

North Georgia News

2 Sections 24 Pages

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Region bands together to save missing hiker

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
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Timothy McCain did not have much time left; the Forsyth County resident was in his 11th hour when rescuers found him in the wilderness about a quarter mile off the Appalachian Trail before lifting him to safety aboard a Black Hawk helicopter on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

It was the fifth day of a major search operation to locate him before it was too late. But until that 11th hour, searchers had discovered no clues as to where he could be. They knew where he had parked his car to embark on a short hike, and they knew his intended hiking path, but that was it.

McCain is a frequent hiker and very familiar with aspects of the trail in Union County. He is actually somewhat of a household name among U.S. Forest Service

personnel and others here. Despite his familiarity, he had gone missing, and no one knew where to or why.

He could have been anywhere – lost, injured or worse.

Over five days, local and regional first responders as well as volunteers from his own community and others scoured the lonely forest near Gooch Gap in Suches, putting more than 500 miles of treacherous terrain beneath their boots.

Add to that 38.5 miles on horseback, 371.5 miles in road patrols, 171 miles via helicopter and 42 miles using drones.

The mild weather was a blessing, extending McCain's survival window. But he had only prepared for a day trip and was undoubtedly out of food and, more importantly, water. Go a few days without water, and dehydration is a killer just as sure as a thousand-foot fall.

"We honestly do not believe he could have gone another night," said Union County Emergency Management Agency Director David Dyer, who commanded the search from the Emergency Operations Center at Fire Station No. 1 in Blairsville.

Continuing, "He was so dehydrated and so cold that he couldn't think for himself to be able to get out of there, and we believe he would have just stopped moving or worse, wandered off into something that was extremely dangerous, like a cliff."

Time was constrained for another reason.

Such a large operation requires lengthy workdays in rough country that can only go on for so long, as resources and manpower are always needed elsewhere. Searchers can't look forever, even if they fail to find their subject. And on Day 5 of this search, resources were



Timothy McCain being hoisted with assistance from an Army Ranger to a Black Hawk helicopter from Camp Merrill in Dahlonega. Photo/Facebook

starting to dwindle.

Dyer said ending an unsuccessful search is a torturous call to make, because

doing so feels like sealing the fate of the missing.

"We were actually having discussions about how we

were going to scale this down because we were running out of resources," Dyer said. "We

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Appalachian Vets Park holds patriotic flag-raising



Local youth from MACA assisted in the flag-raising ceremony Nov. 7. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

By Brittany Holbrooks
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Appalachian Veterans Memorial Park celebrated a major mark of progress when, on Thursday, Nov. 7, the community gathered to raise the flags that will preside over the stunning stone compass rose.

Following a short but poignant ceremony, flags

representing the United States, the State of Georgia, Prisoners of War and soldiers Missing in Action, and each branch of the American military soon flew high against a perfectly clear, blue sky.

Project Manager Ed Crenshaw greeted those gathered – and the turnout was indeed mighty. It was volunteer Rob Mawyer who provided some background on the

location inside Meeks Park and clarified how it differs from the Union County War Memorial in Downtown Blairsville.

"We never meant to impose on that monument or memorial in any way, shape, or form; we're here for a different reason," Mawyer said. "This park was built to honor all those that have ever served, whether you were in combat or not,

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Collins vows transparency as commissioner-elect

By Shawn Jarrard
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Shortly after General Election polls closed on Nov. 5, Harold Collins got a phone call at home while watching results for the presidential race come in on TV – he better get down to the Union County Voting Center because he was ahead in the early vote.

As precinct results poured in, it quickly became clear that Collins had won election to the Office of Sole Commissioner. With 54.7% of the vote, he had ousted his opponent in the race, six-term commissioner Lamar Paris, to become the first Republican to win that seat in over two decades.

It was a proud moment for Collins, his family and the small circle of friends who gathered with him to view the results at Elections HQ. He thanked God that night for granting him victory, and he thanked his many supporters in the days that followed as they reached out in congratulations.

