

## Friends of NRA Banquet September 19th



Union County 4-H Sports Teams and supporters with Commissioner Lamar Paris

Union County 4-H Shooting Sports Teams consisting of Archery, BB, and Shotgun are working with Friends of NRA to hold a Banquet at the Pat Haralson Civic Center on September 19, 2015 at 6 p.m. This banquet helps to raise money for grants given by Friends of NRA to organizations like the 4H teams and church shooting sports organizations in counties all over Georgia.

Because of last year's banquet the money raised helped support Union County 4-H with targets, ammunition, BB guns, sights, kneeling mats, ear and eye protection. The grant money raised also helped the Towns County 4-H Shooting sports teams and House of Prayer AOK (Adventurous Outdoor Kids Program) with program equipment such as bows and arrows for the archery program and BB equipment for the Towns County 4-H BB Team.

Friends of NRA banquets boil down to one goal—fund-raising for the future of the shooting sports. There is something for everyone at a Friends of NRA banquet. From the moment you walk in, the atmosphere is brimming with

excitement. Whether you're keeping an eye on that unique item in the silent auction, trying your luck at the game tables, or just dining on some delicious food, you'll be sure to have a good time. It's a family-friendly event chock-full of everything from exclusive, limited edition merchandise, firearms, knives, art, jewelry, and more. Not to mention all the great people you'll meet in the process! So whether you attend a Friends of NRA banquet for the fun, fellowship, or fund-raising, you can be confident that you are helping safeguard programs across the nation that prepare today's generations to be tomorrow's guardians of the Second Amendment.

Foundation grants provide essential program funding, ensuring the availability of quality training and educational opportunities nationwide. Grants benefit programs such as youth education, law enforcement training, hunter education, conservation, firearms and marksmanship training and safety, and much more. Through its grant support of eligible educational programs, The NRA Foundation carries out its important educational

mission across the country. Foundation grants allow shooting sports-related programs to develop, expand, and enhance their educational curricula to deliver valuable services to millions of Americans.

We will have a great BBQ pork & grilled chicken dinner with all the fixin's, a live auction, silent auction, and many games of chance to win guns, ammo and more! We like to call it dinner and a show! Banquet tickets are available at the 4H office for \$30 each or if you want to go in together, a table of eight, can be purchased for \$200 (that's \$25 a person)! If you plan to attend, tickets need to be purchased by Wednesday, September 16, 2015 so that we can get a head count for the caterers. However, individual tickets will still be available at the door Saturday night! Tickets can be purchased by check, cash, or credit/debit card. For more information or tickets you can call Jammie Murphy at the Union County Extension/4H office 706-439-6030.

Please come out and help support the Friends of NRA as well as the local Shooting Sports Teams! NT(Sep16,Z3)CA

## BRCT Love, Loss and What I Wore

The Blue Ridge Community Theater has a special weekend coming up. Sept. 24 through Sept. 27, Reader's Theater will present "Love, Loss and What I Wore." This event is the result of the initiative and dedication of six women who wanted to do more than volunteer their time. They decided to co-produce and co-sponsor the event with all proceeds benefitting the theater, specifically for a new curtain system.

Spearheading the event were Beth Inman and Sherry Triebert who were soon joined by Cindy Bean, Hope Burns, Swan McKnight and Wanda Dostall. With Inman as director the cast was complete. In Inman's words, "This is an amazing group of women and it has been a most rewarding experience for us all."

The play is written by Nora and Delia Ephron and is organized in a series of monologues presented by a rotating cast. It is sometimes called a scrapbook of stories about unfortunate prom dresses, high heels, traumatic lighting in fitting rooms and "having nothing to wear."

Ladies Night is Thursday, Sept. 24 with \$2 ticket discounts for ladies. There will



(L-R): Beth Inman and Swan McKnight

also be a \$2 ticket discount at all performances for teachers, health care workers, first responders and military personnel. Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday matinee is 2 p.m.

A wine tasting will be held Friday, Sept. 25, 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Tickets are available at the box office, 2591 East Main St., at 706-632-9223 or on line at [www/blueridgecommunitytheater.com](http://www.blueridgecommunitytheater.com). NT(Sep16,Z1)CA

## American Legion Dinner/Meeting

Calling all Ira Weaver American Legion Post 121 and Auxiliary Unit 121 Members! Tuesday, September 15 is our next "Eating before Meeting" dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the Veterans Center in Blairsville. The American Legion Auxiliary will be serving another dinner complete with dessert. Just bring your appetites! And make sure to stay for the meeting after! Not a member? Come check us out! For info call: Caroline at 706-835-9534 or Grant at 706-994-3446.

