

Audit...from Page 1A

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technology when taking or making phone calls, and prohibits the following: Holding a cell phone or iPod while driving; writing, reading or sending messages while driving; reaching for a device if it requires the driver to leave a seated, driving position; or watching movies or anything else on any device, except a GPS device.

Darren Harper, program manager of the Blairsville Downtown Development Authority, reported that the DDA had met earlier that day and approved a contract for the sale of one of the old Haralson Property parcels. Construction, he said, will begin very soon.

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DDA...from Page 1A

Also in the June 5 meeting, the DDA Board announced that it is currently in negotiations for the sale of the two parcels of land facing Georgia 515 there at the development.

Later that day, during the June 5 meeting of the Blairsville City Council, DDA Program Manager Darren Harper updated councilmembers on the latest happenings of the development authority.

"Earlier today, the DDA Board met, and we have approved and signed a contract for the sale of one of the parcels," said Harper. "We're very excited, as is the building owner, Steve Cockerham, and he's going to be building the building that we talked about

quite a few months ago."

Continued Harper: "Two floors of retail. We're looking at 4,000 square feet per floor. So, we're going to have 8,000 additional square feet of retail space, and another 4,000 square feet of residential space." Harper also discussed a recent meeting between himself, Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley and Cockerham concerning a coordination of efforts, as the city and DDA are working out formalized parking on the Haralson Property, the construction of which will coincide with Cockerham's building plans.

"The contract we signed has got a few little things that we're hashing out, but he is ready to get the ball rolling," said Harper. "I've already reached out to several of the businesses outside of

Hamler suggested that the city council give some thought to building more hangars to serve as additional revenue streams at the airport.

With the upcoming addition of new fuel systems at the airport, Hamler foresees fuel sales approaching the neighborhood of \$1 million per year in the next two to three years.

The council approved the purchase of a Kubota zero-turn mower from Nelson Tractor for \$12,157.28 to be used at the airport.

It will reduce mowing time significantly because it can mow around the runway and taxiway lights quicker and easier than the old mower, giving staff more time to spend with customers.

Also approved in the council meeting was a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation to install the

the community looking to Blairsville.

"And Steve is willing to do pre-leases so that we can get it stacked and ready to roll as soon as they're ready to open up."

Cockerham also spoke in the meeting, thanking Darren, the DDA Board and the mayor for all their help getting the new development project finalized.

"They have done most of the work on this," said Cockerham. "They drew up a rendering and a vision for what that site will look like, what that building will look like.

"I'm real excited about it and just want to pledge to you that we are going to do a first-class job with it, and it will be a project that we all can be proud of. I'm very excited to do it."

As a final DDA update for the council that evening, Harper told them about the two other Haralson Property parcels that are currently under

Jet-A fuel farm at the airport.

The city is benefiting greatly from its partnerships on the project, as the total state and federal contribution under this contract is \$113,787.74. Out of a total project cost of \$148,388.33, the city will only have to come up with \$34,600.59.

Recently, City Accounting Clerk Joan Mannheim discovered that the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC had been sending a small city power bill to Union County Government since 2009.

At Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris' suggestion, the city will reimburse the county half the total amount, which will end up being \$5,392.10.

In other business, the council approved the FY 2019 contract with the Georgia Department of Corrections for detainee labor at a cost of \$39,500.

negotiation.

"Both very, very reputable companies, both widely known," said Harper of the interested parties. "We read through the contracts today, made a few slight changes, and are in the process of getting those back and agreed upon by the companies. That would leave us, if all things go well, with one lot left."

Councilwoman Mary Ruth Cook asked about the addition of bathrooms downtown, and Harper said they'll be adding those "at the time we do the parking lot."

"The funds from the sale of these properties will help us achieve that goal, but we're looking to do everything in one fell swoop," said Harper. "It's going to be a messy summer in terms of construction, but we're going to go ahead and get through this, and we will be better prepared for future growth."

Summer Charity Ride for The American Legion Post 121, American Legion Riders

Date: 30 June 2018; start location: 78 Old Blue Ridge Highway, the American Legion Post; pre-registration is open as of 5-13-18 please send an email to smstratman@legionpost121.org. Provide your name and if you have a rider their name. You will receive an email advising that your registration has been received.

Registration day of event will open at 9:45 a.m., 6-23-2018. Cost will be \$25 for an operator and \$15 for a passenger. The amounts include a meal after the ride.

The ride will be approximately three (3) hours with rest stops planned. There will also be a 50/50 drawing after the ride, tickets for the drawing will be \$5 each. Proceeds assist ALR with donations to the American Legion Scholarship Fund. Come ride and let us have some fun.

The American Legion is the largest and one of the oldest and most inclusive of all Veteran's organizations worldwide. Due to its large size, it has more influence with Washington officials than most other veteran's groups. The American Legion is a patriotic veteran's organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is committed to mentoring youth, advocating patriotism and honor, and promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

Most military veterans are eligible to join the American Legion. You have to have served on active duty for at least some of your service. You have to have served during certain periods of time, but those periods are very expansive.

If you are a military veteran of any service and are interested in experiencing the type of camaraderie that you experienced during your time in the military, you can join. You can call Commander Mike

Ayers (678) 378-4663 or Adjutant Jack Waters at 813-334-7235. Our meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month except December at the Major Leon Davenport Veteran's Center at 78 Blue Ridge Street. The meetings start at 6:30 PM. Prospective members are welcome to just come to a meeting. The more members we have, the more clout we have when our representatives go to Washington. Also, the more members we have, the more we can do to help veterans who need a hand up from a comrade.

Submitted by Stephen Stratman



Register for ALR Charity Ride

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



June 15, 2018
In memory of
Paula Paris Johnson
Birthday
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

June 17, 2018
In loving memory of
Lori Michelle Nuce
by Mom, Dad, Bette Lou,
and Maryann

Bell ringing information
Forever in our hearts
and memories
at 706-745-5493

June 19, 2018
In memory of
Bill Meeks Anniversary
by Ginger and Terry Meeks