

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Quilters present Vietnam Veterans Quilts of Valor

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Quilts of Valor Foundation, in conjunction with the Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild, presented 20 Vietnam Veterans with quilts in a ceremony at The Moving Wall in Meeks Park on Monday, Oct. 12.

Each Quilt of Valor honoree was first wrapped in their quilt, then given a hug and Welcome Home by QOV Area Coordinator Linda Gorman and former QOV Executive Director Susan Gordon, as James Gorman read brief histories of military service.

"For all the veterans present, and especially veterans of Vietnam, we say from our hearts, Welcome Home," said James Gorman.

The following Vietnam

Veterans received quilts that Monday: Alfred P. Bradley, U.S. Marine Corps; James Breedlove, U.S. Army; Marion Crawford of Union County, U.S. Army; Clifton Davis of Union County, U.S. Army; Richard Eggleston of Union County, U.S. Army; Don Gardner of Union County, USMC; James Hazen of Towns County, U.S. Army; Luther Hyatt, USMC; Roger Jones of Union County, U.S. Army; Charles Kittredge of Union County, U.S. Air Force; Bob Millage of Towns County, U.S. Army; Janie Miller of Union County, U.S. Army; Stanley Moore, USMC; Jack Norris of Union County, U.S. Army; Patrick Petrussee, U.S. Army; Peggy Reedy of Union County, U.S. Army; Dale Sissell of Towns County, USAF; J.A. Swartz of Towns County,

USAF; Robert Wentz of Union County, USMC; and Donald Wilson of Towns County, U.S. Army.

Linda Gorman delivered a three-part message to those receiving quilts, highlighting the reason for the honor and why volunteer quilters do what they do.

"We honor you for your service," said Gorman. "We highly respect that you left all you held dear and stood in harm's way in a time of crisis to protect our country. Secondly, our quilters understand that freedom is not free. The cost of our freedom is the dedication of our service members, and our quilts are meant to say thank you for your service. Finally, this quilt you are about to receive is meant to offer comfort, and let you know that your quilt has been stitched with love, prayers



Misty Mountain Quilters present 20 Vietnam Veterans with Quilts of Valor

and healing thoughts of home and family." Union County Sole

Commissioner Lamar Paris expressed his deep respect for the many names on the

Vietnam Moving Wall, as well as for those fortunate enough to See Veterans, Page 2A

UCSO nets biggest pot bust ever

North Georgia News
News Special

The Union County Sheriff's Office conducted the biggest marijuana bust in county history, seizing 790 plants potentially worth \$790,000 at an indoor grow on Mull Valley Road on Friday, Oct. 9.

Discovery of the indoor grow resulted in the arrests of Ronald Pitts and Barbara Grady, who were booked into Union County Jail and charged with trafficking marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, manufacturing marijuana, and possession of a firearm in commission of a crime, according to the sheriff's office.

The plants were at various stages of growth with none having yet reached maturity, but had the indoor grow undiscovered and the plants allowed to mature,

each plant would have been worth \$1,000, for a total street value of \$790,000, according to the sheriff's office.

This latest indoor grow is just the largest in a recent string of unconnected marijuana busts, as on Thursday, Oct. 8, UCSO deputies discovered an indoor marijuana grow of 18 plants on Town Mountain Road, resulting in the arrests of Joseph Houle and Ronda Terry, who were charged with manufacturing marijuana, according to the sheriff's office.

"Both cases are now in the hands of the Narcotics Division," read a statement released by the sheriff's office.

According to the sheriff's office, his Narcotics Division "will be looking into the seizure of things related to the crimes," and in the case of the 790 plants, the division "is working with other counties and states on



Pot plants seized by Union County Sheriff's Department

where the marijuana was being distributed," which could result in more arrests.

