

Tunnel Rats...continued from Page 1A

group. As for Orr, a Vietnam veteran, he has a calling to use his musical gifts to touch

the forgotten warriors of Vietnam.

His first CD, Vietnam: The Journey focuses on the experiences of the “in country” combat veteran. In Vietnam: The Journey Continues, his songs raise awareness of the immense struggles the lonely warriors faced when they

returned home to a country divided; struggles that continue to this day.

Returning veterans and their families need to know they are not alone and there is hope. “We will have succeeded if the message, ‘there is hope, you are not alone,’ can save just one veteran,” Orr said.

Priven said the concert starts at 6:20 p.m. Oct. 14, at

the Union County Fine Arts Center.

“The Tunnel Rats perform to help veterans; Sid Orr is a Vietnam veteran,” Priven said. “There will be a \$250 prize that we’re going to give away – one person gets it all.

“You don’t have to buy anything – it’s a free concert, and a free ticket,” he said. “It

starts at 6:20 p.m., so, you probably want to be in your seat by 5:45 p.m. The doors open at 5:30 p.m.”

The VVA’s next project is to put military mural on the 900-foot wall adjacent to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge, Priven said.

“That project is under way,” Priven said. “It’s about a \$100,000 project.”

Lodge...from Page 1A

interpretation and application, and pastoral counseling.

He completed his Doctor of Divinity work just prior to coming to Blairsville. He and his wife, Valeria, have three sons, all of whom are married and involved in vocational ministry. Dr. Lodge and Valeria have seven grandchildren.

In a recent interview, Dr. Lodge said that he represents no party or special interest group.

Dr. Lodge is a staunch theological conservative committed to the Word of God. His life testimony can be summed up in three words: lostness, leadership, and

legacy.

“These are some very challenging times for Georgia Baptists,” Dr. Lodge said. “I feel called by God to be a uniting influence in our convention, having never been engaged in the political life. I represent no side, no party, and no special interest groups.

“I’m just a dedicated pastor who has dedicated my entire life to the glory of the

Kingdom of the Church,” Dr. Lodge said. “I have served many capacities in the GBC (Georgia Baptist Convention) and the FBC (First Baptist Church) over the years, but always in a servant role. Servant leadership is the best model; I’m just committed and want to help Georgia Baptists and develop them as disciples.”

Blairsville City Council talks signs in regular meeting

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

During the regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 3, the Blairsville City Council approved an amendment to the current alcohol ordinance and heard from concerned downtown business owners regarding signage around the square.

For several months, the City has been diligently working on ordinances with the intent of mirroring Union County ordinances as much as possible, to lessen confusion for county and City residents.

Recently, the Council reviewed the City’s current alcohol ordinance and upon doing so decided to move forward with an amendment to regulate signage advertising or promoting alcohol sales within the City Limits.

After hosting a public hearing for any concerns or questions regarding the amendment, the Council unanimously approved the new amendment. The amendment includes three sections regulating signage advertising or promoting alcohol sales.

This amendment can be found in Sections 10-76(a), 10-76(b) and 10-79(n) of the Alcohol Ordinance 2017-03. This amendment does not currently mirror that of the county but the Council may return to the ordinance in the future for further amendments.

Signage in the downtown area made its way into conversation for a second time during the meeting when Dick Mills of 7M Family Farms and Nate’s Restaurant addressed the Council concerning a recent event regarding one of the restaurant’s outdoor signs.

According to Mills, he was asked by Blairsville City Police to remove a sign promoting the business from the City sidewalk. Nate’s is located in the Seasons Inn Plaza, rather than directly on the square, and since the restaurant’s location is somewhat hidden, Mills thought the small sign on the sidewalk would be acceptable.

Mills went on to state that he felt the request was unfair due to other businesses in the downtown area placing not only signs, but chairs and tables as well, on City sidewalk with no repercussions.

“We had put an extra sign out there on the corner,” said Mills. “All it was saying was our daily special. This is where I have an issue. I’m not allowed to put a sign out on City property but it’s no different than every other restaurant on the square that has tables and chairs and signs on City property.

“I’m all for every business in here to do as much as they can, because we all have to survive, but it’s all City property. How is that fair to anyone else in here, as a business.

“That’s the only complaint that I have. If we’re going to push that on one business, then lets make it for everybody.

“I just want to bring business in. I pay taxes just like everybody else, I just want to be judged fairly.”

Mayor Jim Conley



Blairsville City Councilmember Tony Dyer and City Attorney David Barrett. Photo/Lily Avery



Blairsville City Councilmembers Rhonda Mahan and Betty Easter. Photo/Lily Avery

assured Mills that both he and the Council heard his complaints and would address it accordingly, after carefully assessing all factors that Mills mentioned, and hopefully find a resolution to the issue in the near future.

“You have a legitimate complaint there,” said Mayor Conley. “I understand it completely.

“We need to take a look at everything you’ve talked about, but we’ll do our best to find a solution to the problem.”

The November City Council meeting has been moved from Tuesday, Nov. 7, to Tuesday, Nov. 14, due to City elections that will be taking place on the first Tuesday of November.

Drug Bust...from Page 1A

marijuana coming from the vehicle,” said Union County Sheriff’s Office Detective Lt. Daren Osborn. “Deputy Patton told Mr. Wrenn, ‘I smell marijuana, where is it at?’ Mr. Wrenn told him that he had some in the console of his vehicle. And he did, it was a Mason jar filled with some impressive marijuana buds inside.

“If you find a controlled substance, you can search the vehicle,” Detective Lt. Osborn said. “Deputy Patton searched the vehicle and found a 13-gallon white garbage bag with lots more marijuana buds. It was about three-quarters full.”

Wrenn was arrested and charged with failure to maintain lane and distribution of marijuana, Detective Lt. Osborn said.

The destination for the potent weed was a neighboring county, Detective Lt. Osborn said.

In a separate incident, Union County Sheriff’s Deputy Drew Stewart arrested two North Carolina women following a routine traffic stop on Georgia 515.

Lorri Walker Kilby, 46, of Franklin, North Carolina, and Jennifer Ann Bryant, 47, of Murphy, North Carolina, remain in custody after a search of their blue, Volkswagen Beetle uncovered six grams of methamphetamine, Deputy Stewart said.

“The driver of the vehicle, Jennifer Ann Bryant, made an improper turn into Walmart,” Deputy Stewart said. “I initiated a traffic stop. Once I got them stopped, I talked with them and there were indicators that there was some criminal activity involved.

“They gave me consent to search the vehicle, and I discovered several Baggies of methamphetamine,” Deputy Stewart said. “There were six grams of meth, and the way it was bagged, it was destined for

distribution.”

Kilby, the passenger, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug-related objects, three counts possession of dangerous drugs, and prescription medication not in original container, Deputy Stewart said.

Bryant, the driver and owner of the VW, was arrested

and charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, possession of drug-related objects, improper right-hand turn, and turn signal violation, Deputy Stewart said.

“The vehicle they were using was impounded and is here at the Sheriff’s Office,” Deputy Stewart said Sunday night. “They’re still being held in the Union County Detention Center.”