

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Annual landscape seminar rooted in gardening education

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Plant enthusiasts took root in the Haralson Memorial Civic Center on Wednesday, April 12, for a six-hour landscape seminar on native plants.

The Blairsville Garden Club presented the 32nd Annual Landscape Seminar in cooperation with the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center, the Union County Extension Service and the Georgia Department of Transportation Wildflower Program.

As is always the case, and now for the 32nd year, the purpose of the event was to invite expert guest speakers to educate those who wished to grow their horticultural

knowledge base. And while the club is small, containing only 13 members currently, its reach is far and wide – it has, after all, been around since 1940.

Guests from all over the state attended last Wednesday's seminar, presenting useful gardening information and answering questions.

Each year, the seminar features a different theme, according to Seminar Chairman Kathryn Litton, who has been a member of the Blairsville Garden Club for 36 years.

Litton started the annual program in the early 1980s, and every year the landscape seminar takes a different focus.

This year, the event focused on native plants,

with a theme of "Here Come the Natives," drawing on the rich Native American history of the North Georgia Mountains, as well as the deep reserve of native plants that thrive in the area.

"Our goal is to promote conservation, beautification and education," said Litton. "The garden club does different projects during the year to beautify the community and to educate people.

"Our main focus for the seminar is to educate people how to have better gardens, grow better flowers and shrubs and plants that will work in our area. We have our own microclimate in the mountains that's different from anything else."

Blairsville Garden Club President Lou Ann Bleakley

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Margaret and Joe Kennard, with Kathryn Litton, all of the Blairsville Garden Club

Disabled American Veterans induct 2017 officers

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Members of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 11 met on Monday, April 10, at the Maj. Leon Davenport Veterans Center to induct the group's 2017 officers.

DAV Northwest Georgia District Cmdr. Jack Whidden joined the group to conduct the induction ceremony for the new officers, and he expressed his congratulations for all that the group has accomplished since its inception not long ago.

"It's always a pleasure to be here," said Whidden. "The activity of the Blairsville chapter is to be commended. You guys came in to a difficult situation.

"You were gracious

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DAV 2017 Officers

Williams finalist for Gainesville City Schools superintendent

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Schools Associate Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Williams has been named superintendent sole finalist at Gainesville City Schools.

Members of the Gainesville City School Board named Williams sole finalist in an April 10 work session in anticipation of hiring him on May 1 following a public comment period.

"To be named as the sole finalist for the Gainesville City School System Superintendent is very humbling and exciting,"

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Dr. Jeremy Williams, Union County Schools Associate Superintendent

Health Fair to offer free medical services Saturday

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

It's that special time of year, when residents by the hundreds will be rolling up their sleeves to give blood for heavily discounted lab work, all thanks to Union General Hospital.

For four decades, the hospital has offered a Health Fair to the residents of Union County and beyond.

On top of the discounted lab work, the fair always includes a wide variety of free medical exams, including skin checks, vision tests, vital sign readings, EKGs and more.

Those interested in attending the 2017 UGH Health Fair should swing by the second floor of the hospital between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 22.

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Leslie Daniel, Union General Hospital Administration, and Julia Barnett, UGH Chief Nursing Officer

EMC board takes questions at town hall meeting

By Shawn Jarrard
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Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – For nearly an hour last Thursday evening, the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors addressed and took questions from members who attended the board's Town Hall Meeting in Towns County.

The meeting took place at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center on April 13, with some two dozen members in attendance.

EMC General Manager Jeremy Nelms fielded the hot topic of fiber-optic internet, with several members voicing displeasure over their continued inability to gain

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BRMEMC Board President Mickey Cummings and Secretary Roy Perren at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center on Thursday, April 13.

Cruisers bring back good old days on Blairsville Square

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Classic car enthusiasts loaded up their favorite rides and parked around the Downtown Blairsville Square for the Blairsville Cruisers' first Cruise-In on the Square of 2017 on Saturday, April 15.

More than 60 cars lined the square, extending out into the side streets and business parking lots. Vintage baby blue Chevrolets, glossy black Fords and more caught

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Tommy Brown of Blairsville owns these blue beauties, and he painted the Chevy with his son.

White Cane Days to recognize visual impairment this weekend

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Union County Lions Club will be participating in White Cane Days on Friday, April 21, and Saturday, April 22, as a means to raise funds to help the visually impaired.

White Cane Days is an extension of a much larger celebration, International White Cane Safety Day, which is recognized each year on Oct. 15.

Used by those who are blind or visually impaired as a

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Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris with Gene and Louise Little of the Union County Lions Club.

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