

## Pill Drop...continued from Page 1A

Operation Pill Drop is something that the department does twice each year, Sheriff Stephens said.

"It's all about proper disposal of medication that has either expired, or is no longer necessary. It could be that you've lost a loved one, and you're looking to dispose of the medicine they left behind," Sheriff Stephens said. "We give folks the opportunity to bring those medications to us, no questions asked. The medicines in turn are incinerated. We have a lot of folks that come by the office seeking to do the same thing throughout the year."

One of the key reasons

behind the pill drop is to avoid medicines being disposed of by flushing them down the toilet.

"Most municipal water systems don't filter for illegal or prescription drugs; simply flushing out of date and unused drugs into the sewer system may allow the drugs to eventually reenter the local water supply," Sheriff Stephens said. "Flushing medication is the wrong thing to do because of the public safety health threat."

Prescription drugs are rapidly becoming the greatest threat involving drug abuse, the sheriff said.

"Those with chronic pain, elderly residents who require multiple medicines and others who get prescriptions

filled may unknowingly become suppliers for drug dealers," Sheriff Stephens said.

One of the biggest fears for law enforcement is that children may take prescription pills from their parents' and grandparents' medicine cabinets. Also, excess drugs are often frequent targets for burglars, Sheriff Stephens said.

The idea behind the pill drop is to provide an outlet for people who have excess, leftover prescription drugs so that they can be disposed of safely, the sheriff said.

"The drop off allows for the drugs to be disposed of properly and in a safe manner," he said on Saturday.

The program is being conducted on a national basis. The totals for the local region have not been tallied yet, but when the national figures are totaled, they will be made available by the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Last year, the Union County Sheriff's Office collected more than 60 pounds of unused prescription medication, Sheriff Stephens said.

"We do Operation Pill Drop twice each year, and anytime someone wants to dispose of unused medications, all they need to do is contact us or just bring them by the sheriff's office," the sheriff said. "And there are no questions asked."

## Home Show...continued from Page 1A

energy costs and how to turn their homes into "green" homes.

According to folks at the show, "If you have the finances to afford to build or remodel your home, there is never a better time. Many of our best

trades-people are looking for work and some building materials are less expensive (at this time). Interest rates are low and reports indicate that banks are beginning to loosen up credit."

The Mountain Home show believes that the best customer is an informed customer. They do a great job educating visitors about everything to do with building or remodel-

ing a home, from start to finish.

The Mountain Home Show is brought to you by the local community as an opportunity to showcase local businesses.

## Williams...continued from Page 1A

Dr. Paul Shaw with the state Professional Standards Commission, told the board in a letter that Dr. Williams is a good catch for their school system.

"Dr. Shaw is a former superintendent for White County," said Steppe. "Mr. Shaw told us that he would hire him in a minute. He said that he tried to hire him a few

years ago.

Dr. Williams' boss, Dr. Sandy Addis, said Union County could not go wrong by hiring Dr. Williams.

"Dr. Addis told us that Jeremy is a great employee," Steppe said. "He said that Jeremy is well prepared, a hard worker and he always makes Pioneer RESA look

good."

Mitchell Barrett, superintendent of the Mountain Education Center, said Dr. Williams was an excellent choice.

"Mitchell said that Jeremy worked at the Mountain Education Center for two years and did a great job."

Dr. Williams is married and brings a 4-year-old daughter

with him to Union County.

"He was here at the school a while back doing assessments and he mentioned that he would love for his daughter to have the opportunity to go to a school like Union County," Steppe said. "I think he's really excited to bring his family into our community."

## Art Fest...continued from Page 1A

piece from beaded necklaces to turned wooden bowls featured evidence of quality workmanship.

New treasures were found around every corner and bend.

Mayor's Park in Young Harris once again proved as a great venue for the outdoor festival. With lots of shade trees, a playground for the kids, convenient location right on Highway 76, and picnic tables for everyone, even pets were welcome to hang out at this free event.

Potter Angie Herndon of Blairsville was enjoying her first appearance at the event.

Herndon attended school at Armstrong State University in Savannah.

