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Runway 8 at the airport; approximately 15-30 trees will require removal in order to eliminate as violations to the 20:1 approach surface.

Total contract time for completion of the work is 14 calendar days.

Costs will be paid per tree.

"Our biggest problem has been that there is a lot of air traffic that can't land at our

airport because we don't have instrument approach," he said. "We're working on property, that we've already got a judge's order to allow clearance of obstructions that prevent instrument approach.

"We need these obstructions cleared so that the FAA can do an aerial survey to make sure that we don't have any other obstructions that would hinder an instrument approach,"

Mayor Conley said. "Even after we get all the obstacles out of the way, we won't know until well into next year, just how long it's going to take us before we get approval for instrument approach.

"Getting all the obstructions removed is pertinent to moving forward with getting approved for instrument approach," he said.

The city has already let

the bid for grading for a new North Terminal parking area at a cost of more than \$689,000.

Paving bids won't be accepted until sometime in 2013 or 2014, Mayor Conley said.

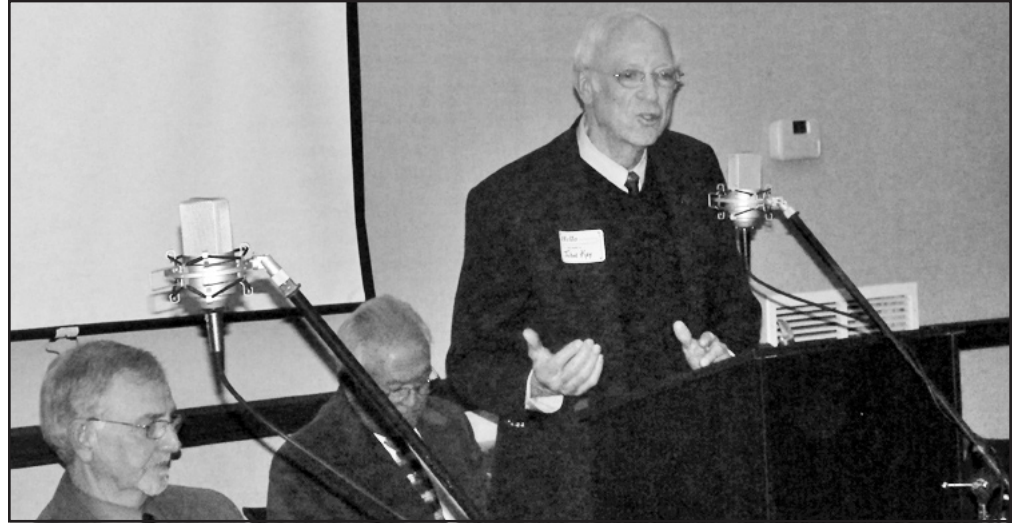
The tree-clearing project is just the next step in making the Blairsville Municipal Airport achieve its desired effect of becoming an increased economic driver in Blairsville-Union County.

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award." Union County Historical Society President Bud Akins said. "This man has contributed more than 400 hours of work to the Byron Herbert Reece Farm. I don't know of anyone else who is more deserving of this award than John Kay."

As Kay stepped forward to a thunderous applause, the recipient spoke of what it means to be honored for his dedication to the Byron Herbert Reece Center.

"I'm deeply honored and really humbled to receive this award," Kay said. "I ac-



Reece Society member John Kay accepts the Union County Historical Society's honor of Preservationist of the Year. Photo/Todd Forrest

cept it on behalf of all of those who have invested any time or effort into the Byron Herbert Reece Farm and Heritage Center."

Despite the grueling process that has taken years and tested the patience of many, Kay and the Reece Society's dreams finally came to fruition with the opening of the Center in June.

"Through perseverance, we learned that if you hang in there long enough, you will get things done," Kay said. "We've gotten a lot of cooperation between Lamar Paris and the Union County Government through this process and we are very grateful for that."

Although Kay is a resident of Towns County, he is a member of the Union County Historical Society, where he also feels at home.

"I seem to be more oriented to Union County than I am towards Hiwassee. But it's been a joy to see what this Historical Society has accomplished over the years and I certainly commend all of you who have been a part of it and you've had excellent leadership along the way," Kay said.

Earlier in the evening, Sam Ensley was honored as a lifetime member of the historical society.

"As you know, we celebrated Sam Ensley Day a

while back, but we're still having Sam Ensley Day every day," Akins said, drawing a laugh from the crowd.

