

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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May 13, 2015

## Record crowd at 2015 Ramp Festival

By Charles Duncan  
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It's like it never closed in 2014.

The Union County Farmers Market was a buzz with activity on Saturday as the community celebrated its Fifth Annual Ramp Festival at the Market.

Trout and ramps, fried taters and ramps, ramps with mushpuppies, and you name it with ramps, the festival appealed to many as it has for five years and running.

Market Manager Mickey Cummings was all smiles as the festival enjoyed its largest crowd ever. The event continues to grow in popularity, Cummings said.

See Ramp, Page 2A



Newt Miller cooks up a batch of ramps and fried taters at Saturday's Fifth Annual Ramp Festival. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Malone, Rich speak to Shakers in Young Harris

Both seek Union EMC director's seat

By Mason Mitcham  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Young Harris - At the Movers and Shakers meeting on Friday, May 8, Charles Rich and Patrick Malone spoke about campaigning for Union County seat on the EMC board of directors.

"Me and Pat are both Republicans. We're both conservatives. We want what's right for the county, we want what's right for the EMC, we want what's right for the membership of the EMC," said Rich.

Rich has worked in the automotive end of the insurance business for over 20 years. He started as a simple appraiser but quickly grew



Charles Rich

into the title of Total Loss Administrator, managing over 50 shops in three states.

He went to Brown High School in Atlanta and served in the Navy on the USS Nimitz from 1974-1977, with three



Patrick Malone

years in-active reserve until 1980.

Currently, he and his wife run the Smokey Mountain Shopper's Guide, a monthly tabloid style 20-28 page paper. See EMC, Page 3A

## Mountain Presbyterian honors Vietnam Veterans

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Fifty years is a long time to some, and a lifetime to others.

For Vietnam Veterans, that damn war still aches in their hearts, souls and memories. It's like the war happened just yesterday.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War, and the Old Unicoi Trail Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution held a commemoration ceremony honoring area veterans on Saturday, May 9, at the Mountain Presbyterian Church.

"When I returned home both times, we were not greeted as conquering heroes or anything like that," said retired U.S. Army Major Lloyd David Junghans, who served



Mountain Presbyterian Church honored local Vietnam veterans on Saturday. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

two tours of duty in Vietnam. "I retired from the Army in 1990, then I was recalled in 2007 and was sent to Kuwait and Iraq.

"Each time I came

home on R&R - I was over in Iraq for 28 months - the greeting we got in the airport was just absolutely phenomenal. Something like this I equate to my second coming from a

combat zone. It's really heart-felt."

"The National Society asked us to join in commemoration.

See Vietnam, Page 2A

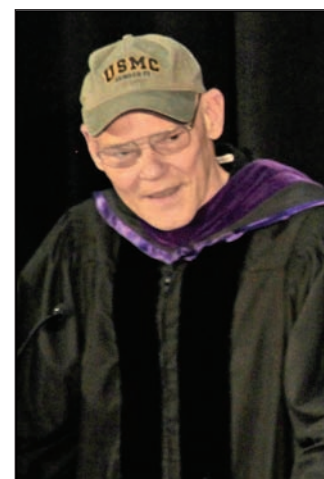
## Carville to YHC grads: 'must accept failure before you can succeed in life'

By Mason Mitcham  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The seniors of Young Harris College, class of 2015, graduated on Saturday, May 9. Traffic through Main Street of Young Harris was crowded as families and friends poured in to support their graduating students.

For the occasion, the college brought in as a keynote speaker political analyst James Carville. Carville is longtime friends with his mentor, YHC alumnus Governor Zell Miller. He worked on Miller's gubernatorial campaign in 1990, as well as crafting strategies for Bill Clinton's presidential election in 1992.

Following Hurricane Katrina, Carville and his wife, Mary Matalin, became champions of the effort to revitalize and rebuild New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. He has appeared on FOX News and CNN both as host and contributor. Before that, he served in the United States Marine Corps and received his degree and Juris Doctorate from Louisiana State University. Carville currently teaches political science at Tulane University.



James Carville

"This is really a wonderful place," Carville told the graduating class, speaking of Young Harris and the Blue Ridge region in general. "You come here, and to an outsider, it's almost like, hold on, is this real? It's a cocoon in the middle of these mountains, and you have this real nurturing, loving atmosphere."

From jokes and comments on the beauty of the mountains at the beginning, Carville's message took a sharper turn.

"The deal is, you come

See YHC, Page 3A

## More than 300 attend Day of Prayer event

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

More than 300 area residents turned out to pray at the First Baptist Church of Blairsville to celebrate the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7.

"We're here tonight to honor God the Ghost, the Son and the Holy Spirit," said Sharon Morrison, who coordinated the event with her husband, Richard. "And on behalf of myself, my husband and all pastors here tonight, we're honored to be here with you this evening."

