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everybody ought to have lilacs.”

During the lunch with Commissioner Paris and Larry Garrett, Gray exposed them to written materials harvested from the festival in Rochester.

“Lamar and Larry were sitting there and I started telling them about this and Lamar said ‘how much do you think that is going to cost?’ I told him around \$2,000 to \$2,500 would suffice,” Gray said. “He said ‘okay.’

“I was shocked, but that’s the kind of commissioner that we have, he can make a decision and see the future,” Gray said.

In 2007, an 18-wheeler arrived from Canada with more than 200 lilac plants in tow.

In 2007 and 2008 those precious plants were put in the ground at Meeks Park, behind the Senior Center and at the Golf Course.

“It’s been sweet memories of lilacs blooming ever since,” she said. “This collage of wildflower photos is presented to the Commissioner Paris for his insight and willingness to order those lilac bushes for the Park, the Senior Center and the Golf Course in 2007.”

The lilacs consist of 30 varieties and seven colors, and the plants ranged in three categories: early, mid, and late-blooming, Gray said.

“This collage is a testament to Commissioner Paris,” she said. “Next time you are in the area of Meeks Park or the Senior Center, let your nose lead you to the fragrant blossoms, even before your eyes spy them,” Gray said. “Look for the lilacs on both sides of the road to the main parking lots at Meeks Park, and in the park opposite the Nursing Home.”

Commissioner Paris said the lilacs are a beautiful reminder of spring in Union County.

“I want to thank Arlene for

bringing lilacs to my attention,” he said. “They certainly are beautiful.”

In other business, Commissioner Paris:

Proclaimed April as Donate Life Month in Union County.

“One of the most meaningful gifts that a human being can bestow upon another is the gift of life,” Commissioner Paris said. “More than 11,000 Union County residents have already registered their decision to give the gift of life.”

Proclaimed April as Confederate History and Heritage Month.

“Our country is a nation of people united by a common history of individual heritage and diverse cultures and Union County is rich in history of the War Between the States,” Commissioner Paris said.

“This month, bears special significance since it marks both the beginning and the ending of the War Between the States,” he said. “I encourage all residents to increase their knowledge of the role played by the Confederate States of America in our country’s history.”

Proclaimed April 19th, as Patriot’s Day in Union County.

“On April 19, 1775, Paul Revere, William Dawes and Dr. Samuel Prescott raced through the Massachusetts countryside to warn fellow citizens that British Troops were coming to arrest their leaders and seize their storage of munitions,” Commissioner Paris said. “This marked the beginning of the war for American Independence. I encourage all residents to honor the many Patriots for whom Georgia counties are named and pay tribute to all the Patriots of the American Revolution.”

Approved the Memorandum of Agreement between Union

County and Avita Community Partners to provide the facility and utilities for the center at 76 Hunt Martin Street, Suite A. Avita provides mental health, developmental disability and addictive disease services to residents of Union County.

Issued a business license for cabin rental, to NatureLovers Getaway, Upper Plott Town Road, Blairsville. This is the only business the county issues for and it is for hotel/motel tax purposes.

Accepted the Cooperative Law Enforcement annual operating plan and financial plan between the Union County Sheriff’s Office and the USDA, Forest Service, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests. The Fiscal 2012 total annual operating plan is \$3,000.

Accepted a letter of agreement for professional design services for the Union County Senior Center addition from R Design Works. The lump sum fee is \$15,000, or, 5 percent of the anticipated \$300,000 total budget. This contract is contingent upon Union County receiving funding for Senior Center expansion.

Appointed Kris Gooch to the North Regional Planning Board for Mental Health, Developmental disabilities, and addictive disease as the representative of Union County. The appointment is for three years.

Accepted the agreement between Union County and Data Survival Inc. The total recurring monthly cost is \$54.

Accepted the agreement between Union County and Hayes James and Associates for groundwater monitoring at the closed landfill. The total cost for the monitoring is \$87,968. It includes spring semi-annual assessment monitoring, fall semi-annual

compliance monitoring based on actual time and expenses. This work will be invoiced monthly based on actual time and expenses in accordance with hourly rates. This work is being done at virtually the same rate in accordance with the hourly rates. This work is to be done at virtually the same rate as in the past few years. The county has changed to a local company in hopes of having control of the process.

Approved the drug/alcohol testing policy for the Union County transit system.

Reached an agreement for the 2010 Homeland Security Grant Program. This is an FY10 Bomb Dog grant for the sheriff’s department for the Union County Sheriff’s Office in the amount of \$43,500.

