

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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May 17, 2017

Blairsville woman killed in two-vehicle collision on US 129N

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

A 76-year-old Blairsville woman has died following a two-vehicle crash that occurred on Murphy Highway just north of Nottely Marina on Friday, May 12, according to the Georgia State Patrol.

Barbara Ann Hogan was transported by air ambulance to Northeast Georgia Medical Center last Friday, where she succumbed to her injuries sustained in the crash, according to GSP.

The accident happened around 10:30 a.m. on Friday.

Leading up to the crash, Stephen Anthony Watson, 32, of Blairsville, was driving his green Chevrolet Silverado in the northbound lane of Murphy Highway, according to GSP. As Watson's vehicle

approached a righthand curve heading up the northbound lane, it crossed over the centerline and into the southbound lane, where it hit Hogan's white Ford Ranger head on, according to GSP.

Watson stated to a witness that he had been working the night before, and that he had fallen asleep behind the wheel, causing him to cross the centerline, according to GSP.

Watson was conscious and alert at the scene of the accident, and was also transported to Northeast Georgia Medical Center, according to GSP.

As of press time Monday, charges were pending against Watson in connection with the fatal crash, according to GSP.

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Union County Sheriff Mack Mack surveying the scene of the deadly motor vehicle accident on 129N, just up from Nottely Marina, on Friday, May 12. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

UCSO asks public for help with Food Heaven burglary

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

With the May 5th burglary of the Food Heaven Convenience Store near the Union-Towns county line, the Union County Sheriff's Office has once again turned to social media for help in cracking a case.

And this time, there's video.

Food Heaven was burglarized in the early morning hours of Friday, May 5, and investigators are searching for the perpetrator and his accomplice.

Those interested in viewing the series of short video clips obtained by the UCSO Criminal Investigations Division can navigate to the "Union County -Georgia Sheriff's Office" Facebook page.

In the footage, a red or burnt orange Jeep Wrangler can be seen driving in front of the darkened Food Heaven storefront, after which a white male approaches the store with



Investigators with the Union County Sheriff's Office are turning to the public to identify the individual who robbed the Food Heaven Convenience Store in the morning hours of Friday, May 5.

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UCHS senior Rabb honored by Department of Education

NEWS SPECIAL
By Tiffany Setzer
North Georgia News

Somerset Vail Rabb, a senior at Union County High School, was recently nominated and selected to receive the Award of Excellence from the Georgia Department of Education.

Rabb was among only 12 students receiving this award from the state of Georgia.

The award ceremony was held in Atlanta at the Twin Towers on Wednesday, May 10.

Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent, presented the certificate to Rabb.

Rabb was accompanied to the ceremony by his parents, teacher and school administration.

Congratulations to Somerset Rabb for receiving this prestigious award.



Somerset Rabb receiving the Award of Excellence from State School Superintendent Dr. Richard Woods. Photo/Tiffany Setzer

DDA, Historical Society team up for Spring Festival



The Spring Arts, Crafts & Music Festival has been going on for at least a decade, and draws a big crowd every year. This is a picture from the 2016 festival. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Every year, the Memorial Day Weekend, on Spring Arts, Crafts & Music Festival serves to usher in a whole season of events in Blairsville.

This year is no different, and the annual festival, co-sponsored by the Blairsville Downtown Development Authority and the Union County Historical Society, will be bringing plenty of arts, crafts and music to the Downtown Blairsville Square.

The two-day festival runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, and

Sunday, May 28, situated around the Historic Union County Courthouse.

Folks looking to attend the Friday, May 26, Friday Night Concert Series hosted by the Historical Society on the second floor of the courthouse museum. The series takes place at 7 p.m. every Friday night from May through October.

Those looking to attend the Spring Arts, Crafts & Music Festival are in for a treat, as more than 60 vendors have already signed on to take part in the festival, and the festival is looking to be the same big draw people have

come to expect for tourism in the area.

"We advertise as far away as Atlanta and Chattanooga," said Darren Harper, DDA Program Manager. "Memorial Day is a huge weekend for Union County in general, because it's the first big three-day weekend we have."

"It's also the beginning of summer, basically, so it brings a ton of tourists and tax dollars, especially for downtown. A lot of our merchants make more on that weekend than any other weekend of the year."

Harper pointed out that the Spring Arts, Crafts & Music

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Council votes to hold special election with regular election

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

When members of the Blairsville City Council convened for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 9, they began with a moment of silence for the one who was missing - Council Member Martha Cone.

Cone passed away on Monday, May 1, following a brief illness, and though she will be missed on the council, her position must be filled this year.

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Blairsville City Council members Betty Easter and Tony Dyer.

Agriscience Center hosts first FFA end of year banquet



2017-2018 FFA Student President Tara McCann addressing attendees of the annual end of year banquet, pictured here with Union County Middle School FFA students. Photo/Lily Avery

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

For the very first time,

Union County FFA students held their annual banquet in the school's new Agriscience Center on Friday, May 5,

to commemorate a year of diligence and achievements.

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