

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Legal Organ of Union County

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## Health Board declares Zeus a potentially dangerous dog

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

The Union County Board of Health has declared King Zeus Brendle Boy a potentially dangerous dog.

The 2-year-old pit bull owned by Forrest Brown lives in the Voylestown community. Zeus was cited by Board of Health members following an executive session last week at the Union County Health Department Community Room.

No decision was made behind closed doors, however, when board members Lamar Paris, Charlene Grizzle, Betty Sexton and Chairman Jim Conley returned to open session, they unanimously voted to declare Zeus a potentially dangerous dog.

The decision followed testimony on June 11th, from Union County Animal Control, the victim Caro-



Health Board Chair Jim Conley discusses the Oct. 4th, 2012 dog bite incident at last week's called board meeting. Photo/Charles Duncan

lyn Mather, and others who served as character witnesses for Zeus.

Zeus was cited for biting Mather on the right buttock on Oct. 4th, 2012 as she was jogging in preparation for a marathon in Minnesota, a Board of Health records show.

Evidence presented on June 11th, showed that wound was a serious puncture bite, county Board of Health records show.

Mather also suffered other injuries as she fell onto a fire ant hill as she attempted to avoid Zeus and his female counterpart, county records

show.

According to Mather's account of the incident, "I was finishing my run in preparation for going to the national marathon championship in Minnesota the next day. I saw a truck approaching and then was on the ground being bitten by two pit bulls. I landed hard into an ant pile, so I had (250) ant bites in addition to a nasty bite on my upper leg/groin area.

"Fortunately the driver of the truck (Mike Wiley) witnessed the entire episode and rescued me as the dogs tried to attack him and tried to come after me again," according to Mather. "He got us both into his truck and called 911. An officer arrived, pictures were taken and I went to my massage therapist to deal with the back and neck

See Zeus, 3A

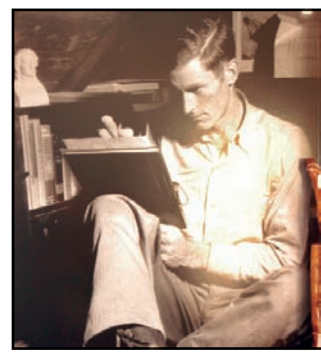
## County purchases land adjacent to Reece Farm

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Union County has purchased 3.048 acres once farmed by Mountain Poet Byron Herbert Reece.

The county accepted a real estate sales contract with Virginia Niebrand for the purchase of the 3-plus acres, including house, cabin, and RV park in Land Lots 43 and 44 in the 16th District of Union County for a cost of \$165,000.

"We are really excited about this real estate purchase," Commissioner Paris said. "It not only borders the Byron Herbert Reece Farm, but it was actually part of the land that Byron Herbert Reece farmed. It ranks right up there as one of the most beautiful parcels of land in



Byron Herbert Reece the county, with a picturesque trout stream winding through the property."

The land purchase was just part of last week's Union County Commission meeting which included 11 new business licenses granted, a new alcohol license issued, and other resolutions, contracts, and agreements.

See County, 2A

## Sheriff deputizes Chief Carroll

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

If you break the law in the City of Blairsville and manage to escape the city limits, don't be surprised if you continue to see a Blairsville Police Department Dodge Charger in your rear view mirror.

Effective Monday, June 24th, Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll and City Officer Gary Hooper were the final two city police officers to be sworn in as county sheriff's deputies.

Now every member of the City of Blairsville's police force experiences jurisdiction extended beyond city limits.

According to Union County Sheriff Mack Mason, this was a promise he made to voters last year and another way to make Union County safer for each of its residents.

"It's just the right thing to do," Sheriff Mason said. "Today, we finished swearing in the rest of the Blairsville Police Department's officers."

"It's a campaign promise that I made to ensure that all of our government agencies work together," he said. "This will enable the officers of the City of Blairsville to go



Sheriff Mason deputizes BPD Officer Gary Hooper and BPD Chief Johnny Carroll on Monday at City Hall. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

outside the city if need be, to help one of our officers, or the citizens of our county if a deputy is not readily available."

The Blairsville Police Department can go outside the city limits and conduct interviews, make an arrest if they have to, or, if they see a drunk driver out of their typical jurisdiction, they can take action and pull that individual over based on their authority through the sheriff.

According to Sheriff Mason, the City officers will

remain deputies of the county until at least 2016.

"State of Georgia law requires that deputies be sworn in every county at each new term," Sheriff Mason said. "They were deputized to assist us if need be. They're not going to be working the county, this just gives them the right to go outside the city if need be.

