

Mayor ...continued from Page 1A



Blairsville Downtown Development Authority Program Manager Darren Harper explaining plans for a new building slated for the Haralson development property in the Sept. 5 regular meeting of Blairsville City Council. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

...serving his fourth term when he's sworn in during the first regular city council meeting of 2018.

"I believe in Blairsville, and I believe it's going to change, and we need to guide that change," said Moore, looking ahead. "My biggest thing is jobs. I want to see young people, that if they want to stay here and work, they have that opportunity."

Dyer, a proponent of controlled growth for the City of Blairsville, will be entering his third term in January, and he said he loves the civic engagement of being a council member.

"I find it interesting, enjoyable, and it gives me an opportunity to serve my community," said Dyer, adding that he'd like to see more residents involved in the affairs of the city.

As for that downtown property development mentioned by the mayor, what he's talking about is the first piece of the Haralson property to be developed, and the development process is currently awaiting floor plans for a new building.

Blairsville Downtown Development Authority Program Manager Darren Harper offered some details on the new downtown investment in the Sept. 5 Blairsville City Council meeting.

Local entrepreneur Steve Cockerham is behind the new Haralson property development, which will feature a three-story structure across from Foodland in Downtown Blairsville. Two stories will face the street, with a third located behind the building at the lower ground level.

The new building will implement retail settings in its lower and middle floors, and downtown living spaces in its uppermost floor.

Harper also discussed local businessman and developer Chris Wadle's plans to grow the retail space inside Merchants Walk across from Blairsville City Hall, including the remodeling of the old dance school and eventually a new building to feature both retail and living space.

"Between the new Haralson building project and the expansion of Merchants

Walk, we anticipate an additional 14,000 square feet of retail space and an additional 8,000 square feet of residential space," said Harper of the downtown area.

Also in the Sept. 5 regular council meeting, the city council:

Held a public hearing on the first reading of Alcohol Ordinance 2017-03, to amend the city's alcohol ordinance to include three sections regulating signage advertising or promoting alcohol sales;

Renewed the health insurance of the city's employees, saving about \$10,000 thanks to research conducted by City Clerk Kaye McCann;

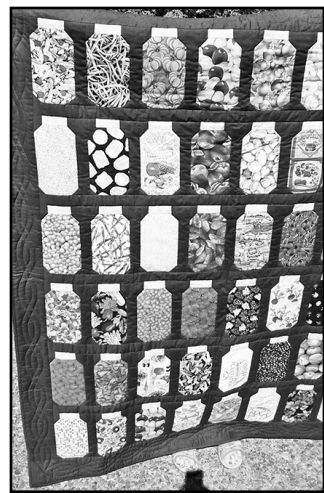
And approved a contract for obstruction clearing with the Georgia Department of Transportation, with Blairsville's portion of funding come in at \$41,833.

The City of Blairsville currently has 213 registered voters, and representatives of Blairsville City Hall said they would love it if all the city's voters turned up to cast their ballots in the Nov. 7 Special Election.

Raffle to benefit CROP Walk at Farmers' Market

On Saturday, September 16, the "charity booth" at the Union County Farmers' Market will feature this year's CROP Walk. The beautiful handmade "jar quilt," specially crafted by Blairsville resident Eva Breedlove in order to raise funds for CROP Walk 2017, will be on display. The quilt, along with several other items, will be on raffle. The raffle will take place in December. You may purchase raffle tickets (6 tickets/\$5) or make a donation to "CWS/CROP."

Since 1991, CROP Walk funds have: filled the pantries of every home built to date by the Towns-Union Counties chapter of Habitat for Humanity; made annual donations to the Clay County Food Pantry,



Come see this jar quilt at the Union County Farmers' Market on September 16. Your donation will help fight hunger, locally and globally.

the Towns County Food Pantry, the Food Bank of North-east Georgia, Atlanta Mission the SAFE House of Blairsville; supplied groceries to those in emergency need; sponsored families during struggling times; supported numerous local projects like Meals on Wheels, Table of Grace, Goodies from the Heart; provided lime, fertilizer, and farming equipment for the Colwell Probation Detention Center garden.

Come to the Union County Farmers' Market on September 16, and learn more about how your donations can help fight hunger, locally and globally. Discover how CROP Walk funds are ending hunger one step at a time. NT(Sep13,M2)SH

Learning to Live with Firearms coming September 30

By Ed Jones, Certified Firearms Instructor & Training Counselor

The Chatuge Gun Club and the Towns County Sheriff's Department will present a course titled "Basic Pistol", a 12-hour course demonstrating fundamental handling of handguns and the legal ownership, storage, and use of firearms and information pertaining to the citizen's right of self-defense will be presented by the Chatuge Gun Club, Inc., of Hiawasse, GA. The course will be conducted on Saturday and Sunday; 30 September & 1 October 2017.

The course is a basic handgun course enhanced by emphasis on self-defense and the law, so it is suitable for experienced, as well as, novice shooters. Ignorance and carelessness are the two leading causes of firearm accidents. Our aim is to eliminate both of them! Safe gun handling and storage techniques are paramount and are presented as a priority throughout the course.

Firearm Safety is the focus of the presentation. Other topics visited include selection of a firearm, the anatomy of a handgun and its ammunition, loading and unloading of firearms, cleaning and maintenance of firearms. We also explore methods and techniques that may be used to prevent home invasion or other occurrences which might evolve

into a life-threatening situation requiring the use of deadly force. Video presentations will be utilized including "Firearm Cleaning and Maintenance" and "The Principles of Home Defense."

The 8-hour classroom portion of the course will be held on Saturday beginning at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be included this day. In addition to the course, questions and information pertaining to the legal, ownership, possession, transportation, and the use of firearms and deadly force will be fielded by the Sheriff's office of Towns County, GA.

Supervised live firing will be conducted throughout the day on the following Sunday at the Chatuge Gun Club's firing range. The single thing that makes this class unique is the fact that we are able to provide one-on-one coaching on the firing line. Having attended other courses over the years, although their content is generally excellent, they are not able to provide the intensive firing line assistance. For safety and a more complete learning experience, the one-on-one experience is essential. This is made possible by members of the Chatuge Gun Club who are willing to donate their time and expertise to afford a safe, entertaining, and rewarding experience.

Participants should provide a suitable handgun and 100

rounds of appropriate ammunition. A "suitable handgun" is defined as one capable of firing a minimum of five shots without reloading; it should also be capable of being fired without manual re-cocking. Single action revolvers are allowed but not recommended.

High performance or magnum loads are not necessary nor are they desirable. A target load is adequate.

A certificate of attendance is awarded at the completion of the course.

The course is a "must" for anyone who has a handgun for personal protection.

The minimum age for participation is 16; those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

A nominal fee of \$35 will be charged to cover the cost of classroom materials, texts, snacks, lunch, targets, etc. (Yes, it says lunch.) The instructors, coaches, instructional and law enforcement personnel contributing to this course are strictly volunteers donating their time and efforts as a public service to educate and possibly quell some of the negative images being given to firearms by the media for whatever reason. Pre-registration is required to a class capacity of 30. For information and/or registration, call Ed Jones at (706) 896-1783 or edjones@brmenc.net between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. NT(Sep13,M1)SH

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