

# 'A Taste of the Mountains in Blairsville' to be a real treat

By Mark Smith  
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About a year ago, Renee Deibert was having dinner at a local restaurant when the owner, who wishes to remain anonymous, approached her with the idea of holding a "Taste of Blairsville" event. Deibert responded that she'd heard of similar events in surrounding communities, but not in Union County or Blairsville.

It was suggested that the proceeds from such an event could be donated to the North Georgia Technical College scholarship fund, and since Deibert is the Blairsville Campus Director of North Georgia Tech, she thought the idea had merit and ran with it.

She spoke with the college's scholarship office, which likewise thought the idea was a great one, as did six out of 10 local restaurant owners when surveyed.

A roundtable was formed, and Darren Harper of the Blairsville Downtown Development Authority happily agreed to come on board as a consultant.

The idea then began to

really take shape, and organizers attended other tasting events in surrounding communities for inspiration.

Eventually, a committee formed from the roundtable, and the project, called "A Taste of the Mountains in Blairsville," became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, complete with by-laws, logos and banners.

As a corporation, "A Taste of the Mountains in Blairsville" has no employees, and all personnel involved with the event are volunteers, with all participants donating their time and food or drink.

The first "A Taste of the Mountains in Blairsville" will be held on the rear grounds of the 1906 Butt-Mock House on Cleveland Street, just south of the Blairsville Square.

The event will start at 4 p.m. and run until 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 25.

Adult attendees can purchase 20 tickets for \$20 at the entrance, and kids get 10 tickets for \$10.

Of course, more tickets can be purchased should anyone run out, and vendors will accept anywhere from one to several tickets for each serving of their food or drink.

Bouncy houses will be set up on one side of the front lawn, and an abbreviated Blairsville Cruisers car show will appear on the other side of the lawn during the event.

Following the event, the front lawn will be cleared, and Steven Phillips & Midnight Express will provide live music until around 10 p.m.

"So bring a chair," said Deibert.

The event was originally supposed to be held behind Blairsville City Hall in a grassy area of the Haralson Property, but anticipated construction on the east side of the development gave the "Taste" planners pause.

This event is the first of its kind in Blairsville. There have been arts and crafts festivals, parades, car shows, Movies on the Square, Halloween and Christmas events, but never a group of restaurants coming together for an event to help needy college kids.

And though "A Taste of the Mountains in Blairsville" will benefit North Georgia Tech students, the corporation and venture is in no way affiliated with the college. Rather, it is a stand-alone nonprofit enterprise



Renee Deibert and Danielle Vaughn of North Georgia Technical College.

Photo by Mark Smith

composed of local business people.

"The purpose for the 'Taste of the Mountains in Blairsville' is to support and enable disadvantaged students to further their academic endeavors at North Georgia Technical College," said Deibert.

By press time, already 22 restaurants had signed up for booths at the event, and Harper

said there would probably be more by Aug. 25.

Furthermore, the college's Culinary School will be performing cooking demonstrations along with a few other restaurants.

Alcohol will be available at the event. Copeland's Restaurant will be the beer vendor, Paradise Hills Vineyards will provide the wine, and Gran-

daddy Mimm's Distillery will provide the moonshine.

Both Deibert and Harper said that, seeing as this is a first-ever event for them, it's definitely been a learning experience. But they're both hoping it goes off well, and they fully intend for it to be an annual event and maybe even a Blairsville tradition going forward.

## FFA...from Page 1A



Logan Hart is the president of the Future Farmers of America at Union County High School. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

received a re-introduction to the community that evening.

Rittenhouse explained her plans for her new position working with the young members of FFA and all of her middle school students.

"My focus for my sixth-graders is around the animal sciences this year," said Rittenhouse. "I hope to be able to bring livestock around the students to further instruct them."

Each grade level in the middle school will have a different agricultural focus, with the eighth grade having the first ever food science class in the agriculture program for the Union County School System.

Following Rittenhouse, Talton led a presentation on

the Young Farmer Program that included his goals for the year.

Some of the goals Talton wishes to accomplish are recruiting at least 60 members into the program, hosting an Agriculture Awareness Day for the elementary and middle schools, raising premium sale payouts on student livestock projects, and supporting middle and high school FFA chapters and students.

Of these goals, Talton reinforced the importance of the Agriculture Awareness Day and the need for students to know more about agriculture.

"We don't want students to graduate high school without them knowing where their food comes from or without them knowing something about agriculture," said Talton.

Some of the activities the Young Farmer Program is

planning to participate in this year are the Georgia Young Farmer Tour, Georgia Young Farmers Association Livestock Show, Sunbelt Ag Expo Q'Fest, Young Farmer Caucus, GYFA Convention, and the Legislation Day.

During the open house that evening, flyers were placed on every table, allowing attendees to take a survey consisting of activities for the program to participate in this year.

The organization plans to use the surveys as a poll from the community to determine the directions they will go in 2018-2019.

The event concluded with an appreciation for everyone who attended the event and the opportunity for the community to socialize with its young FFA members.



The Union County FFA Agriculture Education Open House was a huge success at the Agriscience Center on Thursday, Aug. 16.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

## Veteran Kendall Barnett awarded Quilt of Valor

By: Vandia Snead  
and Susan Young

Susan Young, Jeannine McNeill and Maggie Crider of the Misty Mountain Quilters Guild QOV group were honored to award a Quilt of Valor to Korean War Veteran Kendall Barnett of Marble, NC, on August 12, 2018. His wife of 35 years, Sarah, and several of his 5 children and 7 grandchildren were present at his home for the award.

Private Willie Kendall Barnett joined the US Army in 1948 at age 18. After completing Basic Training he was assigned to the 34th Regiment, stationed at Camp Fuji, Japan. Since the 34th Regiment was already in Japan when the Korean War began, they were immediately ordered by President Truman to aid the other forces already in combat against the North Koreans to stop their invasion into South Korea. The 34th fought against major odds. Undermanned and ill equipped, the 2000 soldiers sent into battle from July 2 through August 31, 1950 suffered major casualties. Because of the great loss of life in the 34th Regiment, the remaining soldiers were reassigned to different Regiments, reducing the 34th to a Regiment on paper only.

Kendall was reassigned to the 19th Infantry Division, where he fought many battles and missions near the Yalu River that divided North Korea and China. Kendall led an intelligence squad of 7 soldiers. This squad was responsible for carrying out individual missions that aided in the secret destruction of enemy camps and routes. Private Barnett's experience earned him a promotion to Sergeant First Class. As his combat tour came to an end, Kendall returned stateside for the remainder of his service, in which he served



Korean War Veteran Kendall Barnett

honorably and was medically discharged from the US Army in 1953.

When Kendall was asked about his time in service, he told personal stories - many of which were about the sacrifices and losses he witnessed in the war, and how difficult it was to carry out his duties as a soldier and the hard conditions surrounding him and his troops. But when he was asked, "Would you enlist and do it all over again?" he answered without hesitation and with a proud look on his face, "Yes!"

Quilts of Valor are presented to those veterans and active duty military members who have been touched by war. The patriotic quilt presented to

Mr. Barnett represents a thank you to him for what he has done to defend and protect our nation.

If you, or a veteran you know, served in a combat zone, and you want to know more about how that veteran can be awarded a Quilt of Valor, please go online to <http://www.qovf.org/> and click on "TAKE ACTION/Request a QOV". If you would like to join this group to make quilts for heroic American veterans, please also see the [www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org) website, or contact the Misty Mountain Quilts of Valor group by clicking on this website and the word "Projects" on the left side of the home page: <http://www.mistymountainquiltguild.org/>.