Kaitlyn Chantelle Seabolt of Blairsville, GA has been named to the President's Honor Roll at the University of North Georgia (UNG) for achieving a 4.0 grade point average, carrying 12 or more credit hours in one semester and having no grade lower than B. NT(Sep16,Z4)CA

## Narcotics Anonymous

A new NA group called "One Is Too Many" has started meeting in Young Harris at Sharp Memorial Methodist Church. Meetings are being held every Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. The church is on campus and the meeting entrance is through the back door.

For further questions about Narcotics Anonymous please call the NA Help Line at 706-974-9990. NT(Sep16,Z1)CA

## UCHS Class of 1955 reunion

Union County High School Class of 1955 60th High School Reunion will be Saturday, October 17th. The reunion will be held at Steve's Steak House and Cookie Jar. All classmates and friends are invited. Be sure and come early. Registration will begin at 3 p.m. We will eat around 5 p.m. Please notify anyone on the reunion committee if you plan to attend: Rose Marie Terry, 706-745-4268; or Mary Carol Akins; Charlotte Collins; Maxine Mettler. We are looking forward to our 60th reunion. Bring any mementos of the class that you would like to share.

## Murder...from Page 1A

there was to tell."

Dohnert, a 44-year-old career criminal confessed to the murder of the 55-year-old Siggers.

Siggers, who lived at 2521 Highway 325, was found dead Wednesday, Sept. 2 by Union County Sheriff's Deputy Jennifer Carnes, who was conducting a welfare check at his residence.

Dohnert, who was basically taken in by Siggers and given a place to live, has been charged with his murder and aggravated assault.

Siggers died of blunt force trauma to the head, Sgt. Hammond said.

"The crime took place on Aug. 24," Sgt. Hammond said.

Sheriff's deputies were alerted to the crime scene on Highway 325 in Union County after Siggers' sister hadn't seen or heard from him in several days and went by to check on him. She noticed a strange, foul odor near the residence.

His sister called 911 and deputies soon arrived on the scene.

Deputy Jennifer Carnes first noticed a cracked window in the front of the house, it was basically blowing with flies. The front door was locked; the side door was not locked. When Deputy Carnes opened the side door, she was hit with a horrific odor.

Deputy Carnes went in, cleared the house, found the

body and backed out of the house. Deputy Carnes realized something was suspicious. Siggers' truck was gone, and he hadn't been in contact with his relatives. She contacted Union County Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division.

Union County sheriff's detectives soon arrived at the scene. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Scene team was summoned.

"The GBI Crime Scene team arrived and began processing the scene," Sgt. Hammond said. "By midnight, early Thursday morning, we had developed a person of interest and a possible murder weapon."

That person of interest was Dohnert, who authorities learned had been living with Siggers. With a mountain of questions still to decipher, Sgt. Hammond said that contact was made with Dohnert's family in Rabun County.

They told investigators that they had spoken with him in the past couple of days and that he was staying at a motel in Moultrie.

A call to Colquitt County determined that Dohnert was indeed in Moultrie at the Moultrie Inn. A check with the Rabun County Sheriff's Office determined that Dohnert had an outstanding warrant in that community.

Colquitt County Sheriff's Office arrested Dohnert on the outstanding Rabun

warrant, Sgt. Hammond said.

Sgt. Hammond and GBI Special Agent Couch set out for Moultrie. By 7:30 a.m. Thursday, they had a murder confession from Dohnert, Sgt. Hammond said.

Dohnert was returned to Union County Friday afternoon, Sept. 4, along with Siggers' stolen truck, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

Prior to leaving Union County, Dohnert pawned several of Siggers' possessions including a utility trailer, a Cub Cadet lawn mower, an air compressor and a skill saw. He had a person he met in Moultrie pawn other items in that town. He paid the man \$10, Sgt. Hammond said.

For the most part, the pawned items were recovered, Sgt. Hammond said.

Dohnert has a long list of burglary, forgery and theft convictions in Stephens and Rabun counties. He was paroled in 2011 from Spaulding County Correctional Institute, Georgia Department of Corrections records show.

Memorial services for Siggers were held Saturday, Sept. 12 at noon at Meeks Park. The family asks that donations may be made to help defray expenses in Randy's memory at an account at United Community Bank.

Mountain View Funeral Home had charge of the funeral arrangements.

## Station 2...from Page 1A

them."

Along with donations that were accepted at the open house, each station in Union County holds a letter drive each year to raise money by sending letters to each property owner in its respective districts. The letter drive is Station No. 2's largest fundraiser, allowing them to purchase the fire engines and other equipment that was on display.

