

# Crash

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John Robert Sewell was killed in the crash and Sherry C. Sewell, 49, also from Martin, was airlifted to Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn. with serious injuries, according to the Patrol.

Wright said the crash happened as John Sewell, who was operating the motorcycle, attempted to negotiate a curve, the motorcycle skidded, crossed the center line, and hit Spiva's 2005 Chevrolet van.

No one in the van was injured, according to Wright.

The accident remains under investigation.

# Downtown

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The area has recently been mowed in order to better identify the lay of the land as the planning process begins, Hartman said.

“Going forward there will likely be questions such as, what will happen to the buildings on the square?” Hartman said. “The Development Authority will have the buildings evaluated and base future decisions on those findings.”

Hartman believes the DDA's purchase of the property is a very positive step in the downtown vision for the revitalization of the City by shaping an inviting and thriving center in Union County.

“In addition to the Downtown Streetscape, which should begin later this year, the overall investment will be significant to the downtown district as we work to bring new life to the heart of our mountain community,” she said.

The property dates back to Col. Pat Haralson, a local attorney, legislator and successful businessman. Haralson was the father-in-law of legendary Blairsville attorney Ben Carr, who married Haralson's daughter, Austine.

“Pat Haralson owned property all over the county,” Mayor Conley said. “He was a very successful businessman and the namesake of a lot of local landmarks.”

One of those landmarks: Haralson Memorial Civic Center.

The property's acquisition is expected to bring new life into Downtown Blairsville, Hartman said.