# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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**Legal Organ of Union County** 

**Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1909** 

August 1, 2018

## BRMEMC announces board of director candidates

By Shawn Jarrard North Georgia News editor@nganews.com

The Blue Ridge Mountain EMC has finalized the list of candidates who will appear on the ballot in the upcoming election of three new members to the BRMEMC Board of

Seven member candidates have been nominated and qualified to run for three director seats up for election this year, one each in Union, Towns and Fannin counties.

John Batts, Larry Flegle, Richard Hyer and Jack Lance Jr. will be vying for the Union County board seat.

Incumbent Roy Perren and Jason Waldroup have qualified as candidates to run for the Towns County seat that's up for grabs.

Gayland Trull is the sole candidate running for the Fannin County seat on the board of directors.

Every year, three of the nine board seats become available for election by the membership. Each director's term lasts three years, and the

by representatives of Union County. Those seats are currently occupied by Board President Mickey Cummings, Danny Henson and Gene Mason.

Cummings' seat is up for election this year, and he has decided not to run again. Towns County enjoys two

seats of representation on the board, and those are currently held by Board Secretary Perren and Bert Rogers. Fannin County has one

board seat, which will be vacated by Larry Williams at the end of the Sept. 8 annual meeting to be filled by Trull.

The remaining board seats not up for election this year are held by Cory Payne and Jeff Ledford of Clay County, North Carolina; and Ray Cook of Cherokee County, North Carolina.

Nominating Committee met on June 26 to make their final nominations of candidates, and petition nominations were due by July 16. Last week, the Credentials

board is composed as follows: and Elections Committee met



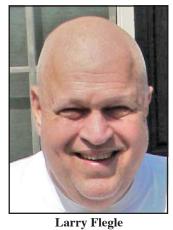
John Batts

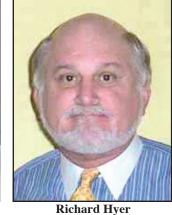
on July 24 to finalize the slate of all director candidates, and the EMC has since announced those candidates.

Election packets complete with election notices, ballots and voting instructions will be mailed to members the week of Aug. 6, and mail-in Members of the ballots must be received back by Sept. 6.

Online voting will open the week of Aug. 6 and will close on Sept. 6 ahead of the annual meeting.

See BRMEMC, Page 2A







Jack Lance, Jr.







**Gayland Trull** 

#### Students head back to school on Friday, Aug. 3



Union County Schools Faculty and Staff, L-R: C.T. Hussion, Chad Deyton, Carol Knight, John Hill, Lisa Vaughn, Dr. Paula Davenport, Gwen Stafford, Tiffany Setzer, Millie Owenby, Karen Bundy and Jerry Bavero. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

By Shawn Jarrard North Georgia News editor@nganews.com

will likely be asking themselves, attend "Meet Your Teacher"

where did the summer go?

back in session beginning on to 6 p.m. Come Friday, Aug. 3, Friday, though parents and Union County students are encouraged to 2018-2019 school year, Woody

at the various schools on That's right, school is Thursday, Aug. 2, from 3 p.m.

See School, Page 6A

#### **Governor Deal appoints** Parks to Enotah Judicial Circuit

By Shawn Jarrard North Georgia News editor@nganews.com

Chief Judge Joy R. Parks of the White County Magistrate Court is joining the Enotah Judicial Circuit as a Superior Court judge. She will serve alongside

Chief Judge N. Stanley Gunter and Judge Raymond George on the Superior Court of the Enotah Judicial Circuit, which covers Union, Towns, White and Lumpkin counties.

Gov. Nathan Deal announced her appointment on July 18.

"The Honorable Joy R. Parks will fill the vacancy in the Enotah Judicial Circuit created by the resignation of the Honorable Murphy C. Miller," according to Gov. Deal. "Parks is the Chief Magistrate Judge of the White County Magistrate Court and owns her own firm. Bar of Georgia.

