

North Georgia News

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Paris honors Vietnam Veterans at county meeting

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Fifty-eight thousand three hundred and seven.

That is the number – a big, meaningful number – of names inscribed on The Wall in the District of Columbia as of Memorial Day 2015.

These 58,307 names reflect military personnel wounded and who ultimately died as a result of the Vietnam War.

This Friday, Union County will honor the fallen along with the many Vietnam veterans who returned from the frontlines, men and women who still fight the war in their hearts to this day.



Commissioner Paris honors the county's Vietnam Veterans at last week's county meeting.

"I hereby proclaim June 26th, 2015, as a day of Commemoration for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War," said Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris. "We as a community reflect

with solemn reverence upon the valor of a generation that served with honor. We pay tribute to the more than 3 million servicemen and women who left their families to serve bravely."

Commissioner Paris signed the proclamation on Tuesday, June 16, in the monthly commission meeting.

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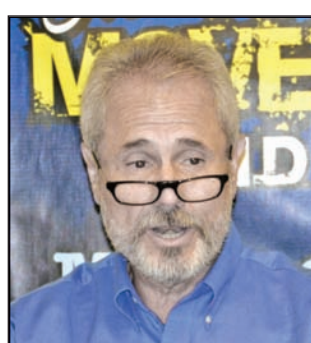
Cummings speaks to Mountain Movers & Shakers about EMC

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Young Harris – Pat Malone, Charles Rich, Mickey Cummings and Danny Hadden, the incumbent – these are the four people running for the Union County seat on the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors.

And all Cummings asks is that members vote.

"I think all those people running are good people, and I know every one of them," said Cummings in the Friday, June 19, Mountain Movers and Shakers Meeting at Mary's Southern Grill. "I would encourage you to vote,



Mickey Cummings

and if you don't, but vote for me, that's all right, but vote for at least one person. You've got a choice this year."

Cummings retires this month as the University of See Cummings, Page 3A

Blairsville woman dead of gunshot wound

By Charles Duncan
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The Union County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate a shooting that occurred Saturday, June 20, on Ed King Road.

The shooting resulted in the death of 44-year-old Robin Denise Cone, of Blairsville, Union County Detective Sgt. Andrew Hammond said.

Cone died of a single gunshot wound, Sgt. Hammond said.

"At 6:40 p.m., we re-

ceived a 911 call of a person shot at 736 Ed King Road in Blairsville," Sgt. Hammond said. "The person that had been shot was identified as Robin Denise Cone, of Blairsville. She was transported from the scene to Union General Hospital where she died as a result of her injuries."

Early results of the investigation determine that Cone died of a fatal gunshot wound. Detectives are still interviewing witnesses while awaiting autopsy results from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's crime laboratory.

"We're still interview-

ing witnesses so I can't elaborate on the case until we've talked with everyone, examined all the evidence and reviewed the autopsy results," Sgt. Hammond said. "Right now, it's still an open case, with a lot of legwork left to do. We're still looking at all possible situations in this case."

Sgt. Hammond elaborated that the gunshot was not self-inflicted.

Sgt. Hammond said the Sheriff's Office has identified the shooter, but await the complete results of the investigation before making the

next move in the case.

"We want to talk with everybody, look at all the evidence and try to determine what exactly happened," Sgt. Hammond said. "We can't speculate."

The GBI Crime Scene Team helped process the scene, but the Union County Sheriff's Office took the lead in the investigation, Sgt. Hammond said.

The case remains under investigation by the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Funerary arrangements for Cone were not available at press time.

County, TVA working to expand public area at Nottely Dam

By Mason Mitcham
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is partnering with Union County to help open up the area around Nottely Dam to the public. Certain parts of the reservoir have been open for six months, but Union County and the TVA are working on broadening the open area.

Most recently, they have put in a walking trail near the dam. The trail is cur-



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Chick-fil-A dedication a family affair

By Charles Duncan
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Daniel Liberatore was all smiles on Friday.

Liberatore, joined by family, friends and extended family, was in Blairsville for the site dedication of Blairsville-Union County's soon-to-be newest eatery – Chick-fil-A.

Liberatore said that he chose Blairsville-Union County as the site for his Chick-fil-A restaurant for a reason.

