

## New GM...from Page 1A



our new general manager.”

Glidewell currently serves as branch manager for Fisher & Arnold, Inc., a multi-discipline architecture and engineering firm in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He is responsible for planting and growing the private organization's venture into the Chattanooga and Birmingham markets.

During his tenure as vice president of operations and engineering at Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation, he managed daily operations of the 50,000-meter co-op, including safety, engineering, operations, information technology, maintenance and member services.

He oversaw the deployment of a state-of-the-art AMI, outage management and SCADA system, as well

as the construction of a fiber network to connect co-op facilities, substations and commercial accounts.

Furthermore, Glidewell accepted a couple of positions within the Tennessee Valley Authority working as manager of applied line services and then as transmission system manager.

“I believe in service to others, and electric cooperatives present unique opportunities to serve,” Incoming General Manager Glidewell said. “Electric cooperatives were built on the idea of service, and they function best when service is at the heart of each decision, action and policy.

“Employees and the members they serve are a co-op's greatest asset. An electric cooperative has to be flexible and nimble, ensuring that

we meet folks where their needs are. This includes both employees and members. We're in an industry that is essential and ever changing, but we can't forget about service to one another.”

Glidewell grew up in west Tennessee. He holds a Bachelor of Science in engineering from the University of Tennessee and a Master of Business Administration degree from Union University.

He is a widower and the father of three grown children, with his first grandchild on the way. Glidewell also enjoys playing bluegrass music.

“I offer my sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors for the opportunity to serve Blue Ridge Mountain EMC as the next general manager,” Glidewell said.

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## Dr. Johnson...from Page 1A

ill with the devastating virus.

The family physician has bachelor's degrees in both Biology and Religious Studies, and she earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2003.

Prior to becoming a physician, Dr. Johnson spent a year as a science writing editor for the Oxford University Press of Oxford, England, where she was named as a Commended Editor for her work.

Dr. Johnson has excelled outside of the academic arena as well. She is a second-degree black belt in the martial art of Tang Soo Do and has a passion for running marathons.

“I feel God's delight in me most when I run,” she said in a September 2020 guest appearance on the “Rambling Runner” podcast.

She was actually in the

process of qualifying for the 2020 Olympic Marathon Trials when the pandemic struck. Dr. Johnson felt compelled to help and became an avid volunteer as a member of the COVID Care Force Team-NYCI.

Ultimately, these experiences in New York during the pandemic played a role in shifting her life from New Jersey to Georgia, where she has joined the physician team at North Georgia Family Medicine.

“God used the wreckage of the pandemic – witnessing families shattered and unable to embrace one another in grief – to call me home,” Dr. Johnson said. “I love the city. I love crowds of people.

“But I also want my children to know the kind of childhood I had, seeing neighbors at the grocery store, walking past a teacher's house, playing outside in the woods

and in creeks, being near extended family, and knowing their mama feels deeply called to serve with the others at NGFM. I can see this life in Blairsville.”

Indeed, Dr. Johnson is already starting her quest to fulfill that calling. She has seamlessly settled into the role of “country doc,” taking care of new patients at the office of NGFM.

As the wife of a Lutheran pastor, Dr. Johnson has never been a stranger to serving the public. Her family's time in the clergy has always focused on glorifying God through their service to mankind.

Dr. Johnson and her family are excited about creating new roots and being part of the Georgia mountain community. For information on becoming a patient of Dr. Johnson's, please contact 706-745-9417.

## Production Tool...from Page 1A

their basement, however, and bought an old school building in Macon to move closer to Warner Robins Air Force Base, as Pro Tool also owns government contracts.

About six years ago, the family began considering relocation to North Georgia. Bill and Frieda's daughter Dr. Jennifer Jones of Georgia Cancer Specialists had moved to Blue Ridge to practice medicine, and her parents fell in love with the area after spending some time here.

In addition to her lengthy career in aerospace tooling, Frieda worked in real estate for 20 years, so when she saw a for sale sign at the old Jimmy's Metal Roofing building off Georgia 515 at 168 Patton Place, she called the number and spoke with Clara Reffit of Nantahala Bank.

Reffit showed them the property, but it wasn't an advantageous time to purchase due to a foreclosure situation at the bank. Panel Built Inc. ended up leasing the building for a while before moving to another facility, and Pro Tool was finally able to buy the property at the end of 2019.

Pro Tool spent all last year cleaning, preparing for and carrying out the move, getting the 40,000-square foot facility ready. Currently, the company is about 90% relocated and working out of Union County.

Sadly, family patriarch and Pro Tool co-founder Bill Jones passed away unexpectedly in 2019. Brian is thankful for his father's



**During a recent tour of the company, Lonnie Pope with Production Tool & Technology demonstrated how to properly use a Spematic drill to efficiently make holes in aerospace applications.**

Photo by Shawn Jarrard

mentorship providing him with the proper tools in life to be successful both personally and in keeping the customer-centric company thriving as CEO.

The Joneses hope to have the business completely transitioned to Blairsville soon, and when it comes to company growth in Union County, as with all things in the aerospace industry, the sky is the limit.

Fortunately, growth is something that seems to come naturally to Pro Tool, which

has cultivated a positive work environment with nearly non-existent turnover.

That's because, even though three generations of Jones family members work in the business, the company culture is oriented toward valuing every employee as a member of the Pro Tool family.

For more information, visit <http://protooltech.com> or call 478-781-8415.

## United States Navy Established - March 1794

The Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter, SAR recognizes the establishment of the U.S. Navy in March 1794. Within a year of the founding of the United States, Barbary Pirates from the Muslim countries started to attack American ships, stealing goods and kidnapping U.S. Citizens. The pirates began their hostilities during the Crusades in the 13th century. They raided along the coast of Europe often destroying many cities.

In 1783, America won its freedom from Britain, and in 1784 Moroccan pirates seized their first U.S. ship. After much debate in the U.S. Congress, they voted in March 1794 to authorize the construction of six frigates to protect American interests at sea. Thus the U.S. Navy was established. The Frigates were the: United States, Constellation, Constitution, Chesapeake, Congress, and President. During the Revolution the Colonies had a “Continental Navy, but was disbanded in August 1785. This led to the Barbary Wars of 1801 and 1815 in which the American Navy defeated the pirates and made



Scale model of the USS Constitution

the seas safe for shipping.

The Frigate USS Constitution was the third Frigate launched and commissioned on 21 October 1797. It is still commissioned today, making it the oldest commissioned war ship in service in the world.

The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) have goals of preserving history, promoting patriotism, and providing education. The U.S. Navy has

been protecting America for over 225 years. The chapter appreciates all the Navy does and our Navy veterans that have given much for our country.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Chapter, SAR, contact Jared Ogden at 770-855-0007.

Source: Book, “In God We still Trust”. By Dr. Richard Lee, Page 69.