

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

www.nganews.com

Legal Organ of Union County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1909

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Harkins named 2020 STAR Student of UCHS

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Congratulations to Union County High School's 2020 STAR Student Will Harkins and his STAR Teacher Alecia Frizzell.

Harkins and Frizzell will be honored alongside other high-achieving students in the Feb. 11 Evening with the STARS, an annual event sponsored by the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.

"This achievement means a lot to me," Harkins said. "It just shows that hard work will pay off. I've worked through all of high school, really, to get to

this point and set myself up for success in the future."

STAR stands for Student Teacher Achievement Recognition, and it's a program sponsored by the Professional Association of Georgia Educators.

For a high school senior to achieve STAR status, he or she must score highest among their classmates in any single sitting of the three-part SAT by early November of his or her senior year.

Qualifying students must also be within the top 10% or Top 10 students of their class based on grade point average.

And in case these qualifications were not stringent

enough, those nominated as STAR Students must achieve SAT scores equal to or higher than the latest available national averages on the critical reading, math and writing sections.

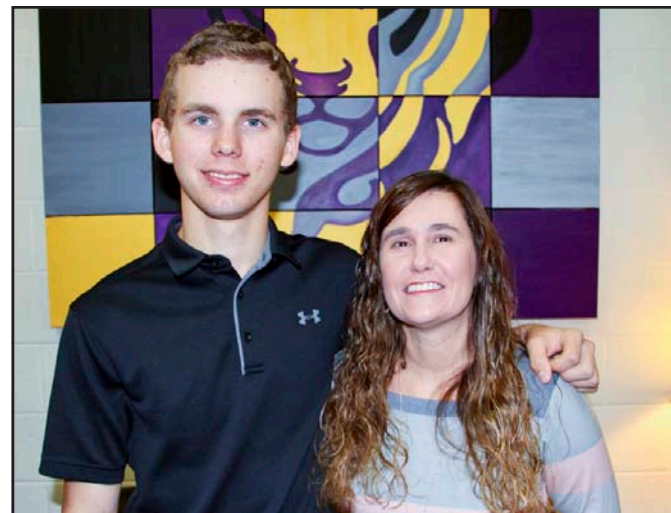
Each STAR Student is then asked to name an educator who has "made the most significant contribution to the STAR Student's scholastic development" to serve as his or her STAR Teacher.

"Mrs. Frizzell has had a big impact on my high school career," Harkins said, noting that Frizzell has helped him as both an adviser and teacher "to have the most success and be able to apply to the most colleges."

For her part, Frizzell is honored to have been selected STAR Teacher. She said Harkins is a terrific student who excelled in her physics and chemistry classes, and he has prospered in the school's science, technology, engineering and mathematics curriculum, or STEM Academy.

As STEM coordinator for Union County High, Frizzell was instrumental in UCHS becoming one of only 14 STEM-certified high schools in the state, thereby enabling Harkins and his classmates to graduate with special STEM honors.

"I have grown to love See STAR Student, Page 2A



The 2020 STAR Student for Union County High is Will Harkins, and his STAR Teacher is Alecia Frizzell. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Mayor Jim Conley, others honored during Chamber Awards Night

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley was chosen as the 2019 Person of the Year by the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber Awards Night on Thursday, Jan. 23.

"I didn't see this coming, but I would like to say thank you," Conley said upon receiving his award from Chamber President Steve Rowe with assistance from Board Member Lamar Paris.

"I like Lamar," Conley continued. "We think about putting community first at both our entities. And it's with a lot of help from him, and my help for him, that we've made this place a better place to live. I'd like to think it's a safer place today. It's a decent place to raise your children."

"But I'll just tell you, I didn't see this coming," said the mayor to laughter and applause from the audience. "I just can't tell you how much I appreciate this. I love each and every one of you."

"And I love my employees more, because if it



Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley was honored to receive the chamber's prestigious "Person of the Year" award, pictured here with Lamar Paris on Jan. 23. Photo by Mark Smith

wasn't for them, I couldn't do what I do. And the City Council - if it wasn't for their efforts to help us do the right thing, and their support, I wouldn't be able to do what I do.

"For you in the community, I know most of

you, some of you I don't know, but this wonderful feeling that I have right now, I don't know, it'll take me a while to get over this. I thank each and every one of you so very much."

Moving along,

See Chamber Awards, Page 2A

School board mulls expansion options, appoints Hunter chair



UCES fourth-grader Lily Boczar received recognition in the Jan. 21 school board meeting for winning this year's Christmas card design contest. L-R: Grandmother Gail Bice, Lily Boczar, sister Claire Boczar, mother Meghan Boczar and UCES Principal Jerry Bavero. Photo by Mark Smith

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Members of the Union County Board of Education heard a special presentation on future facilities options in their monthly board meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Leading the presentation were Assistant Superintendent David Murphy, Facilities

Director Chris Crow and Pioneer RESA Facilities Planner Doug Fields.

