

Prayer...from Page 1A

local proclamation. The Rev. Fred Lodge said the day is one to come together in unison to pray. "It's a day of importance," he said. "For us locally, it's an opportunity for us to come together across denominational lines with our public servants that we love and pray for everyday, and focus on God leading our nation." Mayor Conley said the day is one to look forward to each and every year. "It's a day when we'll pray for our community and the whole United States,"

Mayor Conley said. "I would love to see our Nation and the whole world praying at the same time. It's a time that I personally look forward to each and every year. It's a time to pray for our community, our Nation, and the world." Commissioner Paris said the occasion is one of great importance. "We all need to remember and always know who our Creator is, we all need help and assistance because we can't do it all on our own," Paris said. "Having spiritual

help and guidance is something we all need. It's also nice to know that people take the time to pray for their fellow man and their Nation as a whole. It's a pretty awesome experience." Commissioner Paris said it is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in Union County when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation. Civic prayers and national days of prayer have a

long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775. The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given. "We are all endowed with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which do not come from man or government, but from God," Paris said.

In 1988, federal legislation set aside the first Thursday in May, each year, as a National Day of Prayer. It was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by the 40th President, Ronald Reagan. The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens. Everyone is invited

to attend the event at First Baptist Church, which will include prayers for the military, local emergency forces, governmental leaders and the community. Event Coordinators Richard and Sharon Morrison would like to invite everyone to what they're calling a "united effort and unique opportunity for citizens and their elected leaders to join in united prayer to acknowledge together the sovereignty of Almighty God, and to seek His guidance and blessings for our nation as we depend on Him."

Memorial...from Page 1A

cherish." Compatriot Scott Ledford spoke about what that charge means and how best to carry it forward in 2015 rather than in 1867. "In order to teach future generations, I think we have to take a look at how we are relevant to future generations," he said. "When they've got a cornucopia of options for a Saturday morning on what to spend their time on, they might come out and do something like this instead of staying home playing video

games or watching TV." Ledford's concerns are partially over the dwindling attendance of the Sons of Confederate veterans, and partially over the way the South is viewed, and in some cases stereotyped, among the rest of the United States. "I have to ask, at a time when we've got a county of 20,000 people or so, there's maybe 20 here, and at a time when all things Confederate or veteran or even South, all these things are under constant and heavy attack and

ridicule, sometimes, I got to ask why are we here?" he said. Commander Levi, who spoke after Ledford, agreed, but he said the problem went even deeper than lack of attendance among the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "It's the involvement, or rather lack of involvement, in almost everything," said Levi. "There's not a single organization not having membership problems. And we need to do something with that. Maybe it's television. Maybe it's all those iPods." Ledford put forth a reason that someone might con-

tinue to be interested in the four-year history of the Confederation. "I suggest that we do this because it matters," he said. "It matters not because Stephen Dill Lee says it's supposed to matter to us, because if you go back over that charge, it talks a lot about the soldier's virtues, his values, his principles. What about us today?" Ledford maintained that the South has a distinct place within the United States. It has a distinct culture, distinct cuisine, distinct symbols, distinct music, and a distinct way of speaking. The South is also

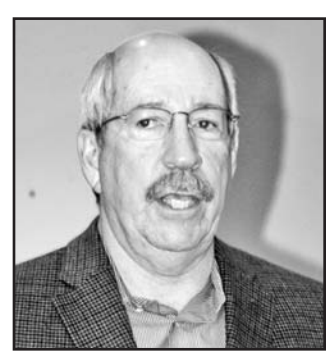
eclectic, home to many different ethnicities, religions, and cultures. "I mean you name it," he said, "top to bottom, every part of life, there's something unique about the South's version of it. So there's a lot to be proud of and there's a lot to advance." Yet there continues to be bad media attention and stereotypes perpetuated in the popular media regarding the South. Ledford's solution was to "fight back." "We've got to be aggressive about it, folks. I mean, when people come around, there's so much igno-

rance out there about Southern culture and Southern history and how it fits in with the history of the rest of this country," he said. Fortunately, he was surrounded by a congregation of like-minded individuals who had researched the same versions of history as he. "You all in particular are uniquely positioned and qualified to fight back against that ignorance," he told those assembled. "You've spent a lot of time studying that part of our history, and it squarely falls upon the shoulders of people like us to go and argue back against that ignorance."

Buy Local...from Page 1A

said. "This whole event is all about buying local, supporting chamber members, supporting local businesses. It's why we do what we do." "Local business is the lifeblood of our chamber," Williams said. "It's the lifeblood of our community. We have restaurants, gift shops, service industry, and a wide variety of businesses that are represented here." "This event is all about them," she said. "Buying local is so, so important. The benefits of buying local benefit the community, not just the businesses, but also those who depend on businesses. They depend on local businesses for a job, or sponsorship of some event, whatever it may be, that's why we support those local businesses." Thursday's event fea-

tures more than 55 businesses and non-profits, and clubs, and what could be called a Taste of Blairsville-Union County, as many local restaurants will be represented at the event. Meanwhile, chamber workers began organizing the event more than a month ago. "It was a lot of work, about a month or a little more, but we have a fabulous group of Chamber staffers that organized this event," Williams said. "We work hard every day for all of our Chamber businesses. And that's what we're here to do, support all of our Chamber members." "It's our job to show the community who our businesses are and what they have to offer," Williams said. The event is a mini-



Lamar Paris trade show, much like the annual Mountain Home Show held annually at North Georgia Technical College's Blairsville Campus. The only difference, it's a broad variety of businesses in one location; it's not just regulated to one industry - it's service, retail, and restaurants. "We'll have more than 50 businesses and non-profits in one location, which makes a perfect recipe for shopping local," Williams said.

