

Service Awards...from Page 1A



Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter SAR Vice President Sid Turner thanked Union County Sheriff's Lt. Leon James for his service with a Law Enforcement Commendation Medal on Dec. 17. Photo by Shawn Jarrard



Turner also expressed the gratitude of the Sons of the American Revolution for Fire Lt. Brent Long, who has made a career of protecting life and property here in Union County. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

commendating his consistently high level of care for patients.

Lowery has been with Union General since January 2012 and was promoted to shift supervisor in 2016, which Rogers said in his nomination letter "was an easy decision." The paramedic also serves as training coordinator and quality assurance coordinator for Union General EMS.

"Frank can be trusted to perform all aspects of his job with little or no supervision," Rogers wrote. "He sets a daily example of care and professionalism for others to follow. His experience and dedication make him the ideal candidate for this award."

Also attending the meeting was Kendra King, who presented Lowery with the memorial award established in honor of her husband, Murray King.

Murray King was a member of the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter SAR who suffered a massive heart attack

in 2014 to which Union General EMS responded.

And though he did not survive the heart attack, Kendra was so impressed with the emergency response for her husband that she asked the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter to establish a memorial award in recognition of the EMS.

The Murray King Award, presented with a small cash prize, recognizes "outstanding service and dedication to the citizens of Union County by performing Emergency Medical Services to ensure health and to save lives."

Also in the meeting, Turner called forth Lt. Leon James, whom the Union County Sheriff's Office nominated as "our 2020 Officer of the Year" in a recommendation letter signed by Sheriff Mack Mason and Chief Deputy John George.

Turner presented James with the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal "in recognition for outstanding

achievement and dedication to the maintenance of law and order."

The veteran law enforcement officer has more than 20 years of experience, and he's been working with the local Sheriff's Office since March 2009. Prior to Union County, he worked with the Ashburn Police, Turner County and Towns County sheriff's offices.

"During his career at UCSO, he was initially assigned to the courthouse," George wrote. "In July of 2017, Lt. James became the commanding officer over the courthouse law enforcement operations and assisted in the implementation of new security checkpoints. Additionally, he wrote the Courthouse Security and Safety Plan that we follow today.

"Seeing a serious need to increase traffic enforcement due to excessive speed and many accidents on Union County roads, Sheriff Mason saw a need to implement a traffic unit to work at slowing drivers down and making the roads safer for motorists.

"This is when the sheriff tapped Lt. James to lead the way and become the dedicated traffic enforcement officer. Based on Lt. James' observations and volume of activity, a second officer was assigned."

George went on to say that, in nominating James for the SAR medal, it was evident that he had "continually displayed his commitment and dedication to our community."

"In review of his actions this year, his efforts have focused on making Union County a safer place for all of us to live and drive," George wrote. "He continues to show his dedication and professionalism in his daily duties and approaches each and every task delegated to him aggressively and with positive attitude."

Rounding out the awards that evening was Lt. Brent Long of Union County Fire, who received the Fire Safety Commendation Award for "accomplishments and/or outstanding contributions to protect human life and property by preventing injuries or casualties due to fires."

In nominating him for the award, Fire Chief David Dyer said that the 21-year local firefighter had "advanced through the ranks to the level of lieutenant."

"He is currently responsible for the training of the entire department and

emergency management administration," Dyer said. "He is also a Deputy Director of Emergency Management for Union County."

Long began his firefighting career in the volunteer service, soon after being hired on as a full-time firefighter in 2002. He also completed medical training to become a licensed Emergency Medical Technician.

"Lt. Brent Long has completed numerous fire and emergency management classes with hundreds of hours of training during his career," Dyer said. "His knowledge and experience are vital to the department.

"(He) is extremely dedicated to the department and the community. He has gone above and beyond with

his service to ensure the safety of firefighters as well as the people of this community. We as a department are very proud of his work and dedication to service."

All three men accepted their awards that evening with appreciation as their loved ones

looked on with pride.

Be sure to check back next week for coverage of the Dec. 28 called meeting to accept the county budget, which occurred after press time, as well as further details from the Dec. 17 county meeting.

