

# Guns...from Page 1A

line. "On the day of the auction, there will be between 250 to 300 people on the auction floor. The auction will start at 10 a.m. on the day of the auction and live bidding will start. You can also bid from home online," Sheriff Mason said.

The weapons must go through a licensed FFL dealer in order to be registered weapons, Sheriff Mason said. "We can't stand out on the courthouse steps and sell weapons," he said.

There also will be a number of other weapons for sale via this auction, Sheriff Mason said. "There will be weapons from other sheriff offices, and individuals assign guns to be sold by Jeff Dobson Auctions," Sheriff Mason said. "We'll only have a small number of the 500-to-600 firearms for sale at this auction."

The financial amount brought in by the sale of these weapons will be divided with the Enotah Circuit District Attorney's Office, Sheriff Mason said.

"We'll give the District Attorney's Office 10 percent of the proceeds, and we keep 90 percent for the Sheriff's Seizure Fund," Sheriff Mason said. "We use these funds to pay for equipment, firearms, pay for training, vehicles and so forth.



A cache of weapons seized last year during a drug bust will go on sale later this summer, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said. Photo/Charles Duncan

"In addition to these firearms, we have been awarded by the courts from two settlements, \$32,300 in cash. The District Attorney gets 10 percent of that," the sheriff said. "We were awarded the cash seized with the firearms that we are auctioning, a total of \$8,600. We are in the process of awaiting the final settlement of another drug seizure

case, where we'll get another \$25,000 and a vehicle worth approximately \$4,000. We expect that within the next 30 days."

Sheriff Mason said that the funds collected through the drug case seizures helps out the Union County taxpayers.

"We're purchasing vehicles with this money," the sheriff said. "We've built up

a pretty good fleet right now. We're hoping that our repair costs continue to go down. We're using the funds that we receive in the best manner possible to run this department as efficiently and cost-effectively as we possibly can.

"We've always got the taxpayer in mind," Sheriff Mason said.

# Treasures...from Page 1A

as vendors from across the tri-State area set up shop in Blairsville.

Joe and Debra Chambers, packed up a little early after a productive first day.

"We got here at 6:30 this morning to start getting set up and things started to slow down around 11 a.m. We had a pretty good day for opening day and we'll be back tomorrow and hope to have another good day."

On normal days the action peaks between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., but Thursday was a little slow because it was the first day. The fact it'll be open

every Thursday and Friday this season means the Farmers Market will be busy.

Brenda Reynolds and Don Reynolds found out about the event from the *North Georgia News*.

"I read the *North Georgia News*, the *Cherokee Scout*, and the *News Observer* every week. That's where we heard about this and we decided to come. We hope we can make it back tomorrow."

The action begins long before the crowds start to stream in around 8 a.m. with many vendors arriving before dawn to begin preparing for

the day. Some take a stroll around the Farmers Market as customers, eager to take a look at what's for sale and even strike up a few deals before everyone arrives.

John and Marianne Hopkins of Blueberry Hill Collectibles have been setting up at Trash and Treasures for a long time and have seen just about everything.

"We've been coming here for five years and it was 28 degrees this morning but one day last year it got down to 22 degrees," John Hopkins said. "We sat here in a metal chair, in the dark, and 22 de-

grees but it's worth it. We meet a lot of good people and have a lot of fun."

If you're looking to buy, sell, trade, or just want to browse, Trash and Treasures will be open for business every Thursday and Friday morning at the Farmers Market through the summer.

The market comes to life around 8 a.m. and lasts until approximately 1 p.m., or until the action slows down.

# Time is running out on Pre-K

Your Union County School System is seeking a Pre-K Grant for the 2014-2015 School Year.

Union County Schools is currently in the application stage of seeking approval to provide a Pre-K program for Union County 4 year olds.

This program will be in addition to the existing Pre-K/Headstart program.

A vital part of the application process is securing the interest of parents/guardians willing to send their child to the Union County Primary School to attend a newly formed Pre-K program.

If you would be interested in enrolling your 4-year-old child in this new program, please let the school system know by completing one of

the following options:  
**Option 1: Call the Union County Registrar at (706) 835-4321 and provide the Parents/Guardians' name, the child's name, the child's date of birth and the family's phone number.**  
**Option 2: go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/unionpreksurvey> to fill out the online interest survey.**

# Reece Center is now open

The 2014 opening of the Byron Herbert Reece Farm and Heritage Center occurred on Thursday, April 3rd.

Again this year the days and hours of operation are Thursdays-Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., April through November.

On Thursdays there will be no charge for admission to the exhibits area, while on the other days a modest fee of \$3 per person 12 and older applies.

There is no charge for visiting the Welcome Center with its gift shop and museum area.

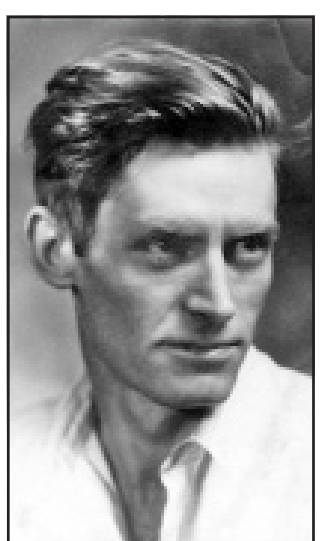
Small group tours and activities at the Farm are encouraged.

Please call the Center's number at (706) 745-2034 or send a message to reecesociety@gmail.com.

Changes have been made in the Center's rental policies. Check these out by going to the Reece Society website at [www.byronherbertreece-society.org](http://www.byronherbertreece-society.org). On the opening page, click on WEDDINGS AT THE FARM, then click on Pavilion Rental Policies and Reece Farm Policies.

A number of special events for this year are planned, and these will be publicized later in the local papers.

Also, 21 enthusiastic Reece Farm volunteers gathered in the Union County/Blairsville Community Center on Thursday, March 27, for a



**Byron Herbert Reece** celebration preceding the beginning of the Reece Farm and Heritage Center's third year of operation.

Reece Society Chair John Kay and the Reece Center Gift Shop manager Dawn Scarbrough distributed certificates of appreciation to 19 men and women who have rendered some form of service over the past two seasons. At the same time, two new volunteers were welcomed into the family of workers.

In a move designed to increase knowledge of fellow servants, everyone shared his or her occupational background and volunteer commitments. The extent of community service being rendered by this group is truly impressive.

The gathering ended with a delicious buffet luncheon served by the Community Center's Grille.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Reece Farm's corps of volunteers, please register your interest or send your inquiries via e-mail at [reecesociety@gmail.com](mailto:reecesociety@gmail.com), or call the Reece Farm office at 706-745-2034.