Collins is a farmer by trade, having owned and operated the local Collins Farm for over 40 years. He was semi-retired when he decided to run



Sole Commissioner-Elect Harold Collins with his wife Janie and daughter Nora at the Union County Voting Center Nov. 5. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

for commissioner, and he will be turning over daily farm operations to his son to focus full-time on his duties as the

next sole commissioner.

"My profession in the agriculture industry has taught

See Collins Wins, Page 2A

YHC selects John Wells to serve as new college president

News Special

Young Harris College is proud to announce that Dr. John W. Wells has been chosen to serve as its 24th President by a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees at its meeting on Nov. 8, 2024. Dr. Wells succeeds President Drew Van Horn, who is retiring at the end of the fall semester.

Dr. Wells previously served as Provost and Interim President of Young Harris from 2005 to 2009, during the College's transition from junior college to senior college.

He most recently served as Provost and later President of a fellow Methodist-affiliated institution, Emory & Henry College in Southwest Virginia, from 2017 to 2024, and was appointed as the institution's first Chancellor upon his retirement in July.

"I am honored to return

to the Enchanted Valley," Dr. Wells said. "Young Harris has always been dear to my heart. This college is exceptionally well positioned to weather the challenges facing higher education and provide Georgians and our neighbors with access to an outstanding liberal arts education for generations to come."

A native of East Tennessee, Dr. Wells is the son of two ministers in the United Methodist Church and served briefly as a minister himself before turning to a career in higher education. He earned his B.A. in History from Carson-Newman University and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Tennessee.

He was an award-winning faculty member at Carson-Newman from 1993 to 2005, where he also served as



John Wells

Director of the Honors Program and Dean of Social Sciences.

From 2009 to 2016, he served as Executive Vice President at Mars Hill University in North Carolina, where he oversaw a 30% increase in enrollment, expanded academic offerings, and led the creation of the

See YHC President Wells, Page 2A

With referendum passage, BOE weighs HB 581 options

By Brittany Holbrooks
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Much of the Union County Board of Education's Oct. 29 work session revolved around learning more about Georgia House Bill 581, which is slated to become law after a constitutional amendment referendum passed in the Nov. 5 General Election.

HB 581 establishes "a statewide floating homestead exemption that limits the annual increase in property tax assessments on homestead properties" with an inflation-specific cap of 3% on re-assessments that will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2025.

Union Counties supported the constitutional amendment to create the floating homestead exemption with 69% of the vote, while statewide, roughly 63% of

voters approved the measure, meaning it is widely popular among both the local and state electorate.

Following the election, local officials were still waiting for more specifics about the bill regarding implementation and impact, but some details are known.

In addition to the new exemption, the bill revises the property assessment appeals process, specifically as it applies to annual notices of assessment and the state's sales ratio study that are part of the property valuation process.

HB 581 also calls for the Department of Audits and Accounts to conduct economic analyses on any income tax credit or sales and use tax exemption set to expire within two years.

"The legislature passed the bill this year that



John Hill Superintendent

basically will put a cap on the reassessment values of homestead properties," explained Pioneer RESA Executive Director Tim Cochran, who attended Oct.

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Collins Wins...from Page 1A

me the demands and successes of Long-Range Planning, Budgeting, Marketing, Marketing Predictions, and Resource Management,” Collins’ campaign website reads. “If elected, these are skills that I will bring into Union

County Government as your Sole County Commissioner.”

And he will get the chance to put those skills to work after he swears into office in January 2025, when he looks forward to bringing a “level head” and “common sense” to

local governance.

His election is the beginning of a new era in Union County, which has been led by Paris for 24 years. Collins will be working on transition preparations over the coming weeks, and he doesn’t have any big immediate plans as he gets settled into his new position.

Assuming no employees leave the Commissioner’s Office before his term begins, Collins will not be making any staffing changes to start, at least until he gets a better picture of what is happening under the hood.

Initially, he will be examining everything going on in local government, reviewing the gamut of county business such as revenues, expenditures, assets, purchasing procedures, budgeting practices, SPLOST particulars and more.

