

# Polio...from Page 1A

become infected with the virus will not experience any symptoms, there is still a percentage that will. Some will show flu-like symptoms that are fleeting and go away on their own, typically lasting only three to five days.

However, though fewer in numbers some still experience the full debilitating effects of the virus, which includes parasthesia – feeling of pins and needles in the legs – meningitis and paralysis. Of these symptoms, paralysis is the most severe and often fatal due to the virus' affects on muscles that assist in breathing.

According to the CDC, two to 10 out of 100 people who suffer from polio paralysis die from the horrific disease. Which is why, for the past three decades, Rotary has been diligently working to fight this awful virus by raising awareness, as well as raising funds.

Spearheaded by Rotary

International, of which Union County has a chapter, the fight against polio has been an ongoing effort since the late 1970s. Beginning in 1979, Rotary International made vaccinations possible for 6 million children in the Philippines and has since grown, spreading worldwide to fight this terrible disease.

Now, after more than 30 years of work and determination, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan are the only countries where polio still remains prevalent. And Union County wishes to help in the international effort to eradicate polio, worldwide, for good.

The proclamation declaring such efforts reads as follows:

“Rotary International, founded on February 23, 1905 in Chicago, Illinois USA, is the world’s first and one of the largest non-profit service organizations. There are over 1.2 million Rotary club members

comprised of professional and business leaders in over 35,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographic areas.

“The Rotary Motto ‘Service Above Self’ inspires members to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards and promote good will and peace in the world.

“Rotary, in 1985, launched PolioPlus and spearheaded the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which today includes the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to immunize the children of the world against polio.

“Polio cases have dropped by 99.9 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease. To date, Rotary has contributed more than \$1.7 billion and countless volunteer hours to the protection of more than two billion children in 122 countries.

“Rotary is currently working to raise an additional \$150 million, which if realized, will be tripled by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for a total of up to \$450 million over the next three years.

“These efforts are providing much needed operational support, medical personnel, laboratory equipment and educational materials for health workers and parents.

“In addition, Rotary has played a major role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$8 billion to the effort.

“Now, therefore, I, Lamar Paris, Commissioner of Union County, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2017 as ‘World Polio Day’ and encourage all citizens to join me and Rotary International in the fight for a polio-free world.”

Those who wish to make a monetary contribution to help end the spread of the poliovirus can do so by visiting [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

## Hiawassee Save-A-Lot robbed at gunpoint; authorities searching for suspect

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

By press time Monday, the Hiawassee Police Department was working a lead and gathering evidence in an armed robbery of the Save-A-Lot Food Store on Wednesday, Nov. 22.

Armed robberies are rare in the area, and Hiawassee Police Chief Paul Smith said that he believes this crime to be an isolated incident.

“We have a pretty good lead at this point,” said Chief Smith. “We’re in the evidence gathering and building stage, and hopefully that will lead to an arrest.”

Hiawassee Police Sgt. Tracy James and Officer Tony Verdone responded to the scene of the robbery at 8:25 p.m., within one minute of the 911 call that was placed by an employee of the Save-A-Lot after the robber had fled the scene.

Upon arrival, the two officers began an immediate search of the area, and Towns County Sheriff’s K-9 Deputy Bloodhound Copper soon after attempted to track the suspect to no avail.

Authorities are considering the possibility that the robber made his way to a vehicle



A view from the parking lot of the Hiawassee Save-A-Lot. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

parked nearby to get away from the area.

As reported by the Save-A-Lot employees at the scene, a slim white male approximately 6 feet 3 inches tall appeared from the rear of the store after it had closed.

The man wore a mask and brandished a handgun, and after locking one employee in a store cooler, he led the other at gunpoint to the store’s safe, where he stole an undisclosed amount of cash before fleeing on foot.

Fortunately, neither of the employees was harmed during the incident, and though several nearby businesses went on lockdown after the robbery, no one else reported any related incidents.

The Hiawassee Police Department has been reviewing video footage and other evidence, and Chief Smith asks that anyone with information concerning the armed robbery call the department at (706) 896-2888.

Generally, authorities recommend that businesses keep low cash in registers,



Hiawassee Police Chief Paul Smith

make regular bank deposits at varying times, and maintain surveillance and alarm systems on premises.

Chief Smith said that businesses can request police

escorts when making bank deposits, and interested parties should call the 911 non-emergency number at (706) 896-7460 to request a police escort for a deposit.

## S.A.F.E. needs volunteers

S.A.F.E. (Support in Abusive Family Emergencies): we are in need of volunteers for our Thrift stores and our Shelter! We need help in every area. Thrift store, mentoring, newsletters, childcare, life coaching, transporting, crafting, shelter repair, computer lessons, whatever skills you may have!

(All volunteers must submit to a criminal background check and depending upon your area of interest, may be required to obtain fingerprinting at our cost.)

You can make a difference in your community. Our purpose is to help those who have been affected by abuse. Any time, any skill can help us achieve our goals. If you can help in any way please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Rob-in O’Neill at 706-379-1901.

S.A.F.E. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides services to domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse in Towns, and Union counties. For information on available workshops or to volunteer for S.A.F.E. please contact (706) 379-1901. If you

are a victim of Domestic Violence or sexual Assault or know someone who is, call S.A.F.E.

for confidential assistance 24 hours a day, (706) 379-1901.

## UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Monday:		
Children’s Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve’s Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Every Tuesday:		
Tri State Bus. Women	Cabin Coffee	8 am
Tuesday Strippers	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
Every Wednesday:		
BINGO	Civic Center	7 pm
Every Thursday:		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	NGTC	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
First Monday of each month:		
Lockheed-Martin Ret.	Blairsville Restaurant	9 am
Volunteers/Handicap	First Baptist, H Bldg.	6 pm
CERT	St. Francis of Assisi	6:30 pm
Allegheny Masonic Lodge	#114, Masonic Lodge	6:30 pm
First Tuesday of each month:		
Brownie Scouts	United Methodist Ch	3-5 pm
Blairsville City Coun.	City Hall	6 pm
Amateur Radio Club	Branan Lodge	7 pm
Gaddistown Hmakers	Woody Gap	7 pm
Knights/Colum. #2563	place TBA	7:30 pm
Enotah Ch. #24 RAM	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
First Wednesday of each month:		
Exercise class	Senior Citizens Center	10:30 am
Tri-Cty Wom. Lunch	Monet’s Rest.	Noon
Better Breathers	UGH Classroom 2nd Fl.	1 pm
First Thursday of each month:		
Quilts of Valor	Coosa Methodist Ch	9:30 am-2:30 pm
MMQG	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 am-3 pm
Awake America	City Hall	11:59 am
NAMI Fam. Support	New Hope Counseling	12-1:30 pm
Blairsville Sorghum Fest.	Fort Sorghum	6:30 pm
Open Road ORV	Civic Center	8 pm
First Friday of each month:		
“Nailed” Book Club	G-N-G Bakery	10:30 am
UG Hospital Aux	UC Nursing Home	Noon
Feel Good Friday	Wellness Center	7 pm

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