At the end of the evening, a slide show was presented on the Chief Vann House in Chatsworth, showcasing a Cherokee Christmas by candlelight.

A brief history lesson was given regarding the Cherokee language and its introduction to Christmas and Christianity.

Finally, Ensley with the help of his six-string and the audience, sang a medley of Christmas carols before the crowd called it an evening. Indeed, a good time was had by all.

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The students themselves take an active role to bring the trial together.

This is not a scripted event according to UCHS Business Education teacher, Amy Payne.

"Students take information from witness statements, create their own line of questioning, and argue the case," Payne said. "I've found that years after they have taken Business Law they can still remember clearly courthouse procedures. I feel it is greatly due to activities such as this. We also manage to have fun in the process which certainly makes it a win-win situation. Many times this activity sparks an interest with students to join our Mock Trial Competition Team."

Parents of the Mock Trial Team also are invited to sit on the process during the trials.

"It's a great opportunity to partner with parents in the educational process," Payne said. "There is no way the students could get the feel of actually being in court without the generous support of the Union County Historical Society. They open the doors to the courthouse and allow students the honor of conducting this trial in a true setting. We are so fortunate to always have their



Union County's Mock Trial team was flawless last week. Photo/Todd Forrest

support and encouragement."

On this occasion, the students also were allowed to use the historic defense and prosecution tables inside the Historic Courthouse.

Students participating in the Mock Trial activity were Bret Baker, Austin Bryson, Josh Bryson, Cameron Collins, Chris Delphino, Joshua Dyer, Alice Francis, Jessica Herr, Brittany Holbrooks, Brooke Lackey, Jacob Loyd, Luke Loggins, Grace Mazza, Bryce McCarter, Mary Murphy, Austin Norton, Zach Odom, Brandon Pestana, Ryan Rogers, Grant Schuette, Mat-

thew Wasko, Brennan Smith, Gage Adams, Jack Bachman, Blake Brock, Hannah Carpenter, Vanna Chambers, Dylan Coyne, Taylor Dockery, Marisa Evans, Charis Flake, Samantha Gentry, Haley Gordon, Lacy Hedger, Danielle Hooper, Colby Jones, Haley Jones, Luther Jones, Tucker Knight, Kelley Lockaby, Casey Long, Eli Martin, Whitney McDougal, Keim Minter, Morgan Owenby, Laura Beth Rogers, Todd Smith, Kyndal Stanley, and Clayton West.

The team hopes to continue its area Mock Trial Team dominance in 2012-2013.

National Technical Honors Society holds induction ceremony

At a special ceremony on the Blairsville campus of North Georgia Technical College, eleven students were inducted into the National Technical Honors Society (NTHS).

"You have every reason to be very proud of the excellent standards you have set for yourself and have demonstrated," said NGTC President Dr. Gail Thaxton. "What a privilege it is for us to be a part of your success."

NTHS is America's highest award for excellence in career and technical education. The mission of the organization is to honor student achievement and leadership, promote educational excellence, and enhance career opportunities. NTHS members will receive recognition in the form of identification on their transcripts, a special seal on their diploma, and white stoles on their graduation robes.

Fannin County residents receiving this honor included Business Administrative AAS student Jennifer Mashburn of Morganton, Business Administrative Diploma student Heather Traylor of Morganton, Cosmetology Diploma student Levi Saxton of Blue Ridge, Medical Assisting Diploma student Kellie Car of Morganton, and Practical Nursing Diploma student Denise Matheson of Blue Ridge.

Blairsville residents included Cosmetology Diploma student Shirley York, Criminal Justice AAS student Brittany Dyer, Medical Assisting Di-

ploma student Lori Bergen, and Practical Nursing Diploma student Cheryl Griesinger.

Cosmetology student Mary Lou McMichen of Young Harris and Practical Nursing student Christie Parker of Hayesville, North Carolina, were also inducted into the NTHS.

Mike Rice, English Instructor and Advisor for the Blairsville NTHS congratulated the students for being selected

for this exclusive honor. "Entry into the NTHS is by invitation only," explained Rice to the gathered crowd. "Students have to maintain a 3.7 GPA in their program courses and they have to be nominated by an instructor."

For more information on the NTHS, visit www.nths.org. For more information about the college, visit the website at www.northgatech.edu. NTDec19Z12CA