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fish, he loved his sister and that child never went a day without telling me that he loved me.

"My last conversation with him on Saturday morning was 'Mom, don't you worry about me, I love you,'" she said. "He got an apartment about two months ago in Hiawassee and he worked at Ingles in Hiawassee for the last year. He was really excited, he had just got a car and he hadn't even made the first payment on it yet."

Shannon Ashe said that her brother died several years ago, and that he was Jamie's best friend in the world.

"I guess they're having a good time right about now and catching up with each other," she said.

Worley is survived by his mother and father, Shannon and Terry Ashe and his sister Rachelle Worley, his mother said.

Meanwhile, the recovery on Monday was the end of a nearly three-day search by divers from Union and Dawson counties and the Georgia State Patrol. Cadaver dogs were brought in Sunday from Alpha Search and Rescue to assist in the recovery.

The search for the young man began around 4:45 p.m. on Saturday when Worley is believed to have slid off his inner tube to cool off and never resurfaced.

Sheriff Stephens said that friends who were with Worley began diving into the water near a buoy where he was believed to have gone down. They searched for the young man to no avail until authorities arrived shortly afterward.

Worley was with friends celebrating the 13th birthday of a friend, according to friends at the scene.

A Union County Sheriff's Office patrol boat was in the area when Worley went down, Sheriff Stephens said.

"We had our boat in the water about two coves over and we were able to respond quickly," Sheriff Stephens said. "The guys on the boat hit the water as soon as they got



Rebecca and Ronnie Bell await word on the recovery of their son's friend, Jamie Worley-Resendiz. Photo/Todd Forrest



Union County Dive Team continues its search on Sunday.

to the scene.

"The first call came into dispatch at 4:45 p.m., we got in motion at 4:46 p.m.," Sheriff Stephens said.

Sheriff Stephens immediately requested the Union County Dive Team, rangers from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and additional backup from the U.S. Forest Service rangers.

DNR rangers used their boat with side-mount sonar

search equipment Saturday evening until 10 p.m. The search was called off because of the dangers of night diving, Sheriff Stephens said.

Around 7 a.m. on Sunday, the recovery crew began another sweep of the area with the sonar equipment where Worley was believed to have gone down. About 9:40 a.m. on Sunday, the first divers hit the water after a sonar scan of the water.

Union County divers searched the area, encountering depths of more than 50 feet, until shortly after 1 p.m. on Sunday. Cadaver dogs were brought from Alpha Search and Rescue, who searched the area from the Union County Sheriff's Office pontoon.

At 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sheriff Stephens made a call to Dawson County Sheriff Billy Carlisle asking for mutual aid assistance from Sheriff Carlisle's dive team, led by Dawson County Sheriff's Major Greg Rowan.

The Dawson County Dive Team searched until late Sunday evening before the dive had to be called due to expiration of dive team members' time in the water.

On Monday, members of the Georgia State Patrol Dive Team were there, rangers with the U.S. Forest Service, a member of the Commerce Police Department, a member of the Demorest Fire Department, a member of Hart County Emergency Management Agency and personnel with the Union County Commissioner's Office, including Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris.

Worley's body has been sent to the State Crime Laboratory in Decatur for an autopsy, according to Worley's mother Shannon Ashe.

Rebecca Bell, whose son Alex Bell was a friend of Worley's for the past three years, said Worley was on a picnic with her family as they celebrated the 13th birthday of her granddaughter.

"We were all out here just having a good time and a cookout on the lake, and everything just turned upside down," she said, her voice cracking with emotion.

Bell and her family stayed at the scene during the entire search for Worley.

They sat patiently as one-by-one, divers searched the chilly waters of Lake Nottely for any sign of Worley.

"I can't say enough good things about the Union County folks," she said. "They're wonderful."

## Judgeships...continued from page 1A

Union, Towns, Lumpkin and White counties, currently is the executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council.

Gunter is a native of Northeast Georgia and served as the district attorney in the Enotah Judicial Circuit, which includes Union, Towns, White and Lumpkin counties, for 12 years. While serving as the Enotah Circuit district attorney, Gunter served on the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council and was president of the District Attorneys' Association.

Gunter and his wife, Rita, have been married 29 years and have two sons, Chase and Trey.

George, a Dahlonega resident, has more than 20 years of trial experience, having also served as the chief assistant district attorney in the Northeastern Judicial Circuit serving Hall and Dawson counties.

He also has served two years as a commissioned officer in the Military Police and eight years as a police

officer and detective with the Clarke County Police Department. George also has served as a guest lecturer at local colleges and high

schools regarding law and government. He and his wife, Sharon, have been married for 32 years and have two sons, Michael and Andrew.

## Veterans and Seniors

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