Pastors and evangelists from all over Blairsville and Union County led the ceremony, offering prayer over 13 distinct dominions important to the lives of those present.

Missionary Jim Arnold, who spent many years wit-



Blairsville-Union County prays for our local leaders at the National Day of Prayer event last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

nessing in Ivory Coast, Africa, offered his prayer testimony, calling for more believers in the land and a need for more

praying people.

Don Parmely, pastor of New Life Family Church, gave the prayer of thanks, en-

couraging those present to give thanks to the Lord.

Pastor George Cline of Antioch Baptist Church challenged people to pray at least once a day for the nation, while Pastor Marty Duncan of Fellowship of the Hills gave specific prayers over many of Georgia's state officials.

The theme for the evening was "Lord, Hear Our Cry," but according to Pastor Dave Wesche, it is believers who need to hear God's cry. Wesche led the prayer for local officials, calling out names and asking that those present rise.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley, Tax Commissioner Lee Knight, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason and others

See Prayer, Page 3A

## Clean up day at historic Blairsville Cemetery set for June 6, Commissioner Paris says

By Charles Duncan  
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The clean up day at the historic Blairsville Cemetery will soon arrive.

Hampered by unseasonable weather last fall, the opportunity to complete the clean up project at the cemetery is now June 6, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said.

"We have set up a clean up day, once again, for the Old Blairsville Cemetery," Commissioner Paris said. "I have contacted Vince Evans, who will be here to assist us in cleanup guidance and in repairing some of the markers."

The cemetery, behind the Union County Board of Education Headquarters, for years left neglected for, is the last resting place for several early settlers of Union County. There are six Confederate soldiers buried in the historic cemetery. The oldest grave marker in the cemetery with a legible inscription is dated 1844.

There also is a beautiful large stone covered grave without a headstone, quite possibly this grave could be a Native American grave and could be much older, Commissioner Paris said.

Physical help at the cemetery and monetary help with renovations are both desperately necessary, Com-



Lamar Paris

missioner Paris said.

"The county has already paid for the mapping and ground penetrating radar," Paris said. "The city had the property surveyed and handled the cost of the title work and weekly maintenance, but the actual beautification process including some new markers, gate and sign entrance, and fencing will have to be done with private funds."

"We are hoping that some of the family members who have relatives with graves in the cemetery will help financially, but we also hope that some of the public in general will feel led to donate to the protection and beautification of this historic cemetery," Commissioner Paris said.

The Union County Historical Society has set up a fund and will accept donations for the historic cem-

See Cemetery, Page 2A

## Blairsville gets clean bill of health on audit

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Mayor Jim Conley and the Blairsville City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 5, at City Hall.

One of the bigger ticket items on the agenda was a report detailing the Fiscal Year 2014 Audit, which the city passed with flying colors.

"It's the third year in a row that we have had, I don't want to say a perfect audit, but in one sense, according to the auditors, it's a perfect audit, because there are no comments in the comments section of the audit," said Mayor Conley.

Whenever a comment is found in an audit, it means that the city was deficient in some way in its accounting.

"What we had to overcome to be able to get to the



Blairsville City Councilman Tony Dyer looks over the 2014 Audit Report at City Hall last week. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

point to have no comments in our audit, which the comments are automatically sent to the department of audits of the state of Georgia, we had

to get our office staff and our office set up to where we had a separation of all our total duties," said Mayor Conley.

Separating total duties

See City Hall, Page 14A

is a check and balance measure, by which the financial transactions of the city have multiple sets of eyes scrutinizing the details. The city began having a councilmember come in and verify the city clerk's reconciliation of the city's bank account, for example.

"That's two sets of eyes on each thing that has to do with the dollars that are taken in by the city, as far as our water and sewer revenue," said Mayor Conley. "Any revenue that we take in. It's more than one set of eyes on all the accounting work that gets done."

Another thing that helps is getting ready for the audit well in advance, as the auditors give the city a list of items they will need for inspection.

See City Hall, Page 14A

Vol. 106 No. 20 Inside

2 Sections, 24 Pages

Weather

Thurs: Clouds Hi 81 Lo 58

Fri: Rain Hi 76 Lo 61

Sat: Rain Hi 79 Lo 62

Arrests 8A

Church 9A

Classifieds 4B

Opinion 4A

Legals 7B

Obits 11A

Sports 12A

**ATTENTION TRASH & TREASURES VENDORS:**

**There will be NO SELLING May 14-16th**

FARMERS MARKET

Home Grown & Handmade

Georgia Mtn. Metric Century Bike Ride

See page 7A

Women's Enrichment Center

3rd Annual Mega Yard Sale

at the Farmers Market

See page 14A