road problems, but there will still be plenty of snow remaining on some roads and driveways on Saturday and the rain coming Sunday should clean everything else up. I have never seen this small amount of snow have such a huge impact on our road system.

Q. If the Road Department has had seven trucks running around the clock since Tuesday, why aren't all the roads clear by now?

A. We have been over many of the roads several times and by Friday evening will have been over almost all county roads once. The near zero freezing that started the day of the snow seems to have some magic to it and the packed road surface is solid ice and it just does not seem to melt in some places even with three layers of salt and gravel.

In higher elevations, the ground was colder sooner and the snow just refuses to melt even with salt. Scrape blades will not go through the ice and we simply have to wait on it to melt or have the salt activated by sunlight and warmer temperatures.

Following this snow-storm, we will have a joint meeting with all the area agencies involved to discuss what was done and what can be done in the future to improve our performance. I want to compliment the Georgia Department of Transportation for the excellent job they did on the state highways and how that made our job easier. However, we can always learn from an event and try to improve. A special thanks to all public safety personnel in our county for an outstanding job in the worst of conditions, and especially our own Road Department.

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morning he went into town to see if he could buy some food and to his surprise found that everyone was dead. A band of robbers came during the night, killed all the people and stole their possessions. “Now I understand my troubles”, said the Rabbi. “If the towns-

people would have received me, I would be dead. Had not my rooster or mule been killed they would have revealed my hiding place and God sent the wind to blow out my lamp. God has been good to me!” Perspective – *Romans 8:28*.

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how did the old Indian know Clifford was a Cherokee? Second, how did a 98 year old man walk all the way from Oklahoma? Third, where is this spot called the Turkey’s Foot? Granny would always say Clifford and his sons spent many an afternoon walking around the area they assumed was the Turkey’s Foot. Clifford spent the best part of 40 years looking for this lost treasure. But, the location of the treasure and the answers to my questions died with that old man and Clifford.

The gold we have and will once again be looking for in 2014 can be found at our Farmer’s Market. Many have asked when we will begin taking reservations for the 2014 season. That process will begin in mid to late March. As happened last year farmers will have the first opportunity to make reservations. One week later we will take reservations from last year’s reserved vendors. The final week of sign-ups will be for new vendors. Please stay tuned to future editions of this column to get more details.

A couple of weeks ago training was held to certify people for the processing of

acidified foods. Representatives from the UGA Food Science Department and the Food and Drug Administration were in Union County to conduct the training. Participants were Dot Patterson, George and Cecilia Holland, Miranda King, Bethany Brown, Patrick Fix, Kristy Peney and Eleanor Smith. We had a great training and I want to thank all of our participants for their hard work and attendance. Over the next few weeks please read this column to keep abreast of the gold you can find at the Union County Farmer’s Market.

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We beat ourselves up that first weekend when we took our first tumble, sneaking the kids’ stash of marshmallow Santa Clauses that even they, with their limited, discriminating palettes, won’t eat. We call our sister (the heavier one - not the skinnier of the two) and ask her to help hold us accountable. She sends tough love posts via *Facebook* until she can’t help share the recipe for triple caramel dipped apples rolled in toffee pieces, served warm. We run to the cabinet to find we have all the ingredients on hand, even the apples we bought to insure we had something healthy to eat for our diet snacks. We rejoice in having a bountiful pantry.

Now we are 5 weeks into this gig, and we don’t even feel guilty anymore. It’s time to chuckle about those extra pounds instead of la-

ment about them. Here are some quotes from famous folks who never made it past that first week of resolve, either. We loved them with all their girth. And we have to love ourselves, too.

“I never worry about diets. The only carrots that interest me are the number you get in a diamond.” *Mae West*

“My doctor told me to stop having intimate dinners for four. Unless there are three other people.” *Orson Welles*

“The second day of a diet is always easier than the first. By the second day you’re off it.” *Jackie Gleason*

“I told my doctor I get very tired when I go on a diet, so he gave me pep pills. Know what happened? I ate faster.” *Joe E. Lewis*

See you at the Gym. Exercise, at least, sends the endorphins rushing. Have a great week.

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should just pull themselves up by their bootstraps.” Unlike the Democrats, Republicans don’t believe that the majority of the “takers” are hard working people who lost their jobs through no fault of their own during the economic train wreck (the Bush recession) in 2007-2008 and from the massive exodus of American companies to other countries where they pay workers \$1 an hour. Most importantly, they don’t seem to understand that a huge majority of those in poverty are children.

