

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Legal Organ of Union County

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Break out the brooms, Washington is a mess

By Charles Duncan
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Break out the brooms, it's a mess.

In essence, that's what freshman 9th District Congressman Doug Collins told the Union County Rotary Club last week at the Union County Community Center.

Collins was the group's guest speaker for the Rotary luncheon at the Community Center.

How much of a mess is it?

"It's bad," Rep. Collins said. "What people have to understand, there are no easy fixes. It is broke, and it is bad, but we're working as hard as we can to make it better and that's what I'm trying to do."

Rep. Collins says communication is the key to the fix in Washington, D.C.

"Business is business,



U.S. Rep. Doug Collins

and we have to find a place where we can agree on," Rep. Collins said. "Communication is the biggest frustration. You get stuck on a message and not being able to communicate where everybody knows what we're doing.

"That's why I'm doing

all these Town Hall meetings in the district to let folks know what's happening in Washington. I'm letting people hear straight from me what's going on."

Rep. Collins says examples of the waste of taxpayer dollars in Washington include three agencies costing millions of taxpayer dollars to inspect catfish.

Another example is Fisker Automotive, the troubled maker of energy efficient sports cars.

Fisker failed to make a \$10 million payment on a federal government loan last month, leading the California-based car maker closer to bankruptcy reorganization or liquidation.

Fisker originally was granted a \$529 million government loan via the U.S. Energy Department's Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program.

Only \$192 million was actually dispersed by the feds because Fisker failed to make timely repayments on its loans.

The federal government seized \$21 million from Fisker bank accounts last month.

"Can you believe it? We're loaning money to build green sports cars," Rep. Collins said. "Incredible. The problem in Washington is about stewardship."

Rep. Collins also told the group that Obamacare won't be beneficial for anyone. In fact, the nation's healthcare overhaul that becomes law in 2014, isn't even defined.

Regulations for the legislation that was passed by Congress in 2009 and signed into law by President Obama, are not even completed.

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Three sue Young Harris College in federal court in Gainesville

By Charles Duncan
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Young Harris College has until May 27th to respond to a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Gainesville regarding alleged hazing incidents at the college and allegedly letting go two professors who questioned the hazing practices, according to the lawsuit.

Former YHC instructors Theresa Crapanzano and Joseph Terry, and a student, Jo Hannah Burch, who alleges she was required to submit to hazing rituals of the YHC sorority Gamma Psi, have filed suit in U.S. District Court in Gainesville.

Crapanzano and Terry both claim they lost their jobs because they challenged the hazing at YHC, which



YHC President Cathy Cox

they also allege involved a member of the YHC faculty, according to the lawsuit. Burch alleges that she was hazed while a pledge to the Gamma Psi sorority last year. Burch is still enrolled at the college. The lawsuit alleges that the

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Day of Prayer welcomes more than 100

By Charles Duncan
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The more than 100 people who attended the National Day of Prayer ceremony at First Baptist Church of Blairsville last week met at the altar on bended knee in prayer for our nation, state and community.

It was an emotional scene as Pastor Kevin Collins brought the program to a close and asked the crowd to come pray with him at the altar.

They prayed for fallen Towns County sheriff's Lt. Brian Wilson, his family and extended family. Lt. Wilson died on Friday from injuries sustained in a one-vehicle accident in Towns County on April 28th.

The crowd prayed for our nation, state officials, local law enforcement and emergency personnel, they prayed for our Armed Forces, our churches, our families and our youth.

"I have a passion for youth," said Pastor John Davis, of the Blairsville Church of God. "It is an honor to pray for our youth."

Davis preached about using the Bible as a role model and guide.

"Our nation has backslid on All Mighty God," Davis said. "Our state, our legislature, our Congress have turned their backs on the founding principles of this great nation."

Davis spoke of Josiah, who reinstated the Passover celebrations that had not been practiced in more than 400



The masses kneel in prayer for our country at First Baptist Church. Photo/Charles Duncan

years, and the worship he had to restore true worship.

"I pray for a young Josiah," Davis said.

Roy Watkins, pastor of Coosa Methodist Church, prayed for the local officials.

He thanked God for those in the position to serve their community, he thanked God for those who volunteer.

He asked God to allow His wisdom to continue to flow in those who serve.

"We thank You, for their desire to serve," he prayed. "You have set the standards for all of us in Your Word, by Your example, and by Your teaching example through Your Son."

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Union County deputy's car struck by fleeing motorist following chase

By Charles Duncan
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A chase that began in Rabun County, and concluded in Blairsville, led to the arrest and multiple charges in three counties for a 47-year-old Hall County woman, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

Sheriff Mason said Cindy Leona Carlin-Chis, 47, of Gainesville faces dozens of charges after she led authorities in three counties on a chase that ended when she slammed into the patrol car of Union County sheriff's Deputy Sam Combs at Ledford Road and Georgia 515.