"This also removes some of the liability from them if they do go outside of the city,"

See Bonafide, 2A

## Justus lives the dream one more time at UCFD Fire Station 1

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

Bill Justus rolled into Union County Fire Station 1 Friday morning with a little help.

The Union County Nursing Home resident, with the help of Second Wind Dreams, was about to experience his desire to ride in a fire truck again.

It was all a part of a package experience pulled together by Second Wind Dreams.

The Dream Team weaves dreams for Union County Nursing Home residents from the simple to the sublime. Their mission is simple: change the perception of aging by proving that life doesn't end once you become a nursing home resident.

They did just that for Justus as The Team enlisted the help of Union County Fire Chief Charles Worden.



Former East Point firefighter Bill Justus gets another fire truck ride in Engine 1 on Friday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The career firefighter wanted one more ride in a fire truck.

Justus was a career firefighter for 14 years at Fort McPherson in East Point beginning in the late 1950s. He came to "Fort Mac" after

having served as a firefighter for 28 months in the U.S. Air Force.

"I got paid \$75 a week for being a firefighter in 1956," Justus said. "Bobby

See Dream, 3A

## Gooch House Rodeo draws record crowd

By Joe Collins  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The Glenda Gooch House reaped the benefits of the record crowds that turned out for the Blairsville Rodeo at the Union County Arena on Friday and Saturday.

It will ensure the safe and comfortable care of the families and patients that come to Union County for care and need a place to stay. It takes the worry off the backs of patrons who have plenty of worry already because of a sick or dying loved one.

It cost the directors approximately \$9,000 annually

See Rodeo, 6A



The Glenda Gooch House Rodeo saw record crowds last weekend as all proceeds went to benefit the Glenda Gooch House and its care of families and patients that come to Union County for care. Photo/Joe Collins

## Good Neighbors award scholarships

By Colleen Collins  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

During their regular monthly meeting on Thursday night at Meeks Park, The Good Neighbors Auto Club showed that they really are good neighbors when its members awarded monetary scholarships to six rising college freshmen who recently graduated from high school in three surrounding counties - Union, Towns, and Cherokee.



The Good Neighbors Auto Club proved that they really are good neighbors last Thursday at Meeks Park. Photo/Colleen Collins

See Good Neighbors, 3A

## Narcotics Division working overtime

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

The Union County Narcotics Division has been busy.

On June 13th, the Division executed a search warrant at a home at 80 Wilson Way, owned by David Gerald Hinnenkamp, 46, of Blairsville, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

"The search warrant was executed pursuant to controlled, undercover buys of methamphetamine," Sheriff Mason said. "Those controlled buys were conducted on Hinnenkamp and Randy



David Hinnenkamp

Delain Ledford Jr."

Union County Narcotics Division detectives executed the search warrant and Hinnenkamp was arrested and charged with two counts



Jamie Anderson

distribution of methamphetamine, Sheriff Mason said.

"A moderate amount of methamphetamine was

See Busts, 2A

## UCSO honors retiring Hutchinson

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

Union County Sheriff's Sgt. Bob Hutchinson has worked with six different sheriffs during a 22-year law enforcement career in Union County.

Apparently, six is more than enough.

Sgt. Hutchinson has retired from the Union County Sheriff's Office and will now focus on retirement.

Sgt. Hutchinson told a crowd of coworkers, Blairsville State Troopers, Georgia State Police and friends at Meeks Park on Friday, that, he's hanging up his gun belt and putting his badge in a case.

Sgt. Hutchinson has worked the Warrants Division for 22 years, serving more



Sheriff Mason presents Sgt. Bob Hutchinson with a plaque for appreciation of his 22 years of service to the UCSO. Photo/Charles Duncan

than his share of legal papers. "I'm retiring, but Sheriff (Mack) Mason is letting me keep my cell phone," Hutchinson said. "That way, if y'all

glad to answer them for you."

Sheriff Mason presented Hutchinson with a plaque recognizing his years of ser-

See Hutch, 3A

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**Brian Jordan UPDATE**

Due to a scheduling conflict, Brian Jordan will be at Union County Community Center on Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. to sign his childrens books.

His Game Face Baseball & Softball camps will be held June 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at Meeks Park. Saturday Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.

See page 12A

**Mountain Fling**

Arts • Crafts  
Gifts • Food

June 29 • 9 - 5  
June 30 • 11 - 4

North GA Tech Blairsville, GA

Presented by: Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild, Inc.

**Fourth of July Boat Parade**

Judging @ 11:15  
Trophies @ noon