

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

www.nganews.com

Legal Organ of Union County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1909

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Local historian Maurice Farabee remembered as friend of Union County

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

When World War II Pilot Maurice Farabee passed away on May 29 at the age of 97, he left behind a tremendous legacy of historical preservation in Union County.

He and his wife Ann, who died in 2001 at the age of 73, previously led the charge to restore the Old Courthouse, which many believe to be the centerpiece that ties the whole community together.

Maurice and Ann's contributions to the county were honored most recently in 2015, when the Union County Historical Society recognized the Farabees as

"Preservationists of the 20th Century."

The award commemorated their tireless leadership and dedication to the restoration of the Old Courthouse, especially during the decade of 1990 to 2000, and for their role in establishing a Museum of Union County History.

"I consider it a real honor – I'm just sorry Ann wasn't here to receive the honor with me," said Maurice Farabee, two-time past Historical Society president, at the time.

The Farabees moved from Florida to Blairsville in 1977, after Maurice retired from the FBI and Ann from teaching grade school, though

the two had had a second home in Union County for several years before moving here full-time.

Even prior to calling Blairsville home, Ann and Maurice did important work with the Historical Society, and when the time came to preserve and restore the Old Courthouse, the two went above and beyond to raise money and fight for the history of Union County.

The terrible state of the nearly 100-year-old building had caused it to be condemned in the 1980s, resulting in the need to build the current county courthouse.

And before the effort to restore the Old Courthouse really got underway, some in

the county wanted to tear it down and put a parking lot or an intersection in its place.

The Farabees, however, had different plans.

Together, they led several fundraisers, including the sale of namesake ceiling tiles from inside the Old Courtroom and special memorial bricks for installation in the walkway around the courthouse.

As such, Ann and Maurice were instrumental in helping the Historical Society raise more than \$1 million to restore the Old Courthouse, including the upstairs courtroom and the replacement of the clock and bell tower atop the building.

Originally built in 1899, See *Farabee*, Page 2A



Maurice Farabee, right, accepting the "Preservationists of the 20th Century" award from then-Historical Society President Bud Akins in 2015. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Blairsville's own Chef Dave Drake of Monet's needs a living kidney donor

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Dave and Joan Drake are practically an institution here in Blairsville, having owned and operated Monet's Italian Grill & Pizzeria for 28 years.

That's a long time by any standard, though the Drakes themselves have been inseparable for nearly twice as long as that, at 54 years. And they'll gladly spend 54 more years together if they can.

But in order to make that a reality, Chef Dave, as he's affectionately known by current and former employees and students, is in urgent need of a living kidney donor.

Fortunately, one can help. Thanks to the Emory Transplant Center's paired match program, he doesn't need a perfect match to receive a new kidney.

"To date, we have performed more than 1,300 living donor kidney transplants," according to EmoryHealthcare.org. "We encourage living donation because of the



Dave and Joan Drake outside of their Downtown Blairsville restaurant, Monet's Italian Grill & Pizzeria. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

excellent outcomes and the shorter wait times for patients to receive a kidney.

"Emory Transplant Center also offers a paired exchange program to donor and recipient pairs who do not match. We work with the National Kidney Registry to locate matching kidneys and exchange with other recipients

who have donors who do not match with them."

For those wondering if kidney donation is safe, the most thorough research on the subject has indicated that, when it comes to long-term effects of kidney donation, "living kidney donors can expect to live full, healthy lives," according to the

See *Chef Dave*, Page 6A

Concert to benefit childhood literacy, celebrate Waylon Jennings' birthday



Waymore's Outlaws to perform live in concert at Union County Fine Arts Center on June 15.

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Tickets are going fast for the First Readers of Union County benefit concert by Waymore's Outlaws at the Fine Arts Center on Saturday, June 15.

The show is a special

tribute to Waylon Jennings called "Runnin' With Ol' Waylon," and it will take place on the 82nd birthday of the Outlaw Country legend.

Waymore's Outlaws consists of five former members of Jennings' band The Waylors.