As usual, Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley is thoroughly impressed by the event. "Buying local keeps money in town," he said. "This event is a chance for businesses to help each other. Some of these businesses, people don't even realize that they're here. There are a lot of up and coming businesses here in Blairsville and Union County, and it's exciting." Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris agreed with Mayor Conley and said the event was a true showcase of what Blairsville and Union County have to offer. "This event is truly important," Paris said. "Anytime you can get people to think about buying local, it's huge. This event shows just how vibrant our community really is, and how it's growing."

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

SalonTru
Excellence in Organic Hair Care
706-781-3015 • 417 Blue Ridge Street
Book Online at www.vagaro.com/salontru
Susan Anderson • Glory McGinn Reel
Lindsey Gaylord • Connie Goodwin
Valorie Carter • Sasha Watson

Azzarello
Photography Studio
For All Your Photography Needs & Graphic Design
Business Cards, Rack Cards, Magnets, etc.
706-633-3396
307 D Cleveland St. Blairsville, Ga.

SHAWN'S HOME FURNISHINGS
Mattresses, Porch Rockers & More!
"From the Front Porch to the Back Door We've Got You Covered!"
568 Blue Ridge St. • Blairsville, GA
FREE DELIVERY! 706-835-1209
Mon-Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-4pm • Closed Sun

THE Mountain Life TEAM
Call us today - (877) 633-8186
TheMountainLifeTeam.com
KW KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY PARTNERS

24 Hour Emergency Service
SafeGuard Lock & Vault
706-745-LOCK (5625)
www.safeguardlockandvault.com
1063 MURPHY HIGHWAY SUITE, 102 BLAIRSVILLE, GA.
CERTIFIED • BONDED • INSURED
SAVTA #SR16562 ALOA #27989

Trackrock Stables
TIME TO SIGN THE KIDS UP FOR HORSE CAMP CHECK
TRACKROCK.COM FOR DATES
TRAIL RIDES, LESSONS, BOARDING
\$5 LOCAL DISCOUNT
For reservations call 706-745-5252

PINECLIFF BOARDING KENNELS
Your baby is our baby, while you are away.
Personalized Care • Heated & Air Conditioned
Indoor & Outdoor Runs • Pet Transport Available
Bathing & Grooming Available
706-374-2861 • 706-851-8552

ALLIED DEVELOPMENTS, INC.
Grading, Land Clearing, Septic Systems, Retaining Walls
Specializing in Landscape & Hardscape
Bringing the Landscape Creativity of Atlanta to the Mountains!
Call Amed Troche 770-891-7431

WE'VE MOVED!
the Wine SHOPPE
Wine Tasting! Fine Selection of Quality Cigars!
706-745-WINE (9463)
64 BRACKETTS WAY, BLAIRSVILLE, GA

TOTAL RECOVERY
PAINT & BODY
(706) 745-9703
391 BLUE RIDGE HWY
ALL INSURANCE ACCEPTED

Our clients' interests come first.
Flip Varney
Financial Advisor
178 Bracketts Way Suite 2
Blairsville, GA 30512
706-835-1385
www.edwardjones.com
Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING Member SIPC

Lea Realty LLC
Native Brokerage
706-897-4131
706-897-2454
www.gamountain getaway.com

TimeWise Repair
Volu-Firm Set
Lift away the years.
Experience the power an innovative regimen created to target the advanced signs of aging. This premium set reduces the look of deep lines and wrinkles, restores the appearance of lifted contours and recaptures youthful volume. Are you ready to see these amazing results?
Contact me to rediscover your youth.
Elizabeth Dyer
Independent Beauty Consultant
<http://www.MaryKay.com/elizdyer>
706.745.8632 (Work) 706.745.0274 (Cell)

ASPAVING DIVISION INC.
706-400-2988
DRIVEWAYS
PARKING LOTS
SUB DIVISIONS
TAR/GRAVEL
Commercial • Residential

Affordable HEARING AID SOLUTIONS
706-896-0051
Debra D. Spaulding
Hearing Instrument Specialist
71A BERRONG STREET • HIWASSEE, GA
411D HIGHWAY 515 • BLAIRSVILLE, GA

MORTGAGE FINANCIAL GROUP, INC
If you are looking for Great Service, Competitive Rates and Fees, Look No Further!
JENNIFER JOHNSON, Branch Manager NMLS#190999
566 Murphy Rd, Suite 102 • Blairsville, GA 30512
706-745-LOAN (5626) • 706-897-2406 (Cell)
jennifer@mfglends.com • www.MFGlends.com
Licensed Mortgage Lender NMLS#219650

Superior Painting & Pressure Cleaning, LLC
Fully Insured
"One Call Covers It All!"
Cell: (706) 897-4884
Call for a FREE ESTIMATE

VERDA ROSE ANTIQUES & GIFTS
2413 US Hwy. 76 W, Hiwassee, GA
Thursday - Saturday 10 am to 5 pm

sears BLAIRSVILLE
Sears of Blairsville
60 Sears Way
Blairsville, GA 30512
Locally Owned and Operated
Tel 706-745-6600
Fax 706-745-8537
ds3896@shos.com
Parts/Service 1-800-549-7861

Charlie's Custom Leather
Holsters - Knife Belts - Bible Covers
Repairs & much more
Hand Made To Order
770.533.0300
Blairsville Ga.