

North Georgia News

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Dive teams recover 18-year-old from Lake Nottely on Monday

By Charles Duncan
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The search for Jamie Ian Worley came to a close on Monday when divers with the Georgia State Patrol Dive Team recovered the 18-year-old's body from the chilly waters of Lake Nottely in Union County.

At 11:15 a.m., two divers from the Georgia State Patrol Dive Team discovered the body of the 18-year-old boy that lived and worked in Hiawassee. Worley was a night shift stocker at Ingles of Hiawassee.

Union County Sheriff Scott Stephens said that Union County Deputy Coroner Benny Brookshire is in charge of the



Jamie Ian Worley

investigation to determine cause of death. The cause of death is undetermined at this time, Sheriff Stephens said.

"We can't speculate on causes," he said. "We'll just have to wait until the medical results come back to give us a

final say on what happened to this young man."

Worley's mother, Shannon Ashe, said that she'll remember a boy who loved to play sports. His first year wrestling, his mother said he finished the season 15-0.

"It's extremely hard to deal with all of this now; I haven't slept in two nights.

"As a child, and until the day he died, Jamie was a very sweet and loving child," Shannon Ashe said. "He enjoyed sports, he played baseball, he played football, and he wrestled and ran Cross Country. He was a little fellow, but he never let that bother him. He loved to

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Union County Dive Team members conclude their search Sunday afternoon at Hannah's Boat Dock near Nottely Dam. Divers with the Georgia State Patrol Dive team recovered the victim's body Monday morning. Photo by Todd Forrest

Bill Hutson, the Man behind the Badge

By Jerry Hemphill
Special to North Georgia News

Bill Hutson, a Union County native, retired December 31, 2003, after serving as sheriff of Cobb County, GA for 27 years. During his long career in law enforcement, Hutson became one of the nation's best known peace officers.

After graduating from Union County High School in 1957, Bill headed south to Marietta, GA looking for work. He found a job at Sears on Roswell Street and worked there for six years. In 1963 he was hired as a patrolman for the Marietta Police Department and later as Detective Sergeant.

After 11 years with the Marietta Police Department, Hutson joined the Cobb County Sheriff's Department as a deputy and served in that capacity until 1976. On January 1, 1977 he was sworn in as sheriff of Cobb County. During the next 27 years, the Cobb County Sheriff's office would grow from 125 employees to over 700. When Hutson took office in January 1977, the budget for his department was \$3,500,000 and the average daily jail population was 165.



Bill Hutson

When he retired on December 31, 2003 the budget was \$49,000,000 with a daily jail population of 2,650.

Claude Collins, another Union County native, served as Marietta Police Chief for approximately seven years during the time Hutson served as Cobb County Sheriff. Hutson and Collins began their law enforcement careers together as Marietta Police Officers in the early 1960s.

It was during his tenure as Cobb County Sheriff that Bill received much recognition in his field. Although his accomplishments are many, the following are just a few of the

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Gov. Deal chooses Gunter, George for judgeships

By Charles Duncan
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Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal has made a final decision regarding who will preside over the two vacant Enotah Judicial Circuit judgeships.

Gov. Deal selected Blairsville's Stan Gunter and Dahlonega's Raymond George to fill the vacancies created when Senior Enotah Circuit Judge David Barrett retired, and Enotah Circuit Judge Lynn Alderman resigned in March, according to the Governor's Office.



Stan Gunter

The two men are scheduled to be sworn in by Gov. Deal on June 7th, according to the Governor's Office. They will assume their duties immediately af-

ter their swearing-in ceremony, according to the Governor's Office.

Gunter, whose father once presided over the Mountains bench that included Union and Towns counties, and George, were selected from a short list of five candidates that also included Hiawassee attorney Rick Stancil, White County attorney Stan Lawson, and White County Magistrate Judge Joy Parks.

Gunter and George will join Enotah Circuit Senior Judge Murphy Miller on the Enotah Circuit



Raymond George

Bench.

Gunter, who served 12 years as the Enotah Circuit district attorney, serving

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UCHS bids farewell to 136 seniors

By Charles Duncan
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Cameron Schuette looked out into a sea of purple and gold on Friday night at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

She congratulated the 136 Union County High School graduates on their life's work.

