

## CASA...from Page 1A

Child Abuse Prevention Month reads as follows:

"Children are key to Union County, Georgia's future success, prosperity and quality of life. While children are our most valuable resource, they are also our most vulnerable. Children have a right to be safe and an opportunity to thrive, learn and grow in an environment that fosters healthy development.

"Child abuse and neglect can be prevented by supporting and strengthening Union County families, thus preventing the far-reaching effects of maltreatment and providing the opportunity for children to develop healthy, trusting family bonds, and consequently, building the foundations of the community.

"Effectively intervening in the lives of children threatened by abuse is a shared



Liz Ruf and Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris

responsibility, and Union County citizens must come together so that the voices of our children are heard by all. We must ensure that our communities are extending helping hands to children and families in need.

"Effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community.

"By providing a safe and nurturing environment for our children, free of violence, abuse and neglect, we can ensure that Union County children will grow to their full potential as the next generation of leaders, helping to secure the future of this county, state and nation."

## AED...from Page 1A

came about initially from a conversation between Union County Schools Superintendent Dr. Fred Rayfield and Hospital Administrator Leslie Daniel.

When Daniel asked Dr.

Rayfield earlier in the school year if there was anything the hospital could do for the schools, he replied that the schools had a need for a couple more AEDs.

She went back to Union General Hospital CEO Lewis Kelley, who agreed that they needed to help the schools with the AEDs.

"You can train somebody how to use an AED in about 10, 15 minutes," said Kelley. "If there is anyone who looks like they're in cardiac arrest, then

you can put it on them, and the machine is automatic.

"It will stimulate the heart, and is basically a stopgap until people who know what they're doing get there to help from Emergency Services."

Of course, the training and AEDs was a package deal for Daniel and Kelley, both of whom saw the donation as a golden opportunity to not only give back to the community, but to prepare school faculty and staff on how to use the life-saving equipment.

"And now we've got tremendously more people in our buildings every day that know how to do that," said Dr. Rayfield. "We thank the hospital for the partnership that we have with them, and their support of everything we do."

Coming up, Union General Hospital's annual Health Fair will take place on Saturday, April 22, during which residents will have access to heavily discounted lab work and a wide variety of free medical services and exams.

## HGTV...from Page 1A

residents of Union County.

"It's just wonderful to be able to get somebody new their lake house, and see them during the summer playing in the yard with the kids, and out boating," said Lammot. "Who doesn't like Lake Nottely?"

The whole HGTV affair began when Karen Sweeney received an email in early 2016. Show producers were on the lookout for folks who themselves were looking for "bargain" lakefront property, hence the name of the series.

Sweeney is a realtor at Cozy Cove, and she's also the first vice-president of the board of directors for the Northeast Georgia Board of Realtors.

When Sweeney asked around, it turned out that Lammot had the perfect family in mind, headed by an Atlanta couple she described as "particularly colorful."

"I thought of them immediately," said Lammot, who had been working with the couple for about a year at that point, as they waited for that perfect piece of property to come on the market. "I thought, even though I shouldn't be on TV, these people should."

Following a brief email exchange, a questionnaire, a Skype session with producers, and a careful review of schedules, HGTV arrived to film the show with the couple.

"They came here for about four days of fast and furious filming," said Lammot. "It's taken about a year (to air) after filming."

According to the "Lakefront Bargain Hunt" section of HGTV's website, the Atlanta family to be featured on Sunday's show is made up of Tom and Dana, plus their three kids.

"With a very hectic home life, they are looking for a place to get away and relax," reads the Season 5, Episode 12 description on the HGTV website. "Upon discovering the hidden gem of Lake Nottely, just two hours outside of the city, they decided this would be the ideal place for their lakefront vacation house. With the help of a real estate agent, they hope to find the perfect lakeside home for under \$350,000."

As part of the experience, HGTV filmed the couple, or "buyers," and Lammot at lakefront property, the Poteete Creek Campground, and the Lake Nottely Boat Club and Marina. The show also filmed at various locations around the area, taking the family gold panning, for instance, and to Tank Town USA in nearby Morganton.

Lammot said that, though she never thought she'd ever appear on an HGTV show, she had great fun during filming.

Furthermore, she's proud to be able to show off the area that she and her husband Ted decided to call home seven years ago, and said that Lake Nottely is one of the North Georgia Mountains' "best kept secrets."

"I've lived here seven years, and just the things that have happened to Blairsville

in the seven years..." said Lammot. "I mean, the restaurants that are coming into our downtown area - we don't have to go to Blue Ridge for restaurants anymore, we have better ones on the square. Things are coming here, but I think they're doing it in a nice and manageable way."

Lisa Skomp, who passed away in 2012, started Cozy Cove Realty back in 1998, and her daughter, Sarah Skomp, continues as the owner and

broker of the business.

"We work very hard, and we get to know our clients very well, our sellers and buyers," said Sarah Skomp. "We work very hard for them to find exactly what they want, or if they're selling, to find the right buyer for their place."

HGTV also filmed an episode of "Lakefront Bargain Hunt" on Lake Chatuge in neighboring Towns County in the summer of 2015.