"Along with the two

grows, the Narcotics Division discovered an outside marijuana grow, which resulted in two See Pot Bust, Page 2A

Moving Wall departs; Welcome Home remains

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

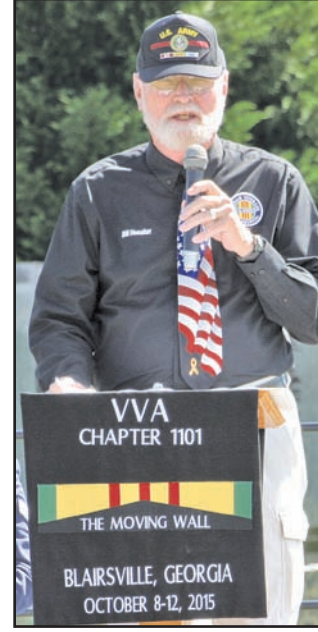
More than 8,000 people came from all over the region to see the Vietnam Moving Wall, which arrived in Meeks Park on Thursday, Oct. 8, and departed on Monday, Oct. 12.

The Wall, with its 58,307 names of service members killed as a result of the Vietnam War, represented many things to those who visited.

It served as a Welcome Home to Vietnam Veterans, as well as possible healing and closure to those who will always live with the very personal costs of the Vietnam War.

To others, The Wall offered a chance to remember loved ones lost in the war, or simply an occasion to consider deeply the implications of living in a free nation where freedom has never truly been free.

Regardless of their reasons, the great many thousands who made the pilgrimage to see The Wall bore witness to a rare, once in



Master Sgt. (retired) Bill Honaker

a lifetime event in Blairsville during those five days.

And it was all thanks to the hard work and dedication of See Wall, Page 3A

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the Union County Commission meeting on Thursday, Oct. 15.

"I hereby proclaim October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the purpose being to promote and support ongoing public education efforts and build social intolerance against domestic violence," said Commissioner Paris. "Domestic violence is a serious

crime that affects people of all ages, income levels, sexes and religious backgrounds.

"The impact of domestic violence is wide ranging and directly affects individuals and society as a whole, so I urge all citizens to participate in scheduled activities and programs that focus on efforts to end domestic violence."

The commissioner also honored retired teachers, proclaiming Nov. 1 as Georgia Retired Educators Day.

"Retired educators touched and influenced the lives of generations of young people, and motivated and inspired

See Domestic Violence, Page 3A



Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris signs Domestic Violence Proclamation

46th Sorghum Festival comes to a close



Biskit soppers have at it during 46th Sorghum Festival

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The 46th Annual Blairsville Sorghum Festival presented by the Blairsville Jaycees wrapped up its second and final weekend with large turnouts both Saturday and Sunday.

Last weekend saw rainy skies on Saturday, canceling all games before sunny skies and festival goers returned on Sunday, despite the muddy conditions Mother Nature left behind.

There was no mud however during the second weekend so visitors and locals alike were allowed to enjoy the Sorghum Festival to the max.

"We missed the pole climbin' and baccar spittin' contests last weekend but got to enjoy them this weekend," said David Thomas of Jasper, who traveled back to Blairsville with his family to witness all of the festivities this time around. "They are always the highlight of the festival for us."

As predicted by See Sorghum, Page 14A

Good Neighbors 31st Car Show a hit with young and old

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Since 1984 the Good Neighbors Auto Club Classic Car Show has been synonymous with the Sorghum Festival and autumn in Union County, and it was met with beautiful weather and plenty of car enthusiasts on Saturday afternoon behind United Community Bank.

Nine decades of cars and trucks were on display by owners from across the tri-state area. Ford Mustangs, Chevrolet Camaros and

Chevrolet Chevelles were the most common muscle cars, although no matter your taste, Ford, General Motors or Mopar, there was something there for everyone.

There was plenty of drooling over the classics and newer models and plenty of car talk by gearheads young and old, as some relived their glory days while others introduced a new generation to American Muscle.

"This is the first time that I've ever brought the kids See Car Show, Page 14A



Shelby Cobra

FFA citrus sale sweet deal for county residents



By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Union County FFA Annual Citrus Sale officially kicks off this week, as students go home with sales brochures and flyers to hand out within

the community.

Fruit orders must be submitted by Saturday, Nov. 14, and customers can expect to receive their fruit around the second week of December.

"We're going to be See FFA Sale, Page 2A

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5th Anniversary
Hope House
5th Anniversary

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Death by **Chocolate**
UC Fine Arts Center

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SPORTS
FOOTBALL
OPEN
SOFTBALL
Wed. Oct 21 @ Lamar County 5 & 7 PM
State Sweet 16 Tournament
Thurs. Oct 22nd if needed 2 PM