

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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## Community responds to those in dire need in Houston

By Charles Duncan and Todd Forrest  
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Keep those donations coming for Hurricane Harvey victims – Gooch Trucking will make sure they get to Texas. Currently, there is an outpouring of support countywide as churches from one end of Union County to the other are all putting together supplies for the families caught in the mire of Hurricane Harvey and the eminent flooding that followed with the storm surge. Kris Gooch of Gooch Trucking said the Blairsville hauling company is more than eager to help those in need in south Texas.

Gooch Trucking will have a truck for collection efforts at Transplanted Treasures, 110 Gainesville Highway, Blairsville, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Sept. 8. "We even may have enough for two truckloads," Kris Gooch said. "We are going to have the truck placed at Transplanted Treasures, our thrift store. We're accepting donations of food, clothing, diapers and supplies. "We've found a church out there (Texas) accepting donations," Kris Gooch said. "It's extremely hard to find places accepting donations, but we've found one." Donations are accepted

at Transplanted Treasures only between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Kris Gooch said. "We want this drive to be organized, for someone here to accept the donations during the hours we are here – from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday, or until the truck or trucks are filled," Kris Gooch said. Kris Gooch said her family's business, and the good folks in Union and Towns counties, are helping Americans, not just Texans. "I just think that even though they are in Texas, and we are in Georgia, we are all Americans," she said. "Everybody should get together and pitch in and do whatever



Diapers collected at the Woman's Enrichment Center to be donated to Hurricane Harvey victims. Photo/Todd Forrest

## A Country Boy Survives at Anderson Music Hall

By Charles Duncan  
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Hiawassee – If Heaven ain't a lot like Dixie, you won't find Bocephus there. The Legendary Hank Williams Jr. packed out Anderson Music Hall, and packed out the hills outside its doors on Saturday night, Sept. 2. Inside and out, Hank helped raise thousands for Hurricane Harvey relief aid, signing and raffling off a hat already autographed by the likes of Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson. His fans poured into Anderson Music Hall like ants following a trail of sugar. Bocephus, as his father,



Hank Williams Jr. at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 9. Photo/Charles Duncan

Hank Williams Sr., called him in his youth, did not disappoint the crowd of almost 4,000 people.

He started off with George Thorogood's "Move It On Over." Of course, that song

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## The envelope, please; three EMC directors to be decided Saturday

By Charles Duncan  
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Here goes – and the envelope, please... Bert Rogers, Preston Cabe, Karen Pirie, and Tommy White are on the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors ballot thanks to an Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior Court judge. So are five other candidates, including two incumbents. The initial rejection of the four candidates from the annual Election Ballot by the Credentials Committee in July resulted in an Enotah Circuit Superior Court judge issuing an injunction to prevent the EMC's September elections from happening. The Board's Credentials Committee reconvened on Aug. 3 and reconsidered,



Jeremy Nelms BRMEMC General Manager

allowing Rogers, Cabe, Pirie, and White to appear on the ballot. The four had been deemed "members not in good

standing" because of previously late power payments. Senior Superior Court Judge Murphy Miller was asked to decide the meaning of "member in good standing," because there wasn't a definition included in the Cooperative's bylaws. Because the Credentials Committee reversed its previous decision, Judge Miller dismissed the court-ordered injunction on Aug. 7. Rogers, who felt wronged, pursued the legal action and rightly so, as there is no legal definition of "member in good standing." So now, two incumbents will face opposition on the Board of Directors ballot of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC's elections to be decided Sept. 9 at the Union County Schools

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## Suches to gain access to Union County Transit System

By Shawn Jarrard  
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Staff Writer

Suches residents are now eligible to request rides via the Union County Transit System. This service was previously unavailable to Suches residents for logistical reasons, as trips out to Suches from Blairsville can take up the better part of an hour one way. Local interest has been somewhat of late, however, and the Union

County Commissioner's Office has been paying attention. Now, all Union County residents can request a ride on one of the county's two 10-passenger transit buses. The buses are available to pick people up from their homes during operating hours that run five days a week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. "The system offers rides for a nominal fee for those who need transportation to and from doctor's appointments, the grocery store, and other locations within the Union

County limits," according to the Union County Government website. Suches residents will be subject to the same riding fees as Blairsville and other Union County residents. As mandated by the Georgia Department of Transportation, the cost per ride will be \$3 for the first that and 50 cents per mile after that, which could potentially bring a round-trip ride from Suches to Blairsville to more than \$20. The goal of the transit system – to offer residents without adequate transportation a way to get around – is furthered by a three-way partnership between the county, state and federal governments to get the



Suches residents who attended the Aug. 28 transit meeting in the Suches Community Center. L-R: Lowell Wilkins, Dee Wilkins, Brenda Esposito, Nick and Paula Di Martino, and Dixie Wisson. Proper funding in place to make the program a reality. Initially, the county was going to perform a GDOT Field Study to gauge interest and necessity in having public transportation in Suches. The field study was See Suches, Page 2A

## Union 4-H'er wins state honors in Atlanta



L-R: Katie Rittenhouse, Allie Kumler and Timothy Jennings.

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again this year. Over 250 4-H'ers throughout the state competed for Top Honors in their respective projects while spending the week at the

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## Four inducted into the Union County Agriculture Hall of Fame

By Lily Avery  
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Union County Farmers Market played host to a special ceremony to honor four outstanding local farmers who were inducted into the Union County Historical Society Agriculture Hall of Fame on Saturday, Sept. 2. "The Agriculture Hall of Fame was thought up after the Farmers Market was established," said Libby Stevens, Union County Historical Society President. "This is something that is very important and very special to us. The agriculture industry is a large and varied thing. "In fact, only three percent of the industry are the ones that put food on our table. The others are horticulturalists, agriculture marketers and countless others. "We are truly blessed to be in an agricultural city and county. So, today is very



2017 Union County Ag Hall of Fame Inductees, L-R: Joe Gray, Beverly Bradley, Janie and Ronnie Dyer. Photo/Lily Avery

important for us to recognize and preserve the names of the people who made this

county, which was founded on consistent agriculture." This year's inductees

included Ronnie and Janie Dyer, Joe Gray and Beverly

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