

Larry Trulove declares for Tax Commissioner



Larry Trulove

Dear Fellow Citizens of Union County, my name is Larry Trulove.

After much prayer (and I do mean a lot) and overwhelming support from my wife, our family and friends, I have decided to toss my hat into the ring for Tax Commissioner of Union County in the upcoming Democratic primary election to be held July 31, 2012 and subsequently the General Election in November. I am not doing this because I have always wanted to be a politician or to make a name for myself but because I have always had a desire to serve the people

of Union County and give back to the community that has given so much to me. I feel that the office of tax commissioner is an area that I can be of service to. With that said, I want to take some time to tell you a little bit about myself and why I think I am the man for the job.

I am a native of Blairsville "Union County" and I am proud to have called these beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains my home for 53 years. I was raised in the Owltown district by honest hardworking parents, Dan and Lorena Trulove. They instilled the value of integrity, honesty, and good old-fashioned hard work at a very early age. My parents modeled what it means to be people of good character in the home and in the community. My fondest memories are that of my dad and me managing our 100-acre family farm, working the land and enjoying the fruit of our labor. Farming is a large part of who I am and identify myself as a farmer, in fact, I am the current president of our local Farm Bureau organization I am very proud to be a part of. I attended Union County High School and graduated in 1977.

In addition to many childhood and teenage jobs, I began my adult working career in the early 1980s, started my first small grocery store and gas station. My passion for business didn't take off until I got the bright idea to start selling a few tires on a small pallet in our store and in 1983 we began selling them right and left. It wasn't long until Trulove Tire & Wheel became prominent in Union County. As a family owned, and operating businessman for 30 years, I strived to serve the needs of Union County residents and most importantly treating each customer as an individual- a service I will render to the taxpayers as well.

In 1984, like a lot of my fellow Union Countians, I began modestly working in Real Estate and Land Development, in addition to owning and operating the growing tire & automotive center. I have owned/co-owned 4

businesses that have been involved in home and land sales, land development, building construction, grading, road construction, and underground utilities. It is in my nature to have my hand in the details of every job, from running heavy equipment to acquiring new jobs and just about everything in between, something that I am sure will help me in the job of tax commissioner.

One of the most important things about me is my relationship with Jesus Christ. I am a born again Christian and minister of His Gospel. I rededicated my life to Him in 2000, I was called to preach in 2007, and I currently pastor Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church "The Hill Church" off of Hwy 60 in Suches. I have preached and held revivals in many of the surrounding counties. I would not even consider this position if I did not have the blessing of my local church. They have been so supportive of me in all my endeavors and they know that I will be a Christian and their pastor first and foremost. I do not intend to make this election about religion or claim that I have God's vote anymore than my opponent does, but I must boldly confess that Jesus is Lord of my life and He will be at the center of all my decision-making. Furthermore, I will continue to pastor and preach should I be elected.

As for political stances, I believe that public servants should be just that—servants of the public. If at any point it becomes about someone or something else, it is time to step down. Union County needs politicians to be "on the job" and overseeing everything, especially when hard earned tax dollars are at stake. Taxpayers need to feel confident that the person that is handling their tax dollars is above board and responsible. I pledge to do and be just that! I will be an advocate of the taxpayer in any venue I can. I will run my office effectively and efficiently. If there is any excessive spending or

costly frivolities I will see to it that they are dealt with. I will make sure that we do the job right for Union County.

I also want to take a moment to show my appreciation to J.W. Payne for his many years of service. I do not wish any ill will toward the incumbent, or the opposition. I am running not out of contempt for anyone, but because I have different ideas and methods on how to do the job and deal with problems facing our county. My chief desire is to run a clean campaign and talk about what I can do, not about what hasn't been done. If you are looking for me to disrespect anyone in office or seeking office, that is something I cannot do. But what I can do is tell you that I believe I am the RIGHT man for the job.

I realize we are all facing challenging times, but I am filled with hope for our future, as a community as well as a nation. We are very fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of our great country. I would like to be a part of preserving what we have here in Union County, while bringing something new to the table. I can relate to the average person in Union County because I am an average person. Times have been hard for me just like it has for most of Union County's 21,300 citizens. My family has struggled to make it at times just like I am sure most families here have—I completely understand the hardships that have faced us. I am not a rich outsider with deep pockets and political ties to anyone. My only obligation will be to you, the taxpayers of Union County and I will go to bat for you whenever the opportunity arises. I deeply desire your prayers, support and quite honestly your vote come July 31st in the Democrat Primary and November 6th for the general election. I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve you. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (706) 897-2288 or email me at trulove4taxcom@gmail.com. I look forward to the days ahead and especially meeting and talking with you!

Twenty eight Skills USA students honored for high achievement



By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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The Union County Board of Education has honored 28 members of Union County High School's Skills USA team for their achievements at the regional and state levels.

Skills USA Georgia is a student organization for students enrolled in vocational classes.

UCHS' Skills USA team sent 28 students to compete in the Skills USA Region II competition with nine placing in either first, second or third place in their respective categories. Fifteen of those stu-

dents went on to Skills USA state competition, with four taking either first or third place in their respective categories.

Among the region competitors, Faith Dockery finished third in First Aid/CPR; Dylan Tanner took second place in automotive technology; Andrew Williams finished second in cabinet making; Dustin Brown, Jarred Davis, Rickey Dockery and Justin Young finished second in the engine building team category; Roger Junior Brown, James Collins, Adam Holden and Joseph Hughes finished second in welding fabrication. Tyler Bryson finished

first in the region, and third statewide in plumbing; Carlie Tanner took first place honors in region and third place honors in state competition in pre-school teaching assistant.

Last, but not least, Trent Sosebee took first place honors in region and first place honors in state competition in precision machine technology. Also, Colton Deaver took first place honors in region and first place honors in state competition in welding sculpture.

Congratulations to Mike Hayes' Skills USA team at UCHS. Good luck Trent and Colton in Nationals competition in June.

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kettle corn and barbeque will be available for purchase.

Each year chainsaw artist Mal McEwen donates a piece of his work for festival organizers to GIVE AWAY as a door prize (not a raffle). Anyone coming to the festival can enter the drawing! The winner will be drawn Sunday at 4 p.m. and does not have to be present to win (although they must make arrangements to pick up their prize).

Southern hospitality and beautiful spring weather promise a fun time for both vendors and



visitors.
Please call Janet

Hartman with the Downtown Development Authority at (706) 994-4837 for more details, or visit downtownblairsville.com for more information. Come celebrate the arts!

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