

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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## BRMEMC to host Town Hall meetings in Clay, Union counties

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Former Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board President Terry Taylor's company, Taylor & Taylor Construction, Inc., no longer exists.

Conducting a business search of the Georgia Secretary of State's website shows that Taylor & Taylor Construction, Inc. dissolved on Dec. 31, 2015.

According to the most recent public financial records made available by the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, dating to Dec. 9, 2014, Taylor & Taylor Construction, Inc. owed \$37,343 toward the debt of \$47,643.53 awarded in May of 2014 to the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC following a civil suit the EMC brought against Taylor & Taylor Construction, Inc.

The current balance of the

Taylor & Taylor Construction, Inc. debt is not construction record, according to BRMEMC Interim General Counsel Larry Ford, who stated that it was against general EMC policy to discuss individual member accounts.

Furthermore, since Taylor & Taylor Construction, Inc. no longer exists as a legal entity, the fate of the debt has been thrown into question.

"Based on that new information, I will have to research what legal effect the dissolution has on the situation under discussion, report to the board my findings, and then the board will consider what should be done in the best interest of the EMC and members," said Ford in an email to the *North Georgia News*.

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, members of the news media were invited into the BRMEMC boardroom to ask direct questions of the board



The Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors entertain the media in a Question and Answer session before commencing the first meeting of the New Year in the BRMEMC boardroom

of directors, just before the start of the first board meeting of the New Year.

This latest move toward transparency comes

after BRMEMC Board Vice President Mickey Cummings announced two upcoming Town Hall Meetings in which the membership will be able

to ask questions directly of the board.

"I guess it was last month, we passed a new policy that requires Town

Hall Meetings to be held periodically throughout the year," said Cummings in the Q&A. "And the first two of

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## County donation helps Food Pantry in winter

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The Union County Government collected 1,931 cans, boxes and jars of food in its annual Food Drive to benefit the Union County Food Pantry.

Delivery of the food donations came just before Christmas, and though the Food Pantry takes donations all year round, wintertime donations are always greatly appreciated.

Running November through the Christmas holiday, donation bins were placed in various places around the county departments, including the recreation department, community center, golf course, senior center, courthouse, road



Commissioner Lamar Paris and Ann Sullivan, center, pose for a picture with volunteers in the midst of an abundant donation to the Food Pantry this past Christmas

department, library, and within the commissioner's office.

County employees provided a great deal of the donations, and Larry Conley and his rec department took donations from the community

of canned goods for an admission fee during a week of rec basketball games in the fall.

They also raised nearly \$600 in monetary donations during that week of games,

which went toward the purchase of food to go into the Food Pantry donation the week of Christmas.

The county's Food

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## Haralson Project needs Windstream to move lines

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The relocation of Windstream poles and new business inquiries highlighted the agenda in last week's Blairsville Downtown Development Authority Board Meeting.

The Blairsville DDA held their second Tuesday of the month lunch meeting at City Hall, and the first item on the agenda was the relocation of utility/telephone poles that are located at the Haralson Property in downtown where the roadway project is underway.

At last month's meeting, an update was provided on the project and everything is on

time, or ahead of schedule. The Blue Ridge Mountain EMC was removing their poles; however, a pole in the center of the roadway that is being used by Windstream has yet to be moved.

According to DDA Board Chairman Paul Thompson, Windstream has asked that the city pay for the removal of the poles and the rerouting of the cables. Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley, a regular attendee of the meetings, pointed out that the BRMEMC owns the poles, but the cables belong to Windstream.

"They don't own the poles, they are just renting them," said Board Member W.C. Nelson. "They are

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## Ronnie Milsap packs The Hall on his 73rd birthday

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Country Music Crossover legend Ronnie Milsap celebrated his 73rd birthday with more than 2,000 fans in Anderson Music Hall at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday, Jan. 16.

The show featured Milsap's one-of-a-kind piano talent backed up by his six-member band, all of whom came together to produce an enthusiastic, uplifting concert performance.

