

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Last week to vote early ahead of next week's primaries

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Early voting ends on Friday, May 20, ahead of next week's May 24 Primaries/Nonpartisan Election.

Now through Friday, registered voters who have not yet voted can do so at the Union County Courthouse in the Board of Registrars Office, from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

After Friday, the next chance to vote will be Election Day, or May 24, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at each voter's previously specified polling precinct: Blairsville Precinct, Haralson Memorial Civic Center; Jones Creek Precinct, Jones Creek Fire Station; Owltown Precinct, Fire Station No. 3; Ivy Log Precinct, Fire Station No. 4; Suches Precinct, Fire Station No. 5; Trackrock Precinct, Old 911

Center; Dooley Precinct, John Smith Fire Station; Gumlog Precinct, Gumlog Fire Station; Pat Colwell Precinct, Pat Colwell Fire Station; Coosa Precinct, Willie Hutson Fire Station; and Choestoe Precinct, Old Choestoe School.

Running in the Union County Democratic Party Primary are:

Jim Barksdale, Cheryl Copeland, John F. Coyne III and James Knox are running for **U.S. Senate**.

Incumbent Judy Odom is running for **Clerk of Superior Court**.

Incumbent Lamar Paris is running for **Sole County Commissioner**.

Democrats have four questions on the partisan ballot.

1. Should Georgia invest less than 1 percent of

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Vietnam veterans find a bridge to healing

By Shawn Jarrard
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Dozens of Vietnam Veterans, their families and local leaders gathered on Wednesday, May 11, to dedicate the bridge over Ivy Log Creek on Jack Lance Sr. Memorial Highway/129 North.

The ceremony included an unveiling of a sign bearing the official name of the bridge, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge, which was installed following the ceremony by workers from the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Members of the Blairsville chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America led the dedication, which took place on a safe part of the shoulder just below the bridge. Ron Schott introduced guests and led the Pledge of Allegiance, while the Rev. Bill Honaker offered the invocation for the



Blairsville VVA President Mike Vandevoort acknowledged the hardships faced by veterans returning from Vietnam, and spoke on the VVA's founding principle that "never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." Photo/Shawn Jarrard

the Blairsville VVA to get the bridge named, read the proclamation recently signed by Gov. Nathan Deal and offered some words of his own for the occasion.

District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch, who was instrumental in working with

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Quilts of Valor presented to 10 area war-time veterans

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild, along with the Union County Historical Society, honored 10 local veterans with Quilts of Valor at the Historic Union County Courthouse on Saturday, May 14.

Kenneth Matthews, Robert Trevathan, Barry Vincent, Robert Morris, Dustin Murray, John Richard Burnette, Gary Oeder, Jim McAfee, Kirby Brown and Pat Phillips were each given handmade quilts from the Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild to recognize their service in the United States Military during wartimes.

Quilts of Valor coordinator Susan Young began the event by expressing immense gratitude to not only those veterans being presented with quilts, but also others who have served and those who are serving today.

"We know that the debt we owe our military veterans is beyond repayment, but we have come here today to honor and thank these 10 veterans for their honorable service," said Young.

Each quilt presented to the veterans was sewn with



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red, white and blue fabrics and individually inscribed with the veteran's name. Along with the quilt, the veterans received a presentation case, which can also be used as a pillowcase, a three-part message, a poem and a personalized "Thank You" note.

Young announced each veteran, asking them to step forward as she read a brief account of their service and post-military civilian life.

"We honor you for your willingness to go halfway around the world and stand in harm's way in a time of crisis, to serve the cause of Freedom." The first quilt was presented to Kenneth Matthews.

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Russell, Cain captured, face drug-related charges

By Charles Duncan
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Carlie Russell, 19, and Casey Cain, 21, both fugitives from justice, have been arrested, Union County Sheriff's Detective Lt. Daren Osborn said.

Cain has been charged with manufacturing marijuana, a felony; possession of a controlled substance, a felony; criminal damage to property second degree, a felony; and probation violation, a misdemeanor.

Russell has been charged with manufacturing marijuana, a felony; possession of a controlled substance, a felony; and probation violation, a misdemeanor.

In an unrelated case, a man the Union County Sheriff's Office has been looking for since a Christmas Eve robbery near the Towns/Union line has been found in Jacksonville, Florida, Lt. Osborn said.

Larzaro Oviedo, 29, of Young Harris, and an accomplice are believed to have robbed the Food Heaven Convenience Store near the Union/Towns County line on



Carlie Russell

Casey Cain
Christmas Eve, according to Lt. Osborn.
A fugitive from justice.
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Station 2 draws a crowd



Fire Chief David Dyer and Fire Station 2 firefighters at Saturday's Open House off Jones Creek. Photo/Shawn Jarrard.

By Charles Duncan
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Young and old came together Saturday at Union County Fire Station 2 at Jones Creek for the annual Open House event.

The smell of grilled hot dogs and hamburgers swayed motorists trying to make their way past the Jones Creek Fire Station off the old Blue Ridge Highway.

The aroma forced those motorists to pull over and find out what all the fuss was about.

Youngsters were bouncing in the Bounce Castle as they tried to work off the energy stored from the day's feast, which included a variety of potato chips, cookies,

Airport terminal takes another step forward

By Shawn Jarrard
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Staff Writer

The City of Blairsville held a mandatory pre-bid meeting for the proposed North Terminal Building Project at the Blairsville Municipal Airport on Thursday, May 12.

In that meeting, the two bidders – Blairsville's Chad Winkler of Winkler & Winkler, as well as Denny Laney of Laney Construction out of Murphy, North Carolina – met with Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley, Project Architect Richard Landau, and Scott Seritt of the Georgia Department of Transportation's Aviation Programs.

The purpose of the meeting was to give the bidders a chance



Project Architect Richard Landau explains that the North Terminal at Blairsville Municipal Airport will be the window to the future of the community when completed. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Everyone wins during Special Olympics

By Shawn Jarrard
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Each school year, Towns and Union counties alternate campuses in offering joint Special Olympics games – at Union County in the fall and at Towns County in the spring.

And every year, those games offer students and graduates a way of celebrating a continued spirit of collaboration and athleticism, regard-



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