

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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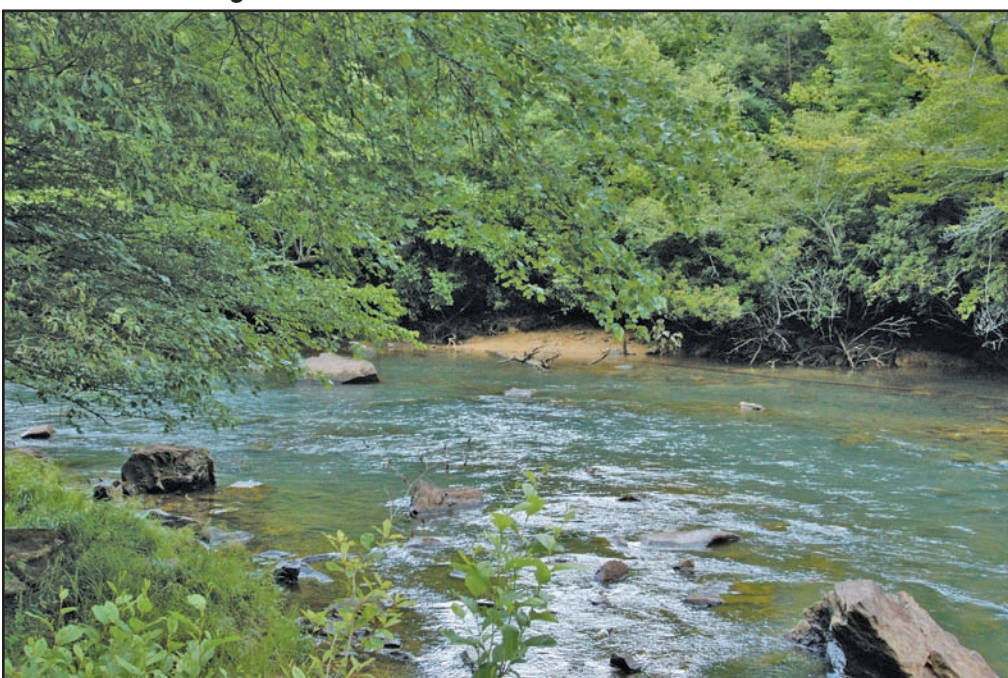
TVA enhances Nottely Tailwater Recreation Area

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Tennessee Valley Authority and Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris have been working together to enhance recreation opportunities in the Nottely Tailwater Recreation Area in northern Union County.

The Nottely Tailwater Recreation Area consists of approximately 50 acres situated on TVA lands along the shores of the Nottely River, downstream from Nottely Dam. The recreation area is available to the public free of charge and features picnic tables, river access, and rustic trails available during daytime hours.

Due to a high demand for recreational opportunities such as canoeing, kayaking, picnicking, walking/jogging trails, bicycle trails, and trout fishing, the TVA and Commissioner Paris decided to enhance this area and



The Nottely River runs parallel to the site providing six miles of canoeing all the way to Ranger, NC Photo/Todd Forrest

make it available to the public through a mutual partnership. The TVA removed excess vegetation, and improved the

existing road leading to the recreation site. The county will provide maintenance for the area and has enforcement ca-

pability for the area to ensure it is enjoyable for visitors. The project will provide ad- See *Nottely*, 2A

Holiday Fireworks come to Suches and Blairsville

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

On Friday, July 4th, both Blairsville and Suches will be holding their annual fireworks extravaganza.

Meeks Park in Blairsville and the field behind the Woody Gap School in Suches, will come to life shortly before dark.

The Suches Fire Department will present its annual Independence Day fireworks display in what has become a Suches tradition.

The fireworks begin at dark, but the festivities kick off earlier as the Suches community and visitors gather around 7 p.m. for hot dogs, soft drinks and snacks and the chance to meet friends, old and new.

It is also planned that there will be patriotic and old time mountain music, both recorded and (hopefully) live, featuring local musicians.

The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce Tourism Director Tobie Chan-



Fireworks over Suches dazzled in 2013

andler is hoping that some local musicians also will bring their instruments to Meeks Park for an impromptu jam session on Friday evening, in what is shaping up to be one of the most memorable Independence Days for the city of Blairsville and Union County.

"It's going to be a spectacular show, better than last year," Chandler said. "You're going to see people sitting all over the town. They'll be at the See *Fireworks*, 3A

Wisconsin hiker no longer a missing person in Union

By Charles Duncan
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Paul Paur is officially no longer a missing person.

Rangers with the Smokey Mountain Park Service spoke with the 50-year-old from West Allis, WI on June 26 and relayed information to the Union County Sheriff's Office that he was of sound mind and not deemed a threat to himself or anyone else.

Local law enforcement first became concerned about Paur when his backpack was discovered in the middle of the Appalachian Trail on June 5 in Union County, Sheriff Mack Mason said.

"We got a report of a backpack on the trail just beyond Walasi-Yi," Sheriff Mason said. "The trail isn't more than 3 feet wide, and hikers were having to walk around it. It was still there when they returned from their hike."



Paul Paur

Sheriff's deputies retrieved the backpack. Inside the pack, they discovered Paur's belongings, his wallet and other items. Included among those other items was a substantial amount of money.

Family members told the Union County Sheriff's Office that they feared for Paur's life, and that he was emotionally unstable.

Sheriff Mason, depu-

ties, firefighters and Emergency Management personnel searched an area just off the Appalachian Trail near Walasi-Yi to no avail.

On Monday, Union County sheriff's SSgt. Darren Osborn told the *North Georgia News* that the department has taken Paur off its list of missing persons.

