

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Commissioner Paris: 'Mother Nature strikes again'

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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Mother Nature made the rains of Jan. 30 look like nothing more than a winter shower.

Of course, we all know that on Jan. 30, heavy rains flooded several parts of the county, forcing the Nottely River and several tributaries out of banks and across many roadways.

The culvert on Low's Mill was wiped out, causing several thousand dollars in damages.

However, almost 8 inches of rain fell in some parts of Western Union County on Wednesday, April 17th, wiping out roads, culverts, driveways and early plantings.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said the county's road crews were out in full force on



Heavy Rains damaged roads, driveways and culverts in Union County on Wednesday. The county received almost 8 inches of rain.

Thursday, the day after rains wreaked havoc south of Georgia 515 and west of Blairsville.

"We have gotten reports that anywhere from 3 1/2 to 7 inches of rain fell Wednesday," Commissioner Paris said. "I live a few miles south of town and we had 3

1/4 inches and that was during the storm and through the next morning."

It wasn't just a rain storm, there was thunder and lightning, hail, and heavy rain.

At least one home was hit by lightning, with only minor damage reported.

The first three hours of the storm, the rain wasn't steady - it was nothing short of a downpour.

"It really did a lot of road and driveway damage in the western part of the county," Paris said. "Most of the rain fell and lasted between 2 to 3 hours so it was a huge rainfall."

"I've also heard reports that Fannin got a pretty heavy dose too," Paris said. Watching the weather radar throughout the storm, most of the heavy rainfall remained just south of 515 and west, in the direction of the Jones Creek area and into Morganton.

A pond broke banks and flooded a portion of the Jones Creek area.

"I thought (the rain) would move north or east over 515 towards my house, but it never did," Paris said.

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Another Windstream outage

By Charles Duncan
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A broadband switch failure in Dahlonega left many Windstream Internet users without access to the World Wide Web for two days last week.

Users in Union, Towns, Lumpkin and Dawson counties experienced Internet outages that left many businesses without the benefit of being able to process debit or credit cards.

The problem was especially widespread in Towns County, according to the *Towns County Herald* newspaper.

The *North Georgia* was impacted by not being able to receive e-mails from customers, correspondents and readers. Windstream spokesperson

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State Rep. Stephen Allison



State Sen. Steve Gooch

National Day of Prayer May 2nd

Annual service to be held at First Baptist Church Sanctuary

By Joe Collins
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris wishes every day could be National Day of Prayer.

"It's a day to pay tribute to our Creator and look to Him for guidance and enrichment," Paris said. "It's a day when we acknowledge that we are still a Christian nation. We'll honor our Lord on May 2nd."

Paris and other dignitaries and local pastors turned out last week at the Union County Courthouse to celebrate the signing of a proclamation declaring May 2nd, as Union County's National Day of Prayer.

Almost 20 people were present to support the event, which will recognize May 2nd as the day Union County will gather to pray for our nation.

"The churches, the government and the people all come together as a unit, offering up thanks and prayer to the Lord for all that He does for us," said 2013 Signing Coordinator Jim Powell. "It's also a wonderful opportunity to bring people from different denominations together



The National Day of Prayer is May 2nd at First Baptist Church Sanctuary at 7 p.m. Photo/Joe Collins

for worship. I always look forward to seeing the different pastors from the county's different churches."

Powell folks as they gathered in the Courthouse's Grand Jury Room and then recognized Richard and Sharon Morrison as next year's new coordinators.

Thursday's signing was a solemn event in the wake of the horrific tragedies that transpired in Boston, Mass., during the annual running of the Boston Marathon, and the

tragic and fatal explosion at a fertilizer plant in Texas.

"We need to be in prayer for our country, for the people in Boston and those who have suffered in Texas," Powell said. "Please come and join us in this united effort and unique opportunity for citizens and their elected leaders to join in united prayer to acknowledge together the sovereignty of Almighty God, and to seek His guidance and blessings for our

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Ramp Festival a hit at Market

By Charles Duncan
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Freya Browning was all smiles on Thursday as the Annual Ramp Festival at the Union County Farmers Market got underway.

Browning turns tea cups into *Cups of Blessings*, the name of her small enterprise.

She offered wind chimes made out of vintage tea cups and cups and saucers, tea cup pin cushions. She also makes tea cup bird feeders.

Browning began her crafting as gifts. It evolved into a small side business and now she's brought her wares to the Farmers Market.

