

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Legal Organ of Union County

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March 16, 2016

Ballot set for Primary Election, May 24

Union County Sole Commissioner



Lamar Paris (I) Dem



Harold Cook Rep

Sheriff



Mack Mason (I) Rep



Eric Wood Rep

State Senator - District 51



Steve Gooch (I) Rep



John Williamson Rep

Magistrate Judge



Cary Cox NP



Rick Knox NP



JoAnne Leone NP

Probate Judge

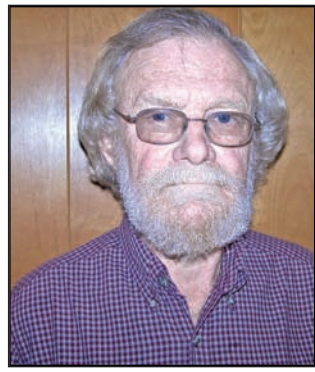


Dwain Brackett (I) NP

Coroner



Benny Erwin (I) Rep



Benny Brookshire Rep

Board of Education - District 1



Janna Akins Rep



Andrew Smith Rep

Board of Education - District 3



Cynthia Byers (I) Rep



Troy A. Collins Rep

Tax Commissioner



Lee Knight (I) Rep

Superior Court Clerk



Judy Odom (I) Dem

State Representative - District 8



David Barton Rep



Matt Gurtler Rep



Joshua Littrell Rep



Ken Woerner Rep

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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A familiar name was missing from last week's qualifying for local elections.

Union County Board of Education Chair Gary Davenport didn't qualify to seek reelection in BOE District 1. It's the first time in 20 years the long-time Democrat has not qualified for that seat.

It may be the first time a Democrat hasn't ever qualified for that seat.

Republicans Janna Akins and Andrew Smith will seek the District 1 BOE seat.

Also not on the ballot, long-time Chief Magistrate Johnie Garmon, who recently announced his retirement from the non-partisan seat.

Cary Cox, JoAnne Leone, and Rick Knox are seeking that seat.

Probate Judge Dwain Brackett, Clerk of Superior Courts Judy Odom, and Tax Commissioner Lee Knight went unopposed in the May

24 Primary Election. Also, Republican Jason Henson (no photo) is unopposed in the race for County Surveyor.

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason will have Republican Primary opposition from Eric Wood. Likewise, BOE District 3 Incumbent Cynthia Byers faces Republican opposition from Troy Collins.

Incumbent Republican Coroner Benny Erwin faces former Deputy Coroner Benny Brookshire in the May 24 Republican Primary.

The only locally contested seat headed for the Nov. 8 General Election is the race between Democratic Incumbent Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and Republican Harold Cook.

Paris defeated Cook in the 2009 General Election to begin the first of his 15 years as sole commissioner.

In the District 8 State House race, Incumbent Stephen Allison, a Blairsville

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County has a new lifesaver



Fire Chief David Dyer and Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris celebrate the purchase of a brand new piece of lifesaving equipment

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Fire Chief David Dyer is thankful to have a brand new \$3,000 AED – an automatic external defibrillator – which he said will save lives.

A defibrillator becomes necessary when a person begins to experience an

erratic, irregular heartbeat. The machine works by applying a shock to a person's chest who is in just such a condition, and this shock can reestablish a regular heartbeat.

As Chief Dyer recently explained, "the heart is an organized fashion to circulate blood. That organization is due to electrical impulses that

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Seabee Ball an evening to remember

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Members of Navy Seabee Veterans of America Island X-3 hosted Blairsville's first ever Seabee Ball on Saturday, March 5, in recognition of the 74th anniversary of the Navy Seabees – and they did it with style.

Plank member Seabees Richard Hoibraten, Ed Crenshaw, Bob Ramay and Mike Ruback planned the event, which took place in the Union County Community Center and featured formal dress with decadent dinner options from Amazing Grace Catering.

Seabees from around the region attended the event, along with individuals from other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, highlighting



L-R: Mike Ruback, Bob Ramay, Richard Hoibraten and Ed Crenshaw were the driving force behind Blairsville's first ever Seabee Ball

the exceptionally supportive community of veterans in the North Georgia Mountains.

Command Master Chief (Ret.) Neal Beard of the U.S.

Navy came all the way from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, to be the keynote speaker for the evening.

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FFA Semiannual Blue & Gold auction continues to shine

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County FFA has done it again – with more consigned pieces and bidders than ever before, the Spring Blue & Gold Auction was a smashing success over the weekend.

The semiannual, two-day event took place on Friday, March 11, with a market hogs and small animal sale, then on Saturday, March 12, with a farm equipment sale.

Market hogs fetched a little less this time around, averaging between \$1.05 and \$1.10 a pound, but that's still higher than commercial market prices of around \$0.40 a pound, as community members paid a premium for the students' show projects.

Also part of the standing-room-only sale were chickens,



A father watches as his son gets to ride a shiny new John Deere tractor at the Drive Green Event sponsored by Nelson Tractor on Saturday, March 12

rabbits, quail, goats, sheep and more, and the three-hour sale definitely met overall expectations, with preliminary totals showing a gross sale

amount of \$9,500, up from last year.

And on Saturday, 300

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EASTER EGG HUNT
UNION CO REC DEPARTMENT
March 19 11 AM
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Spring Hammer-In Event
Trackrock Campground and Cabins
March 18 & 19
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SPORTS SOCCER
Tues. Mar 15 @ Fannin Co 5 & 7 PM
Fri. Mar 18 vs. Social Circle 5:30 & 7:30 PM
BASEBALL
Wed. Mar 16 vs. Pickens Co 5 PM
Sat. Mar 19 @ Oglethorpe (DH) Noon & 2:30 PM