Each fire station in Union County also holds an open house every year, and according to Burnette, Station

No. 2 has been holding them for each of the 15 years that he's been at the station.

The open house was held in the spring until a scheduling conflict forced them to move the event to the fall on a weekend near September 11th. That Saturday turned out to be the most popular open house that they had hosted, so September was set in stone.

Holding the open house near 9-11 makes it a little more special, especially for fire fighters, along with all

first responders.

"Our goal was to schedule it the weekend after 9-11, or the weekend after Labor Day," Burnette said. "We lost a lot of fire fighters and police officers on 9-11 and this is just a way to remember them."

Fire Station No. 2 would like to thank the following businesses for sponsoring the open house: Rib Country, Walmart, Fatz, Ingles, Blackwell's Auto, Hughes' Outdoors, Home Depot, Nelson's Ace Hardware, Freeman Gas, and Heritage Propane.

## Ramp...from Page 1A

to slow business for those who've stuck it out through all this construction."

Public parking behind The Hole in the Wall Cafe and the King's 5 & 10 building will eventually be cut off from Haralson Drive access, but visitors to downtown will still be able to access the parking area there via alleys between Blairsville City Hall and The Hole in the Wall Cafe.

Current estimates for post-development public parking sit right at 101 spaces, plus private parking surrounding each of the businesses moving onto the Haralson Property down the road.

Preliminary designs show at least four land plots available for businesses after the construction of the off ramp and further development of the land.

"It's a big project. There's a lot of people working behind the scenes to make it as easy on the community as possible," said Harper. "We're always interested in talking to folks or civic groups about what's happening, how it's going to happen, what the goals are. We've tried to get



out there and talk to the different groups to say this is coming, this is the impact it's going to have."

For Harper and the DDA board, the Haralson Project is all about extending the downtown area to make it more of a draw for businesses and customers alike, both within and without the community.

"Everything that we do in the development authority is geared toward creating jobs in the community," said Harper. "If we have this property, it's already creating jobs

for the construction crew, it's creating jobs for all the people who have to do the paperwork and get the licenses and all that. The real goal is to get new businesses downtown to give people more reason to come downtown and support the local economy."

Other plans for the property include public bathrooms and a pedestrian-friendly greenspace within the protected wetlands area, both of which will increase the draw of the area and, by extension, the Blairsville Square.

## No. 6...from Page 1A

sheriffs became increasingly concerned about the growing number of abandoned, neglected, and abused children. They understood it was vital, not just for the children, but for our state to give these disadvantaged youth the chance to grow up in a loving and secure home environment.

In 1960, the sheriffs opened the Georgia Sheriff's Boys Ranch near Hahira.

The children are able to learn strong moral values and spiritual awareness, how to participate positively in a community, and how to trust themselves and one another. Over the years, four additional homes have opened across the state for both boys and girls, providing thousands of disadvantaged youth the opportunity to live stable, positive lives in full-time residential facilities. Houseparents continue

to instill a strong work ethic in the children, emphasizing education and training for future success. These values help prepare the children to become mature, responsible adults who are able to participate fully and positively in their communities.

For over 60 years, Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes has provided quality care for hundreds of children. It is the commitment of the Sheriff's of Georgia to continue this valuable program for the youth of Georgia as well as our communities. The children in our program contribute to the home environment while learning how to cook and clean, as well as money management - all practical skills they will need to live productive and responsible lives.

Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes provide daily academ-

ic tutoring, research training at the library, summer learning programs, college and vocational school scholarship options and more. Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes has also created Camp Pioneer, a unique outdoor program on the Pineland Campus in LaGrange. The summer camp is offered to children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy an outdoor recreational experience.

With all the scams and schemes going around today it's often hard to know what is legit and what is not. The GSA Youth Homes helps good kids that have come from broken homes. Many of you have received letters with my authorized signature promoting this foundation. Thank you for your support, to them and to us.

## Sentenced...from Page 1A

Vestal and Poat had a confrontation on Saturday, March 14, Detective Mangifesta said Vestal confirmed.

Dayton, Tenn. police confronted Vestal after he told medical workers at Rhea Medical Center that he want-

ed to kill himself, authorities said. Vestal returned to his vehicle after telling Rhea Medical Center staff that he wanted to kill himself.

Hospital officials called Dayton police who found Vestal in a Nissan Xterra outside the hospital. Inside his vehicle

was a loaded AR-15 rifle, with a second, fully loaded clip.

Vestal was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct. The car he was driving was registered to Marilyn Laughlin, of Georgia 325, in Blairsville.

Authorities pieced together the case and Vestal confessed, leading to his acceptance of a plea deal Monday.