

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Deal, Ralston, Taylor headline 63rd GMF Parade

By Charles Duncan
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District 51 State Sen. John Wilkin said he will look far when he was asked to help find a Grand Marshal for the 63rd Annual Georgia Mountain Fair Parade.

The Toccoa Republican, who represents Towns County in the State House, picked up the phone and dialed an Atlanta number. The man on the other end of the phone line was honored to be asked; he graciously accepted.

Gov. Nathan Deal will be the Grand Marshal of the 63rd Annual Georgia Mountain Fair Parade on July 20th.

The parade is scheduled for 11 a.m. in Hiwassee.

Gov. Deal's office confirmed last week that the Governor will be in town to serve as the parade's Grand Marshal.



Gov. Nathan Deal

Likewise, Georgia's Speaker was honored to be named as the parade's first North Georgia Mountains Grand Marshal.

"The Georgia Mountain Fair is a tradition woven deep into our state's fabric," Speaker Ralston said. "For generations, thousands have come to Towns County to celebrate our moun-



Speaker David Ralston

tain heritage.

"I am truly honored to be a part of this year's festivities and look forward to seeing all of you on July 20th," Speaker Ralston said. "I know that I join all Georgians in expressing best wishes for another wonderful fair."

Both Gov. Deal and Speaker Ralston look forward to another first in Georgia



Christian Taylor

Mountain Fair Parade history.

Four-year-old Christian Taylor, who has endured numerous heart procedures in his short lifetime, will be the parade's first Towns County Grand Marshal.

The Grand Marshals will ride in horseless carriages courtesy of the Horseless Carriage Parade, 2A

Fireworks rescheduled for Saturday in Suches

Meeks Park fireworks rescheduled for Aug. 31

By Charles Duncan
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Mother Nature unleashed a storm system of heavy rains last week that prompted countless North Georgia communities to reschedule their Fourth of July celebrations.

Events in Blairsville and Suches were no exception.

The Fireworks Celebration at Meeks Park has been rescheduled to Aug. 31st, Labor Day Weekend, Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce President Cindy Williams said.

"The Blairsville-Union County fireworks display originally scheduled for Thursday, July 4th has been cancelled due to predicted heavy rain," Williams said. "We have resched-



Fairgrounds fireworks in Hiwassee. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

uled for the evening of Saturday, August 31st in celebration of Labor Day."

In Suches, weather permitting. See Suches, 2A

Sheriff: 'no money in budget for a boat to patrol Lake Nottely'

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason told members of the Lake Nottely Improvement Association that he has no control of the budget that he inherited, and that no money, or no program was in place for the Union County Sheriff's Office for a boat to use for law enforcement on Lake Nottely.

Sheriff Mason, along with Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, Georgia Department of Natural Resources Ranger Kevin Dyer, and U. S. Forest Service Wildlife Biologist Jim Wentworth met with the association's membership last week at the Union Community Center.

Sheriff Mason took center stage to touch on a few findings that were discovered once he took office in January.

"There was a boat purchased with drug seizure money, but the motor was allowed to freeze and burst and then repaired," Sheriff Mason said. "We did an assessment and determined that it wasn't feasible for what we needed on the lake."



Union County Sheriff Mack Mason talks with members of the Lake Nottely Improvement Association at the Community Center. Photo/Todd Forrest

According to Sheriff Mason, the boat was on the lake and sometimes without certified officers at the helm. Others using the boat, he said, were taking their families out on the lake in the Sheriff's Office boat. There was also another boat, according to Sheriff Mason that was found afloat on Lake Nottely. DNR ran the boat's identification numbers and called the owner.

"The gentleman informed them that he sold the boat to the Union County Sheriff's Office two years ago," Sheriff Mason said. "I didn't know about it, and I don't think the Commissioner knew about it. When we recovered the boat, it was in a very dilapidated condition. One of the pontoons had a hole shot in it. It had a little Mickey Mouse motor on it that wouldn't

See Association, 3A

Towns County woman still missing

By Charles Duncan
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Hiwassee - The Towns County Sheriff's Office is asking for help in locating Charlotte Diane "Dee Dee" Donaldson of Hiwassee.

Donaldson, 53, known locally as Dee Dee Adams, has been missing since June 24th, Towns County Sheriff's Lt. Terry Connor and sheriff's Investigator Sgt. Mark Cecci said in a release to the North Georgia News.

She was last seen leaving her residence located at



Dee Dee Adams-Donaldson

500 Hickory Hill in Hiwassee, on foot on June 24th, ac-

ording to the release.

Diane "Dee Dee" Adams-Donaldson is described as a white female height 4-foot, 11-inches, 145 pounds, brown hair, and brown eyes.

She is the granddaughter of the late Aleck and Nan Adams, of Blairsville.

Her father is the late Clarence Adams, of Blairsville. She still has many relatives in Union County.

