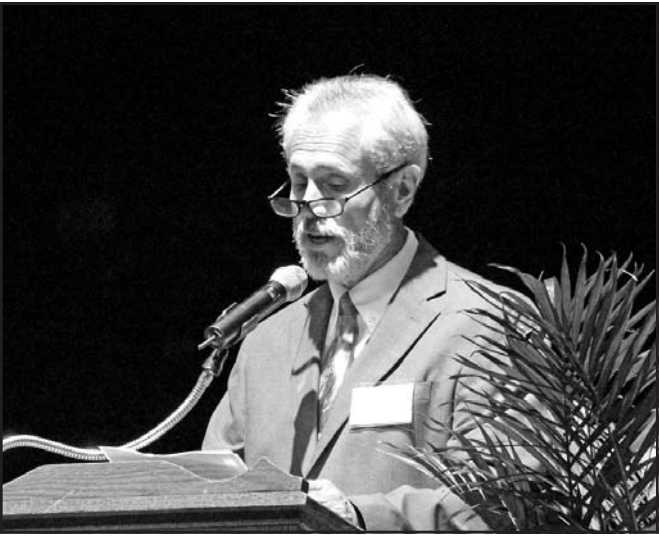


Cummings...from Page 1A



Cummings at the 2016 annual meeting of the EMC membership

contribution plan, is somewhat similar to the old plan, but is more concrete. Each year, a certain amount or percentage of money is set aside to accumulate for the employee's retirement, with all investments guaranteed.

In the coming months, the board has planned several

meetings for both the public and the employees to attend to continue with the betterment of providing transparency, creating a stronger connection with the community and furthering the improvement of the company.

"We have set a couple of town hall meetings for springtime," said Cummings.

"We've set a date for an employee listening session in the springtime because we've made that part of our policy now. We did that last year so we're continuing with it.

"We're continuing trying to update our policies. There are a lot of policies that we have found that are either out of date or that don't

coincide with the way we run things anymore.

"We just want to make sure that everything continues to run smoothly, and that we're progressing and that we're doing it with the best interest of the company and the membership in mind."

Court...from Page 1A



Honaker in one of the classrooms

Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley's office hand selects candidates to recommend for the program, which is overseen by Superior Court Judge Stan Gunter and administered by Court Coordinator Barbara Honaker.

If a candidate receives a referral and makes it through a series of intense evaluations to get into the program, for two years they essentially hand over their Fourth Amendment rights in order to get clean, stay out of jail and take back their lives.

And Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, who at first was skeptical of the program before its first graduation a year and a half ago, has become utterly convinced of the merits of drug court.

He is now a firm believer in the transformative power drug court has on Union County residents who are willing to put forth the effort to better their lives.

The commissioner attends each graduation to hear from those who have made it through the program, and he even delivered the keynote address during the last graduation that was held

in December.

After having seen what drug court was all about, the county teamed up with Honaker last year to look for better offices to house the program.

Their previous lodgings were in a busy section of Downtown Blairsville, which didn't provide the best environment for the goings on of drug court – there was very little privacy and the space was limited.

For the last few months, the accountability program has been renting classrooms out of First Baptist Church of Blairsville, conducting drug screenings at the Union County Jail and the courthouse, and Honaker has been using her own home as the court's administrative offices.

Fortunately for the North Enotah Drug Court, a county property deal went through in October, making space for a SPLOST-funded office building to house the program.

Commissioner Paris sees that investment as more than just putting money into a building – he sees it as an investment in the people of the program, and by extension, an investment in the community and the future of Union County.

"It's one of those things that you've got to see it to believe it, to see the results and the potential results," said Commissioner Paris. "Now that I've seen them and I believe them, and believe in them and believe in what they're doing, it's a huge benefit to not only the county, but to the many families and individuals.

"We're proud that we were able to all work together to make this happen."

The new offices



The new headquarters for the North Enotah Drug Court are located across from the Union County Public Library, in a building built just for the program. Construction is still underway, though the building is fully usable and began housing classes two weeks ago.

are located in a specially designed, 2,600-square-foot modular unit across from the Union County Public Library, where they were installed the week of Christmas.

Winter Storm Helena at the beginning of January put a slight freeze on the program moving in, but Honaker and her participants used the latter half of the week of Jan. 9 to get furniture out of storage and start making the offices feel like home.

There's still work to be done on both the outside and inside of the building, some of which will be completed in the coming weeks and the rest by the spring, and Honaker was glad to say that many of her 39 participants from Towns and Union have been helping with the process.

Honaker added that she and all her participants are thrilled and most thankful to Union County for providing the program with new headquarters in a place to call its own.

"Union County has

been here for us every time we've asked," said Honaker. "We feel like we're finally at home. We have a home, and we have permanency, we have stability. For once, we feel like it's our building. It's through the county, but they have done this with us in mind.

"We got together and sat down, they asked us what our needs were, we told them, and they had the building built according to what we needed to function and do a really good job. We've got a great future here."

Union County Manager Larry Garrett, who played a major role in getting the property and building secured and ready to be taken over by the drug court program, said that he too is a firm believer in Honaker and the program she coordinates for the Enotah Judicial District.

"It is getting people back onto a right path to be members of their community," said Garrett. "This program allows participants to put the past behind them."

Indictments...from Page 1A

phetamine.

John Christopher Whaley, aggravated assault; battery, Family Violence; cruelty to children in the third degree; sexual battery; simple battery, Family Violence; three counts criminal trespass.

Brandon Jewell Baker, attempt to violate the Georgia Controlled Substances Act; illegal use of communication facility; possession of drug related objects; one count recidivist.

Amy Lynn Weidenfeller, theft by deception.

William Kennedy Taylor III, armed robbery; home invasion; two counts aggravated assault; three counts burglary in the first degree; financial transaction card theft.

Emmitt Ryan Wells Jr., armed robbery; home invasion; two counts aggravated assault; three counts burglary in the first degree; financial transaction card theft.

Alfred Bouchard, terroristic threats; eight counts disorderly conduct; criminal trespass.

Kristoffer Alfred Bouchard, two counts obstruction of an officer.

Andrew Joseph Martin, three counts sexual assault of an inmate or person in custody.

Quentina Ann Perry, cruelty to children in the first degree; aggravated battery, Family Violence; aggravated battery; battery, Family Violence.

Danielle Alexis Partin, cruelty to children in the first degree; cruelty to children in the second degree; reckless conduct; driving without a license.

Billy Joe Elkins, theft by shoplifting.

Steven Scott Howard, burglary in the second degree; two counts theft by taking; one count recidivist.

Chad Garland Cavin, smash and grab burglary; three counts burglary in the second degree; vandalism to a place of worship.

J a s o n E u g e n e Cunningham, possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute; possession of marijuana with intent to distribute; possession of marijuana, less than an ounce; four counts possession of drug related objects; one count recidivist.

David Vincent Hodges, possession of prohibited items by inmates.

possession of a controlled substance.

Joshua Luke McGahee, terroristic threats; false imprisonment; entering an automobile; public indecency.

George Samuel Poole, theft by bringing stolen property into state; two counts theft by receiving property stolen in another state; theft by receiving stolen property.

Marty Keith Phillips, escape.

Gregory Wade Gschwind, three counts terroristic threats; disorderly conduct.

William James Carryer, possession of a controlled substance.

Lindsey Erin Proctor,