"Officer Mullins of the Smokey Mountain National Park Service contacted us and said that he had made contact with Mr. Paur," Sgt. Osborn said. "He said that Mr. Paur seemed to be fine, and showed no tendencies to harm himself or anyone else."

"He was still ill-equipped, he did have some food with him that other hikers had given him, but, he was still on a mission to hike to Maine," Sgt. Osborn said. "Ranger Mullins said Mr. Paur just wanted to hike."

The Union County Sher-

iff's Office opened a missing person case on Paur on June 5.

"We'll hang onto his stuff until he returns to claim his possessions," Sgt. Osborn said, referring to a 2007 Jeep Liberty and a substantial amount of cash left behind on the Appalachian Trail.

Meanwhile, Sgt. Osborn reports a burglary arrest of two people on June 23 has solved at least three burglary cases.

Matthew Ronald Forrester, 26, and Mary Margaret Wimbish, 19, of Blairsville face charges of burglary and possession of a controlled substance, Union County Jail records show.

"On June 23, CID received a call regarding a burglary off the Lance Highway at a vacation home," Sgt. Osborn said. "They took everything."

See *UCSO*, 2A

Cruise In and Nottely Marina Boat Parade highlight Fourth

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Nottely Marina will hold its annual boat parade on Friday morning - rain or shine.

For land lovers, the Blairsville Cruisers and Biker Barn have a full slate of Independence Day fun lined up for the holiday weekend.

At the marina, boats will arrive at 11:30 a.m. with the parade starting at 11 a.m. The boats will circle the cove just off Highway 19/129 North.

The judging will take place at 11:30 a.m. with trophies being handed out at noon. For more than 20 years, Nottely Marina and owner Carleen Doucette have sponsored this family friendly, July 4th tradition.

The excitement continues during the afternoon hours with the Biker Barn's motorcycle



show (24 Ivy Log Road) from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and at the Union County Farmers Market (148 Old Smokey Road). Registration for the bikers begins at 2 p.m. and cash prizes of \$150 - First place, \$75 - Second place, and \$50 - Third place will be awarded at 4:30 p.m. at the end of the bike show.

Meanwhile, the classic cars mean rolling in the Farmers Market around 4 p.m.

The Blairsville Cruisers See *Cruise In*, 3A

Courthouse security changes July 1



Perry Groves, Laurel Miller James, Pam Henderson, Sgt. Leon James, Dennis Young and Jared Wood oversee the new security measures being put into place at the Union County Courthouse Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

When visiting the Union County Courthouse from now on, you'll need to arrive a few minutes early due to metal detectors, hand wands, and x-ray machines being installed at both entrances.

The security upgrade comes on the heels of Georgia's legislature passing House Bill 60, also known as the *Guns Everywhere* Bill, which expands the locations where a firearm can be carried by persons with a Georgia Weapons Carry License, it also modified the process for obtaining the license itself.

According to Union County sheriff's Sgt. Leon James of the Court Services Division, the new law allows authorities the leverage to pre-

vent weapons from entering the courthouse. However, the law states that if no deputy is present at the courthouse entrance, it is perfectly legal to carry a weapon into the building. Although James is quick to point out that the goal of increased security is not to make arrests at the entrances to the courthouse, but simply for safety reasons.

"In order to prevent someone from being able to bring a weapon into the building, you must have a deputy at the door," Sgt. James said. "If you don't have a deputy there, they can just come on in with weapons. But we're not here to make arrests, we're here for safety. So if you come up to the detectors and you have a weapon in your pocket, you will be asked to secure it in your vehicle and then you'll be

good to go."

"Even if you are a strong gun rights advocate, this new law, in my opinion, over-extended its reach in taking away from local governments the right to keep weapons out of our courthouse and other county office facilities," Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris added. "If we do not put in a security checkpoint we can't stop anyone, with their weapons, from coming into our offices. This includes anyone openly carrying guns in plain sight, to possibly include long guns, and the deputies can't even ask to see their license unless there is probable cause."

The personnel to operate these new devices must be certified deputies. They must undergo training in court-

See *Security*, 3A

Boling at Reece Farm and Heritage Center

By Matthew Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

All natural remedies, herbal teas and mountain leaves were present Saturday at the Byron Herbert Reece Farm and Heritage Center.

A Union County native, Byron Herbert Reece had a very brief but very fruitful career as a novelist and poet who was deeply rooted in the mountain way of life.

Locals and visitors alike planted themselves in front of Janice Boling, a local graphic designer, writer and entrepreneur, as she educated, toiled and celebrated man's relationship with nature, much as Reece did by way of his writings.

Boling spoke of various herbs turned into lotions, potions and syrups.

See *Herbs*, 3A



Janice Boling shares her herbal knowledge at the Byron Herbert Reece Farm and Heritage Center. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Mountain Fling continues to thrive

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Local artists put their talents on display and on sale over the weekend as North Georgia Technical College and the Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild presented the annual Mountain Fling Arts and Show.

The juried art show with a full house of more than 50 vendors includes many local artisans from the Northeast Georgia Mountain communities. The talented artists offered their latest works in ceramic items, one of a kind

See *Fling*, 3A



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EXTRA EXTRA

Don't miss our new Business Spotlight portion of your North GA News!

EARLY DEADLINE

DUE TO THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY

OUR DEADLINE FOR THE JULY 7TH PAPER HAS BEEN MOVED TO THURSDAY, JULY 3RD

Egg-stravaganza

EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Celebrating the Goodness of Eggs

UC Farmer's Market Saturday, July 5th

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The Staff of the North Georgia News and West Printing Company wish you and yours a very happy 4th of July!