"Runnin' With Ol' Waylon" is the current touring

concert for Waymore's Outlaws, and it features personal stories, accompanying rare videos and images, and performances of Waylon's music by his very own band.

Proceeds from the concert will benefit the First Foundation For Childhood Literacy of Union County.

See *Waymore's Outlaws*, Page 2A

16th Annual Scottish Festival canceled due to weather safety concerns

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

For the first time in its 16-year history, the Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games Board of Directors decided last week to cancel the event, which was planned for Saturday, June 8, and Sunday, June 9.

"The biggest reason that we decided to cancel it is, of course, the weather," said Board Chair Joe Satterfield. "Looking at all the weather forecasts we could find out of Chattanooga (Tennessee) and Atlanta, and then looking at the Blairsville forecasts, we were seeing 80% and 90% chance of rain along with wind



A view from the 2016 Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games, which this year was canceled for weather. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

and possibly lightning." Several vendors and athletes had apparently seen

the same forecasts and called to cancel prior to the board's

See *Scottish Festival*, Page 2A

City to begin processing landfill wastewater for Dahlenega company

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Blairsville Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager Jody Cook has determined that the plant could handle processing leachate from landfills, potentially bringing in over a million dollars a year in additional revenues to the city.

Cook discussed the proposition with Mayor Jim Conley and the Blairsville City Council during the regular city meeting on June 4.

The Water Authority, LLC is an environmental services company located in Dahlenega, and it has offered to pay the city 5 cents per gallon to treat its leachate.

Leachate is a solution obtained by leaching, which in



Blairsville City Council Members listening to Jody Cook speak about processing leachate in their June 4 council meeting. Photo by Mark Smith

this case would be water that has passed through landfill waste.

Initially, the plant will

likely take in about 200,000 gallons a day for about \$500,000 per year in income, though Cook said

See *Wastewater*, Page 2A

Fishing Rodeos reel in seniors, kids despite rainy weekend weather

By Jarrett Whitener
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

SUCHES – The Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery hosted its annual Seniors & Kids Fishing Rodeos on Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8.

Fans of fishing got to the hatchery early in the morning of both days to pick their spots and prepare for a few hours of nonstop trout fishing, despite the rainy weekend weather.

"The hatchery has had this thing going on since before I got here, and I've been here more than 20 years," said Kelly Taylor, Project Leader of the Fish Hatchery. "The Fish and Wildlife Service mandates that you have to hold so many

events every year to get people out in nature and fishing.

"We hold four events every year for this. We have the Fishing Rodeo for veterans in May, one for the special needs kids in May, and these two in June. So, it's really just our way of giving back to the people and getting the chance to bring them into our area."

More than 50 seniors showed up throughout the day on Friday, with many coming from all around the state to catch local trout.

"I just love to trout fish," said Bryan Stewart, who came up from Forsyth. "I meet some of these other fishermen here who love it just as much as I do, and the amount of people does make it kind of difficult because we get hung on each

have many trout around.

"This is just a beautiful area to fish in, and the water is always great. Fishing has always been a sort of passion for me, and I'll keep coming here for the Fishing Rodeo. It's great."

And just like Erb, other fishing fans trout fish in the area because of events like the Fishing Rodeo, which allow them to share their passion with others.

"I just love to trout fish," said Bryan Stewart, who came up from Forsyth. "I meet some of these other fishermen here who love it just as much as I do, and the amount of people does make it kind of difficult because we get hung on each

See *Fishing*, Page 3A



Vol. 110 No. 24
4 Sections 28 Pages
Weather
Thurs: Sunny Hi 73 Lo 46
Fri: Cloudy Hi 77 Lo 56
Sat: Sunny Hi 80 Lo 62

Inside
Arrests 5C
Church 2B
Classifieds 3D
Opinion 4A
Legals 4D
Obits 5B
Sports 2C

8 104875 19314 2

S.A.F.E. Thrift Store
Customer Appreciation Day
June 15th
See page 5C

John Mix and the Country Cousins
Reece Farm
June 15th
See page 5C

Open House Fire Station 3
June 15th
See page 2B

UCS
UNION COUNTY SCHOOLS
New Student Registration
See page 6C