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November. Both were uncontested on their respective primaries.

Davenport took home 1,256 Democratic votes; Bertuna took home 2,066 Republican votes.

Democratic District 3 BOE Incumbent Carlton Collins faces Republican Cynthia Byers on the November bal-

lot. Both were uncontested on their respective primaries.

Collins took home 1,186 Democratic votes; Byers took home 2,192 Republican votes.

In the District 8 State House race, Incumbent Stephen Allison, a Blairsville Republican, faces 58-year-old Democrat Jana Hill of Clay-

ton. Both were uncontested on their respective primaries.

Allison took home 2,447 Union County ballots; Hill claimed 1,021 Union County ballots. Allison far outdistanced his opponent district-wide.

In District 51 State Senate, Incumbent Steve Gooch, a Dahlonega Re-

publican, is unopposed.

In the 9th Congressional District Race, voters must return to the polls on Aug. 21.

Republicans Doug Collins and Martha Zoller, both of Hall County face off to decide who will battle Gainesville Democrat Jody Cooley in November for the newly redistricted Congressional seat.

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If you're wondering what a Hudson Terraplane looks like, think of the long, elegant cars owned by Al Capone and featured in *The Great Gatsby*.

One thing about the Harkins brothers, they are true story tellers. Ira tells the story of how he met his wife Pauline.

"My first cousin and I had a foot tub filled with ice and beer," Ira said. "Being young men and looking for something to do, we decided to ride through Young Harris College.

"I had my eye on a college girl named Josephine and figured I'd introduce my cousin to her girlfriend," Ira said. "We asked them to ride to Hiawassee to get a hamburger (double date) but Pauline (Josephine's girlfriend) wouldn't get in the back seat of the Hudson with my cousin.

"I finally asked her what it would take to get her to go with us. She answered, 'I want to ride up front with you!' That's how I ended up with Pauline instead of Josephine!"

Ira and Pauline had only been married for 15 days before he was shipped out to Panama.

"I got a tattoo while I was there and when Pauline heard about it, she didn't like the idea one bit," he said. "I teased and told her it wasn't the name 'Pauline' that was permanently inked on my arm. I hinted it was another woman's name. When she finally came to Panama, the first thing she did was look at my arm. The tattoo said Chubby (her lifelong nickname). We still laugh about that."

Clyde Harkins, like many overseas soldiers dur-



Suches Men's Group members Ira and Clyde Harkins. Photo/Janice Boling

ing those days, got to know his wife Virginia by writing letters back home.

"Mail call was a big deal back then," Clyde said. "It was a way to keep in touch with what was happening back in the states."

"So far we have six grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren," he said. "They are something - these kids mean the world to me!"

Ira Harkins is proud of his family, too. Ira and Pauline have two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

"Looks like there will be plenty of Harkins' to carry on the family traditions," Ira said.

Clyde, being a Navy man, and Ira, an Army man for 31 years, have lots of military stories to share. From patrolling the U.S. coast from Florida to Maine, to Okinawa, from being stationed at the Panama Canal to riding cattle car trains in Casablanca, Clyde and Ira Harkins make history come alive.

You could see the Pana-

ma Canal from the mess hall," Ira said. "It was like watching a ship move through the air as they lifted it up to the next level."

"In 1945 I visited I.T. in Panama," Clyde said. "It took all day to find him, but I finally tracked him down once I found someone that could speak English. I didn't know a word of Spanish."

They both tell interesting stories about growing up in the mountains. Fishing, coon hunting, and day-to-day survival was a lot different in the old days.

During their childhood years, babies were born at home. When Clyde was fixing to come into the world, Ira was sent to get help because Dad was off hunting.

At 6 years old, Ira was scared of the dark, but his mom gave him a lantern to light the way.

"The moon was shining bright so it wasn't such a bad of a trip after all," Ira said. "Can you imagine sending a 6 year old off in the middle of

the night nowadays?"

Later on there was Doc Edge, Doc Wilburn, and Old Doc Rogers, but still many babies were born with the help of a midwife.

"By the time you got a doctor, the baby would already be here," Clyde said.

Yes, Mondays are a good day in Suches. If you are ever in the area, stop by Wolf Pen Gap Country Store and say hello. Everyone is welcome!

Becky and Stephen Gooch, along with owners Nancy and Doug Gooch host the Men's Group every Monday morning at Wolf Pen Gap Country Store. It's a good place to be any day of the week!

"We're here for the local people," Becky said. "They're the ones that keep us open."

The family-owned and operated business sells groceries, gas, breakfast sandwiches, hot dogs, tornados, boiled peanuts, pizza, cold drinks, beer and wine, fishing gear, camping supplies, and other assorted goods. There is also a hiker hostel upstairs where hikers can get a shower and a good night's sleep for \$15 - the store is just 2.5 miles from the Appalachian Trail.

Wolf Pen Gap Country Store, open seven days a week serves local folks, campers, hikers, bikers, and tourists. Regular business hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more details about the store, call (706) 747-2271.

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winning it with my dad there," Jones said. "Seeing the look on his face and how proud he was of me was the most enjoyable part of the entire trip."

The junior lineman, who holds the Union County High School squat record of 615 pounds, bench presses 360 and runs a sub 5.0 40-yard dash, and a 4.4 second shuttle sprint, is hoping to attend the Nike Elite Camp next summer, before National College Football Signing Day in early 2014.

In the meantime, Jones is in the process of rehabbing a collar bone break that was suffered at Camp Jabez last week when he took a helmet to the shoulder.

"It's just a hairline fracture and I'm hoping to be ready for Towns County (Aug. 31)," Jones said.

The current time frame for Jones' return is three or four weeks and this determined young man will do everything in his power to be on the field for the rivalry game with the Indians in less than four weeks.

"I'm pretty sure that I'm going to be ready to go when



National Football Combine Award winners. Recognize anyone?

we play Towns," Jones said. "It's a big rivalry and an important game, so I'm going to continue working hard with my physical therapist to get ready for them."

Even if the medical staff or coaching staff refuse to give Jones the green light to suit up in Hiawassee later this month, he still has faith that his teammates will bring home Union's 15th consecutive victory over the Indians of Hiawassee.

"With T (Bentley) at quarterback and all the depth we have at the skill positions, I believe this is the most tal-

ented offense that we've had in a long time," Jones said. "We have great leadership, experience, and size so I feel like we're going to do very good this year."

With 11 very capable receivers, combined with the no huddle offense, Jones feels that Union's depth will allow the Panthers to wear down opposing defenses.

"We can rotate at least 11 different receivers in and out and that will allow us to play up-tempo and that will cause problems for defenses," the junior lineman said.

Get well soon Luther.