

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Legal Organ of Union County

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September 23, 2015

## Paris finalizes fireworks ordinance

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Union County now has its very own fireworks ordinance, passed in the September Union County Commission meeting.

The ordinance, designed to work in concert with the recent statewide fireworks bill passed during the 2015 Georgia Legislative Session, is meant to unify safety above all, said Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris.

This month's commission meeting took place on Constitution Day, Sept. 17, as was proclaimed in the August meeting.

In this meeting, Commissioner Paris gave an overview of the Georgia fireworks bill, then delivered a second reading of the county's

fireworks ordinance before passing it.

According to the statewide legislation, fireworks can be sold anywhere in the state, and local governments cannot ban or restrict the sale of fireworks within their jurisdictions.

Currently, fireworks can be sold from permanent consumer fireworks retail sales facilities if in compliance with National Fire Protection Association requirements, and after Jan. 1, 2016, fireworks can be sold from temporary stands that counties will be allowed to regulate.

The state's fireworks bill allows for the use of fireworks on any day of the year between the hours of 10 a.m. and midnight, offering expanded hours of between 10 a.m. through 2 a.m. for holiday celebrations on Jan. 1,

July 3, July 4 and Dec. 31.

Statewide restrictions stipulate that fireworks may not be exploded within 100 yards of a gas station or a facility that refines, processes or blends gasoline.

Certain fees and taxes apply to fireworks, and the state allowed in the bill that local governments may require special permits for the use of fireworks.

After briefing those in attendance on the state's bill, Commissioner Paris gave an overview of the key points concerning Union County's Fireworks Ordinance.

The local ordinance was designed to emphasize safety above all else, requiring strict adherence to all national, state and local fire prevention and safety regulations/guidelines.

Choosing to make use of the statewide bill's allowance of the requirement of special



Lamar Paris

use permits, the new county ordinance says that fireworks cannot be sold, possessed or used on any Union County property except with a special use permit.

Furthermore, the ordinance says that fireworks cannot be exploded by anyone within 1,000 feet of a residential property, national

See *Fireworks*, Page 3A

## Bower gets 30 years for stabbing Deyton

By Charles Duncan  
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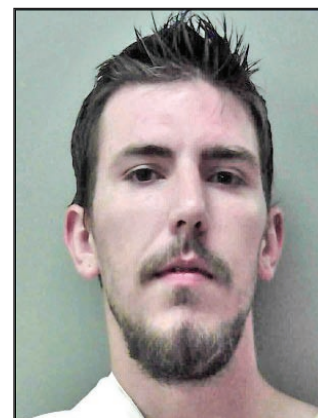
Daniel Lee Bower of Hayesville, NC, has plead guilty to criminal attempt to commit murder in the Oct. 1, 2014, stabbing of Towns County Sheriff's Deputy Aaron Deyton.

In a pre-trial hearing at the Union County Courthouse on Wednesday, Sept. 16, Enotah Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Murphy sentenced Bower to the maximum sentence of 30 years for the crime, 25 of which are to be spent in prison.

"He certainly has a little while to think about it now," said Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton. "Bower himself articulated in front of the judge that he realized what he had done was wrong, so hopefully it serves as an example to other people that you can't get by with this type of crime."

Bower's criminal trial was set to begin on Monday, Sept. 21, had he not entered his guilty plea at what was his fourth pre-trial hearing to date.

"It'll be a long time before he's ever eligible for any parole consideration,"



Daniel Lee Bower

said Sheriff Clinton. "I feel like certainly Aaron Deyton and his family, they were satisfied with it, and I think that's the main thing. They felt like that was an appropriate sentence and judgment."

"I'm just glad that they're at a stage now where, it certainly doesn't take away what happened, and Aaron's certainly not over dealing with some of the issues from the stabbing, but at least he and his family can get a little closure from it and begin to go forward with other things."

Deputy Deyton, a resident of Union County, received the life-threatening

See *Bower*, Page 2A

## Moore says lakes are fine

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition held its Fifth Annual State of the Water meeting on Monday, Sept. 14, at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center.

In the meeting, HRWC Executive Director Callie Moore spoke on the state of the rivers and lakes within the Upper Hiwassee River Basin.

All four lakes in the basin - Nottely, Chatuge, Hiwassee and Apalachia - received clean bills of health, but Moore identified areas of concern for certain streams running through the basin.

Moore showed meeting attendees a map highlighting waterways and streams located

in the Upper Hiwassee River Basin that had been identified by the state's 303(d) list of impaired and threatened waters, a list that is updated every two years on even year cycles.

Waters can be deemed impaired for different reasons, such as bacterial contamination, excess sediment, excess nutrients and low oxygen environments that can kill fish, for example.

Since 2013, the HRWC has been able to monitor bacteria levels through its bacterial monitoring program, allowing for greater real-time augmenting of data - like the 303(d) list last published in 2013 - provided by state agencies, such as the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

In Union County, Moore



Callie Moore

said that samples taken over the last year by the coalition had found isolated E. coli hotspots in lengths of the Nottely River above Lake Nottely, as well

as in the Butternut Creek watershed.

Moving forward in addressing bacterial concerns, Moore said that next steps were to take more samples in affected areas to figure out the exact nature of these problems, then to apply for grants to help alleviate the problems with people in the community.