"This is just something I've always wanted to do," she said. "My grandmother taught me how to do this and I'm using her wheel today."

Animals also are a huge part of the Young Harris Art Fest.

The show unites art lovers who love dogs and pet lovers who love art. Objectives include raising awareness, finding new forever homes for needy pets, and raising much need cash for the animal programs.

Local animal rescue groups depend on the festival to help raise money for their day-to-day operations. Proceeds raised go to purchase everything from dog food to veterinarian care. Those individuals offer thanks to everyone that participated in any way including making a donation. Those gifts were greatly appreciated.

Special guests at this year's event included "Ask the Vet" host Dr. Hilty Burr of Lake Chatuge Animal Clinic, Cold Nose College, Logan's

Run Rescue, Castaway Critters, Mountain Shelter Humane Society, North Georgia SPCA, Operation PUP, Whiskers Project, Georgia Equine Rescue, Boston Terrier Rescue, Alpacas education and demonstration, and Richard's Kids (two legged friends).

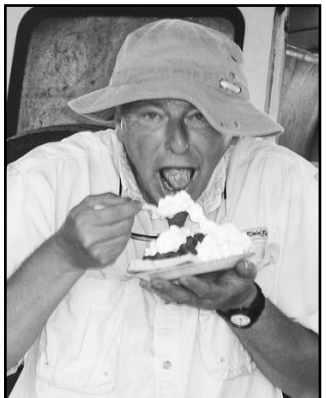
Richard's Kids raises money for underprivileged children in Rabun County. They use the money raised by their organization to purchase clothing and other necessities for local children.

For \$1, festival goers could get a kiss from a pup named Roxanne. Operation Doggie Kisses featured one of the most handsome faces - who wouldn't want to kiss a handsome, well behaved and affectionate schnauzer. And the nice lady in charge was happy to direct those seeking a kiss.

Music was also a part of the Art Fest. Fans enjoyed

hearing the Will Thompson Band perform a variety of sounds that fit perfectly into a day trip in the North Georgia Mountains.

## Strawberry Jubilee this weekend



Enjoying strawberry shortcake.

In the spring, the color most prevalent at the Union County Farmers Market is "GREENS". But "green" isn't the only color that's harvested in the late spring. On Saturday morning, May 5th, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. North Georgia's favorite Farmers Market will be celebrating the mouth watering red strawberry.

Local farmers have collaborated with growers in Western Carolina to bring the

best strawberries to Union County for sale that day. As a special treat, Logan Turnpike Mill will be selling everyone's favorite - Strawberry Shortcake. Cecelia Holland has a special sweet biscuit recipe she's baking up, and topping it off with the reddest, sweetest fruit of the season.

There will also be lots of crafters, music and a wonderful meet and greet. There will be jams and jellies and lots of fresh breads and baked goods sold that day, too. Baby cabbages, radishes, spring lettuce and onions are already crops that the Market's produce vendors are offering up.

The Union County Farmers Market is held rain or shine, located under roof, at 148 Old Smokey Rd. (Turn at Weaver Rd., next to Home Depot and then take the first right onto Old Smokey) Blairsville, GA. Plenty of free parking. For details about all events at the Union County Farmers Market, visit [www.UCFarmersMarket.com](http://www.UCFarmersMarket.com). NT(May2,01)SH

## Masquerade Jewelry sale by UGH Auxiliary

Union General Hospital Auxiliary is sponsoring Masquerade Jewelry and Accessory Sale on Monday, May 7th, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Tuesday, May 8th, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the hospital's old lobby. Cash and credit cards will be accepted, all items \$5.

If anyone is interested in joining the Auxiliary, please contact Lois Swan, President, at 706-379-1796 or Rosalind Todd at 706-897-3455. N(May22)CA

## Georgia Mountain Writers Club meeting

The Georgia Mountain Writers Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Catholic church on Hwy. 76.

For more information, call Ellee Dobson at 706-745-0678 or email her at [jldobson@windstream.net](mailto:jldobson@windstream.net). N(May2,21)CA