

Allison...from Page 1A

The North Georgia News had not learned any details of a potential search for Allison's replacement, though Allison did say that the chamber board would be taking resumes until Dec. 1.

Allison started her job at the chamber on March 16, 2016. She took over from Patrick Malone, who was serving as interim president of the chamber at the time.

The board chose Allison to replace Cindy Williams,

who served as the president and CEO of the chamber for nearly 10 years.

Williams departed for the Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber of Commerce in January of 2016, and the chamber board looked at more than 60 initial candidates to fill the position.

From there, the board chose to do 16 in-person interviews, followed by four in-depth interviews, the result of which was the hiring of



Regina Allison speaking in the 2017 Power Lunch featuring U.S. Sen. David Perdue. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Allison to lead the chamber.

"I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends," said Regina in a written statement. "I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you

for your continued support of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce and our community.

"Without the support of our members and the community, it would not be

possible for us to host all the events and programs that we do throughout the year.

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve you as the President/CEO of the Chamber. Thank you for all that you have done for me and the entire Chamber team.

"After much prayerful consideration, I have decided to resign my position and will be leaving the Chamber at the end of December to spend more time with my family.

"As my husband Stephen and I have been helping our oldest son, Thomas, look at colleges, it only reinforces how precious this time is with our two boys. We know the season of having them at home full time is drawing short before they will be grown.

"I feel at this season in my life, devoting as much time to them as possible needs to be my top priority.

"I cannot thank you

enough for all your support, words of encouragement and help during my time with the Chamber. It has been very humbling.

"I would like to say a special thank you to the Chamber Board, Chamber Ambassadors and Staff for all that you do, day in and day out, for the Chamber and our community."

Regina Allison is the wife of Stephen Allison, who served multiple terms in the Georgia House of Representatives District 8 seat, before deciding not to run for re-election last year.

The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce is staffed by Tobie Chandler as tourism director, Sheila Freeman as information specialist, Chris Coleman as office administrator and Carrie Beary as event coordinator.

Rayfield...from Page 1A

At the time of the 2015 search, Dr. Rayfield was one of 27 applicants for the position.

Dr. Rayfield came to Union County from Decatur County, Georgia, where he had been superintendent since 2010.

Now, the board must work to find a replacement for Dr. Rayfield before the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

Odom said in the November work session that her research had led her to contact the Georgia School Boards Association about its superintendent search service, as well as King-Cooper & Associates.

"Based on that information and on the cost, and Dr. Addis has done three successful searches for Union County, I invited Dr. Addis to come and speak to us, and explain what we're getting for our buck," said Odom.

In his presentation, Dr.

Addis told the board it had several options to choose from when considering how to proceed in naming a new superintendent.

He said that, as far as he was aware, the board could decide not to hold a search at all and name a finalist it wants to hire, wait out the 14 days of public comment, then hire the person named.

The board can also search to replace Dr. Rayfield on its own, which Dr. Addis advised could be a complicated process.

Or the board can hire someone with superintendent

search experience to assist with the search, a professional like Dr. Addis himself, to help board members navigate various pitfalls associated with conducting a superintendent search.

Following Dr. Addis' presentation in the work session, the school board voted in its subsequent regular meeting to table, or postpone, the superintendent search process until a later date.

There was not yet an active superintendent search at press time Monday.

"This was a difficult decision that was made with a great deal of thought and prayer," said Dr. Rayfield in a written statement on his retirement. "My family and I

have enjoyed a great 30-year career in education, with 15 of those years serving as a school superintendent. Our family plans to continue to make our home in Union County.

"Union County Schools is an excellent school system with great teachers and staff. There is no doubt in my mind that Union County Schools will continue to foster a culture of excellence in education.

"Our family is thankful for the opportunity to serve this community. We will do everything possible to support the school system through this leadership transition, and wish only the best for Union County Schools moving forward."

Christmas...from Page 1A

and neglected children in the area.

"We're also having a contest going on with businesses downtown," said Harper. "What we've asked them to do is to go all out this year with lights and decorations, the best they can. We'll be inviting the public to come out to the square during the first weeks in December and they can vote online for who they think is the most decorated.

"We'll have a first, second and third place, with prizes. It should be a lot of fun."

Along with organizing the weekend of festivities, Harper and historical society members and volunteers have been hard at work getting the old courthouse ready for the holiday season, hanging wreaths around the building, getting the Christmas tree decorated and ready for the lighting ceremony and adorning the square with the finest holiday decorations.

For those who get a hankering for something other than holiday cheer while out and about on Saturday, the Historical Society will also be



Blairsville Downtown Development Authority Program Manager Darren Harper in the 2016 Blairsville Christmas parade.

hosting a food booth with hot dogs and popcorn, as well as a cake and candy booth with hot chocolate and warm apple cider.

And before the Saturday festivities begin, the Historical Society will be presenting its annual Christmas Concert by the North Georgia Chamber

Symphony on Friday, Dec. 1, beginning at 7 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom of the old courthouse.

Regardless of age or interest, there will certainly be a little something for everyone to get in the Christmas spirit this weekend in Downtown Blairsville.

Beach Boys...from Page 1A



The Beach Boys

In 2017, a study of AllMusic's catalog indicated the Beach Boys as the sixth most frequently cited artist influence in its database. The core quintet of the three Wilsons, Love and Jardine were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988.

Reserved Seating for Friday's concert is \$55-plus handling, and tickets to the event are in short supply.

The Beach Boys began as a garage band managed by the Wilson brothers' father, Murry Wilson, with Brian Wilson's increasingly sophisticated songwriting and recording abilities dominating their creative direction.

Emerging at the head of the "California Sound," the band performed original material that reflected a Southern California youth culture of surfing, cars and romance.

A list of their many hits include "Good Vibrations," "Wouldn't It Be Nice," "I Get Around," "Kokomo," "Surfin' Safari," "Don't Worry Baby," "Surfin' U.S.A.," "California

Girls," "Help Me Rhonda," "Barbara Ann," and "Fun, Fun, Fun," just to name a few.

The show is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. Don't miss out on the opportunity to see one

of the most legendary bands in Rock 'N Roll history.

To inquire about ticket possibilities, call the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds at (706) 896-4191.