

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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## Paris, Conley sign National Day of Prayer Proclamation ahead of May 2 event

By Mark Smith  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The 2019 National Day of Prayer will take place on Thursday, May 2, and residents can observe the occasion locally with a special gathering at First Baptist Blairsville, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Organizers of the local event commemorated the upcoming prayer session by joining Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley for a proclamation signing on Thursday, April 18.

The proclamation declared Thursday, May 2, as a Day of Prayer in Union County, and by extension, the City of Blairsville.

Paris hosted the signing at his office in the Union County Courthouse, and joining him were Mayor Conley, Richard and Sharon Morrison, and

pastors George Kline of Antioch Baptist Church, Bill Schakat of Redeemer Baptist Church and Dave Wesche of All Saints Lutheran Church.

According to the proclamation:

"In 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan.

"The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healings for the wounded, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens.

"It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in Union County

when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation.

"The 2019 theme, 'Unity,' is based on Ephesians 4:3, which says, 'Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.'"

The Prayer Guide issued by the National Day of Prayer Task Force urges people to pray for unity in the seven centers of influence in America, namely "the government, the military, the media arts, business, education, the church and the family."

At the close of the proclamation meeting, Paris, Conley, Cline, Schakat, Wesche and the Morrisons made a circle holding hands as Richard Morrison led a prayer.

See Prayer, Page 2A



Dave Wesche, George Cline, Richard Morrison, Bill Schakat, Lamar Paris, Sharon Morrison and Jim Conley gathered in support of the Union County Day of Prayer. Photo by Mark Smith

## Louise Sprayberry honored with greenhouse donation to Woody Gap School

By Mark Smith  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

In honor of her memory, the family of Louise Maddox Sprayberry has donated her commercial-grade greenhouse for use by the students of Woody Gap School.

Horticulture was Louise's passion in life, and though she passed away in January 2018, her memory will continue to live on in the community thanks to the generous donation.

"It is our fondest wish as her family that the gift of a greenhouse would contribute to the promotion of agriculture and horticultural science among our high school students," said Wade Sprayberry, Louise's son, "perhaps inspiring careers and simply fostering a love for the

inherent beauty of the plant world around us."

Louise Sprayberry was very active in her community and strived to make a difference in everything she did.

After she moved to Blairsville in 1973 with her husband Gene and sons Wade and Kelly, she began volunteering with the Girl and Boy Scouts, and later with the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.

She was also widely known for having been in charge of the arts and crafts exhibits at the annual Blairsville Sorghum Festival, and she worked for a long time with the Blairsville Jaycees.

A lifelong learner, Louise earned a diploma from North Georgia Technical College in



Louise Sprayberry

Environmental Horticulture in 1994, and she went back in 2011 to earn a degree in Culinary Arts.

In addition to her community involvement,

Louise loved quilting, camping, traveling and spending time with her family, including her children, grandchildren, and great grandchild.

"The Sprayberry family is happy to see Louise honored by this gift in her memory," Gene said.

Woody Gap School Principal Carol Knight; School Career, Technical and Agricultural Education Director Josh Davis; and Young Farmer Adviser Ryan Talton met with Gene at his home off Gainesville Highway on Wednesday, April 17, to accept the donation.

Currently, the school system is working out the logistics of transporting the greenhouse to Woody Gap

See Sprayberry, Page 3A



Ryan Talton, Gene Sprayberry and Josh Davis posing in front of the greenhouse being donated by the Sprayberry family. Photo by Mark Smith

## Sons of the American Revolution fire muskets in Patriots' Day display



Blue Ridge Mountain Chapter SAR members firing muskets in honor of Patriots' Day at the Historic Union County Courthouse. Photo by Jared Ogden

By Chad Stack  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Members of the Blue Ridge Mountain Chapter Sons of the American Revolution fired their muskets outside of

the Historic Union County Courthouse on Thursday, April 18, in celebration of Patriots' Day.

For several years, members of the Sons of the American Revolution have

promoted the patriotic holiday in Union County by dressing in Revolutionary War-style clothing while waving to passing motorists and firing their muskets on the hour for

See Patriots' Day, Page 6A

## Grand jury indicts woman for allegedly stealing \$58,882.90 from employer

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

A Union County Grand Jury indicted a Murphy, North Carolina, woman earlier this month for allegedly stealing \$58,882.90 from her employer, according to court documents.

