

# Gunter...from Page 1A

appointments to committees, and budgetary oversight of different funds and the annual budget, stuff like that.

"It's more administrative work as a chief judge added on to what you already do as a regular judge."

The Habersham County native's ascendance to superior court chief judge is fitting, given that his father was Chief Judge Jack Norman Gunter of the Mountain Judicial Circuit.

At the time, the Mountain Circuit was made up of Union, Towns, Rabun, Stephens and Habersham counties. The Enotah Judicial Circuit came into existence not long after Gunter's father retired in 1992, and Towns and Union joined Lumpkin and White to form the new four-county circuit.

Like his fellow judges Miller and George, Gunter attended the Woodrow Wilson College of Law, and when he became a member of the State Bar of Georgia in 1986, his dad swore him in to the practice of law.

He got his first job as an attorney in the spring of '87, working for Gov. Joe Frank Harris as his assistant executive council, and later, his executive council. And when Gov. Harris

left office in 1991, Gunter moved to Blairsville to practice law with local attorney Charles Cory.

After working with Cory for a few months, Gunter struck out on his own and ran a private legal practice for several years until he decided to answer a calling for public service.

He ran for election as district attorney in 1998 and won in a multi-candidate field, becoming DA of the Enotah Judicial Circuit in 1999. Gunter served in that capacity for three terms before leaving office in December 2010.

Following an unsuccessful bid for election to the Georgia Court of Appeals, he accepted a job with the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia, and he soon found himself leading the organization as executive director.

He remained there for about a year and a half before applying for a vacant judgeship on the Enotah Judicial Circuit in 2012, and Gov. Nathan Deal selected Gunter for the position.

Two years later, in 2014, Gunter ran for and won re-election to his seat, and he ran again and won re-election this year, so he will be sworn in for another term come January 2019.

Many of his most rewarding experiences as a judge have come from overseeing the functions of the Enotah Drug Court, and Gunter believes that accountability programs like Drug Court and Mental Health Court are crucial aspects of criminal justice reform.

"This could be the way we deal with criminal cases and other types of cases where you have these repeat offenders and people that continue to have problems," said Gunter. "These courts can identify the issues that cause that in a lot of instances, and hopefully give these people the tools so that they can change their lives and not have to keep coming back into court."

"It won't replace the criminal justice system that we have, but it'll be a big tool that we can use for the future."

Off the bench, Gunter is an avid golfer, and he will be celebrating 36 years of marriage to his wife Rita this July. He and Rita have two grown sons, Chase and Trey, and four grandchildren.

Gov. Deal is currently in the process of selecting a replacement to fill the remaining two and a half years of Judge Miller's term, and Chief Judge Gunter looks forward to welcoming the new judge to the Enotah Judicial Circuit.



**Meet Me  
at  
The Market**  
**Mickey Cummings  
& Kristy Peney**

Saturday, July 7th, is the day we will salute our Crafters at the Farmers Market. You will be able to see examples of the varied crafts our vendors sell at the Farmers Market. We have everything from knives and pottery to bird houses and hand sewn items for sale each Saturday at the Market. We will have a table set up in front of the Manager's Office where you can view many of our examples.

Also, please know that produce harvest is steadily building and we now have a few folks bringing in tomatoes. Peaches are in abundance as well as squash. We also have a few potatoes and can expect

## Food Pantry Spaghetti Dinner

Come join the Towns County Food Pantry for a spaghetti dinner to be held on Friday, July 13 from 5 - 8 PM at the Towns County Civic Center. For tickets or more information call Rosemarie 706-994-7956 or Richard 706-994-9457.

## Career Coach at Saint Francis of Assisi Church

The WorkSource Georgia Mountains Career Coach will visit Saint Francis of Assisi Church on Thursday, July 12, 2018 from 11 AM - 2 PM. The church is located at 3717 Highway 515 East in Blairsville, GA.

