

Indict...from Page 1A

position, citing confidential details related to personnel matters.

The charges against Courson are related to a May 20, 2011 incident involving a 17-year-old female student.

Union County Sheriff's Office arrest warrants allege that the female child performed oral sex on Courson in a classroom bathroom at Union County High School.

Courson was a paraprotegoverseeing handicapped children at the school, sheriff's reports show.

Sheriff's investigators seized five electronic devices capable of storing electronic data, sheriff's reports show.

Those items include Courson's school-issued computer, two iPads, a personal computer and Courson's cell phone, sheriff's reports show.

Courson is free on bail, Union County Jail records show.

In an unrelated case, grand jurors have indicted two Hiwassee men, and one Blairsville man on charges that include three counts of aggravated animal cruelty, according to the July Grand Jury indictments.

Marty Carlton Johnson Jr., 20, originally from Hia-



Marty Carlton Johnson



Eric Shane Dyer

wassee, Seth Richard Skinner, 21, of Hiwassee, and Eric Shane Dyer, 20, of Blairsville were indicted on three counts aggravated cruelty to animals, theft by taking, and criminal trespass, the indictment shows.

Johnson also was indicted for driving under the influence, the indictment shows.

The incident began on Jan. 4 when Johnson, Skinner and Dyer were drinking and watching a movie, *Men Who Stare at Goats*, Union County sheriff's reports show.

"Alcohol was a factor in this case," Union County Sheriff's Investigator Sgt. Darren Osborn said.

Men Who Stare at Goats is a comic war film starring George Clooney, Jeff Bridges, Kevin Spacey and Ewan



Seth Richard Skinner

McGregor that explores the paranormal, psychic and psychological experiments on a herd of goats and some captured locals.

The secret U.S. Military program included staring at goats and making them explode.

After the conclusion of the movie, authorities say the three stole a goat from Jo Anne Allen's residence. Dyer and Skinner told sheriff's investigators that they urged Johnson to return the goat. Instead, he tossed the goat off the porch at 32 Bucks Way.

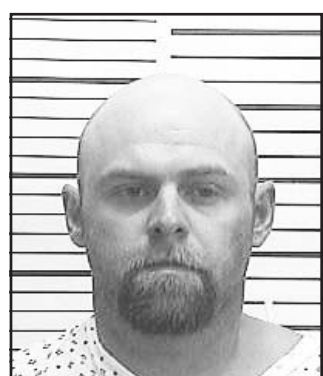
The goat, Jo Anne Allen's pet named *Mercy*, was injured after being tossed off the porch, sheriff's reports show.

Dyer and Skinner told investigators that Johnson then shot the goat several times after he tossed *Mercy* off the porch, sheriff's reports show.

Dyer and Skinner also told investigators that Johnson then tied the goat to the back of his pick up and drug a now deceased *Mercy* around at a high rate of speed, sheriff's reports show.

The three are free on bail, Union County Jail records show.

In an unrelated, but



Matthew Anderson

just as bizarre incident, Matthew Lee Anderson has been indicted on four counts of obstruction, public indecency, public drunkenness, and pedestrian under the influence of a drug, a July Term grand jury indictment shows.

It took four law enforcement officers to subdue the 33-year-old Anderson on June 2nd. He was running around naked on Smyrna Road in Gum Log on that date, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

Deputies got a call about a naked man up in Gum Log that was rolling around in a cow pasture.

Andrew and Bradley Glass were the first deputies to arrive, Sheriff Mason said.

"(Anderson) worked our deputies over pretty good," Sheriff Mason said at the time of Anderson's arrest. "We got response from Dustin Walker and Seth Dyer from Blairsville PD as backup.

"They pepper sprayed the man, used the baton, and finally had to use the tazer," the sheriff said. "It turns out, he was doing mushrooms."

Pick up a copy of the July 24th edition of the North Georgia News for more July Term Grand Jury indictment stories.

Suches... from Page 1A

Festivities got underway around 6 p.m. in the field below Woody Gap Schools with concessions and music.

Families began to congregate to the field before locating the best post to view the night sky being set ablaze.

Volunteers such as Fireman C.O. Woody arrived at the schools earlier in the day to begin setting up the concessions and preparing for the big night.

"I think the rain is going to hold off and we'll have a good night," Woody said. "I got here at 5 p.m. and things we're a little slow at first, but the crowd has been picking up and it looks like we're going to have a pretty good crowd tonight."

Despite an afternoon shower and the threat of rain on the horizon, the fireworks went off without a glitch despite a stiff breeze that cooled things down quite a bit.

That sent some spectators to their vehicles for blankets, or to simply sit inside to escape the brisk mountain breezes.

The temperature dipped into the low 60s with a wind chill factor in the 50s but it didn't deter anyone.

Most stayed behind the schools, others flocked to the parking lot, the community center across the street, while some stayed up the road at the General Store or the Post Office.

What makes the display even more spectacular is its humble beginnings.

This event grew from a few friends firing bottle rockets at the General Store into the premier Fourth of July exhibition in North Georgia.

"I can't remember exactly when all of this began, but we started just shooting bottle rockets at our homes, then it moved over to the General Store," Jim Miner said.

According to Miner, the owner of the General Store and a couple of friends eventually made a trip over to State Line Fireworks in Ducktown, Tenn., and came back with around \$200 in fireworks.

"Then Peggy Owens and I went over to the fire station and grabbed as many hot dogs and hamburgers as we could find, along with some soft drinks and sold them over here and made about \$200. So we broke even."

Kiana Martin opened the fireworks with a moving rendition of the National Anthem before the show got underway.

Fifteen-year-old Tyler Smith says that he's seen the fireworks in Suches so many times that he can't remember.

"This is the latest that I can remember them taking place because of the rain," Smith said. "But they are always very nice and this is a very nice place to have them."



Saturday was fun for young and old alike. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

For those of you that have yet to celebrate Independence Day in Suches, go ahead and add another item to your Bucket List and mark your calendars now for July

4th, 2014.

The dedicated firefighting volunteers who host this event are certainly going to out-do themselves next year, and you won't want to miss it.