"She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and a law degree from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. Parks and her husband, Robert, have one child and reside in Miller is the former

Superior Court chief judge who stepped down from the bench effective July 1, at which point Gunter assumed the title of Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior Court Chief Judge. "Judge Parks will be

well-served by her 25 years of experience in the legal profession, including her service as Magistrate Court judge and in the private practice of law," said Kenneth B. Hodges III, president of the State Bar of Georgia. "She is also a valued member of the Board of Governors of the State



Judge Joy Parks

"With her acceptance of this appointment, Judge Parks demonstrates her ongoing commitment to serving the public and the justice system. We wish her well in this new capacity of judicial

#### Union County SPLOST V to appear on November 6 ballot

By Shawn Jarrard North Georgia News editor@nganews.com

The Union County 2021 SPLOST referendum is headed for a vote earlier than expected and will appear on the 2018 General Election Ballot this

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris made the announcement in his July 24 regular monthly

SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) is a 1 percent sales tax applied countywide to finance voter-approved capital outlay

Currently, the county is collecting sales taxes under SPLOST IV, which still has roughly three years of County is 7 percent, or 7 cents

By Shawn Jarrard

North Georgia News

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Chamber of Commerce.

Steve Rowe is the new

The announcement comes

president and CEO of the

Blairsville-Union County

on the heels of much behind-the-

scenes work by the Chamber

Board of Directors to find a

replacement for Al Harper, who

resigned as chamber president



Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris in his July 24 regular meeting. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

the end of March 2021.

as new chamber president/CEO

The sales tax in Union million in revenues over six

Rowe previously served

Williams served in the

as the longtime treasurer on the

chamber board, and he is the

third person hired to lead the

chamber since former president

position for nearly a decade.

Regina Allison helmed the

chamber for almost two years

after that. And Harper departed

after six months, the first month

and a half of which he served in

See Chamber, Page 2A

Cindy Williams left in 2016.

collections before expiring at on the dollar, and SPLOST IV is on track to collect \$24

See Splost V, Page 8A

### Blairsville City Council partners with DDA on improvements

**By Mark Smith** North Georgia News Staff Writer

The Blairsville City Council and the Blairsville Downtown Development Authority Board met at city hall on July 24 to hold a joint called meeting focusing on future city developments.

Blairsville is a growing community with new developments popping up all around the downtown area, and with the influx of new businesses and new residents, the needs of the city are

Both the city council and the DDA want to develop a long-range plan that will maximize the value and utility of every inch of available space inside city limits, all while



Blairsville Downtown Development Authority Board Members W.C. Nelson and Paul Thompson in the joint DDA/Blairsville City Council called meeting on July 24. Photo by Mark Smith

maintaining and improving the city's aesthetics. The agenda that evening

included the downtown parking lot and park space construction. See City, Page 2A

#### July Term 2018 Union County **Grand Jury Indictments**

The following individuals were indicted during the July Term 2018 of the Union County Grand Jury.

Cory Michael **Upchurch**, aggravated child molestation; child molestation; sodomy; enticing a child for indecent purposes; statutory rape; two counts contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Cory Charles Collins,

failure to register as a sex

Matthew William Cook, distribution of heroin; possession of a Schedule I Controlled Substance (heroin); possession of marijuana with intent to distribute; possession of drug-related objects.

Jeremy Jordan Garcia, distribution of heroin; possession of a Schedule I Controlled Substance (heroin); six counts sale of marijuana;

five counts illegal use of a

communication facility; possession of marijuana with intent to distribute; possession of drug-related objects.

Micah Lance Garrison, possession of a Schedule I Controlled Substance (heroin); possession of marijuana with intent to distribute; possession of drug-related objects.

Dakota Luther Stamey, possession of a Schedule I Controlled Substance (heroin);

See Grand Jury, Page 2A



in June.

4 Sections 28 Pages Thurs: Showers Hi 73 Lo 61 Classifieds 2D

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Steve Rowe to serve

Fri: T-Storms Hi 78 Lo 62 Opinion Sat: T-Storms Hi 80 Lo 62 Legals

Inside **7A** 

Church 4A 4D 7C Obits **Sports** 



Lectures at

August

**Steve Rowe** 

Hamilton Gardens "Lets Get Growing"

See page 4C

**Byron Herbert** Reece Farm and Heritage Center Saturday, August 11th 11 AM - 3 PM See page 3C

'Maters and Music'

**Nottley Spillway Bridge Closure** August 6th - 10th One lane traffic from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

See page 5B