

Perdue...from Page 1A

A practical approach according to Perdue, is to take advantage of every useful tool

available – taxes, spending cuts, regulatory reform to spur economic growth, fixing the federal budget process and more.

“And it’s got to be over a long period of time,” said Sen. Perdue. “We’ve got to pick a point in the future, 20 or 30 years from now, and say that debt as a percentage of the GDP has got to be X, and here’s the roadmap to get there, and these are the painful things that we have to do to get there.”

Another topic touched on by Perdue was the current state of the U.S. health care system, which has become more and more destabilized in recent years, and last month failed to be overhauled in the U.S. Senate.

“I’m hopeful that when we go back up there, we’ll be able to re-engage in that,” said Sen. Perdue. “Lamar Alexander is leading the charge right now in the Health Committee, and I think that we’ll really see some progress in a bipartisan way to get there.”

Earlier this month, Sen. Perdue appeared alongside fellow Republican Sen. Tom Cotton and President Donald Trump in a nationally televised unveiling of the Reforming American Immigration for a Strong Economy Act, or

RAISE Act.

The RAISE Act is a piece of legislation that aims to spur “economic growth and raise working Americans’ wages by giving priority to the best-skilled immigrants from around the world and reducing overall immigration by half,” according to a news release by Sen. Perdue.

Such dedicated support from the president is a clear sign that Perdue is working closely with the White House to pass initiatives that he believes will better America.

During the Power Lunch, Sen. Perdue spoke on the president’s agenda, stating that Trump has been working toward “getting this economy going again, creating jobs for your family and my family, re-engaging the rest of the world, and reinvesting in our military.”

Above all, Sen. Perdue remained optimistic throughout his talk that the U.S. will continue to find its way through to brighter economic days.

“Consumer confidence is at a 16-year high, CEO confidence is at a 20-year high,” said Sen. Perdue. “This economy wants to turn, it really does. This regulatory work that’s already been done – this is the largest regulatory reform since Ronald Reagan got in office in 1980, and it’s beginning to be appreciated by people around the world



U.S. Sen. David Perdue. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

who see it.”

After the senator spoke, Mike Beatty with Great Promise Partnership presented the Cornerstone Community Award to local stakeholders, thanking them for helping students to finish school while acquiring valuable real-world job experience.

The Union County Sheriff’s Office and Blairsville Police Department provided security for the event.

Those in attendance for the Power Lunch, catered by Amazing Grace Catering & Events, included local

and state officials, as well as business leaders from all over the county.

Chamber President Regina Allison welcomed everyone to the Power Lunch; UCSO Capt. Doug Loyd led the Pledge of Allegiance; Fellowship of the Hills Pastor Marty Duncan delivered the invocation; Director of Operations Eland Jones spoke on behalf of Windstream; and United Community Banks, Inc. Chairman and CEO Jimmy Tallent introduced Sen. Perdue.

Captured...from Page 1A

He wasn’t trying to run at that moment. I stayed behind him and confirmed the tag. About the time dispatch told me this was the stolen vehicle, he started picking up speed.”

Deputy Burnette then turned on the blue lights and siren of his patrol car. He gave chase and began to coordinate with the Fannin County Sheriff’s Office.

“A couple of Fannin County sheriff’s deputies caught up with us by the time we got to Blue Ridge,” Deputy Burnette said. “Right about where the Tin Loong Chinese Restaurant is, it was bumper-to-bumper traffic. The chase then shifted to the median and the shoulder of the road.

“(Bennion) turned right on Highway 5 toward West Fannin at the McDonald’s signal light, and I let one of the Fannin deputies in front of me and I fell in behind them,” Deputy Burnette said.

Bennion began to drive recklessly, almost hitting other drivers head-on – “He was driving crazy,” Deputy Burnette said.

“We were almost to McCaysville and he ran into an embankment and turned the truck over,” Deputy Burnette said. “At that time, we got him into custody. Two officers from Colwell Detention came and got him.”

The crash occurred about half a mile south of West Fannin Elementary School on Highway 5, Deputy Burnette said.

It’s unclear if Bennion knew about a .357 magnum



Towns County Courthouse. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

in the glovebox of the pickup, which was resting on its top off Highway 5. Deputy Burnette said the gun was lying on the ground outside the vehicle following the crash.

“The .357 magnum fell out of the vehicle as it lay on its top. He never tried to brandish the gun at all,” Deputy Burnette said. “I think he was more interested in trying to drive above his abilities.”

Troopers with the Georgia State Patrol arrived at the scene and will assess the traffic charges against Bennion. Charges against

Bennion in Towns County include theft by taking motor vehicle, and entering auto. Sheriff Clinton said.

As for the escape, well, that’s an automatic five years added to his state sentence, authorities said.

Bennion’s motive for his escape is sketchy, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

“It’s my understanding that he had nine days left to serve,” Sheriff Mason said. “It doesn’t make a whole lot of sense that he would escape like that. Go figure.”

Election

...from Page 1A

Love is elected in November, she or he will take over the post and serve the remainder of the term.

Cook is Cone’s sister.

As for the Nov. 7 General Election, the city will not have to hold it after all.

Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley was the only one to qualify for mayor during last week’s qualifying period of Aug. 21 through Aug. 23.

Similarly, current Blairsville City Councilmembers Tony Dyer and Buddy Moore were the only ones to qualify for their respective council seats.

Since each of the General Election races is uncontested, the city will not have to hold those elections, and Mayor Conley, Dyer and Moore will be sworn in to start 2018.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



August 3, 2017
In memory of
Marie Rich Crump
Birthday
by Union County
Historical Society

Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493