The coalition won't know for sure exactly what is causing current bacteria levels in certain streams until more sampling and investigation is completed, but likely causes are livestock near waterways and failing or leaking septic systems.

"What we do is, we draw up a watershed plan or a plan for decreasing the

See *Moore*, Page 3A

## There is hope for addictions

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Alcoholism, addiction, and mental health disorders affect not only the individuals, but their impact on their families and friends can create wounds that never fully heal.

According to statistics, there is an estimated 5,750 people in recovery in Union County, and more than 23 million nationwide.

Fortunately there is hope for those afflicted by substance abuse, and you don't have to look far for treatment.

September is National Recovery Month and Union County Sole Commissioner

Lamar Paris is compassionate to the cause of those seeking help for themselves and the families that have dealt firsthand with a loved one struggling with addiction.

Last Tuesday, at Meeks Park, local mental health and substance abuse professionals, along with Union County Sheriff Mack Mason, Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll, and Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley joined Commissioner Paris to celebrate recovery with a proclamation signing to declare September as National Recovery Month in Union County.

"I have to say, I've learned a whole lot more about recovery



Sheriff Mack Mason, Doug Loyd, Captain, Medmark Program Director Chantelle Patterson and Commissioner Lamar Paris

and the need for recovery in the last year, than I've known my whole life," Paris said. "If you're not personally touched

by it (mental illness, substance abuse), then you don't realize

See *Addiction*, Page 2A

## Two arrested in Marijuana grow

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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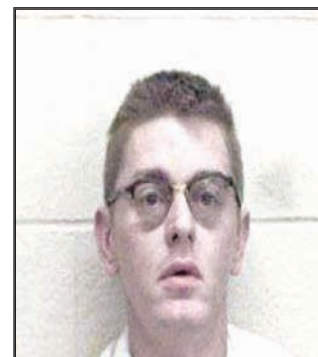
Two people have been arrested and charged with manufacturing marijuana after Union County deputies discovered 34 marijuana plants off Cobb Mountain Road, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

Dave James Patterson, 31, and Jennifer Irene Barnes, 25, were arrested in connection with the marijuana grow, Sheriff Mason said.

The Sheriff's Office received a tip that what was believed to be marijuana was growing off Cobb Mountain Road in Union County, Sheriff Mason said.

Deputies and Sheriff Mason checked out the tip and sure enough, they found two small patches of marijuana. All total, 34 plants were discovered and confiscated by Union County authorities.

See *Marijuana*, Page 3A



Dave James Patterson



Jennifer Irene Barnes

## Johnny Appleseed comes to The Market



Johnny Appleseed hand delivers a tasty treat to young admirers at Farmers Market photo by Lowell Nicholson

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Johnny Appleseed handed out apples and delighted children at the Union County Farmers Market on Saturday,

Sept. 19.

Donning his trademark tin pot hat and walking barefoot with a giant walking stick, Johnny made his way around the market that Saturday.

See *Appleseed*, Page 15A

## Disabled Vets gather at Meeks Park

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Area veterans broke bread together at the Woodrow Wilson Chapter 11 of the Disabled American Veterans organization hosted a barbecue on Saturday, Sept. 19.

Since Mike Ruback took over as commander of Blairsville's DAV chapter a year and a half ago, local membership has been on the

See *Vets*, Page 15A



Local Veterans gather at BBQ luncheon hosted by Woodrow Wilson Chapter 11 DAV

## Kiwanis Golf Tourney on Friday



By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

On Friday, Sept. 25th, the Blairsville Kiwanis will host the 25th edition of its

annual golf tournament at Old Union Golf Course with proceeds going to scholarship and youth projects in Union County.

The tournament, presented by Union General Hospital, will raise funds to further the Kiwanis cause of meeting the needs of children in the local community.

The four-person best-

ball tournament will begin at 12:30 p.m. with a shotgun start following lunch at 11 a.m. Winning teams will receive cash prizes. There will also be cash prizes for closest-to-the-pin on Par 3's, along with door prizes, and a Hole-in-One Challenge, presented by King Ford.

Teams may register together, or you may enter individually and be placed

on a team that doesn't have enough to make a foursome. At this time there is no limit on how many teams may enter. While registering prior to the tournament is preferred, they will accept walk-in on the day of the tournament.

"We're not going to turn anyone away who's willing to participate and help the cause,"

See *Kiwanis*, Page 15A

Fall **HAMMER IN**  
at  
**TRACKROCK**  
**CAMPGROUND**  
**AND CABINS**

See page 6A

Puttin' on the Dog  
Benefiting the  
Towns & Union County  
Humane Society  
**Union County**  
**Farmers Market**  
**Saturday 5-8 PM**

See page 7A

Blairsville  
**Sorghum**  
**Festival**  
2nd and 3rd Weekends  
in October at  
**Meeks Park**

**SPORTS**  
**FOOTBALL**  
Fri Sept 25 @ Social Circle 7:30 PM  
**SOFTBALL**  
Wed. Sept. 23 @ White Co 6 PM  
**CROSS COUNTRY**  
Wed Sept. 23 @ Hayesville 5:30 PM

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