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

MONTGOMERY CONCRETE
 ~ FOR ALL YOUR CONCRETE NEEDS ~
 Forming through Finishing, House Slabs, Driveways, Sidewalks, Stamped Colored Concrete. Top Quality Work! Big Jobs and Small Jobs! • Insured
 See photos on Facebook under Lee Montgomery
Call 706-781-1806

SHAWN'S HOME FURNISHINGS
Mattresses, Porch Rockers & More!
"From the Front Porch to the Back Door We've Got You Covered!"
 568 Blue Ridge St. • Blairsville, GA
FREE DELIVERY! 706-835-1209
 Mon-Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-4pm • Closed Sun

Trust Integrity Guidance
 Taylor Insurance Group
WE DO WHAT OTHERS PROMISE
Tom Taylor
 YOUR LICENSED LOCAL AGENT
 Medicare Advantage Plans
 Supplements, Life, Under 65 Health Plans, Dental
 770-298-9161 ph/text
 1-706-400-5754 Fax
 tom@tomtaylorinsurancegroup.com

ACS GRADING & EXCAVATING
 Grading, Dump Truck, Gravel, Dirt, Driveways, Underbrushing, Lot Clearing, Water Lines, Basements
 No Job Too Small - FREE Estimates
 Locally Owned & Operated
706-897-0411

TOTAL RECOVERY
PAINT & BODY
(706) 745-9703
 391 BLUE RIDGE HWY
 ALL INSURANCE ACCEPTED

Hemphill Vinyl Siding And Metal Roofing Sales
 154 Kelley Road
 Blairsville, GA 30512
 Monday-Friday 7:30-5:00
706-745-3145 • 706-745-9006
 1-888-698-3225
 Fax 706-745-8418
 hvswi@windstream.net
 Owner - Kenneth Hemphill

Southeast Geothermal & Spray Foam
706-745-8685
1442 Blue Ridge Hwy.
www.segeothermal.com
www.sesprayfoam.com

Michelin BFG Uniroyal
 Specializing In:
 Alignment • Computer Balancing
 Brakes • Auto Repair
 Industrial Foam Fill
 Oil Changes
Thomas Tire, Inc.
 Auto & Big Truck Service
 Oscar Thomas - Owner 76 Shoe Factory Road
 (706) 745-0264 Blairsville, Georgia 30512

SUGAR MAGNOLIA
Gifts • Interiors
 Baby Gifts Home Decor
 Jewelry and Women's Accessories
 Forever Flowers Personalized Gifts and more...
 Mon-Thur 10-5 Fri 10-6 Sat 10-6
 267 B Cleveland St. Blairsville (706) 230-9100

Gibson Land Service
 Travis Gibson
706-897-8564
 Tree Removal
 Bucket Truck
 Grading
 Views
 24 Hour Service
 Worker's Compensation Insurance

Kieth Prentice Prentice Heating and Air LLC
 1376A HWY 515E
 Blairsville, Georgia 30512
 Owner Phone: 706-745-9665
 kiethcomfortconsultant@gmail.com Fax: 706-835-2684

KELLEY HOME IMPROVEMENTS
 "May you have joy in the work of the LORD"
**Remodeling • Painting
 Yard Maintenance
 & Much More**
Mark A. Kelley, Owner
706-897-9485
FREE ESTIMATES

Litton Landscaping, Inc.
 1250 Collins Road
 Blairsville, GA 30512
 706-745-5478
 Cell 706-781-4858
 Complete Design
 Installation
 Maintenance
 "We go the extra mile"
TUFSTUF

VISIT DOWNTOWN BLAIRSVILLE
 www.visitdowntownblairsville.com/shop

PuroClean
 The Paramedics of Property Damage
706-400-6110
 Your 24/7 Emergency Responder for
 Water - Fire - Mold - Biohazard and
 Covid-19/Viral Sanitizing Services
www.PuroClean.com/pev-ga

Shook AUTOMOTIVE
 2307 Murphy Hwy.
 Blairsville, GA
706-745-9596

JACKY JONES AUTOMOTIVE GROUP
 We Make Buying Easy!
JACKYJONES.NET
 Ford • Hayesville, NC • 888.342.2282 • Chevrolet • Murphy, NC • 888.614.8960
 Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram • Hayesville, NC • 888.384.3145 & Franklin, NC • 828.369.5003