Ultimately, his goal is to dig into the financials to find and eliminate “wasteful spending,” with an eye toward lowering property taxes and maintaining transparency and accountability. And he has pledged to do so with input from the public – even the people who didn’t vote for him.

“Decision-making will be open in that the voices of ALL citizens will be valued to

make better decisions that will benefit taxpayers and residents to the greatest degree possible,” Collins has said.

He promises that public safety will remain a top priority for his office, so while agencies like the Sheriff’s Office may not get everything it wants at budget-approval time, he will work with the sheriff and all department heads to make sure they have everything they need.

Collins ran on a platform of returning the balance of power to the permanent residents of a county that he views as having become “a playground for tourists and the approximately 9,500 property owners and investors which are non-residents of Union County.”

While Commissioner Paris has focused on “controlled growth” over the years, Collins said he wants to slow down the pace of growth to keep Union County as rural as possible.

Importantly, he said he does not want to kill tourism because it is important to many local livelihoods, but he does want to rein in what he views as excessive promotion that has brought too many non-residents to the county, both as tourists and homebuying part-timers.

The commissioner-elect

will also be looking at profit/loss statements for all county-owned properties, like the Butternut Creek Golf Course, Community Center and Byron Herbert Reece Farm & Heritage Center, to see if they are paying for themselves or losing the county money.

If certain assets are losing money, Collins said he will try to sort out how to make them profitable.

“As far as selling anything, definitely not the golf course,” Collins said. “Now, we may look into leasing it to a private firm. But first of all, we’ve got to see if it is losing money, see where we can make that up and make money.

“We’ve got to go that route first. If we can turn it around so it’ll make money instead of losing a lot of money, we’ll go that route. Like Byron Herbert Reece, if it’s pulling its own weight, if it’s making any money, I don’t see trying to get rid of anything if it’s making money.”

In terms of the county SPLOST, which is a 1% sales and use tax to fund capital outlay projects and road construction, Collins said that when renewal time comes up in a couple of years, he will “listen to the people and see what the

majority of the people want, and we’ll go from there.”

Additionally, Collins campaigned on putting to vote two county referendums: a one-time Impact Fee for all residential and commercial building permits “to relieve current taxpayers of the additional costs to expand county services (Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS, Parks, Public Facilities, and Roads) required as a result of the new development”; and another providing a “reasonable property tax exemption for property owners at the age of 70.”

Under his leadership generally, Collins said that, at the end of the day, people will have “a greater voice in what goes on.”

“That’s my goal,” Collins said. “I’m sure everybody won’t agree with me, and I won’t agree with them, but I think we must have transparency and accountability, because that’s what I run on, and that’s what I want to stick to – to listen to the people, give them a voice.”

To read more of Collins’ eventual plans for the office, visit <https://collinsforsolecommissioner.com/>.

YHC President Wells...from Page 1A

college’s first graduate degree program.

From 2016 to 2017, he served as Associate General Secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and Executive Secretary of the National Association of Schools and Colleges of the UMC.

His time at Emory & Henry was marked by record enrollment and fundraising, a shift from NCAA Division III to Division II athletics, the building of new facilities, and a shift from college to university status.

“John has a vast wealth of experience that will help him steer Young Harris College forward,” said Bill Johnston, Chair of the YHC Board of Trustees. “His breadth of experience and record of success will serve the College and the community well. We welcome him back to Young Harris.”

Dr. Wells returns to an institution that has experienced significant change in the 15 years since

he left, with numerous new academic programs, physical facilities, and Division II athletic teams.

Under President Van Horn, Young Harris has begun delivering its first master’s program, increased the College-held endowment to over \$60 million, raised student retention and graduate placement to their highest-ever rates, and

been reaffirmed by SACSCOC without recommendations.

Dr. Wells’ wife, Dr. Shannon Earle, previously served as a student affairs professional at Young Harris and now serves as Associate Vice Chancellor for University Advancement at the University of North Carolina Asheville. They have two adult children, Garland and Molly.

