The auditorium lights dimmed Monday, Oct. 23, as the Unioin County Schools high school orchestra overflowed into the next level of their construction.

Along with stocking each school with the necessary medical supplies for Type 1 diabetes children, Sharp is planning a benefit to raise funds and awareness. The money will go toward the construction of a new Diabetes Center at the North Georgia Medical Center, where Sharp is a student nurse.

Along with walking each school through the local Murphy-Harbin Hospital, Sharp is creating an event to give the students an opportunity to bring their own pets or adopt one on the spot.

“Every once in a while, a life is saved,” Payne said. “I want them to know that’s what you can accomplish.”

EF حصيرة جافية، والخصمية النباتية لا يمكن استكمالهما.

لذا، من الضروري أن تكون النباتات الكبيرة والطلائعية المتنزهات المحيطة بها مفيدة في الحفاظ على خصائص التربة المائية.

كما أن استخدام الماء في الزراعة في الشتاء يمكن أن يؤدي إلى التأكسد، مما يعني أن الحفاظ على الرياح المفيدة يمكن أن يكون مفيدًا في الحفاظ على نوعية الحياة في المجتمعي العلمي.

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**Adam's Family**

On page 1A

The Adams family remained a force to be reckoned with on US 76 near Walhalla Road in Blue Ridge. 

"The gentleman that caused the wreck was driving west toward Young Harris," said Clayton Adams, Travis and Kathy’s youngest son. "He hit the car in front of him - the car that was turning - and then the car went into the other lane of traffic and struck my parents' vehicle as well.

All three vehicles’ occupants had to be airlifted from the scene and taken to Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville.

From that moment, Travis and Kathy had a long road of recovery ahead of them. After enduring a seven-hour surgery for a lower lumbar L4 spinal fracture, Travis will be wheelchair-bound for the rest of his life. Eventually, the nerves in his legs – especially around his feet – are severely damaged. "He’s actually able to move his legs; they’re just so badly injured that he will never walk again," he explained. "I am not clinically paralyzed," said Clayton, "the nerves are shot - that’s why he will never walk again.

Meanwhile, Kathy had her own heavy burdens to handle. Upon initial examination at the hospital, her only recognized injury was a fractured wrist, but it quickly became clear something was very wrong.

On the evening of July 23, she experienced worsening stomach pain, and an X-ray revealed internal bleeding.

As Travis underwent his own surgery, Kathy was rushed into the operating room "because what they thought was a puncture to the liver was actually a considerable puncture to her small intestine," doctors believe. "It is likely that these were caused by the car accident.

Yet at a moment like this, she got pretty scary for my mom just because of the internal bleeding, but she has made a full recovery," Clayton recounted. "She had stomach surgery as well as surgery for a fractured wrist."

"It was a two-week stay in the hospital, Kathy was released on Aug. 2 and currently lives with Clayton Adams in the Athens for the time being.

From there, she has made a difficult but necessary decision to retire in order to care for her husband as he adjusts to this new normal.

Life changes so quickly; you know I mean, we were always two people who were led by church to church in a manner. On Sunday, and then their children, they’re different. "I think we will have to move our church, because while "anger would set in at some point", because of the accident’s circumstances and his father’s lack of mobility, he and the rest of the family are just glad the outcome wasn’t even more dire.

The conclusion is, we are so thankful that my parents are alive, and we are so thankful that they will be able to go home and live their lives," added Clayton. "They just need all the support. My father, he just because he’s wheelchair-bound does not mean he can’t do anything to help his life in which he gets fulfillment.

On that note, the couple has recently seen a phenomenal improvement in the form of needed changes to their home. The doors and hallways have been widened to accommodate Travis’ new wheelchair, and the addition of a new bathroom has also been a great resource to perform.

Along with a new wheelchair and shower, they have made much to increase accessibility.

According to Clayton, "it’s likely that Travis will come home sometime at the beginning of November. Until then, he can continue to build up his strength and adjust to his new perspective in an in-patient therapy center in Fanwood, Georgia.