Welcomed new North Georgia News Editor Charles Duncan. “Charles has a lot of good newspaper experience, is from Union County and we look forward to working with him,” Commissioner Paris said.

Wished former North Georgia News Editor Norman Cooper well and thanked him “for the outstanding job he has done for not only his coverage of Union County Government, but his very positive coverage of our community and county, Commissioner Paris said. “Norman has worked for the North Georgia News for 17 years and while there were times that we might not have always agreed with him, you can never doubt nor ignore his work ethic and complete dedication to Union County and the North Georgia News.

“While Norman says he will still remain active in our community, he will be missed, and we can only wish him the very best moving forward.”

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sional opportunities, West said on April 16th.

“I’m excited to have Charles Duncan at the North Georgia News,” West said. “He’s done a good job at the Towns County Herald. “He’s professional, he’s experienced and he’s trustworthy. He’s done this job in other places and I feel he’ll do right by Union County. He was raised here and understands the people who live here.”

West said that he wished Cooper the best in his future endeavors.

“I made some changes at the paper, hopefully, they’re for the best,” West said.

West announced on Wednesday last week that Todd Forrest would join the North Georgia News as a staff writer.

“We’re happy to have Todd come aboard,” West said. “He’s a Union County graduate and he has experience with the Union County athletic teams. He’ll be writing mainly Sports, but he’ll also write some

news stories and breaking news. We’re happy to have him on the team.”

“I’m just glad to be here and be a part of a successful news organization,” Forrest said.

Duncan said he was honored to lead the Blairsville paper and humbled by West’s confidence in him.

“I was born in Young Harris, I was raised in Blairsville,” Duncan said. “I am a member of Union County High School’s Class of 1978. I was Mr. School Spirit 1978 at Union County High.

“Of course I look forward to the opportunity to make the North Georgia News a progressive newspaper,” Duncan said. “I also want to continue to keep it as local and hometown as possible.

“Almost four years ago, Kenneth West gave me the opportunity to return to my beloved North Georgia Mountains,” Duncan said. “Being editor of the

Towns County Herald has been a wonderful experience, both personally, and professionally.

“Now, both papers enter a new era, one of cooperation among the staff and the communities,” Duncan said. “Towns County is a different experience than Union County, but both communities are vibrant and exhilarating. I look forward to the opportunity of working at both papers and producing the best newspapers in the North Georgia region.”

Duncan began his career with the North Georgia News in the mid-1980s. He later became a staff writer with The Times in Gainesville where he covered the police beat, federal and superior courts and local government. He spent several years with CNI News Service as a jack-of-all-trades reporter.

He also served as a government/environmental reporter with The Coastal Observer in Pawleys Island, SC, near Myrtle Beach, SC.

“Winnie the Pooh” rehearsals at Licklog Players Community Theatre

By **Debbi Timson**

Licklog Players will present “The Adventures of Winnie the Pooh”, by A.A. Milne

and dramatized by Kristin Sergei, May 10-12. This classic story follows Christopher Robin (played by newcomer Koelyn

Hamer), Winnie (Jared Fleitas), Piglet (Hannah Whitehead), Owl (Mia Manto), Eeyore (Nadia Lindsey), Kanga (Beth Coffey), Roo (Holly Padgett), and Auntie Rabbit (Shannon Fleitas) into the 100 Acres Woods. Uncle Buck, played by Licklog favorite Karl Snow, narrates the story. Elizabeth Beck, Amanda Fleischer, Mallory Johnson and Jacob Fleitas share their talents as the forest animals. Director Nancy Davis is well known for her summer musicals and Christmas shows with Licklog Players. She last directed “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”. Davis has an extensive background in children’s theatre and is thrilled to bring her experience to Licklog. “It’s children performing for children,” says Davis who is excited that their performances are selling out quickly.

Show times for school children are Thursday and Friday, May 10th & 11th at 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Public show times are Saturday, May 12th at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Children of all ages and those young at heart are encouraged to get their tickets before they are sold out.

Licklog Players Community Theatre office is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 828-389-8632 or visit us at www.licklogplayers.org. NT(Apr25,Z18)CA

Monthly volunteer training

Georgia Mountains Hospice invites you to share your time and talents with our community agency serving people living with terminal illness. The training is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 9 AM in the Stancil Room of our building at 70 Caring Way in Jasper. Serving Cherokee, Pickens, Dawson, Murray, Gilmer, Fannin and Union counties since 1993. Please call 706-253-4100 or 1-800-692-7199 for details and directions. NA(Apr25,Z1)CA