"Well, she messed up our patrol car, but, I'd say she had insurance, we'll get that fixed," Sheriff Mason said. "We're just proud she didn't injure any of our citizens."

Carlin-Chis' daring run began in Rabun County when she struck a parked vehicle. Law enforcement officers with the Georgia Department



Sheriff Mack Mason of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service gave chase after the initial crash incident, Sheriff Mason said.

Her ride took her into Towns County where authorities there picked up the chase at Georgia 288 near Macedonia Baptist Church at Sunny-side. Towns County picked up the chase shortly after 3 p.m., authorities said.

Carlin-Chis, of 3229 Arbor Drive in Gainesville, weaved in and out of traffic, avoided law enforcement at

various road blocks, threatening the lives of law enforcement and other motorists in her path.

She almost ran over a number of people near Young Harris College, where graduation ceremonies had taken place there, Sheriff Mason said.

"She went through there like nobody's business," Sheriff Mason said, referring to Carlin-Chis' ride through Young Harris.

Towns County deputies chased Carlin-Chis through Hiawassee and Young Harris, where she ran a red light at Georgia 515 and Georgia 66, near Young Harris College.

At one point, she attempted to pit Towns County sheriff's Deputy C.J. Worden's patrol vehicle during a rolling roadblock, Towns County arrest warrants show.

She passed Worden's patrol car and then swerved the Ford Expedition toward Worden's patrol car in an at-

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Rains can't stop Streetscape



The Downtown Streetscape project is progressing on schedule according to Mayor Jim Conley. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan
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Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley says the Downtown Streetscape project is progressing despite torrential downpours.

"It's going real good," Mayor Conley said. "They're making good progress, of course the rain has slowed the construction crew down

somewhat.

The crew was shutdown on Monday because of the threat of rain, Mayor Conley said.

The crew got lucky last week when the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC crews came in to trim some trees in downtown.

"EMC closed Blue Ridge street to do the tree work off the Allison property, so that enabled the construc-

tion crew to cut the crosswalk on Blue Ridge Street at the Flower Bed."

Mayor Conley asks residents to continue to utilize patience when traveling around the Downtown Square.

"We haven't had a whole lot of traffic backed up during the construction," he said. "I appreciate everyone's patience during the process."

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Gunter sits in on Supreme Court hearing

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Superior Court Judge N. Stanley Gunter of the Enotah Judicial Circuit has been designated to serve in place of Justice David E. Nahmias in the appeal of Georgia Pacific, LLC et al. v. Rhonda Fields et al.

The Supreme Court of Georgia heard arguments on the case on Monday, May 6 during its 10 a.m. session.

The appeal in this Cherokee County case stems from a lawsuit brought by a woman with malignant cancer against a number of com-



Judge Stan Gunter presides over arguments that sell or manufacture products containing asbestos. In addition to hearing

arguments, Judge Gunter will participate in the Court's decision.

Judge Gunter, 53, was appointed to the Enotah Superior Court in North Georgia in 2012 by Gov. Nathan Deal.

The four-county Enotah Judicial Circuit includes Lumpkin, Towns, Union and White counties.

Prior to becoming a judge, he served as the Assistant Executive Counsel to Gov. Joe Frank Harris during that governor's second term in office. For the next eight years, he was a sole practi-

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4-H Shotgun team headed to State

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The Union County 4-H Shotgun Team is headed to the State 4-H Target Challenge Competition at Rock Eagle 4-H Center on Saturday, May 11th.

Shooters qualified by winning at the District Qualification Match, held in Blairsville on April 27th.

More than 100 shooters from Barrow, Oglethorpe, Pickens, Rabun and Union counties competed at the District Match in order to qualify



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Veterans Appreciation
Fishing Rodeo
Sat., May 10 • 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Chattahoochee National
Forest Fish Hatchery

FREE Event
Open to
ALL U.S.
Military
Veterans

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Civilian
Conservation
Corps Reunion
Vogel State Park
Sat., May 11
11 a.m.

RSVP: May 8
Short Service Trail Project at 9 a.m.
\$5 Park Pass required for vehicles
FREE Program

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RELAY
FOR LIFE
American
Cancer Society

Turkey Shoot
Saturday, May 11 • 9 a.m.
20 rounds of shooting
with prizes every round!

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UCHS
Baseball

State 1st Round Game 3
Tues., May 7 • 5:30 p.m. vs. Bowdon

UCHS Soccer
State Tournament Sweet 16
Girls - Tues., May 7 • 5:30 p.m. @ GAC
Boys - Wed., May 8 @ GAC • Time TBA