

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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## Straight line winds damage trees, boat and dock

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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Residents on Pat Colwell Road and the Jack Lance Memorial Highway experienced a power outage and some property damage as a result of 50-60-mph winds early Monday.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said that Union County collected almost 3 inches of rain on Sunday and early Monday. He reported that the Union County Road Department cleared 16 trees from various locations in the county.

Pat Colwell Road was the hardest hit area.

The storm destroyed a pontoon boat, and a boat dock on Pat Colwell Road, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason



Blairsville's Larry Madison points out early morning storm damage on Pat Colwell Road. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

That was in addition to the power outage, and the downed trees, the sheriff said.

"It looks like a tornado whipped in and left as quickly as it came," Sheriff Mason said.

"If it wasn't a tornado, it certainly missed a good chance to be," he said.

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC crews worked to restore power as county road crews removed debris.

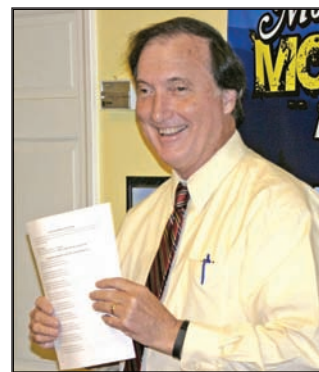
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## Perren, Williams to seek EMC board posts

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Young Harris – Roy Perren and Larry Williams announced their petition campaigns for nomination to the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors at the weekly Mountain Movers and Shakers meeting on Friday, April 17, at Mary's Southern Grill.

"I wanted to stand today before you and ask to be a candidate for the EMC board, and doing it through the petition, where we had to have a certain number of signatures of members in order to get on the ballot," said Perren, who is facilities director of Towns County High School. Both candidates



Roy Perren

stressed that their decisions to petition for nominations – which is currently the only way to be placed on the ballot outside of the board's nominating committee – were not personal in nature.

"I would say, first of all, I like Jerry Nichols,"



Larry Williams

said Perren. "I have nothing against him. He's worked in my house on the air conditioning when we moved there, he's done some work for the school. So, this isn't a personal thing in that way."

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## Union General Hospital Health Fair on Saturday

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Hundreds of people from Union County and surrounding areas will be rolling up their sleeves on Saturday, April 25, between 6 a.m. and 11 a.m., as Union General Hospital's Annual Health Fair kicks into high gear.

The UGH Health Fair has been an ongoing service to the community for nearly four decades, and more than 80 hospital staff will be volunteering their time on Saturday to perform a variety of wellness checks for any who choose to attend – there is no residency requirement.

At the heart of the hospital's offerings will be deeply discounted lab work, as well as free exams across a wide range of medical disciplines.

Lab work will feature a \$30 Comprehensive Lab



Mike Gowder

Panel, a \$10 Prostate Specific Antigen test for men and a \$10 Hemoglobin A1C, which will check blood glucose over the last three months.

The \$30 comprehensive lab panel will include: creatinine, electrolytes, total protein, albumin, alkaline phosphatase,

AST/ALT, calcium, total bilirubin; a BUN test to monitor kidney function; a lipid screening for total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, triglycerides, LDL calculation; TSH, which will check thyroid function; and offer a CBC, or complete blood count.

Usually, this same lab work runs around \$450—a savings of \$400, should someone choose to undergo all of the available lab work on Saturday. And this is just one reason why the health fair is such a special opportunity for Union County and abroad.

"There are some people who would not come in and have anything done otherwise, so this encourages people to come in," said UGH CEO Mike Gowder. "You'd be surprised at the things we catch just because of this lab work."

Other services will be offered at no charge, including

education on accident prevention, hands-only CPR and women's health information.

Physicians and hospital staff will also be conducting free tests, such as checking body mass indexes and vital signs, giving hearing and vision screenings, skin irregularity screenings, offering EKGs and stroke screenings/risk assessments, and much more.

All lab work will be done on the second floor of the hospital, so attendees should enter through the main entrance and take the elevator up.

No appointment is necessary for lab work, though the event is first come, first serve. Children under 12 will not be eligible for the lab work. Payment is required at time of service, cash or check.

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## Two busted for distribution of drugs

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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A Marietta couple is behind a search of their vehicle last week at the Union County Courthouse, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

Kadeem Mohammed, 22, and Aubree Ann Dupuis, 22, were arrested after a K-9 search of their vehicle by Detective Lt. Chad Deyton, Sheriff Mason said.