Republicans supported \$40 billion in cuts to the Food Stamp Program at the same time working on their budget which would give billions of dollars in subsidies to millionaire farmers and oil companies which are enjoying enormous profits.

Lucy Williams

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proven mathematical models, data from hurricane hunter aircraft, weather satellites, radar tracking, etc.

This same trust holds true for forecasting severe weather and winter storms. If one takes a truly objective look at the success of modern weather forecasting, he or she finds the conditions forecast usually happen. The forecast parameters may not be accurate within space travel tolerances. But within acceptable limits the predicted phenomena are much more likely to happen than not.

So with the Weather Bureau’s modern-day proven record of accuracy, why would any responsible person in a decision making position, a decision which effects the lives of hundreds or thousands of people, doubt the probability of a forecasted severe weather event and chance erring on the side of disaster. Yet the governor of Louisiana and the mayor of New Orleans did just that with Katrina. And now you have the governor of Georgia and the mayor of Atlanta doing the same, ignoring the experts and allowing a situation to develop that could have cost many lives.

Auburn, Ala. for one, some 24 hours before the severe winter conditions were projected to develop, ordered schools to be closed on the date of this last week’s forecasted event. The icy roads and snow came as predicted. Contrary to the Atlanta situation, the Auburn school kids stayed home and slept in their own warm beds. For financial and political considerations no doubt, the “powers that be” in Atlanta, ignored a timely and accurate official severe winter weather condition forecast. Chaos resulted. Atlantans are fortunate that no reported major loss of life occurred because their politicians thought they could “out guess” the professionals.

Richard Y. Fiser

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Lariscy, realtor with The Mountain Life Team; and Dr. Jeremy Williams, Assistant Union County Schools Superintendent.

Returning Board members are Luke Colwell, Colwell Construction; Amy Harper, Tugaloo Home Health Agency; Patrick Malone, The PAR Group; and Chris Wadle, Lamin-x.

Our Ex-Officio members are Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley,

and Union County Development Authority Executive Director Mitch Griggs.

With gratitude, we thank these individuals for their service to our organization.

Contact information for our Board Members can be found on our website at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com.

If you are interested in being a future member of our Board of Directors please email me at President@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

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the cause, but information on how to protect the bee population is improving,” he says.

The industry has learned more about how to fight disease, how to reduce the stress on bees as they are moved around the country for pollination purposes and bee nutrition. The addition of 40,000 bees at the governor’s mansion by Gov. Nathan Deal raises awareness of the importance of honeybees to agriculture.

On a national level, the White House Garden has also added beehives. “People are becoming more aware of the importance of bees and the threat to the bee population,” Wilbanks says. “Because of that, people want to do their part in keeping the population

healthy, and that’s important to the future.”

The honeybee was designated the state insect of Georgia in 1975, acknowledging its contribution to the state’s economy. There are bee hives all across North Georgia producing many types of natural honey from the flowers and blooms that grow in north Georgia including the most desirable Sourwood honey. Honey is also one of the best natural remedies for many of the aches and pains that bother us.

For more information on *Georgia Grown* or Georgia’s Honey Bee industry contact: *Frank M. Riley, Jr, Executive Director - Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council. Email frank.crcrd@gmail.com.*

Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events

see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com

Wednesday, February 5

1 pm Knitters Knitch Class – 64 Brackets Way Ste. 6

6 pm Bingo – Haralson Memorial Civic Center

Thursday, February 6

8 am Mountain Networking Referral Group Meeting – Cooks Country Kitchen

12 pm Rotary Club of Union County Meeting – upstairs Cadence Bank

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

Saturday, February 8

9 am 4th Annual Sweetheart Arts & Crafts Fair – All Saints Lutheran Church

6 pm Friday Evening Tapas – Crane Creek Vineyards

Monday, February 10

10 am Crochet Class – 64 Brackets Way Ste. 6

12 pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Weekly Meeting-Steve’s Steakhouse, Cookie Jar Restaurant

6 pm Mt. Community Chorus Auditions – Clegg Recital Hall YHC

Tuesday, February 11

8 am Tri-State Business Women’s Meeting – Blairsville Restaurant

11:30 am Union/Towns Employer Committee Meeting-UCB Small Community Room