"The people here are just so special," he said. "This is a dream come true for my family and I. I think this is the support of the city and Union County together is something



Daniel Liberatore, left, and Mayor Jim Conley greet the Chick-fil-A cow at last week's site dedication. Photo/Charles Duncan

Liberatore said the day was the kickoff of a new

era. The much-anticipated opening for the restaurant is expected to be in August, weather permitting.

"We're targeting the end of August for our opening," Liberatore said. "That is, if there is no major weather occurrences or delays. We feel good about that time frame."

Family brought Liberatore to the Blairsville community.

"My family lives in Jasper, my in-laws live in the Athens area, and my brother and his family will be moving to Cleveland," Liberatore said. "This (Blairsville) is a centralized new home for us.

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Station 3 dedicates Rescue 3



Station 3 honors 22-year volunteer veteran Roy Fortenberry.

By Charles Duncan
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Saturday was a special day at Fire Station 3.

Yes, it was the Open House, where firefighters cooked up hotdogs and hamburgers for their welcomed guests.

Nevertheless, this was an important day beyond grilled delicacies.

The Station 3 volunteers welcomed Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and community members for

a dedication of Rescue 3. Union County Fire Chief David Dyer said that the vehicle, equipped with the Jaws of Life, is an asset that will save lives.

"Rescue 3 will be a very important asset to this community," Chief Dyer said. "The fire department is getting busier every day from a call standpoint. Having a rescue truck in this area will help to get a faster response time; it comes complete with life-saving equipment that will make

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Fourth Annual Rodeo draws 2,000

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

More than 2,000 people attended the family-oriented Fourth Annual Blairsville Pro Rodeo over the weekend, breaking previous attendance records for the event.

Split over two days – Friday, June 19, and Saturday, June 20 – the rodeo featured major cowboy and cowgirl events.

There was bronc riding, barrel racing, bull riding and more, with the action being broken up by comedic performances of Rodeo Clown Marshall Greene and his barrelmen sidekicks.

"I rode bareback horses for about 16 years, and as you get older, things start hurting a little more, and I think this is just a natural progression – if



you're dumb enough to ride bucking horses, you're about dumb enough to be a rodeo clown," said Greene.

The continued success of the rodeo lies in the forward thinking of the Union County Saddle Club, which orches-

trated the event with Hedrick Rodeo Company and Circle N Rodeo Production. "We're talking already for next year, to try to see what we can do to improve it," said Art Miller, president of the Union County Saddle Club. "There's a couple little different things that you can do to entice more people to come, and we're already talking about that."

One event that garnered plenty of fanfare this year was the horseshoe toss for the chance to win a free 2015 Ram truck provided by the rodeo's presenting sponsor, Mountain Valley Motors – Ram, out of Blue Ridge.

Rodeo fans registered for a chance to win the truck prior to the toss, and the lucky

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Historic law office rededicated

By Shawn Jarrard
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Patrick Henry Haralson was known to have a penchant for pinching pennies.

Which is why the discovery of a bill, paid but seemingly uncollected, came as a surprise to local historians.

"There was a letter to Pat Haralson, and a man was paying his monthly bill on



borrowed money to buy land, and there was a \$10 bill, a \$5 bill and three \$1 bills," said Union County Historical Society President Bud Akins. "It was 1949 when the man paid the bill, and that thing never had been opened."

This letter, along with numerous law books, documents and personal effects of the longtime occupants of the building, is just one of the numerous artifacts of historical value uncovered during

the restoration of the old Pat Haralson Attorney at Law Building on Young Harris Street.

The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce commemorated the completion of the restoration with the Historical Society by holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication of the building on Wednesday, June 17.

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BOE approves 2016 Budget

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Union County Board of Education unanimously approved its Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Amendments and the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget at its regular monthly meeting.

Last year, the BOE budgeted for \$25.885 million for the School Millage Rate goes up or down.

Also, at the opening of last week's meeting, the Board of Education handed the floor to Pat Thibodeaux of



Gary Steppe

the Union/Towns County Tea Party for public comment at the outset of the BOE's June meeting.

"We are here this evening to present you, the school board members, as well as, Mr. Steppe, and Dr. Williams with a book that we feel is now, and will be going forward, a valuable resource to you as you perform your duties as school board members and adminis-

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