

# Welcome Wall...continued from Page 1A



Local Rotarians and other guests in front of the new "Welcome to Blairsville-Union County" sign on July 12. Photo/Daniel Duello

Foundation, Rotarians have very nearly accomplished their goal, said Cohen.

Larger cities have several Rotary Clubs, according to Cohen, but here in the mountains, where populations are much smaller, there is one Rotary Club in each county.

"Locally, we've built wheelchair ramps for incapacitated veterans," said Cohen. "We have a lot of support contacts with the schools. At the high school, we have a program called RYLA, a youth leadership program.

"We send kids away to summer camp for a week or maybe longer, and they do rope climbing and they really build character. It's a bonding experience."

Rotary funds many local projects, all the while acting

quietly in accordance with the motto to do things for people and fund various opportunities to benefit the community.

As individuals, people can only accomplish so much, said Cohen, but as a group, they can accomplish a lot.

The effect of the Rotary Club's sponsorship of the beautiful Welcome Wall is that it gives identification to Blairsville and the surrounding area.

Moving forward, Rotarians will likely have a sense pride when they pass by the Welcome Wall, knowing that it was their project and their hard work that made it a reality, said Cohen.

Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley, in his address at the dedication, vowed to keep up the landscaping and maintain

the Welcome Wall.

About 60 people attended the dedication, including Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris; Rotary International Director David Stovall and his wife, past Rotary District Governor Kim Waters; Rotary Club of Union County President-elect David Leopard; Blairsville-Union County Chamber Member Services Director Dawn Saraney; and many others.

"I am very proud of Rotary for coming together to get this accomplished and making our visitors feel even more welcome to Blairsville-Union County," said Leopard. "As president-elect, it sets a high bar for me in planning the Rotary service projects that will benefit our community in 2019-2020."

# Missing Teens...from Page 1A

of summer that Ledford and Garrett ran away together, the first occasion being a brief stint in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, according to the sheriff's office.

As they are juveniles, the sheriff's office declined to comment on potential legal consequences for the teens concerning their activities as runaways.

The two were still at home in Union County as of press time Monday.

The recent 11-day ordeal started when the two romantically involved teens took off together in the early morning hours of Wednesday,

July 4, according to the sheriff's office.

Their potential whereabouts remained unknown until they were spotted at two different campsites on July 7 at Country Girls RV Park in Bryson City, North Carolina, attempting to pick up side jobs for cash, according to the sheriff's office.

Authorities had no more signs or sightings of the teens until July 14, when they were discovered and held for pickup by their parents, according to the sheriff's office.

Both teens were listed on the Center For Search & Investigations for Missing

Children's Georgia Facebook page at "CFSI Georgia for Missing Children," and law enforcement agencies all over the region were notified concerning the missing persons cases.

Det. Pilote would like to thank everyone who stayed in touch and offered tips via the "Union County -Georgia Sheriff's Office" Facebook page and otherwise.

The original MISSING PERSONS Facebook post was shared nearly 2,000 times and garnered some 200 comments prior to the teens turning up in Tennessee.

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