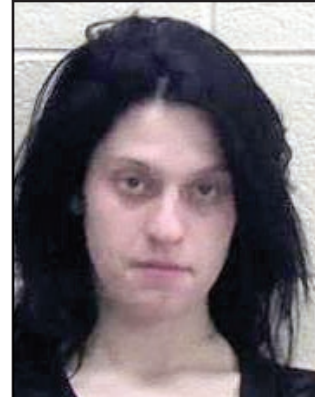
The Union County Narcotics Squad, were acting on a suspicious person call, Sheriff Mason said. Sheriff Mason said detectives approached the couple at the Union County Courthouse.

Dupuis was here for a court date on a distribution of a controlled substance in Union County Superior Court, Sheriff Mason said.

Lt. Deyton ran his K-9 around their vehicle and there was a dog alert on the vehicle,



Kadeem Mohammed



Aubree Ann Dupuis

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## Jennifer Queen is interim County Clerk

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris held the regular monthly commission meeting on Wednesday, April 15.

The meeting took place on Wednesday instead of Thursday, April 16, due to a scheduling conflict with the Annual County Commissioner Conference in Savannah.

In the meeting, Commissioner Paris named Jennifer Queen, who has been working for the county for nearly five years, as interim county clerk.

The position came open following the retirement of Union County Clerk and



Commissioner Paris introduces the new County Clerk, Jennifer Queen, at last week's commission meeting. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Commissioner's Executive Assistant Peggy Deyton on March 27.

Queen's interim title will be lifted after she completes the necessary train-

ing to be the certified county clerk, and she was added as a signer on all county checking accounts.

Also, the commissioner signed a series of proclama-

tions for the month of April.

"I hereby proclaim the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, calling attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in our community," said Commissioner Paris. "Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority, being as young people experience heightened rates of sexual violence, and youth ages 12-17 are 2.5 times as likely to be victims of sexual assault."

"We must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, supporting survivors and speaking out against

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## Patriot's Day still special in Union County

By Mason Mitcham  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

On Saturday April 18, the Blue Ridge chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution pre-emptively stood outside the Historic Union County Courthouse to raise awareness for National Patriot's Day. Patriot's Day is on the 19th, but the Sons elected to commemorate it on Saturday instead of Sunday.

"Patriot's day is to commemorate the battle of Lexington where the first shots of the Revolutionary War were heard," said Sid Turner, vice president of the chapter and member for three years. "The patriots met at Lexington and the first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired on April 19."

Turner, like the other Sons, has traced his heritage back to ancestors who fought in the Revolution. David Cook, President of the chapter, did the same.

"I became interested in



Patriots fire the traditional volley outside the Historic Union County Courthouse on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

my family history and wondering who they were and where they came from," said Cook. "So when I started researching that, I discovered eventually that one of them fought in the Revolutionary War. So then when I discovered that, it looked like I could qualify to become a member of the Sons

of the American Revolution, so I filled out the application and became a member."

Cook has not one, but two ancestors who fought in the battles of the Revolution.

"I did my research and discovered I had another ancestor," he added. "The significant thing about that was that

it appears that he crossed the Delaware with George Washington when they fought at Trenton. When you get into researching your family history, you find a lot of interesting things, and that's what intrigued me."

In addition to the national holiday, the state of Georgia also recognizes a statewide Patriot's Day. The state holiday commemorates the capture of three British ships by the Georgia Navy on the same day as the battle of Lexington and Concord.

To celebrate, the Sons dressed in 1776-era clothes that the Patriot Militia might have worn, consisting in part of leather and frock coats.

"They are realistic and true to the period," said Turner.

He added that the militia did not wear the uniforms of George Washington's regular Continental Army. Instead they could dress mostly like civilians.

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## Fairgoers brave rain, wind, mud



By Mason Mitcham  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Despite the rainy weather, the Blairsville Kiwanis Club held its annual fair on April 15-19.

Except for a brief sunny spell on Thursday, fairgo-

ers braved typical April show-

ers. The Kiwanis Club's focus is, as always, on providing for kids. "Anything in the county that kids are involved in, we'll be part of that," said Jack Parker, secretary and member since 1978.

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## Mountain Home Show April 24-25



By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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The 2015 Mountain Home Show at North Georgia Technical College's Blair-

ville Campus begins Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The two-day event also is scheduled for Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

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Blairsville  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Buy Local  
EXTRAVAGANGA  
April 30th

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4:30 and 6:30 PM