

Veterans

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Schools will attend the veterans and their spouses are ceremony, and all community invited to attend.

Multiple groups from the school system will be involved in the ceremony, including the band and chorus from both the high school and middle school, the Future Farmers of America and the BETA Club.

The middle school sign language class will also perform during the ceremony.

A number of other students will serve important functions during the event, including Sahory Salazar as keynote speaker and Claire McPherson as master of ceremonies, and Madison Yost will orchestrate the Quilt of Valor ceremony along with Coleson Daniel, Kanon Hemphill and Brian Smith.

This year's Quilt of Valor was sewn by Mrs. Clayton's art students: Katie Wood, Lilly Burnette, Hannah Hicks, Zander Vinez, McKenzie Smith, Jaceyallen Elliot, Rilla Ricks and Megan Abercrombie.

The North Georgia Civil Air Patrol Squadron from Blairsville, commanded by Daniel Dockery, will carry out the flag detail, and the North Georgia Honor Guard, commanded by Wayne Roshaven, will provide a firing party.

Active duty Army and Marine Corps recruiters from the Blue Ridge Recruiting Station will assist in the ceremony.

All veterans, their families and community members are encouraged to attend.

Parking for all visitors will be available in the Union County Elementary School

parking lot adjacent to the football field.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place in the Fine Arts Center.

The point of contact for the ceremony is Art McCann at Union County High School. He can be reached at 706-745-2216 ext. 1112, or at amccann@ucschools.org.

The number to call for weather information on the morning of the ceremony is 706-745-2216.

More information and potential ceremony updates will be available at www.unioncountyschools.org.

Separately, on Saturday, Nov. 10, in recognition of the 243rd birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps, the Marines of North Georgia and Western North Carolina will be holding a Birthday Ball at North Georgia Technical College here in Blairsville.

The ball will begin at 5:30 p.m. For more information or to inquire about ticket availability, call Dale Greene at 404-273-2834.

For those unable to attend the ball, there will also be a USMC Birthday Party at Daniel's Steak House in Hiwassee on Nov. 10 starting at 6:30 p.m.

For additional information about the event in Hiwassee, call Walt Scott at 706-897-9610.

Also on Nov. 10, Copperhead Lodge in Blairsville will be hosting their annual Veterans Day event at 11 a.m.

On Monday, Nov. 12, which is the 2018 federal holiday observance date for Veterans Day, the Ira Weaver American Legion Post 121 will be hosting an All-American Free Hog Dog Luncheon with sides to honor the veterans of Union County.

The luncheon will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the First Methodist Church on SR 515, and anyone with questions is being asked to contact Stephen Stratman at 912-856-7951, or by email at smstratman@legionpost121.org.

"If you are a veteran, please send a photograph of yourself in uniform," according to LegionPost121.org. "If not possible, just send photograph you do not want back. Digital file would be best. Give us your service rank, dates of service and branch you served. This will be used to develop a slideshow honoring you or a loved one who served."

Also on Nov. 12, the students of Woody Gap School will be honoring their community veterans with a Veterans Day Ceremony to begin at 1 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Moore

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Raleigh Keagan, Callie Moore and Tony Ward of the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition at the 2018 State of the Water Address on Oct. 30 in Hayesville, North Carolina. Photo by Mark Smith

Callie Moore with assistance from staffers Raleigh Keagan and Tony Ward.

And while the Nottely River also got the HRWC stamp of approval for fishing, Moore said that people may want to think twice before swimming in the river, as E. coli concentrations are "well above recreation water quality standards."

"We are now sampling two locations on the river upstream and seven locations on tributaries to the lake," said Moore. "All of these are in Union County."

Added Moore: "Unfortunately, almost all sites in Union County are in our lowest third of that ranking of streams that we have. The only one that's in the Top 10 cleanest is Wolf Creek, which is up near Vogel State Park, kind of in the headwaters."

Of course, the coalition will continue to monitor the Nottely River, though Moore said that more volunteers are needed to sample the river closer to the lake and in North Carolina.

A watershed can become polluted in several ways,

said Moore, adding that best management practices have been developed in recent years to eradicate that pollution. Enforcement of those best practices in rural areas, however, is sometimes difficult.

