

# County...from Page 1A

pose of Cabin Rentals.

"This is the only type of Business License issued in Union County for the purpose of collecting the Hotel/Motel tax," Commissioner Paris said.

Commissioner Paris accepted an amendment to the health services agreement between Union County and CorrectHealth Union, LLC to be effective Jan. 1.

The contract price increased from a monthly amount of \$9,946.53 to \$11,387.39 per month. CorrectHealth also will

now provide the Union County Jail with an additional four hours of LPN coverage on Saturdays and Sundays.

Commissioner Paris approved the alcohol license renewal for Wolf Pen Gap Country Store.

Commissioner Paris said that 2014 was a very good year for the county.

"We were able to complete the year with a continued surplus," he said.

"Despite some of the naysayers talking about the gloom and doom of the county

finances, after 14 years our finances are still strong, and we are not all of a sudden going to do something that will jeopardize our financial position, which is and has always remained strong since I have been in office, always allowing us to have a low bond rating.

"We will continue with our SPLOST projects as the money comes in," he said. "We are still working with our financial advisors as to determine whether we will be better off to refinance our community center in April and

pay it off over the six-year SPLOST period or leave the existing financing alone and simply make payments on it.

"Our new SPLOST IV begins in April of this year," Commissioner Paris said. "Our sales tax SPLOST and LOST proceeds continue to be strong and while we do not have much extra funding, we certainly have adequate funding to continue our project list, and keeping in mind, should the economy take another dip, we also want to be braced for that event."

# Wall...from Page 1A

nam Moving Wall in Union County will mark a "welcome home" parade for the 58,299 men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice during their service in Vietnam, Priven said.

Vietnam was the most convoluted war experience in our nation's history. Young men going off to fight a war that should never have involved the United States in the first place.

"It was the first war that we had our hands tied behind our backs; don't fire unless fired upon. You can't fight a war that way," said Priven.

Those U.S. troops who fought bravely in Vietnam thought they were fighting for their country. It was a Cold War era battle between the communist bloc countries and the pro-democracy nations, somewhat similar to the Ko-



rean War.

The battle for supremacy between Soviet Union and China backed North Vietnam and United States backed South Vietnam claimed the lives of millions. American troops returning home were greeted rudely, and often times deemed war criminals by their own countrymen.

Vietnam veterans still

bear the emotional scars of a war that should never have been fought. The Vietnam Moving Wall is an attempt to provide closure to those who served, and to the families whose loved ones didn't make it home alive.

More than 2.5 million Americans served in Vietnam during the war years - between Aug. 5, 1964 and May 7, 1965.

More than 48,000 Americans who died in Vietnam were 22 years old or younger; 33,103 of those more than 48,000 were 18 years old. Union County has four names on the wall, while two other Union County service members died during the war from non-combat-related causes.

Vietnam Veterans of America was formed in 1979

with the express purpose of advocating exclusively to the needs of Vietnam veterans. During the formative years, the VVA grew in size, stature and prestige, and gained respect of Congress and the veterans community. Today, the VVA has a national membership of 65,000, with 617 chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and the Philippines.

The Blairsville Chapter was formed in 2014 and meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Major Leon Davenport Veterans Center.

Priven says that there is no charge for visiting the Moving Wall. For more details, or if you would like to help with this event, contact Priven at vva@owltown.net, or (706) 781-9350.

# Deputy Henderson graduates



By Charles Duncan North Georgia News editor@nganews.com

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason is pleased to announce that Mitchell Henderson is officially Deputy Henderson.

On Dec. 19th, Henderson graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Training Class No. 5 at the Cherokee County Georgia Public Safety Training Academy.

During the 11-week academy, Henderson was introduced to a variety of law enforcement training modules, including emergency

vehicle operations, weapons, and self-defense.

Georgia Criminal Law and other topics to prepare him for his duties in law enforcement also were covered in detail.

On Dec. 22, Deputy Henderson was given the oath of office by Sheriff Mason and was assigned to the Sheriff's Office Field Training and Evaluation Program.

Upon completion Officer Henderson will be assigned to his duties as a full time deputy within the Uniform Patrol Division.

# Copeland to become next Towns County Fire Chief; Floyd retires

By Shawn Jarrard North Georgia News Staff Writer

Towns County Fire and Rescue Assistant Chief Harold Copeland will become the new fire chief on Feb. 1, the same date current part-time Fire Chief Mitch Floyd will retire.

"I'm humbled and I'm honored to be promoted to this position," said Copeland. "My job is to keep my people safe, keep them equipped as well as possible, and to take care of safety issues for the citizens of this county and the visitors."

Copeland, affectionately known as Big H around the county, will be Towns County's first ever full-time fire chief, and he said he is ready to lead the volunteer fire department.

"I'm very ready," said Copeland. "I've been fighting fires in this county for 30 years. In 30 years, I think I've covered the whole gauntlet."

In preparation for taking on this position, Copeland visited some of Floyd's



Chief Harold Copeland

former departments to gain experience from outside sources. He also took classes at the National Fire Academy and attended the International Society of Fire Service Instructors conference in Indianapolis.

And last year, Copeland spent 160 hours becoming a state certified fire investigator.

Constant training will be a central focus for Copeland moving forward in order to keep his firefighters prepared for any and all situations.

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