

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Incumbents Hunter, Potts face opposition; White unopposed

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Assistant Editor

Union County BOE District 2



Joan Anderson



Tony Hunter (I)

Six Republican candidates for the Union County Board of Education have qualified ahead of the May 22 General Primary Election. Qualifying ended on March 9, and by the time the dust had settled after noon on Friday, two of the three open school board seats had become contested races.

Incumbent Tony Hunter will face challenger Joan Anderson for the District 2 board post, while District 4 will feature a three-way contest between incumbent Keith Potts, former board member John Strickland and newcomer William McQuillan, which could result in a runoff election if no candidate receives a majority of the vote.

Incumbent Patrick White is running unopposed as the sole qualifier for the District 5 seat.

Since no Democrats qualified, the winners of the May 22 primary – and the potential District 4 runoff – will run unopposed in the Nov. 6 General Election.

Mickey Cummings qualified as a Republican candidate to run against incumbent Matt Gurtler for Georgia House District 8, a race that will also be decided on May 22.

Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley qualified unopposed last week, as did District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch and Enotah Superior Court Judges Stanley Guter and Raymond George.

U.S. Rep. Doug Collins is facing opposition in this year's 9th Congressional District race, though he qualified as the lone Republican.

Democrats Dave Cooper of Clayton and Josh McCall of Gainesville will face off in the May 22 primary for a chance to compete against Collins in the Nov. 6 General Election. Jennifer Logan was the sole qualifier for Union County Soil and Water District Supervisor, though she will only appear on the Nov. 6 ballot.

This is a big year for state races, as candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney

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Union County BOE District 4



John Strickland



Keith Potts (I)



William McQuillan

Union County BOE District 5



Patrick White (I)

Georgia House District 8



Matt Gurtler (I)



Mickey Cummings

Lance joins "One Million Mile Club" with U.S. Postal Service

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Assistant Editor



Photo by Shawn Jarrard

U.S. Postal Service Senior Carrier Bobby Lance in his mail truck.

customers makes it all the more noteworthy."

Smith went on to praise Lance's dedication and work ethic, adding that he is "often turned to for his advice, and he can always be counted on to help and encourage those

around him." For more than 30 years, Lance has driven Rural Route 5 in Blairsville, which takes him up old Blue Ridge Highway to Skeenah Gap and the Jones

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Property annexation, e-payments to move ahead in Blairsville

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Assistant Editor



Photo by Shawn Jarrard

The property at 83 Conley Rd. once again led discussions at the regular monthly meeting of the Blairsville City Council on March 6.

A developer is looking to erect an apartment building on a 13.15-acre tract of land at 83 Conley Rd. and has asked the city to annex the property.

Benefits of annexation include cheaper water and sewer rates for customers who live inside city limits, and the city stands to gain by adding to its tax digest and increasing the number of Blairsville City residents.

In order to annex the Conley property, the city must also annex two intermedial stretches of land – one owned by the county and the other by a private resident – to make the city's claim contiguous.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris has already agreed to allow the city to annex a strip of

Blairville City Clerk Kaye McCann, right, holding up a blue version of the new water bill envelopes the city will start using soon, only in white. Pictured here with Mayor Jim Conley.

Butternut Creek Golf Course 50 feet in from Pat Haralson Memorial Drive leading to the Conley property.

Furthermore, in the days following the March 6 council meeting, the city was able to reach an agreement on the private property at Birdie Lane, and Mayor Conley said he expects annexation of the

property at 83 Conley Rd. to be finalized in the April 3 council meeting.

Also in the meeting, Blairsville City Clerk Kaye McCann updated the council on the pending credit, debit and e-check payment options for all city fees.

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Emergency dam plan highlights importance of Union County WENS

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Assistant Editor



Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Union County Fire Chief, 911 Director and Emergency Management Agency Director David Dyer at the Feb. 28 meeting.

activities, or failure of the dam, the plan devised would "initiate emergency actions to warn downstream residents of

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Forest Service to review new gun range permit application

By Shawn Jarrard
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Assistant Editor

Calls for a new gun range have continued to increase since the founding of the Union County Gun Club in July 2017, prompting state and federal officials to pay attention.

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason recently contacted Joyce White, Georgia Director for USDA Rural Development, about next steps toward developing a range.

Sheriff Mason advises the Union County Gun Club, which has grown to more than 300 members, and the club's board has identified a 14-acre piece of U.S. Forest Service land off Georgia 180 near Blairsville that seems perfect for a range.

After speaking with the sheriff, White – whose two bosses are U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, formerly the governor of Georgia, and President Donald Trump – coordinated a meeting



Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason on a walkthrough of the proposed future site of the Union County Gun Club Shooting Range, with Georgia Director for USDA Rural Development Joyce White and Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Supervisor Betty Jewett.

at the proposed site of the range on Friday, March 9.

The meeting allowed club members to share ideas with a diverse group

of individuals from the federal, state and local levels, including Forest Supervisor Betty Jewett, who oversees the Chattahoochee-Oconee

National Forests.

Ultimately, USFS Supervisor Jewett will decide

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