Milsap spared no expense, hitting a large number of his 40 No. 1 hits, including "Pure Love," "Daydreams About Night Things," and of course, "Smoky Mountain Rain."

At the start of the concert,

Milsap's band led the audience in a heartfelt rendition of the "Happy Birthday" song for Milsap, and Country Music artist Rhonda Hampton announced that Georgia Speaker of the House David Ralston and Young Harris College President Cathy Cox were in attendance for the show.

Milsap attended Young Harris College in his youth, and he spoke in some detail about his early education at the Governor Morehead School for the Blind in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he attended from the age of five and received a classical music education.

"I had 12 years of classical training," said Milsap. "I told my counselors, I want to be a professional musician. They said, oh no, we're not going to let you do that - why don't you become a political



Ronnie Milsap with Towns County Deputy C.J. Worden

science teacher, or a lawyer or something like that? So I left and came down here to Atlanta to a Ray Charles concert."

While at that concert, Milsap was led back to Ray Charles' dressing room, where he played for the Rock 'n' Roll

legend.

"I played him a couple of songs, and he said, 'You love it, don't you,' and I said, 'I do, everyday - I soak it up every day,'" said Milsap. "And he said, 'Well son, what you

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## Union County Jail busy in the New Year

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The Union County Jail booked in 24 individuals over the weekend of Friday, Jan. 15, in what has been one of the busiest weekends in recent memory for the Union County Sheriff's office.

It all started on Friday afternoon, around 2 p.m., when investigators with the UCSO Narcotics Division served a search warrant at the premises of 31-year-old Rocky Lee Robinson of Rizzitello Lane in Blairsville, following a three-month long investigation.

"We've made several controlled buys of marijuana from Rocky at his residence over the three-month long period," said UCSO Capt. Chad Deyton. "On Jan. 15,



Rocky Lee Robinson

The Union County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Squad, who executed a search warrant at 374 Rizzitello Lane. Upon our arrival, we made contact with Rocky, and he was taken into custody along with seven other individuals that were also

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## Youth Tour delegates visit BRMEMC board

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Every June, the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC sends area high school students to serve as delegates in the Washington Youth Tour, and the three students who made the trip in 2015 spoke to the BRMEMC Board of Directors on Tuesday, Jan. 12.

Madeline Walker of Union County High School, Shea Underwood of Towns County High School and Collin Worley of Hayesville High School were three of more than 1,500 students from around the country who visited the nation's capital last summer.

Byron McCombs of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC has served as a chaperone and photographer on many of these



L-R: Collin Worley, Madeline Walker, Shea Underwood and Byron McCombs give a report on the Washington Youth Tour at the January meeting of the BRMEMC Board of Directors

trips, and he introduced the three high school seniors to the board of directors, just prior to the start of the board's first meeting of the New Year.

"One of the privileges I've had for about 10 years at Blue Ridge Mountain EMC is to be a Washington Youth Tour Coordinator for the co-op,

and we've sponsored this trip to Washington for 30 years now," said McCombs, a former educator with a passion for

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## Ingraham indicted on sex charges; January Term indictments

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

A 67-year-old Union County man faces 15 counts related to a pair of indictments handed up by the Union County Grand Jury.

Robert Lewis Ingraham was indicted twice on charges that he sexually assaulted two male victims under the age of 16, according to Union County Superior Court indictments.

Ingraham was first arrested at the Wendy's Restaurant in Blairsville on Monday, Nov. 23, following an investigation



Robert L. Ingraham

conducted by Det. Sgt. Tom Mangifesta of the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Ingraham, a native of upstate New York, has been

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SPORTS BASKETBALL  
Tues Jan 19 @ Dawson 6 & 7:30 PM  
Fri Jan 22 vs. Greene Co 5 & 6:30 PM  
Sat. Jan 23 vs. Oglethorpe 2 & 3:30 PM