

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Attention students: Ready or not, here comes school!

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Schools are back in session this week, so watch out for kids at bus stops starting Friday morning.

Classes officially begin on Friday, Aug. 4, though teachers will spend Monday through Thursday in pre-planning ahead of Meet Your Teacher night, which runs from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 3, at all schools.

The No. 1 goal of the school system remains the same to start the 2017-2018 school year, according to Union County Schools Superintendent Dr. Fred Rayfield.

"And that's maximizing student achievement," said Dr. Rayfield. "Our second goal is something that I think all of our folks are concentrating on in multiple ways, which is

community and stakeholder engagement."

After school let out in May, Dr. Rayfield and other administrators gathered for an administrators retreat, and the consensus established in that retreat formed the basis of his second systemwide goal.

"You'll see a good bit of effort there in retooling and redoing our websites so that they're more user friendly and there's much more information out there day to day," said Dr. Rayfield.

The board office has also made a previously part-time parental involvement position into a full-time, systemwide position to further engagement efforts on the home front.

"Our third goal is to try to close that achievement gap, and make sure that we do everything we can for our economically disadvantaged

students to be as successful as other students," said Dr. Rayfield.

At the high school, Principal C.T. Hussion said that he and his staff are ready to embrace the new school year.

Construction crews have been working this summer on a couple of projects at the high school, including new HVAC retrofitting, which Hussion said has made a real difference in maintaining a consistent temperature throughout the school.

Furthermore, the second-floor addition to the C-wing is about 50 percent complete, and Hussion said he's hopeful it will be finished by December.

"We'll have alternate routes for students to avoid construction areas, and they'll be building throughout the first semester," said Hussion.



Buses letting out onto Georgia 515 in May – will return Friday, Aug. 4. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

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Lt. Gov. Cagle courts constituents with positive economic message

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle hopes to win the 2018 race for governor, and he's using a positive economic message to sway potential voters.

Cagle spoke to a roomful of constituents on Friday, July 28, during the Georgia Cattlemen's Association's summer conference at The Ridges Resort & Marina.

Starting with a wide-angle approach to the Georgia economy, Cagle highlighted the importance of the Port of Savannah and improving other infrastructure in the state, before zooming in on agribusiness, a keen interest of those attending the Cattlemen's



Cagle speaking with members of the Georgia Cattlemen's Association at The Ridges in Young Harris. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

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Property values up, county to accept rollback millage rate

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris is set to accept a rollback millage rate of 5.786 ahead of 2017 property tax bills.

The 2017 rate is 0.002 mills lower than the 2016 rate, though the county will be collecting \$107,172 more in tax dollars this year than in 2016, thanks to an increased tax digest.

The commissioner will set the rate in a meeting that will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 10, inside the Union County Courthouse.

According to the 2017 tax digest, the total county value of properties is about \$1.237



Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris county value of last year's total county value of approximately \$1.218 billion. This means that the total See Paris, Page 2A

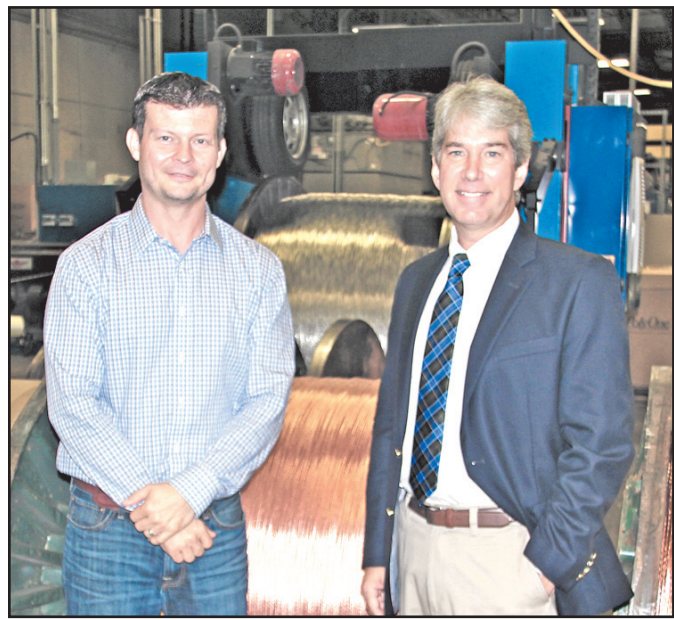
Advanced Digital Cable to add jobs in Union, Towns

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Over the next three years, Advanced Digital Cable will be adding up to 65 new jobs at its Blairsville facility.

"Most of our jobs will be locally sourced, people that walk in and bring an application in the door," said ADC Vice President Cory Payne. "All the manufacturing workers will be from the Tri-County area, but Blairsville as much as possible, because we don't want people driving a long distance to get to work."

As announced by Gov. Nathan Deal's office last month, these new Georgia jobs will result from a \$15 million building expansion to the existing facility at ADC Blairsville, which currently



Advanced Digital Cable Vice President Cory Payne and Union County Development Authority Director Mitch Griggs, with lots of copper. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

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Green beans rain supreme during festival at Farmers Market

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Green beans were the talk of the town at the Union County Farmers Market last weekend as the Market celebrated its 8th Annual Green Bean Festival on Saturday, July 29.

Canned green beans, fresh green beans, green bean apparel, even green bean pizza – anything and everything green bean related could be found at the market on Saturday as hundreds of patrons piled in to the Market for the yearly festivities.

To spotlight the locally popular vegetable, the Market hosts a slew of events, contests and door prizes throughout the day of the festival, beginning with the green bean canning



The Washboard Band performing in the Kazoo Parade during the Green Bean Festival. Photo/Lily Avery

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BRMEMC elections again a topic of discussion

By Charles Duncan
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Two incumbents will face opposition on the Board of Directors ballot of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC's elections in September.

And Jason Waldroup, a 15-year resident of Towns County will run unopposed in the seat that Vice Chairman Steven Phillips resigned from for personal reasons.

Danny Henson will seek to unseat Incumbent Charles Jenkins as one of the Union County representatives on



Jeff Ledford
Clay County, NC



Chris Logan
Incumbent
Clay County, NC



Jason Waldroup
Towns County, GA



Danny J. Henson
Union County, GA



Charles Jenkins
Incumbent
Union County, GA

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Aug 12 vs. NW Whitfield (DH) 12 & 2 PM

7th Annual Community Flower Show
Civic Center
August 3rd-5th
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ALLEGHENY MASONIC LODGE
"Big Country/First Responder and Military Recognition Breakfast"
Saturday, August 12th from 7 AM - 11 AM
at the Allegheny Masonic Temple

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