We will help local residents search and apply for jobs, write resumes and cover letters, discern their career interests, and learn about WIOA funded training opportunities.

This is a public event, and there is no charge for our services!

**CLASSIFIED  
ADS SELL!**  
Call 706-896-4454 or  
tcherald@windstream.net

## Local Poets will read their work that witnesses to "The Magic of These Mountains"

Friday, July 6, 2018, poets Glenda Barrett, Joan Howard and Mary Ricketson will read their poetry that witnesses to the magic of the mountains surrounding us. The event will be held at the Towns County Library, in Hiawassee, GA, from 3 to 5 PM.

Glenda Barrett, a native of Hiawassee, GA, is an artist, poet, and writer. Her work has been widely published since her first writing class in 1997 and has appeared in: *Woman's World, Farm & Ranch Living, Country Woman, Chicken Soup for the Soul, Journal of Kentucky Living, Nantahala Review, Rural Heritage, Wild Goose Poetry Review, Kaleidoscope Magazine* and many more. Barrett is the author of two poetry books, *When the Sap Rises*, from Finishing Line Press, and *The Beauty of Silence*, from Kelsay Books. Barrett is a member of the North Carolina Writers' Network.

Mary Ricketson, of Murphy, NC, has been writing poetry for 20 years; to satisfy a hunger, to taste life down to the very last drop. She is inspired by nature and her work as a mental health counselor. Her poetry has been published in *Wild Goose Poetry Review, Future Cycle Press, Journal of Kentucky Studies, Lights in the Mountains, Echoes*



**Glenda Barrett**

*Across the Blue Ridge, and Freeing Jonah.* She has three published books, *I Hear the River Call my Name*, from Finishingline Press, *Hanging Dog Creek*, from FutureCycle Press, and *Shade and Shelter*, newly released from Kelsay Books. Ricketson is Cherokee County's Representative for the North Carolina Writers' Network-West, and is the president of Ridgeline Literary Alliance.



**Joan Howard**

Howard is a former teacher with an MA in German and English literature and member of the North Carolina Writers' Network.

Joan Howard's poetry has been published in *POEM, The Road Not Taken: The Journal of Formal Poetry, the Aureorean, Lucid Rhythms, Victorian Violet, the Wayfarer* and other literary journals. She has two books, *Death and Empathy: My Sister Web*, and *Jack, Love and the Daily Grail*, available from Kelsay Books.



**Mary Ricketson**

Light refreshments will be available, and the public is invited to this free event.

## Car Show Saturday, July 7th at the Farmers Market



The Blairsville Cruisers Car Club will host a cruise-in at the Blairsville Farmer's Market on Saturday, July 7th. All vehicles are welcome to enter, club member or not. The show is open to the public. There are no car entry fees or spectator fees. Come out and enjoy this family event on Saturday from 3 until 7 p.m.. Food is available and we will have a 50/50 raffle drawing. Recorded music of the 50s, 60s and 70s contributes to atmosphere. Registered vehicles will be eligible for great door prizes as well as trophies.

You will see old cars, hot rods, rat rods, classics and antiques, custom cars, trucks, Jeeps, sports cars and many newer interesting vehicles at these events. Don't miss it.

This year the club will give away a beautiful one owner 2002 Pontiac FireBird Convertible with only 50,000 actual miles on it. Donation tickets for the drawing are \$5 each or \$20 for five tickets. They are available at all the club events and shows and from any club member. The car will also be on display at our Union County Farmers Market Car Shows in Blairsville on the first Saturday of each month and at our Cruise-In on the historic Square in Blairsville and a many other community events.

Photos of the car are also on our website, BlairsvilleCruisers.com. The car will be given away at our last event of 2018 at the car show on the Square which falls on Saturday, October 20th. All funds raised by the Blairsville Cruisers go to local needy children and families, scholarships for local schools and to support the police and sheriff depart-



Cars from last months event at the Framers Market supporting the car club over the past years as we strive to be sure no needy kid misses out at Christmas.