The Class of 2012's most decorated student, who claimed the Valedictorian Medal and the STAR Student Award, looked into the crowd attending the Class of 2012 graduation ceremonies and told the group that her scholastic achievements were just numbers.

"This honor is just a result of my (grade point average); it's just a number and it is not what defines me,"



Cameron Schuette

Schuette said. "While good grades may help us stand out on applications they don't really paint a picture of who we are.

"Instead, it's our actions that define us and what we have done the past four years," she said. "For me, it's my participation on the Mock Trial Team, my leadership in BETA Club, my dedication to the community."

It is the actions of each student that have made each one the person that they are today, Schuette said.

"Actions, that is what makes me the person that I am, not a number," she said. "Those things are what define us all as a Class. Your commitment to the soccer team, the football team or the basketball team, your volunteer work as a member of Key Club, your dedication to the community, and the time you've spent in metals, construction or auto tech or just



Alex Jordan

the time you committed to church or to friends."

The power to participate

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Freedom not free

By Charles Duncan
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Mother Nature painted a beautiful landscape on Saturday.

With clear blue skies and a light breeze as the backdrop, the Annual Union County Memorial Day Parade attracted hundreds to Downtown

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Woody Gap bids adieu to five Falcons

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Woody Gap High School added five more alumni on Saturday afternoon as Hannah Arbour, Miranda Dockery, Hannah Mott, Jordan Pickelsimer and Morgan Pruitt all walked the aisle and received their diplomas.

Hannah Arbour saluted the Class of 2012 and compared the Falcons' senior group to a family with



Hannah Mott

five children.

"We have become more like brothers and sis-

ters," Arbour said.

Her family moved to Suches when she was just 13 years old and she remembered crying on the way home and dreading her first day at the tiny mountain school.

She soon grew to love her new surroundings.

"I stand before you today with a completely different mindset," said Arbour, the Class of 2012 Salutatorian. "The students here have taught me to

open my eyes and respect the opinions of those who differ from mine...not to mention the countless hunting tips.

"The teachers and staff here have taught me to look at the entire picture, through all angles. I can't thank all of you enough for helping me to develop these important life skills," she said.

Arbour closed by say-

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Dwain Brackett



Candidate for Probate Judge
See page 2A

Barry Weinstein



Candidate for Probate Judge
See page 2A

Local qualifying is over; Payne steps down

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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The biggest surprise at the end of qualifying on Friday was who didn't qualify for the July 31 primary.

After 44 years in office, Tax Commissioner J.W. Payne called it a career, with the end of his final four-year term in De-

cember.

Payne, a life-long Democrat, decided not to qualify because of pending health issues. He's facing back surgery following a logging accident that left him in constant pain.

"Whoever wins this will find out in a hurry that the people that work in this tax office are the ones that make it go," Payne said on

Friday, following the passing of the qualifying deadline.

Republican Lee Knight and Democrat Larry Trulove qualified to run for tax commissioner.

Only two incumbents, Clerk of Superior Court, Judy Odom, and Chief Magistrate Johnny Garmon were unopposed at the end of qualifying.

Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris qualified on the Democratic ticket for reelection. He'll face Republican Charles Rich in November.

Incumbent Coroner Benny Erwin qualified on the Republican ticket and he faces a November election against Deputy Coroner

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"Hub" Reece Memorial Ceremony

The Byron Herbert Reece Society will host the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening

Saturday, June 2nd, of the Byron Herbert Reece Farm & Heritage Center. The event is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Following lunch, attendees will have the opportunity to visit the Gift Shop

and Museum in the Welcome Center and to take a tour of all the exhibits that will be open to visitors the following day.

The event location is 8552 U.S. Hwy 19/129 South, approximately 0.7 of a mile north of Vogel State Park in Union County.

Fire House 10 Open House

Fire Station 10, "the 10 house", will hold its 12th Annual Open House and Citizens Appreciation Day on Saturday, June 2nd from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the fire station located at 166 Jones Street off Jackson Street.

Come and join us for free hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, cole slaw, chips, deserts and drinks. There will be door prizes and free blood pressure checks.

Come by and meet your volunteer firefighters.

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