She's been crafting for six years now. It's her first year at the Farmers Market and she's excited about the possibilities. "We've got a lot of gifts for Mother's Day, people call me up, they have a piece of their grandmother's China and they'll ask me to make

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Newt and Bob Ledford took first prize for best ramp recipe of fried taters and ramps. Photo/Charles Duncan

Rains can't stop Patriots Day

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

At approximately 10 p.m. on the evening of April 18th, 1775, Silversmith Paul Revere along with a young shoemaker named William Dawes, and Dr. William Prescott set out on horseback across the Massachusetts countryside to alert the Colonial Militia of the approaching British forces.

The British had learned that the colonists were hiding weapons in Concord, and sought to arrest the rebel leaders.

On April 19th the "shot heard 'round the world," began the American Revolutionary War during the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

That day has will forevermore be known as "Patriots Day."

On Friday, despite a downpour of rain, Union County held its Annual Patriots Day observance in the Historic Courthouse.

David Cook, president of the Sons of the American Revolution Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter, which also covers Towns, Fannin, and Gilmer counties, was joined by Chapter Vice Presi-



Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris declares April 19th Patriots Day in Union County. SAR President David Cook accepts the proclamation.

dent Jacob Craig, and Past President Terry Legg as they, along with others, gathered downstairs to celebrate Union County's Third Patriots Day observance, as declared by Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris.

"April 19th 1775 is a momentous day in the founding of our Nation," Commissioner Paris said. "I want

to thank David Cook for his work and the Old Unicoi Trail Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who also helped."

Senate District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega) also stopped by the Historic Courthouse to visit with SAR members in a show

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Bankers' Hour, Saturday at The Hall

By Libby Shook
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

United Community Bank is pleased to announce that they will be hosting their 19th Annual Bankers' Hour production, *The Big Show at the County Fair*, on Saturday, April 27th, at Anderson Music Hall in Hiawassee.

There will be two shows, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are still available for both shows for \$10 per ticket for some good old-fashioned family fun.

UCB Special Events Coordinator Gail Day is very excited about this year's production.

"The thing I am especially proud of is that 100 percent of all proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to many worthy charities," Day said.

Day explained that each bank "in the UCB footprint," gets a piece of the proverbial pie and they can choose the charity or charities they wish to donate to.

The crew has been working real hard to ensure that patrons of the event will be thoroughly entertained whether this is their first show or their 19th show.

Just think of it as a Southern Appalachian Broadway production with-

out the expense.

Event goers will be thoroughly entertained from the moment the entertainers step out on stage until they take that final bow.

Mark your calendars and come out to support this charitable event.

Historically, the Bankers' Hour productions have always been a huge crowd pleaser and this one will be no exception.

If no exception made that ticket purchase yet, call the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds at (706) 896-4191 and reserve your seat and maybe even one for a family member or friend.

You'll be glad you did.

Mountain Home Show Friday, Saturday

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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The 16th Annual Mountain Home Show at North Georgia Technical College begins Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The two-day event also is scheduled for Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Inside this edition is a special pullout section featuring all you need to know about the event.

Richard C. MacCrea is your guide to the 16th Annual Mountain Home Show inside this edition.

Some of the special seminars include *How to Re-*



model and Get More for Less; How to Save the Most Energy for the Least Cost; and Decorating.

Come see ideas for your home. The event offers some of the best companies displaying great ideas for home improvements this year.

Local building per-

models are on the rise and there couldn't be a better time for a Mountain Home Show.

The recovery phase, and the show will be better than ever with many new exhibitors.

When you see these beautiful exhibits, you will know the exhibitors are proud of what they do.

Learn how to remodel and get more for less; learn how to save the most energy for the least cost; generate ideas for your mountain home; and attend exhibits sponsored by local businesses.

One community run trade show helps local busi-

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Blairsville Garden Club
Annual Plant Sale

April 27
7:30am - 1pm

Union County Farmers Market

Downtown Blairsville
Block Party

Saturday, April 27
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Relay for Life Teams will have booth set up

Relay For Life
American Cancer Society

All Proceeds Benefit Relay for Life

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Blairsville Cruisers Monthly Meeting

Thursday, April 25
Gather @ 5:30 p.m.
Potluck Dinner @ 6 p.m.
Senior Center Pavilion
(just below North Georgia Tech)

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UCHS Baseball
Thursday, April 25 • 4:30 p.m.
@ Murphy, NC

UCHS Soccer
Wednesday, April 24 • 5 & 7 p.m.
vs. Banks County