Anyone with information as to the whereabouts of Diane "Dee Dee" Adams-Donaldson is asked to call the Towns County Sheriff's Office at (706) 896-4444.

Rain can't stop Farmers Market patrons

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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The rain wouldn't stop falling and patrons of the Union County Farmers Market didn't let the raindrops hamper their quest.

The lines at the Market were as long as usual as patrons packed the facility on Old Smokey Road.

"Rain or shine, they're going to come to the Farmers Market," Commissioner Lamar Paris said. "Every week it's packed. This will always continue to amaze me."

Peaches, cantaloupe, tomatoes, sweet corn, beans, greens, well, you name it, and the vendors at the Market had it.

The Farmers Market celebrated the egg on Saturday. It was the 1st Annual EGG-stravaganza as Market Manager Mickey Cummings and Market Event Chair JoAnne Leone put on their aprons and cooked up eggs a plenty for those attending the Market at mid-morning.

The eggs were provided by the Market's hand-



The Peach Man, Jimmy Thoterow, center, is hard at work at the Union County Farmers Market. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

dling and egg producer, Willy Kerr.

"There was a long line of customers today," Kerr said. "You wouldn't think this many folks would show up after all the rain we've had, but, they kept coming like ants out of an anthill."

The lines are expected to be even longer next week as the Market prepares for the

Fourth Annual Sweet Corn Festival. That event features the always competitive corn shucking contests for young and old alike.

Brian Mason was last year's Corn Shucking Champion, as he outshucked Lee Knight, 19 ears to Kerr.

Jennifer Kerr finished

See Shucks, 3A

County's oldest resident dies at 107

By Colleen Collins
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Blairsville's oldest living resident, Lois Barr, passed away peacefully at her home at Stonehenge on Tuesday July 2nd.

Lois passed away just three days following a celebration of her 107th birthday on Saturday, June 29th.

At her birthday party, numerous family members, friends, and Stonehenge staff who loved her dearly surrounded Lois to join her in celebrating this monumental milestone.

Lois was born on June 29, 1906 on a farm in South Carolina. When she was 13,



Lois Barr

her father died, and she began school at the academy at Piedmont College in Demorest as an eighth grader in 1919.

Lois worked her way through school by working in the kitchen and dining room. In

1933, Lois married H.K. Barr in Alabama, where H.K. was pastor of the North Alabama Church.

Lois taught English for seven years. Her husband developed a heart condition and died in 1943.

Lois then worked as secretary to the treasurer at Alabama College and secretary to one year.

In 1971, she then moved to Decatur, where she worked for the Frigidaire Company as secretary for the A/C engineer's regional office.

In 1986, Lois learned about Blairsville's Wesley Woods when her sister Mary

See Barr, 2A

Blairsville man back behind bars in North Carolina

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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An accused child molester who calls Blairsville home has been recaptured in the North Carolina county he escaped from after more than 24 hours on the lam.

Clay County, NC Sheriff Vic Davis reports that John Douglas Graham, 48, of Blairsville, was recaptured late Monday night, on Qualla Road, about a mile from the county jail.

He was holed up in



John Douglas Graham

an abandoned house, Sheriff Davis said.

Graham escaped from the Clay County Jail on Sunday afternoon around 3:20 p.m., Sheriff Davis said.

Graham was being held on \$500,000 bond related to child molestation charges.

Following his return to custody, Graham's bail is now set at \$1 million, Sheriff Davis said.

Graham's bail was already \$500,000 because he was a flight risk. The rea-

See Escape, 3A

Enotah Judicial Circuit budget OK'd

By Joe Collins
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Commissioners representing the four counties that make up the Enotah Judicial Circuit met at the Union County Community Center on June 26th to approve the final draft budget for Fiscal Year 2014.

The pre-budget meeting between the five-member boards of White and Lumpkin counties, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris had already taken place earlier in the year and the representatives gathered to cast their final vote on the FY2014 budget.

The final budget is \$698,415, with White contributing \$181,701.98,



Commissioners within the Enotah Judicial Circuit review the Fiscal 2014 budget figures. Photo/Joe Collins

Lumpkin contributing \$208,414.70, Union contributing \$148,384.45 and Towns County contributing \$72,852.68, according to the final budget.

All present at the meet-

ing approved the budget and it passed.

The circuit's Office of District Attorney will receive \$434,628 from the budget, with \$272,900 going toward

See Enotah, 2A

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FARMERS MARKET
Home Grown & Handmade
Sweetest Corn Festival
Saturday, July 13th
Union County Farmer's Market

Fire Station #1
507 Shoe Factory Road
Tuesday, July 23

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

July 20 & 21
Meeks Park
FREE Admission
FREE Parking

13th Annual
Butternut Creek
Festival

Suches Fire Department
Fireworks

This
Saturday
Night,
July 13th!