According to Moore, common sources of E. coli are as follows:

Leaking or failing septic systems; livestock with access to streams; livestock feedlots without the appropriate practices to protect water quality; RV resorts and campgrounds without appropriate waste disposal systems; and leaking sewer lines and domesticated populations of Canada geese.

"The geese are a huge source of phosphorus and pathogens," said Moore. "These are not the wild geese that actually do migrate. These geese are a kind of domesticated nuisance. In some areas of the watershed, they alone are problems for recreation."

Added Moore: "In a watershed this large (Lake Nottely), it takes an entire planning effort. Studies like that cost, and they take time. They take more monitoring data than we have. As you're

going to see, this is a priority for us going forward."

Also that evening, Moore touched on how, concerning water quality, the state only records data every two to five years in its watersheds.

HRWC volunteers, on the other hand, record water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH and E. coli at 21 different sites on a monthly basis.

With that in mind, Moore's biggest takeaway over the last year is the knowledge that, without its volunteer monitoring team, the coalition would not have had any new findings to present at the State of the Water Address.

"We'll be doing more monitoring above the lake to try to narrow down the source of excess nutrients and E. coli," said Moore. "And we'll seek funding for a watershed plan in the Upper Nottely in order to get grants for water quality improvement projects."

For more information and to find out how to become involved, check out the coalition's website at HRWC.net.

Young Harris College expands educational options in the region

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Founded in 1886 by Methodist minister Artemas Lester, Young Harris College has thrived over the years due to its ability to adapt to changing times and new technologies.

Once a two-year school, today Young Harris College offers many baccalaureate-level degree programs as it continues to adapt to the needs of the region.

Enter the college's 23rd president, Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D.

Van Horn said that when he came on board in October 2017, the college's Board of Trustees tasked him with a number of directives, the first of which was to ensure that Young Harris College remain viable as an institution of higher education.

"The second thing they wanted me to do was to really focus on re-engaging the college with the region, meaning responding to what the regional needs were," said Van Horn. "The first thing we did was, we re-established the mission of the institution."

"The mission basically said that the college was a residential liberal arts college. The board said that the college was going to become a comprehensive college, which means we're offering more professional degrees. But we're committed to our liberal arts core, the core curriculum."

The college has three academic divisions: Arts and Humanities, Professional Studies, and Mathematics, Science and Technology. Within these divisions, the college is expanding the majors offered.



Drew Van Horn

"This fall, we began offering majors in accounting, management, economics and graphic design," said Van Horn. "Then, two other undergraduate majors will be approved at the board meeting in November. One will be a degree in finance and the other will be a degree in marketing."

Last year, Young Harris College earned the ability to start offering online-only degrees, as well as graduate-level programs.

In January, the college will debut its Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership, an online program designed for working professionals who have an associate degree or equivalent credits.

Also in January, the college will launch its first ever graduate program, a Master of Arts in Teaching.

The Early College program, in which students earn college credits while still in high school, has grown from an initial enrollment of 189 students last fall to more than 400 this fall. This program saves families money, as the

state reimburses the college for tuition and book costs.

Van Horn and the college have also partnered with the University of Georgia to form what's referred to as a 3-2 engineering program. A Young Harris student takes three years of pre-engineering curriculum, then is automatically accepted at UGA to complete the degree.

Furthermore, the college is in negotiations with Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, to form a partnership for Young Harris students who aspire to be doctors, physician's assistants and dentists.

This program would be like the UGA engineering program, wherein Young Harris students would take three years of pre-med curriculum, then transfer to Meharry to complete a degree in medicine.

A similar program exists with Mercer University, where former YHC President Cathy Cox is Dean of the Law School, for Young Harris students aspiring to enter the field of law.

These partnership programs, said Van Horn, have been crafted with the idea of students returning to their roots, to their culture, to work and open practices, all while fostering economic development.

Looking back, it's plain to see that small private colleges used to strive toward becoming elitist institutions, and that the ones that succeeded in this did little for their regions, said Van Horn.

Fortunately, times have changed, and today, the leadership of Young Harris College desires very much to facilitate regional improvement.