As the family prepares to welcome him home, they would like to thank all of you for your support and Kathy in their prayers. We would like to thank everyone who is part of our course of belief in the power of prayer, and we believe in miracles.

At the time of publication, the Adams’ GoFundMe page had raised over $35,000 of a $50,000 goal. Medical expenses, as well as lost wages from work due to insurance, and most of the house repairs, will be completely covered, yet many expenses remain.

To help cover the costs of our families’ medical bills, we have set up a GoFundMe page to help others who are going through a similar experience and who are in need of your support! Love, Ava.

People with questions may email her at sharky002@comcast.net.

For additional support, Adams points out that the organization Kids on the Road, a nonprofit summer camp for Type 1 diabetics ages 6-18, is currently accepting applications for the 2023 season.

"He is very interested in training to become a junior counselor."

**McConnell Baptist Church will serve as a Salvation Army "Purse Drive" for Operation Christmas Child during National Collection Week, November 13th through 19th.

If you would like to volunteer, please help with this ministry, please call the church at 706-906-2208.**

**Driving Driveway" for Operation Christmas Child during National Collection Week, November 13th through 19th.**
Staffors, said: “I thought you guys did a very good job putting this operation together, and I thank you.”

People may read the final draft of the ordinance at: www.unioncountyga.gov/

Substance Abuse Grants
In other business, Paris presented additional Substance Abuse Grants, containing the process from Aug. 22 regular meeting in which he presented $35,000 grants to New Hope Counseling, Positive Pathways Inc., Union County Family Connections, and Freedom Connections.

In 2010, the Alcohol Reinforcement was passed, Paris said previously. “I made the commitment to spend $35,000 each year from the alcohol license fees and tax receipts to put back into the community for the purpose of helping to combat the alcohol and drug abuse problems that already existed in Union County.”

The grants are awarded in an application process wherein eligible organizations show how the funds would be used in their budgets, and as an “anonymous committee that none of us have any direct feedback to the grant recipients.”

Based on the budgets that were submitted to the committee, they awarded grants to 12 additional funds, which were provided to the respective organizations on Aug. 30, 2023, Paris said.

Moving on, Paris presented the “Opium Reinforcement Funding Grants” amounts that came to the community after it joined in a national opioid class action lawsuit in 2018 “against some of the pharmaceutical companies that were producing opioids.”

Those companies were subsequently found to have been acting “illegally” by Paris, causing the prescription of opioids.

The county did not incur any cost or liability when joining the lawsuit, which has resulted in multiple settlements being reached, therefore, a distribution of funds to Union County and other municipalities around the nation. Paris said.

Settlements have also been restricted in use, with qualifying grant recipients required to provide “drug treatment programs.”

“In the end, Union County received, roughly, $90,663.39 in remediation funding for the settlement,” Paris said. “Union County dedicated that grant available in similar fashion to the Substance Abuse Grant, combining with an application and the guidelines and restrictions.

“A total of $60,000 was made available to the efforts between the state and the federal government. The applicants were selected. The Substance Abuse Grant Committee reviewed all the applications and determined the organizations’ eligibility.”

New Hope Counseling and Freedom Ministries each received $20,000 from the settlement funds. “We’re really excited for both of these groups that have done an outstanding job in Union County in working with drug and alcohol addiction,” Paris said.

At the request of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, Paris joined dozens of other counties by adopting a resolution “to urge the Governor and General Assembly of Georgia to increase funding for counties to provide mental health care services for the citizens of Georgia.”

Additional Business
Also in the meeting, Paris proclaimed Nov. 4, 2023, as “Georgia Military Veterans of Pride Day” in Union County to recognize the Hall of Fame’s annual efforts to honor and identify Georgia’s military veterans.

Eric England, the edified Commissioner of Forsyth County, announced a resolution to recognize the Hall of Fame’s annual efforts to honor and identify Georgia’s military veterans.

He also said construction of the new Union County Fire Station 4, aka the “Gym that will double as a round of applause. because his heart is in the right place” – thank you very much,” Paris said.

