

## FFA...from Page 1A

The meeting was a celebration of sorts, giving the students the chance to recognize one another and those in the community that have furthered their efforts this school year. It also gave people of the community and

school faculty an opportunity to recognize the efforts of these students and applaud their continuous hard work.

"I would like to thank everyone in the community for their support of the FFA," said John Hill, Union County

High School Principal. "We're very blessed to have the kind of community support we have here in Union County for our kids.

"These students have worked hard over this year and continue to prove that this program is well worth everything that is put into it. These kids deserve a round of applause."

While enjoying delicious barbeque and all the fixings, visitors were treated to a slide-show presentation produced by the students. Videos and pictures of the last year's accomplishments and adventures lit up the screen, some of the students with several years still to go before graduation, some about to walk across the stage next week.

As the night began, the students garnered the attention of the entire room, consisting of more than 100 in attendance, as everyone spent the next few hours engrossed in the success of the primarily student-run FFA.

From Green Hand Degree awards to SAE (supervised agricultural experience) awards to Blue and Gold awards, the lists kept going as dozens of students

walked proudly to the stage to receive the recognition they so rightfully deserved.

Students were not the only ones recognized that Friday evening. Halfway through the school year, around January, the high school FFA was in need of an advisor and teacher to finish out the year. Young Farmer teacher Ryan Talton stepped up to the plate, taking on the responsibility and keeping the program alive, something that clearly meant a great deal to the students.

To honor Talton, the students presented him with a signed poster, expressing their affection and gratitude for the last five months.

"I can't say enough how proud I am of all these students," said Talton. "They continue to impress me with their hard work and dedication to FFA and to their work and to each other.

"It's been an honor to teach these students and grow with them. It's been so much fun."

All in all, the evening was filled with warmth, laughter and an overwhelming sense of community and family that swept through the room.

At the night's end it was



Young Farmer and FFA Advisor Ryan Talton. Photo/Lily Avery

clear to see that the young FFA women and men who conducted the ceremony were clearly flourishing, not only in their FFA achievements, but also into the responsibilities and poise of leadership and comradery.

"Union County FFA, you've changed my life for the better," said Hannah von Hof, UCHS FFA student. "This past year, I've seen what it means to be in FFA. What it means to believe in the creed. What it means to believe in FFA."

## Council...from Page 1A

The regular meeting was rescheduled from May 2 in observance of Cone's passing, and the council held discussions last Tuesday about how to proceed with filling the newly vacant council seat.

Since Cone was in the second year of her current elected term, her seat must be filled by special called election. Had she been in the third or fourth year of her term, someone could have been appointed to fill the vacant seat.

Part of the council's discussion on the matter concerned the fact that 2017 is a regular election year for the City of Blairsville.

In November, the council seats currently held by Buddy Moore and Tony Dyer will be up for election, as will the office of Blairsville Mayor, currently held by Jim Conley.

The council voted in the meeting to hold a special called election to fill the vacant council seat in November, to coincide with the Nov. 7 regular municipal election.

Holding the special

called election alongside the regular municipal election will keep the city from having to hold two separate elections this year.

This in turn will save the city money, and will likely result in a larger turnout of voters for the special called election than if it had been held on a date separate from the regular election.

The qualifying deadline for candidates running in the special called election will be Oct. 13, and early voting for the special called election will occur side by side with regular municipal election early voting, starting Oct. 16.

Other possible dates for a special called election, though rejected by the council, were June 20 and Sept. 19.

Candidates looking to qualify for the regular municipal election will be able to do so Aug. 21 through Aug. 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Blairsville City Hall.

Also in the meeting, the council voted to approve a resolution adopting the joint Blairsville-Union County Comprehensive Plan, which will help the city and county to navigate future growth potential moving forward.

During the Department Heads portion of the meeting, Darren Harper of the Blairsville Downtown Development Authority updated the council and mayor on the Haralson Property.

According to Harper, someone has made an offer on a section of the Haralson Property, across from Foodland.

The DDA has been asked to help design the building that will go on the property, and will be working with design specialists from the University of Georgia to come up with an aesthetic that will fit in with the rest of the downtown area.

Three new businesses will be opening in Blairsville soon, according to Harper, including the Blue Ridge Cotton Company, Crawford Collections and Britt & Capri.

Also in the meeting, Union County Sheriff's Deputy Andrew Glass was hired on as a part-time officer with the Blairsville Police Department.

Mayor Conley also signed and read a proclamation designating the week of May 7 through May 13 as Municipal Clerks Week, and Blairsville City Clerk Kaye McCann thanked the mayor and council for giving her the opportunity to serve city residents and employees.

## Career Coach at the Union County Library

The Career Coach will be visiting Union County Library on Tuesday, May 30th, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The address for the event is 303 Hunt Martin Street, Blairsville, GA.

The unit will be available to assist individuals with searching and/or applying for jobs online, writing a resume and/or cover letter, discerning career interests, or would like to learn about tuition assistance and on-the-job training programs, please stop by! Please share this event with anyone you know that might benefit from our services.



Blairsville City Clerk Kaye McCann during the Tuesday, May 9, city council meeting. Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley read a proclamation in the meeting declaring the week of May 7 through May 13 as Municipal Clerks Week. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

## Crash...from Page 1A

Sheriff's Office responded to the scene with traffic until the accident scene could be cleared.

Hogan's next of kin were notified Friday.

Funeral arrangements for Hogan were not available at press time, though Mountain View Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.

## Correction

The make of the motorcycle identified in the May 10 edition of the North Georgia News story on Page 1A regarding the death of Chanel Hilliard

should have been listed as a Kawasaki Vulcan. The newspaper reported otherwise. We apologize for the error.