

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

www.nganews.com

Legal Organ of Union County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1909

March 21, 2018

EMC Board analyzes power usage in meeting

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Assistant Editor

YOUNG HARRIS – In January, the 52,000-plus customers of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC helped the company set a new peak demand record for the most power used in a given hour at 229 megawatts.

The enormous energy consumption of that one hour of power in early January reflected the sustained cold temperatures – as few as 3 degrees at times – during the wintry months of 2018.

Members of the BRMEMC Board of Directors discussed this and other items in their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 13.

Many residents experience an unwelcome surge in their energy bills in

the wintertime, which can be enough to deter some folks from continuously running their heat.

However, just as good and gas heating costs go up in winter, so does the cost of power in homes with electric heat, simply because people use more to keep their homes heated.

The EMC gets its power from the Tennessee Valley Authority, which set a record of its own in January.

“When arctic temperatures sweep through the area, residential and business heating units work overtime to maintain the indoor temperatures desired by the occupants,” per a TVA news release. “Not only do the heating units run for longer periods of time, but some units also switch on internal

heating elements to produce additional heat.

“This causes the demand for electricity to increase substantially during these times of abnormally cold weather. For the Tennessee Valley Authority, this places a strain on their generating facilities to produce enough electricity to supply their 9 million-plus customers in seven different states.

“On Jan. 17, as the average valley temp dipped to 12 degrees, TVA set an all-time record for supplying 706 million kilowatt-hours of energy over a 24-hour period. The peak demand for that day was 31,639 megawatts, which was their 12th-highest winter peak on record. As a point of reference, this amount of energy would supply Las

See BRMEMC, Page 2A



Photo by Shawn Jarrard
BRMEMC General Manager Jeremy Nelms with EMC Directors Danny Henson, Jeff Ledford and Mickey Cummings outside the Byron McCombs Entrance of the EMC headquarters in Young Harris.

City of Blairsville Downtown app, Haralson Property hot topics for DDA



Photo by Mark Novak

Members of the Blairsville Downtown Development Authority Board, left to right: Ricky Bercrombie, Robert Rogers, Paul Thompson, Daniel Davenport and Judy Jolley.

By Mark Novak
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The “Visit Downtown Blairsville” app will make its initial rollout on Friday, March 23.

Members of the Blairsville Downtown Development Authority Board discussed the app in their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 13, at Blairsville City Hall.

According to DDA Program Manager Darren Harper, the app will promote tourism, restaurants and shops in Blairsville.

“I’ve got about seven business that are going to roll out coupons on the

See DDA, Page 2A

Griggs says Businesses have until Mar. 31 to lock in tax credits

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Assistant Editor

Union County business owners have until March 31 to file paperwork to preserve their ability to maintain better tax credits for the creation of new jobs.

For the 10 years that Mitch Griggs has been the executive director of the Union County Development Authority, Union has been ranked a Tier 3 county in the Georgia Job Tax Credit Program – until now.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs announced its latest annual



Mitch Griggs rankings in December, and Union County went from being
See Tax Credits, Page 2A

Paris presents flag to family, welcomes guests in meeting



Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris holding up a photo of Pvt. Caleb Miles in the March county meeting

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Assistant Editor

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris welcomed several guests in the March 15 regular county meeting.

U.S. Navy Veteran Ray Myers of Blairsville attended the meeting with his daughter, Amy Miles, and other relatives to accept a unique honor as presented by Commissioner Paris.

“I have a very special presentation to make tonight to make tonight to Amy Miles,” said Paris. “Amy is the mother of Pvt. Caleb Miles, who just recently graduated from Marine Boot Camp on Feb. 23, 2018, Parris Island, South Carolina.

“Also, Amy is the daughter of Ray Myers. Of

course, Ray is the grandfather of Caleb Miles. I mention this, because on (Feb. 10) of this year, I attended a Quilts of Valor ceremony at the Historic Courthouse in which Ray Myers was presented a quilt.”

In honor of Pvt. Miles’ commitment to serve his country as a U.S. Marine, the office of Congressman Doug Collins coordinated with Paris to present Miles’ family with an American flag flown in D.C.

“This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the United States capital on Feb. 23, 2018,” said Paris, reading the flag’s documentation. “This flag was flown at the request of the Hon. Doug Collins, member of Congress, to honor Pvt. Caleb

See Meeting, Page 8A

Local Chapter 1101 of Vietnam Veterans of America swears in new officers

By Mark Novak
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Local Chapter 1101 of the Vietnam Veterans of America swam in officers on Thursday, March 15, at the Maj. Leon Davenport Veterans Center in Blairsville.

Chapter Chaplain Fred Freeman opened the meeting with a prayer and a moment of silence for America’s prisoners of war and missing in action, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chuck Kittredge was sworn in as the new president, Rich Eggleston the new vice president, and Wes Dillard will be the new treasurer of Chapter 1101.

This year, the VVA hopes

See Veterans, Page 2A



Photo by Mark Novak
Outgoing VVA Chapter 1101 President Ray Tiburski swearing in the new and returning officers for 2018.

Union and Towns Counties Habitat for Humanity moves forward with projects

By Jarrett Whitener
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Bryan Thomas, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties, spoke on current Habitat projects and the importance of community in the weekly Mountain Movers and Shakers meeting on March 16.

Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 and has had the support of key public figures such as President Jimmy Carter, who helped publicize the organization.

Nationally, Habitat for Humanity has helped build and remodel over five million houses for deserving families in various states.

Habitat for Humanity has served both Towns and Union

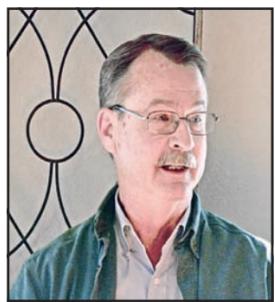


Photo by Jarrett Whitener
Bryan Thomas, executive director of the Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties.

counties since 1995, and the organization built its first home in 2000.

So far, the local leg of the organization has built 17

houses in Towns and Union counties, making one house each year since they started working around the two counties.

There are a set of prerequisites that must be met for a family to obtain a home from the organization.

One of these requirements includes an agreement from the family to the organization that states the family must volunteer or help the organization in a variety of ways, which may include:

Helping with the construction of a house, working in the store as a volunteer, or for those who cannot do much physical labor, they may be given the opportunity to serve lunch for volunteers that are working with the construction.

Another requirement to receive the housing from the organization is the ability for the family to repay a mortgage.

“We do not give away homes,” said Thomas. “We provide people who could not walk into a bank for a mortgage with the opportunity to own a home and to pay the mortgage back.”

Habitat for Humanity works with the families and helps teach them different strategies to properly balance and budget their finances.

The organization is currently in the process of selecting its next family for a project.

There are a limited number of quality rental houses
See Habitat, Page 3A

Vol. 109 No. 12 Inside

4 Sections 28 Pages

Arrests 6A
Weather 3C
Churches 4D
Thurs: Sunny Hi 51 Lo 30
Fri: Cloudy Hi 59 Lo 44
Sat: Showers Hi 67 Lo 50

Classifieds 3A
Opinion 4A
Legals 5D
Obits 7C
Sports 2B

PANTHERS SOCCER

Mar 20 vs. N. Hall 5:30 & 7:30

Mar 23 vs. GAC 5:30 & 7:30

BASEBALL

Mar 20 vs. Dawson 5 PM

Mar 23 @ Dawson 5PM (DH)

HAPPY EASTER

Rec. Department
Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday
March 24th

See page 3B

Blairsville-Union County
Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony

See page 4B

SPRING HAMMER IN AT TRACKROCK CAMPGROUND

See page 8C