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The commissioner with the staff and crew from Colwell Probation Detention Center at Nottely Reservoir Trail.

“We started there (below the dam), we started a trail, we’ve talked about exploring some old construction roads, putting up some kiosks with actual dam construction signs, but that’s to come in the future,” said Garrett. “Here’s where you’re the key – if it doesn’t get used, we’re not expanding it. And same here (at the Nottely Trail). I’ll ask for funding as long as I see it’s used. If I don’t see it used, I can’t justify it.”

Both Commissioner Paris and Garrett, aside from thanking the Union County Road Department, gave much credit for the completion of the project to the detainees of Colwell Probation Detention Center.

Over the past year, the detention center has had several crews out working on the trail, and the last one to work the trail was present that Friday.

“It’s amazing,” said Colwell PDC Superintendent Diane Hassett of her detainees and their work. “They’re giving back to the community. They have been sentenced and they’re doing their time ... they’re having to give back, and it’s a sense of satisfaction for them as well.”

The ribbon-cutting was sponsored by the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, and those joining the commissioner and TVA representatives that day were varied and many, including

Larry Garrett and other county officials, Union County Fire Chief David Dyer, BRMEMC Interim General Manager Dan Brewer, Farmers Market Manager Mickey Cummings, and many other folks from the community, such as several members of the Lake Nottely Improvement Association.

“We’re looking forward to working with the county and helping to maintain and do whatever we can to help,” said A.G. Sherman, acting president and current first vice president of the improvement association.

Following the ribbon-cutting, guests walked some of the new trail before heading over to the trail below the dam, where a cookout lunch had been prepared.

Moving forward, the county will be responsible for maintenance and litter cleanup of the trail, and any further additions will come in the way of continued partnerships with TVA and Kemmy Garrett.

According to the sign at the trailhead, “TVA Nottely Trail is a dirt surface multi-use trail approximately 2.6 miles in length (round trip) and moderately difficult. The trail is managed in partnership with Union County. Parts of the trail wind through a predominately pine forest, and other sections meander along the edge of the shoreline, offering scenic lake views of Nottely Reservoir.

“There are many opportunities for wildlife observation and photography along the trail, and it is open to walkers, hikers, bikers and runners. The trail can be accessed from two parking areas and includes an emergency access point.”

Kiwanis...continued from Page 1A

seems to remember how the fence got there or how long ago that may have been.

In its stead – though not in the same place – Kiwanis will be teaming up with the Blairsville Rotary Club and the City of Blairsville to produce a new “Welcome to Blairsville” sign that is more attractive and more welcoming, and also more up to date in its listing of civic organizations.

Among the old civic signs taken down with the fence that Saturday morning were: Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions Club, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Alpha Delta Kappa (Women Educators), American Legion, VFW, Disabled American Veterans, Order of the Eastern Star and NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees).

“Kiwanis International does a One Day community service project once a year, and it’s usually the first weekend in April,” said Judy Lanier, a past Kiwanis Club president. “Last year we did the trail at the elementary school, and this year we’re going to clean this up. It’s something that we can give back to the community.”

Darren Harper, who is a Kiwanis member and the program manager for the Blairsville Downtown Development Authority, highlighted who will be doing what moving forward as far as a new welcome sign goes.

“The city is doing the coordination and some of the purchasing for the new sign to go into place,” said Harper. “Rotary and Kiwanis are taking the lead on getting



the service organization signs back in place. But we’re going to kind of marry the two. The city is doing its part, but then the service organization signs will be incorporated into the design – we just haven’t figured that out yet.”

Other square pieces of chain link fencing with the various civic organizations posted to them were located elsewhere in Blairsville at one point in time, though those have since been taken down, with the one removed April 2 being the last holdout of a bygone generation.

“The idea is to make it newer, and a welcoming sign into the City of Blairsville,” said Past President Sonny Mahan of Blairsville Kiwanis. “What we’re shooting for is actually having four different points (or signs, leading into the city).”

Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley said he was certainly pleased to be seeing the old signage come down.

“Of course, this is something that should have

been done many, many years ago,” said Mayor Conley on the fencing’s removal. “I applaud the Kiwanis Club and the Rotary Club for taking the initiative to see that something’s going to get done.

“All the service clubs will have a hand in it also, and it will help us to find out if we really know about every service club that we have in the community. There used to be an Optimist Club in Blairsville, Union County, and I don’t know if there is or not (anymore), but we need to get everybody listed that is a service organization.”

Kiwanis members present for the One Day project on April 2 were: Judy Lanier, Susan and Tim Babcock, Sonny Mahan, Darren Harper and Jim Colwell.

Be sure to attend the annual Blairsville Kiwanis Mountain Fair, this week at the Union County Saddle Club Arena at 401 Nottely Dam Rd. The fair runs Tuesday, April 12 through Sunday, April 17.