Murphy opened with some statistics from a recent population study showing that the primary school is currently at 92% capacity, the middle school is at 97% capacity, and the elementary school is at 71% capacity.

In 10 years, the primary

school is projected to be at 99% capacity, the middle school will remain at 97% capacity, and the elementary school will be at 78% capacity.

"None of this happens overnight," Murphy said. "So, in order for us to plan effectively and save taxpayer money, we need to start doing various things now. And we

See School Board, Page 6A

Relay For Life talks research, fundraising in volunteer dinner

By Jarrett Whitener
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Relay For Life of Union County kicked off its 2020 fundraising efforts in a Jan. 23 dinner featuring volunteers and survivors at Mountain Presbyterian Church, where organization members talked about preparation for the upcoming Relay event.

The dinner started with guest speaker Dr. Aaron Schueneman, who is an oncologist at the Cancer Center in Blairsville.

"I'm really glad that Blairsville has this Cancer Center, and I am glad we have the radiation facility there that kind of anchors the cancer care in this community," Schueneman said. "I'm a medical oncologist, and I have my staff and manager here, and I'm really happy to be here."

"I was asked to talk



Allyson McGraw of Union County Relay with Dr. Aaron Schueneman of the Cancer Center in the Jan. 23 kickoff event for 2020 American Cancer Society fundraising. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

about research, which is very informal, and when I talk about cancer research, a lot comes to mind. I was expecting to hear

about the mouse and the rat, but that's not what we do.

"All those trials are See Relay For Life, Page 6A

Blairsville man arrested for alleged burglary of 91-year-old's home

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

When a 91-year-old resident of Captain's Cove Road got up to use the bathroom shortly before 6 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 21, she received quite a shock - a stranger was trying to get into her house.

"She heard somebody knocking on her door and shining his flashlight through her window," Lt. Daren Osborn of the Union County Sheriff's Office said.

Peering out a window, the

resident saw that the suspicious man had made his way to the basement entrance of her home, and she quickly called 911 after retrieving her late husband's firearm for protection, Osborn said.

Fortunately, she didn't have to use the weapon, as Deputy Vicky Bryan was nearby when the call went out for dispatch. Bryan arrived at the home within four minutes of the emergency call, with Staff Sgt. Shane Burnette and Lt. Julio Cruz following fast on



Gregory Bryant

See Burglary, Page 2A

UCSO makes quick arrests in Wet-N-Wild burglary case

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Union County Sheriff's Deputies made short work of arresting three suspects in an early morning burglary at Wet-

N-Wild Car Wash on Georgia 515 in Blairsville on Sunday, Jan. 26.

The owners of the car wash called the Sheriff's Office after arriving at work that morning to discover that their

business had been burglarized, and Deputy Chris Jackson responded to the scene around 9 a.m.

Jackson began reviewing See Wet-N-Wild, Page 3A

January Term 2020 Grand Jury Indictments

The following individuals were indicted during the January Term 2020 of the Union County Grand Jury:

Christopher Ray Bryson, two counts statutory rape; six counts aggravated child molestation.

Jody Lee McCreadie, kidnapping; simple battery, Family Violence; two counts obstruction of an officer; interference with government property; carrying weapons

within certain school areas; driving while license suspended; open container; possession of a firearm by convicted felon.

Travis Dwayne Teal, cruelty to children in the first degree; simple assault, Family Violence.

Justin Ursel Folds, aka Justin U Folds, Justin Folds, two counts fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; possession of methamphetamine; theft by receiving stolen property;

possession of drug-related objects; driving under the influence (less safe) (drugs); driving while license suspended; obstruction of an officer; speeding.

Mark Andrew Galli, aggravated assault; battery; criminal solicitation.

Andrew Carlton Dubois, theft by shoplifting.

Kellie Rayne Marrow, See Indictments, Page 2A



Mark Larry Berryman



Kimberly Dawn Blauvelt



Bryan Aaron Berryman

Vol. 111 No. 05
4 Sections 24 Pages
Weather
Thurs: Cloudy Hi 49 Lo 34
Fri: Showers Hi 49 Lo 36
Sat: Showers Hi 48 Lo 32

Arrests 2D
Church 2B
Classified 3D
Opinion 4A
Legals 4D
Obits 4B
Sports 2C

SPORTS
BASKETBALL
Jan 28 vs. Banks 6 PM
Jan 31 @ Oglethorpe 6 PM
WRESTLING
Jan 31/ Feb 1
Area Tournament @ Elbert

Qualifying Fee Notice

See page 2A

Daddy Daughter Dance
Feb 8
North Ga Tech

See page 4C

Friends of Union County Library
Upcoming Events

See page 2D