“I wasn’t expecting that,” Paris said.
Castoff Pet Rescue...from Page 1A

The Cletus Way band performed live for guests of the Castoff Pet Rescue Grand Opening.

Early voting for Blairsville General Election ends on Friday

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News editor@nganews.com

Advanced in-person voting for the Blairsville General Election will wrap up on Friday, Nov. 3, after three straight weeks and two Saturdays of early voting. All early voting will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. inside Blairsville City Hall located at 62 Blue Ridge Street. Election Day voting is next Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Four candidates qualified in August for three City Council seats: incumbent Councilwoman Rhonda Mahan, Mary Ruth Cook and Rhonda Hemphill, along with Blairsville resident Mark Pack. Mahan has been on the City Council since January of 2002. By the time her current term expires at the end of December, she will have served five full terms and two years of a special election term for a total of 22 years on the council.

Cook is coming up on the end of her first full term after serving two years and a month of a special election term that started in December 2017, for a total of six years and one month on the council by the end of December.

Hemphill won a special election in November 2017 to fill an unexpired term and will have served two years and two months when that term expires after Dec. 31.

Pack has run for municipal office multiple times in the past. As city election outcomes are determined by plurality vote, the Top 3 vote-getters in the upcoming election will each win one of the open seats in November. Terms of office will begin Jan. 1, 2023, and run through Dec. 31, 2027.

Voting in the municipal election is open to eligible registered residents. Registration deadline to cast a ballot in the election was Oct. 10.

Requested absentee ballots started hitting the mail on Oct. 16, and the deadline to request an absentee ballot from City Hall was on Friday, Oct. 27. All absentee ballots must be received in City Hall by the end of Election Day voting.

There is no countywide election in 2023, just the municipal election, so only residents qualified to vote in the City of Blairsville will be able to participate. As such, there is no voting or other events planned by the Union County Courthouse this year.
Wreaths Across America is a national campaign to respectfully lay wreaths on veterans' graves. According to the Wreaths Across America website, their mission is to remembered and honor our fallen service men and women. Wreaths Across America started in 1992 when a small group of volunteers from the Ira Weaver American Legion Post 121 in Blairsville, Georgia, organized a Christmas tradition of laying a wreath on the graves of veterans. Every year, a ceremony is held to remember our fallen service men and women. This is a time for families and friends to gather and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. The ceremony typically includes a reading of the names of those who served, a moment of silence, and a wreath-laying ceremony.

In 2022, a convoy of 3,000 wreaths was driven across the country. Every year, a convoy of wreaths is driven across the country. In 2022, 2.7 million wreaths were delivered to veterans' graves across the country. The goal of Wreaths Across America is to honor all veterans, regardless of age or condition. The organization is dedicated to honoring those who served and ensuring that their sacrifices are not forgotten.

Wreaths Across America is a program that has grown in popularity over the years. In 2022, over 3,000 locations participated in the event. The organization is supported by donations from individuals, corporations, and organizations around the country. The funds raised are used to purchase and deliver wreaths to veterans' graves across the United States.

Supporting Wreaths Across America

There are several ways to support Wreaths Across America. You can make a donation to the organization, volunteer at a local wreath-laying ceremony, or support a veterans organization in your area. Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.

In 2022, Wreaths Across America set a goal to lay 30,000 wreaths in 30,000 locations. The organization was able to exceed this goal, laying over 3.7 million wreaths. The goal for 2023 is to lay 40,000 wreaths in 40,000 locations. This is just one of the many national programs that Wreaths Across America supports. The organization also supports local programs, such as the Wreaths Across America program in Blairsville, Georgia, and the Wreaths Across America program in Canton, Georgia.

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Ira Weaver American Legion supports Wreaths Across America

...and so can you!

On December 16, 2023, at 10 AM, the Post will hold a Wreaths Across America ceremony that is open to the public. This ceremony will be held at the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center. The event will feature a reading of the names of those who served, a moment of silence, and a wreath-laying ceremony.

For more information, visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

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