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Outdoor Advertising, Limited Partners to erect and operate its signs which resulted in legal action against the city. The city "shall complete any local paperwork necessary to obtain state permits for the signs."

He also ruled that discovery is reopened to all remaining claims for a period of 90 days.

Those claims include damages sought against the city.

The day following the ruling by Judge Struble, the city of Blairsville implemented a 90-day moratorium on new sign applications.

Basic interpretation: the city's ordinance implied that it was enforcing zoning.

The city is seeking to pre-

pare its sign ordinance to meet any legal challenge. To do so will require proper public notice and public hearings to meet the criteria required by zoning procedures law.

Mayor Conley promises that the city will correct the problems of its sign ordinance and return with an ordinance that will

protect the aesthetics of Downtown Blairsville.

The city is expected to further address the sign ordinance issue at its May 1st city meeting.

Read the May 9th edition of the North Georgia News for more on the city's sign ordinance decisions and Tuesday night's council meeting.

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ans' members for descendants of Confederate veterans. An organization for female descendants of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy also was formed.

Proceeding the reading of Gen. S.D. Lee's charge and the history behind the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Piper Daniel Bollinger played "Dixie the Brave."

Then the presentation of the local Proclamation issued by the Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris was read by Adjutant Harold Levi to Commander Darrell Moler.

The Rev. James Geer and Massengale removed the Battle Flag of the Confederacy from the wreath, folded it in a military manner and presented it to Commander Moler.

The Rev. Geer then spoke on the role of pastors in the Civil War and the distribution of bibles by the American Bible Association to both sides during the War Between the States.

Chaplains were usually

released immediately when captured unless they also held a high rank and were a battlefield commander, and then they could be kept indefinitely. Some were paid at the same rate as privates; others were paid as much as a first lieutenant. At the close of the Rev. Geer's speech, Bollinger performed "Flowers of the Forest."

Janie Turner, president of the United Daughters of the Confederacy spoke of the role that their organization plays in Northeast Georgia by restoring grave sites of Civil War veterans and preserving the history of the War Between the States in Union, Lumpkin, and Fannin counties and the rest of Northeast Georgia.

Compatriot David Colie gave the final presentation of the day when he spoke of his former hometown of Danville, VA and its involvement in the Civil War. At the end of the ceremony, everyone stood as Bollinger performed "Amazing Grace," Massengale gave

the closing prayer, and Jay Craig gave thanks to all of the attendees.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, David W. Payne Camp No. 1633 is part of the 2nd Brigade, "The Blue Ridge Brigade," Georgia Division. Camp No. 1633 was chartered in 1993.

The chartering ceremony was held at Pleasant Hill Church in Union County, where David Payne is buried. David is buried next to his brother and fellow soldier John Payne and their wives in Pleasant Hill's cemetery.

Their activities have included but are not limited to, participation in the construction of the Union County War Memorial honoring all Union County war deaths.

More Confederate War Dead are listed on the monument than all the dead of all the other wars added together. They conduct the annual Confederate Memorial Day Services, install grave markers and place almost 400 Confederate Battle Flags on the indi-

vidual graves of local Confederate Veterans each Confederate Memorial Day. They participate in all local parades including the Sorghum Festival Parade and the Memorial Day Parade along with working to save, move, and restore the cabin of John Payne, David's brother.

This cabin was given to the Union County Historical Society where it forms a focal point for their Heritage Center. The camp also participates with the Historical Society to present special lectures, living histories and War Between the States details, as well as other community re-enacting and living history groups. They put out a monthly newsletter, have a camp Website, and have monthly meetings with guest lecturers.

To learn more about Camp No. 1633 or you are interested in joining, their meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the United Community Bank Community Building.

Union County deputies record seven felony drug arrests

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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The Union County Sheriff's Office Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) team has been busy over the course of the past two weeks.

A total of five high risk search warrants have been served by deputies that have resulted in seven felony drug arrests, Union County Sheriff Reports show.

Approximately 10 pounds of marijuana have been seized in addition to five firearms, several marijuana plants, \$9,000 in drug-related funds, and four vehicles utilized in the transportation of the illegal drugs, according to sheriff's reports.

Union County Sheriff Scott Stephens said the recent activity by his deputies is an attempt to slow down the traffic of drugs running through Union County.

"Our deputies have put in long hours and a lot of effort to help make SWAT successful," Sheriff Stephens said.

Sheriff Stephens' SWAT team will be available for public viewing during the Sheriff's Office Open House on May 5, from noon to 3 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The sheriff also welcomes information at any time related to details about drug activity and trafficking. Residents can submit anonymous tips by mail at 378 Beasley St., Blairsville, GA 30512, by telephone at (706) 439-6066 or by e-mail at twood@unioncountysoga.org, or, in person. All drug tips remain strictly confidential.

"Anytime someone has information, they can get those details to us, no questions asked," Sheriff Stephens said. "If they see something in their neighborhood that they think we need to look at, we'll be glad to take information from them, no questions asked."



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gether and they are all awesome."

The evening kicked off with opening remarks from Bragg and the invocation offered by Pastor Bethel Buchanan.

Following the invocation by the Rev. Buchanan, a scrumptious supper that included, roast beef, grilled chicken, mashed potatoes, Caribbean blend vegetables, rolls, tea, coffee, and cheesecake was served.

At the conclusion of the meal, UCNH Administrator Doug Davenport, residents Jo Atkinson and Louise Wimpey further articulated the value and importance of the multitude of volunteers that allow a smooth operation to occur at Union County Nursing Home.

Bragg followed their remarks by handing out certificates to the numerous volunteers who dedicate so much of their time and money to the nursing home.

The dinner concluded with the Rev. Luther Thomas' benediction.

However, the most touching words of the evening

may not have been spoken, but were written on a program that each of those in attendance received.

It was titled "A Volunteer's Prayer: "I am only one person, but one person can and will make a difference in another's life. And if I can do that for someone today, when my head lies upon my pillow tonight, and my eyes close, I will be at peace."

The North Georgia News would like to thank all the many volunteers who take the time to talk to someone and make a difference in their lives. Also, those thanks include the folks who give someone a hug or a smile, just to show they care.

Bottom line, the many volunteers give compassion and understanding to calm another's fears and give them strength to face what lies ahead.

If your church, business, or even yourself is interested in volunteering at the Union County Nursing Home, please contact Loretta Petty in the activities department at (706) 745-4948.



Volunteers were appreciated at UCNH. Photo/Todd Forrest

Al-Anon meetings/times

Blairsville: Mountain Presbyterian Church, 2945 Young Harris Hwy. 76, Wednesday 8 p.m. Al-Anon Family Group Discussion, open meeting. Saint Clare's Episcopal Church, Friday 12 noon Al-anon Group Discussion, open meeting.

Young Harris: Sharp Memorial Methodist Church, Tuesday 12 noon Al-Anon Family Group discussion, open meeting.

Hiawassee: Chatuge Regional Hospital, 110 South Main Street, Sunday 7 p.m. Al-Anon Family Group Discussion, open meeting. Christ the King Church, Monday 7 p.m. Al-Anon Family Group Discussion, open meeting.

Al-Anon is open to anyone who has been affected by another person's drinking. The only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or a friend.

Call 706-835-5827, 706-897-0628 or 828-389-8981 for more information. NT(May22)CA