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Five qualify for EMC Board of Directors races

By Charles Duncan
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The names on the petition ballots of five potential candidates for three seats on the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC board of directors have been verified as EMC members, EMC Director Steven Phillips said.

In Union County, Mickey Cummings, Patrick Malone and Charles Rich have made the ballot, Phillips said.

In Towns County, Roy Perren made the ballot; and in Fannin County, Larry Williams made the ballot.

Williams is the only candidate in the Fannin County race. Incumbent Chair William Prather opted not to run again, Phillips said.

With Williams unopposed, it means at least two new directors will join the board of directors after the election results become public at the EMC's annual meeting in September.

There is no incumbent in the Union County race, so

Mickey Cummings

Patrick Malone

Charles Rich

Larry Williams

Roy Perren

Cummings, Malone or Rich will join the board of directors depending on election results.

In Towns County, Perren will face incumbent Director Jerry Nichols on the ballot.

"All the petition candidates that submitted petitions are on the ballot," Phillips said. "You do know that Danny Henson did not submit a petition for verification."

Henson opted out of submitting his petition to be on the ballot in Union County. He threw his support behind Cummings and asked his supporters to vote for Cummings.

Phillips said there are three different ways to vote this year.

First, the EMC will mail out paper ballots with the August electric bills. Second, members can vote online, and third, members can

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Ray Stevens headlines Anderson Music Hall on Saturday, Aug. 1

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Georgia native who needs no introduction is coming to perform at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Anderson Music Hall on Saturday, Aug. 1, and he's excited to return to the area.

"It's beautiful, I love it," said Ray Stevens about the North Georgia Mountains. "Simply put, that's one of the nicest places in the world, as far as I'm concerned. I think so far I've been very lucky, and people have accepted me very well in your neck of the woods."

Stevens has been a

Ray Stevens

musical mainstay for nearly 60 years, with 11 Grammy nominations, two wins, close to 100 singles and dozens of albums to his credit, including

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Lt. Gov. Cagle coming to Blairsville on Aug. 18 to speak at Power Lunch

By Charles Duncan
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Georgia's Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle is coming to Blairsville.

Lt. Gov. Cagle is slated as the guest speaker at the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce's Power Lunch on Aug. 18 at 11:45 a.m. at the Union County Community Center.

Park Sterling Bank sponsors the event.

Lt. Gov. Cagle's political career is almost unparalleled. In 1994, Cagle, then 28, became the youngest member of the Georgia State Senate by defeating Incumbent Democrat Jane Hemmer. His victory signaled a Republican revolution in Hall County as

Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle

long-time Democratic incumbents fell one-by-one to their Republican counterparts.

In 2006, State Sen. Cagle made history once again, becoming Georgia's first Republican lieutenant governor by defeating Democrat and former state representative Jim Martin. Cagle currently is

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Time to sign up for Pre-K - first come, first served

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Attention all 4-year-olds: if you or your parents would like to be considered for Georgia's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program through Union County Schools, now is the time to be added to the waiting list.

"As the new school year approaches, there are always unavoidable changes including family moves that will ultimately open up seats in the program," said Union County Schools Superintendent Gary Steppe.

Pre-K meets for regular school hours, and the program is conducted by four certified

teachers, each with their own paraprofessional.

There is no cost associated with Pre-K, and getting on the waiting list does not guarantee placement in the program – but spots are likely to become available and are first come, first served.

Prospective students must have turned 4 years of age on or before Sept. 1.

"Union County is fortunate to provide multiple Bright

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Georgia Mountain Fair comes to a close; draws a crowd

By Mason Mitcham
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Georgia Mountain Fair was in full swing from Friday, July 17 to Saturday, July 25. An influx of people from all over the country came to sample the arts and crafts, attend demonstrations at Pioneer Village, and watch the many shows hosted at Anderson Music Hall.

