

STAR Student...from Page 1A

each of these kids in the high school, but I have a special bond with my STEM students, so I'm very happy that Will chose me," Frizzell said. "Will is an extremely motivated student.

"He always gives 100% in class and is a leader among his peers. He's one of those kids that everybody likes – he's sweet, he puts others before him and is very serving. Will has high moral standards, and he's extremely intrinsically motivated to do great things."

Needless to say, Frizzell is incredibly proud of STAR Student Harkins, who is currently taking a full slate of dual enrollment college classes in high school.

Harkins stays active as a student in other ways, including involvement with cross country and track, the Union County Fishing Team, and multiple school clubs such as Beta Club and the Technology Student Association.

Outside of school hours, Harkins continues to serve with

his home church at Fellowship of the Hills, where he runs the sound system and has gone on multiple mission trips over the years, and he's grateful for his community and his family for assisting him in getting where he is today.

Specifically, Harkins said he would like to thank his parents, both of whom have motivated him "to be in a position where I'm able to do this."

As far as next steps for the 18-year-old senior, he plans

to pursue a business degree and possibly economics at the University of Georgia for a potential career in the financial sector, and he believes Union

County High has done an excellent job preparing him for college.

"It is definitely amazing here," Harkins said. "Between

inviting colleges to come here and teach us, and then just all the opportunities they provide in school, they definitely set everyone up for success."

Chamber Awards...from Page 1A

entrepreneur Alysia Hargus of Aflac was named Ambassador of the Quarter, while Dr. Al Haywood of Pathway Christian Counseling was named Ambassador of the Year.

"Ambassadors are volunteers who, on behalf of the chamber, make good will calls to encourage strong continuing membership and active support of chamber programs," according to visitblairsvillega.com.

The 2019 Businesses of the Quarter were Michaelee's Italian Life Caffe, first quarter; Nelson Tractor, second quarter; Chick-fil-A, third quarter.

And United Community Bank was named both Business of the Fourth Quarter and Business of the Year, with the award being accepted by UCBI Market President Adam Born.

Chairwoman of the Chamber Board of Directors Dr. Renee Deibert recognized outgoing Board Members Jason Karnes and Jeff Davis.

"Jason Karnes fulfilled a nine-year commitment, which included serving as chair," Deibert said. "He later returned to serve another board term that ended with the 2019 fiscal year.

"Ladies and gentlemen, please help me thank Jason Karnes for his commitment and dedication to the mission of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.

"We would like to recognize another departing member of the Board of Directors. Board service is a rewarding, but a tough volunteer role at times.

"A favorite dancing star who used humor to provide insight into helping us see things from a very unique perspective, serving 2018 to 2019, in the house and on time, ladies and gentlemen, please help me thank Jeff Davis for his commitment and dedication to the mission of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce."

Deibert then signaled it was that time of the year for the role of chairperson to be "symbolically passed to someone who can bring fresh eyes and new ideas to the table."

"No one's actions represent this idea or emphasizes this importance more than your 2020 chairman for the Blairsville-Union County Chamber Board of Directors, and I'm honored to pass this gavel to your new chairman, Chris Collins," Deibert said.

Collins accepted the gavel and turned right around and presented Deibert with a golden gavel in honor of her five years of service on the board and her chairmanship in 2019.

Following the passing of the gavel, Chamber President Steve Rowe took the floor, recognizing board members in attendance and his staff.

"The mission of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce is to positively impact our community and members by facilitating tourism, economic and cultural development," Rowe said. "Myself and my staff take pride in working for this mission statement, and we've worked hard over this last year to both promote tourism, not only as a destination, but also by promoting our members and providing tools for them to promote their businesses."

Indictments...from Page 1A

aka Kellie Morrow, false swearing.

Nikita Michelle Derreberry, theft by shoplifting.

Colton James Mashburn, theft by shoplifting.

James Brandon Smith, theft by shoplifting.

Andrew James Lizotte, two counts fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; reckless driving; speeding; failure to maintain lane; improper passing.

Edward Lizotte, reckless driving.

Shon Sebastian, reckless driving.

Jesse Oliver Maier, two counts sale of methamphetamine.

Shawn Alan Ratliff, crossing the guard lines with drugs; disorderly conduct; possession of marijuana, less than an ounce.

Stephen Laron Crawford, obstruction of an officer.

Anthony James Mull, possession of a firearm by convicted felon.



Former Chamber Chair Renee Deibert received a commemorative golden gavel from new Chair Chris Collins for her contributions to the organization on Jan. 23. Photo by Mark Smith

Rowe turned the floor over to Jimmy Nichols of United Community Bank, who recognized five individuals who passed during 2019: Gene Sprayberry, George Berry, Anceberry Burnette, Dorothy Dyer and Billy Decker. Nichols asked for a moment of silence

in their honor.

All in all, it was a gala night for the Chamber Awards at the Union County Community Center ballroom, with a raffle to close out the night. The event was catered by Matt Leonard and his competent staff at The View Grill.

Burglary...from Page 1A

her heels, Osborn said.

As it turned out, the suspect did gain entry into the woman's basement, only to be scared into the woods upon the swift arrival of the Union County Sheriff's Office, though he left behind him a pickax lodged in the interior basement door leading to the main area of the house.

Deputies set up a perimeter around the home. As they worked to clear the scene, they saw a car parked on private property about 50 yards from the house that appeared to have been driven recently, as it was not frosted over in the freezing morning temperatures, Osborn said.

The abandoned vehicle belonged to neither the owner of the property on which it was parked nor the 91-year-old resident, so the deputies impounded the car as potential evidence in the burglary. Contained within the vehicle were a pry bar and gloves, Osborn said.

Later that morning, the Sheriff's Office received a

call from the vehicle's owner, Gregory Bryant, wondering why his car had been towed.

Detectives asked him to come in for questioning, and Bryant attempted to explain how his vehicle came to be in that location at that time of the morning when he lived over 10 miles away, Osborn said.

Through the course of their investigation, Osborn said they determined that Bryant's story contained multiple inconsistencies, and he was arrested for the crime.

Bryant, 33, of Union County, has been charged with first degree burglary, exploitation and intimidation of a disabled adult, elder person or resident, possession of tools for the commission of a crime, and criminal trespass.

"We were there within a few minutes," Osborn said. "We do our best to cover the county and have good response times. We're doing our best to follow up on all cases – we're doing our best to protect and serve."