Sharon Lynn Allman, 34, is facing one count of theft by taking and 23 counts of theft by deception for crimes alleged to have been committed while she worked for Builders FirstSource of Blairsville, said Union County Sheriff's Lt. Tom Mangifesta.

Allman began working at Builders FirstSource in October 2016 as an office administrator, Mangifesta said.

"She was quickly promoted to office manager, which gave her complete



Sharon Lynn Allman

and unfettered access to the financial operation of Builders FirstSource," said Mangifesta. "Builders FirstSource is a national company. Their headquarters is in Dallas, Texas. The one here in Blairsville is

just one of many stores.

"Everything that happens on the computer at the point-of-sale terminals is automatically sent to corporate headquarters. In July of 2018, they were doing a company audit of any excessive customer refunds at their stores nationwide, and corporate discovered quite a few customer refunds from the Blairsville operation."

Builders FirstSource then contacted the Sheriff's Office, and based on financial documentation acquired in the investigation, it was determined that Allman had been refunding customer purchases without their knowledge and sending the money to her own accounts, Mangifesta said.

"This is a classic example (of business embezzlement),"

See Allman, Page 2A

## Carter arrested in Clay County, North Carolina, after 7 months on the run

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

After eluding authorities for more than seven months, Crystal LeAnne Carter of Hiwassee was taken into custody by the Clay County, North Carolina, Sheriff's Office on Tuesday, April 16.

Investigators with the Towns County Sheriff's Office and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation have since been to speak with Carter, who is currently awaiting extradition to Georgia, said Kim Williams, Special Agent in Charge of GBI Region 8.

Carter is wanted in connection with the Sept. 8, 2018, shooting of William Craig Henderson.

According to the victim's

statement, the shooting took place on Lindsay Lane, which is in Union County but has a Young Harris mailing address.

Within hours of Henderson arriving at Chatuge Regional Hospital in Hiwassee with a gunshot wound to the chest, the Towns County Sheriff's Office had filed warrants on Carter for aggravated assault and criminal attempt to commit murder.

The Sheriff's Office also requested GBI assistance at the time, which shortly thereafter became the lead agency investigating the case.

Further investigation revealed that the crime most likely occurred in Union County, and the GBI, after receiving assistance from the Union County Sheriff's Office,



Crystal LeAnne Carter

took out an aggravated assault warrant for Carter in Union County on Sept. 11, 2018.

It was unclear at press time. See Carter, Page 2A

## January Term 2019 Grand Jury Indictments continued

The following individuals were indicted during the January Term 2019 of the Union County Grand Jury, which met for a second time in April:

Robert Thomas Johnson, two counts burglary in the first degree; three counts theft by receiving stolen property; entering an automobile.  
Amy Lavada Clark-Hilley, two counts burglary in the first degree; three counts theft by receiving

stolen property; entering an automobile.

Steven Madaris, two counts burglary in the first degree; three counts theft by receiving stolen property; entering an automobile.

Stacy Ann Pawloski, aggravated assault, Family Violence; terroristic threats; battery, Family Violence; two counts cruelty to children in the third degree.  
Nicholas Ryan Scott, two counts aggravated assault,

Family Violence; two counts cruelty to children in the third degree; two counts aggravated assault.

Alvin Lamar Beaver, battery, Family Violence; hindering emergency telephone call; obstruction of an officer.

Shelly Diane Sattler, two counts sale of methamphetamine.

Justin Lee Vanderhorst, two counts sale of methamphetamine.

See Indictments, Page 2A

Vol. 110 No. 17  
4 Sections 28 Pages  
Weather  
Thurs: Cloudy Hi 78 Lo 57  
Fri: Showers Hi 73 Lo 49  
Sat: Sunny Hi 76 Lo 54

Arrests 7A  
Church 2B  
Classifieds 3D  
Opinion 4A  
Legals 5D  
Obits 4B  
Sports 2C

**SPORTS**  
BASEBALL (State)  
Apr 24 @ Bremen  
Best of 3 • 4:30 PM (DH)  
SOCCER (State)  
Apr 25 vs. Temple Girls 6 PM  
Apr 26 @ Lamar Boys 7 PM

**Confederate Memorial Day**  
See page 7A

**Allegheny Lodge #114**  
1st Annual Oyster Roast & Low Country Boil  
UC Farmers Market  
April 27th  
See page 2A

**Ninth District Opportunity**  
Community Action Agency  
**Cooling Help**  
See page 2A