Newcomers Trey and Kara Thompson, originally from Chattanooga, Tenn., moved to Murphy, NC for work. Trey was toting a newly-purchased hammock from Navy Hammocks, one of the vendors who came to the Fair.

"We're supporting local business," explained Kara.

"It's very cute," she added about the fairgrounds. "I like it. It's kind of homey. Like down home."

Others came regularly,

from even farther away. Renee Altman and Cindy Norris, both from Tampa, Fla, specifically schedule their family vacation to coincide with the fair. "We always come to the fair," said Norris. "And we came this time of the year just because the fair is here."

"It's laid-back, easy-

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Green Bean Festival draws a crowd

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Over the past few weeks, the Union County Farmers Market has been very busy, doling out good times and non-stop entertainment for everyone.

And this past weekend was no different as the Farmers Market hosted the 6th Annual Green Bean Festival.

The festival featured approximately 85 vendors with produce, baked goods, crafts, and gifts. All were homegrown and homemade.

There was also a Quilt Show, Canning Competition, "Tall Tale" Storytelling Competition, and to cap off another exciting festival was the grand finale: the Green Bean Pizza

Eating Contest. The rules were simple; whoever ate the most green-bean topped pizza in the allotted time was the Green Bean King.

"We had a wonderful turnout for the storytelling contest, said the Union County Farmers Market's JoAnne Leone. "We had some great storytellers so that went very well. We had a great washboard band up from Atlanta and a

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Neighbor's sharp eye leads to burglary arrest

By Charles Duncan
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A 32-year-old Union County man has been arrested and charged with second-degree burglary earlier this month, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

John David Purvis is charged with breaking into a store at Pappy's Plaza on U.S. 129, Union County SSgt. Daren Osborn said.

Deputies developed leads on a suspect rather quickly, SSgt. Osborn said.

"It was a part-time employee," Osborn said. "He did odd jobs here and there for the owners."

Purvis is believed to have taken approximately $2,400 in merchandise from the store, SSgt. Osborn said.

Union County sheriff's Deputy Lamar Dyer took the case and went with other

John David Purvis

deputies to Purvis' home. He noticed several items at the Purvis' residence that were taken during the burglary at the store, SSgt. Osborn said.

"They knocked at the door, identified themselves, but no one would come to the door," Osborn said. "Deputies contained the residence and Lamar went and obtained

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Cruiz-In returns to North Georgia at Fairgrounds

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Seventh Annual Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In is rolling into town this week, and will feature hotrods galore and authentic moonshine demonstrations.

For three full days, running Thursday, July 30, through Saturday, Aug. 1, the Cruiz-In promises family fun for all ages at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

"We're really seeing a lot of new people coming from way off," said Cruiz-In Organizer Rakes Parrish. "We've got some people coming from Maryland that have never been there, we've got people coming from Delaware. I've noticed New Hampshire, and of course, we're seeing some folks from Kansas and all coming. We're getting some from way out there this year."

As a special treat, fes-

Rakes Parrish and Flip Flop Promotions return to North Georgia with the Seventh Annual Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In.

tivities will actually begin on Wednesday, July 29, as vendors start to set up at 8 a.m., followed by a registration time and a mountain cruise that pulls out at 11 a.m.

Thursday will feature another beautiful mountain cruise starting at 9 a.m. and taking participants on a tour of Grandaddy Mimm's Moonshine Gift Shop at Pappy's Plaza in Blairsville.

"Thursday night, we're going to have that grand opening party again like we did the year before last and prior to that, at The Ridges," said Parrish. "We've actually come up with something different this year – it's going to be a '70s-themed party, like disco.

"There's so much of this that's going to '50s, '60s on display at the show all the time, but we fail to get the '70s, so we thought we would try to do a '70s theme party, where people dress up – we put up a disco ball, and for the best dressed, we're going to give some prizes and gifts away."

Friday opens the Cruiz-In once again at 8 a.m., and through Saturday, patrons

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