

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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## Snowstorm headed our way; Gov. Deal declares state of emergency

By Charles Duncan  
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Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris summoned all county emergency personnel and public safety workers for a briefing on the two-phase snowstorm expected to pound Union County Tuesday morning until late Thursday.

Paris told the group that the county has seven snowplows, with two new smaller units that could be utilized to keep ahead of the storm.

"We're going to get out early and pretreat the roads," Paris said. "Georgia Department of Transportation has three plows to keep the state routes clear. We've also got Colwell, Colditz and Rich to help if need be.

"We'll have four graders out at night," he said. "We'll pretreat bridges that go to the larger subdivisions in case we can't get to them once the weather starts.

"Gov. Deal has declared



Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris briefs county emergency preparedness personnel on Monday as a Winter Storm rushes toward Union County. Photo/Charles Duncan

a state of emergency for the mountain counties," Paris said.

According to Gov. Deal's office, a state of emergency has been declared in Cherokee, Forsyth, Hall, Banks, Jackson, Murray, Fannin, Gilmer, Union, Towns,

Pickens, Dawson, Lumpkin and White counties.

The weather service predicts snow accumulations of 1 to 3 inches in the first phase of the snowstorm.

It was unclear when Union County Schools Superintendent Gary Steppe would

make a decision related to school closings.

Steppe said a decision could come as late as Monday afternoon.

At press time, no decision had been made.

Paris said the weather forecast had a bright spot.



Union County Schools Superintendent Gary Steppe weighs the evidence of an oncoming snowstorm as he decides when classes will close this week. Photo/Charles Duncan

"The weather service is calling for wet snow, and that's good news for us," Paris said. "We can get the majority of the snow off the roadways. We expect Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to be dead days in Union County."

Blue Ridge Mountain

EMC General Manager Matthew Akins said his biggest concern is that the heavy snow is likely to weigh on power lines and trees, creating havoc for electric customers.

"We've got time to be ready for this storm," Akins said. See Snow, 3A

## Adams crowned Homecoming Queen at The Woody Gap School

By Charles Duncan  
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Suches - Lauren Adams was almost speechless on Saturday night.

After all, it's not every day that you're named Homecoming Queen.

Adams was chosen 2014 Homecoming Queen following alumni basketball games at The Woody Gap School.

Senior Class Representative Stephanie Marlow was selected as First Runner-Up, and Shelby Tumlin was chosen Second Runner-Up.

The first thoughts that went through Adams' head after hearing her name called by Co-Principal David Murphy, was 'pride,' she said.

"I'm so proud, this is an honor," Adams said. "It's very meaningful to have the community here at this event.



2014 Woody Gap School Homecoming Queen Lauren Adams.

I was proud to be a member of the Homecoming Court; I'm honored to represent the school as its Homecoming Queen."

Adams said the event is a community celebration.

"I think it is, however come to see the alumni games, they come to see each



Kianna Martin represented the Freshmen Class at the Woody Gap School, followed by Sophomore Class Representative Brooklyn Dockery.

Senior Class Representative Stephanie Marlow followed Junior Class Representative Kaniasha Martin.

Then, following school tradition came the representatives of the girls' basketball teams, as chosen by those teams.

Shelby Tumlin was the representative for the girls' basketball team, and Lauren Adams was representative for the boys' basketball team.

Don Cantrell has been coming to the celebration for 40 years.

"Oh my goodness, it is like a family reunion," Cantrell said. "I've been coming to homecoming for 40 years. It's just awesome to be here."

The event began many

## NWS: 'significant weather events headed to North Georgia Mountains'

By Charles Duncan  
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Gov. Nathan Deal has issued a State of Emergency for the North Georgia Mountains as significant snowfall is expected through Thursday.

The mountains could experience more than 10 inches of snow during that time frame, according to the National Weather Service.

The weather service projects 1-3 inches of snow Tuesday, with an additional 4-6 inches on Wednesday.

The precipitation in the North Georgia Mountains is expected to remain snow during the aforementioned weather events.

The weather service is calling the storm two events, with Monday into Tuesday the first event, and Tuesday



Gov. Nathan Deal

into Wednesday the second event.

The events are expected to be separated by 12-18 hours, according to the weather service.

The second event could last into Thursday, according

to the weather service.

The heavy snow totals could impact power lines and cause outages.

Unlike the Jan. 28 snowstorm, which produced a stubborn dry snow, the oncoming snowstorm is expected to bring a wet, heavy snow, more likely to impact power lines and trees.

Tuesday's snowstorm calls for an 80 percent chance of two inches of snow or more, according to the weather service.

According to the weather service, the precipitation in the North Georgia Mountains is expected to remain all snow, with no accumulation of ice, which is projected for the Metro Atlanta area.

Temperatures will continue to fall into the 20s on

See Storm, 2A

## Hartwell heads to District Bee

By Charles Duncan  
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Kylee Hartwell and Alex Diaz-Zunum were obviously nervous on Tuesday morning.

After all, it's not every day that you compete in a countywide spelling bee.

Kylee, an eighth grade student at Union County Middle School, and Alex, a seventh grader at UCMS, were the final two contestants in the bee.

After a volley of words, Alex was offered the word 'ostracism' during his turn.

He couldn't deliver, and as spelling bee rules dictate, Kylee was in line to win by spelling two words correctly back-to-back.

Kylee's first word was 'courtier,' which she spelled with caution.

Admittedly, Kylee isn't



Alex Diaz-Zunum, left, and Kylee Hartwell were the Dynamic Duo of Spelling at the Countywide Spelling Bee. Photo/Charles Duncan

Kylee completed the spelling of 'courtier' and followed that by correctly spelling 'cumbersome,' and well, became the countywide spelling bee champion.

Admittedly, Kylee isn't used to speaking in front of a crowd.

"I was nervous, it was scary being up there in front of everybody," Kylee ex-

pressed.

See Bee, 2A

## Council names two new DDA board members

By Charles Duncan  
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The Blairsville City Council appointed two new members of the Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors.

Daniel Davenport will serve a three-year term on the DDA Board of Directors, and local realtor Paul Thompson will serve a one-year term, as approved unanimously by the Council last week.

Davenport replaces long-time board member



Buddy Moore

Robert Rogers, who will continue to work with the DDA in reference to economic development, Blairsville Mayor

Jim Conley said. Thompson replaces Ben Maltby, who will continue to aid the DDA until his replacement is up to speed.

In other business, the Council continues to work to update the City Charter. The Charter has not been updated since 1984.

The next step in the process is identifying the boundaries of the Blairsville City Limits.

The Council will begin work sessions to discuss

See Council, 2A

## Arbor Day celebration threatened by snow

By Charles Duncan  
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Wednesday's Arbor Day celebration and planting at the Historic Mock House is in jeopardy.

Georgia celebrates Arbor Day the third Friday in February each year, but, Mother Nature may have other plans.

Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley and Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris signed the annual Arbor Day Proclamation last week declaring Friday, Feb. 21, as



Commissioner Paris and Mayor Conley celebrate the signing of the Arbor Day Proclamation with Blairsville Garden Club members.

Arbor Day in Union County. The Blairsville Garden Club chose the Historic Mock

House on Cleveland Street in downtown Blairsville as the

See Arbor, 2A

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Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties, Inc.

Habitat for Humanity accepting applications!

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UNION COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

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