

EMC Post...from Page 1A

What I feel, though, is that with the controversy that has surrounded the board over the last couple of years, the membership needs a choice as far as who would serve on the board of directors.”

Perren noted that the community is in many ways blessed to have the EMC it does, as when the lights go out, the power comes right back on.

“But what we need is transparency, we need accountability for the membership, because there’s a huge investment and there’s a huge debt that we need to know

what’s going on with that,” said Perren. “I’m not from Towns County, I’m from Villa Rica, GA, it is where I grew up, but we’ve lived up here for 11 years and we’ve made this our home. And we love living up here in the mountains. I like to serve, and I feel like this is a way that I can help serve our community. That’s in a nutshell where I’m at with it.”

Both Perren and Williams brought petition sheets with them on Friday, with hopes to join the three newest board members who were nominated in the same way,

then elected at last year’s annual membership meeting: Steven Phillips, Chris Logan and Charles Jenkins.

The two require around 180 signatures apiece to ensure a nomination, but are shooting for 300 signatures just in case – member information on the petition sheets must match bill information exactly, or the signatures will be rejected.

“If you would like to have a choice, I ask that you would sign this petition to allow me to get on the ballot for the EMC board,” said Perren. “The EMC shouldn’t be in the

newspaper other than service awards or this type thing. The EMC should not be something that’s controversial. Our power should come on, it should be an instrument for economic growth in our region, and that’s what I would like to be.”

“I’m stable, I’m not a firebrand – I’m not somebody who’s going to go in there and (say) I’m going to do this and I’m going to that. I’d be very analytical, see what’s going on in order to make the changes that are necessary to represent the membership.”

Williams is a former Fannin County Commissioner

who has lived in North Georgia for 44 years.

“I retired from the state patrol, here,” said Williams. “I worked in Towns, Union, Fannin and Gilmer out of Blue Ridge, and I started in 1971 and retired in 1996. I never paid a lot of attention to Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, how it actually operated and got things done. Our representative was George Daves, and he moved over to Union County, and you have to reside as a resident in the county you represent.”

After Daves moved from Fannin, Williams said

that he learned more about how candidates were nominated.

“I’d like to see that change, where if you’re a member in good standing and you want to run, you shouldn’t have to go out and get all these petitions,” said Williams. “There’s a lot of things, I’m like Roy. If I’m elected, I want to learn. I don’t want to go in there like gangbusters. I want to take my time.”

Williams also informed those in attendance that residents from each county can vote for candidates in all counties.

Health Fair...from Page 1A

Insurance or Medicare will not be filed.

Those looking to receive blood testing should fast for 12 hours prior to the event, and a small free breakfast will be available after blood is collected.

Test results will be mailed to each participant,

which usually takes about a week to arrive.

The Blairsville Police Department will be offering child fingerprinting, the Union County Sheriff’s Office will be collecting outdated and old medications, the Union County Fire Department will be offering tours and information on

firetrucks and fireman duties, and LIFE FORCE Emergency Airlift is expected to showcase its helicopter service should the weather permit.

Many vendors will be on hand to demonstrate their services and educate the public, and attendees of the health fair can stop by individual

booths to grab some free merchandise.

“We’ll have some giveaways, and so will the vendors that will be here – they always have free giveaways,” said Chief Nursing Officer Julia Barnett. “We had things like sewing kits last year, first-aid kits, hand sanitizers. There

was all kinds of neat stuff.”

New to the health fair this year will be the Mountain Regional Library System.

“The library is going to be here to give out information and items for the homebound and disabled, blind or otherwise handicapped, which is going to be really good,” said

Hospital Administrative Assistant Kathy Hood. “Some of the doctors’ offices, the sleep lab, home health and our two clinics will be here.”

Those who show up early can expect lines, while attendees who come a little later in the morning typically get through the lab work faster.

County...from Page 1A

harmful attitudes and actions. The first step is increasing the educational awareness and community involvement.”

Commissioner Paris then proclaimed April 24-25 as White Cane Days.

“Lions International, with over 1.3 million members in the free world, have been dedicated to serving sight for over 60 years,” said Commissioner Paris. “The Union County Lions Club has been outstanding in this community in helping the needy with sight problems through the use of its White Cane donations. I invite all citizens to join me in sharing the Lions’ concerns for the best sight possible for our neighbors in need by giving generously to the Lions Club on White Cane Days.”

And Sunday, April 19, was proclaimed Patriots Day, in honor of the beginning of the American Revolution on the same date in 1775.

“It is appropriate that we recognize the importance of this date in our history,

and remember the sacrifices endured by many patriots during years of struggle for the American independence,” said Commissioner Paris.

The Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held an event in commemoration of Patriots Day at the historic courthouse in downtown Blairsville on Saturday, April 18.

Next in the meeting, Commissioner Paris proclaimed April 26, 2015, as Confederate Memorial Day.

“The United Daughters of the Confederacy is an organization whose purposes include honoring the memory of its Confederate ancestors, and honoring the service of veterans from all wars, as well as active duty military personnel,” said Commissioner Paris. “Smith’s Legion Chapter 2699 was chartered January of 2014 to carry out the organization’s purpose in Union County and surrounding areas.”

“It has been the prac-

tice of Georgia governors since 1984 to proclaim April the 26th as Confederate Memorial Day. I encourage all citizens to participate in programs, displays and activities that commemorate and honor our shared history and cultural inheritance under the leadership of Smith’s Legion Chapter 2699.”

The commissioner also signed a resolution of support

for the development and construction of The Meadows, a proposed affordable housing apartment community for families, which will be funded through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, as well as with private funding through the sale of tax credits.

Commissioner Paris accepted a lease amendment between Union County and the

United States Department of Agriculture, which extended the existing lease for office space in the Union County Civic Center until July 31, 2015, with continued payments of \$600 a month. The amendment went into effect on March 1, 2015.

Under the commissioner’s comments portion of the meeting, Commissioner Paris noted that the county will be

holding a second public hearing regarding the new 4-H shotgun range on Highway 515, to be held on Monday, May 4, at 5 p.m.

“This will just be to go over again the details, and we’ll have a few more of those details and what we’ll be doing on the property as far as the shotgun skeet and trap range,” said Commissioner Paris.



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