VFW Post 7394 and American Red Cross Blood Drive



VFW Post 7394 and the American Red Cross are hosting an upcoming blood drive on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 9 AM - 1:30 PM at the Major Leon Davenport Building located at 78 Blue Ridge Hwy, Blairsville, GA 30512. Please join our lifesaving mission and schedule an appointment today! Go to www.redcross.org to make an appointment.

School Board...from Page 1A

29 to help explain the bill to the board.

"There's absolutely no way to predict what House Bill 581 will do in the future," warned school attorney Corey Kirby of revenue collections, adding, "It's not going to affect John Hill's tenure as superintendent. It's going to affect the superintendent two superintendents from John

Hill."

It's estimated that HB 581 "could significantly impact" property tax revenues over time, but there is a catch: local governments and school districts may opt out of the exemption. To do so, they must adopt a resolution by March 1, 2025. This includes holding three public hearings and placing appropriate

advertisements in the media.

"Sure, I would love to (know that) next year, my taxes can't get so high, but also, we have the obligation of keeping this school afloat," said Board Chair Tony Hunter, admitting that he saw the appeal of HB 581 as a voter.

The board showed interest in potentially opting out of the floating homestead exemption and is pursuing more information from Cochran and Kirby when it comes to

taking the necessary steps. Presently, the next steps depend on discussion at the December regular meeting.

In other business, a major topic of discussion was the list of proposed maintenance projects due to start next summer, like replacing the lights at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium and installing new bleachers for the high school.

The project list also includes options for safety, such as procuring new generators in the event of a power outage. The board proved receptive to the ideas, but no purchases are being made yet.

Led by Board Member Jason McCarter, conversation shifted to possible uses for the old elementary school once the new campus opens next year. Hill said he had considered moving the Mountain Education Charter School students or alternative education students into the building.

Meanwhile, construction of the new Union County Elementary School is coming along nicely according to the update given that night. All of the brickwork is complete, most of the sheetrock has been placed in the interior, and painting is about 40% done.

"It's moving along very,

The next regular School Board meeting will be Dec. 17 starting at 7 p.m. inside the Board Office at 124 Hughes Street in Blairsville. All meetings are open to the public.

American Legion Post 121 hosts Flag Retirement Ceremony



Americanism, one of the four pillars of the American Legion, is foremost in every veterans' minds. We believe in our country; we are full of patriotism, and we always show respect to our US Flag. These are beliefs we hold true and feel it is our responsibility to teach and instill in the younger generations these same characteristics. In order for our nation to flourish, someone must be willing to carry the banner, that is carry the flag of our country, not necessarily in the military but as good citizens in whatever manner they choose.

In that regard, American Legion Post 121 is holding a Flag Retirement ceremony on 16 November at 10 AM at the Leon Davenport Veterans Building. The aim of this ceremony is to teach our kiddos what the Flag means and how it should be treated and respected. The Veterans of Post 121 will partner with the Cub Scouts of Pack 101, the Scouts of Troop 101, the Civil Air Patrol and the Junior ROTC. "We want to teach these kids what the Flag means to a bunch of old Veterans," stated Mike Merritt Post Commander. He went on to add "to show the Veterans there is hope for our future." The ceremony will be outside so bring a lawn chair to watch and see the youth of our community honor our Veterans as they retire tattered old flags

together.

November is always a busy month for the American Legion. Veterans Day was a wonderful day in this community as Veterans are allowed to attend ceremonies put on by the students at Union County High School. Then off to a fantastic luncheon hosted by the Rotary Club. "It is awesome to live in a community that is so full of appreciation for the veterans of this area," stated Merritt.

In addition to these activities, the Post is working with Foodland to purchase Thanksgiving Food Boxes for Veterans in need. This is something the Post does every year to help our less fortunate veterans. Of course, we still have our monthly visits to Stonehenge Senior Center to celebrate the birthdays of those Veterans in that facility.

As we begin to wrap up the month of November, planning for our annual Wreaths Across America event is underway. This is a must-see event for the community and is free and open for everyone. We work with the school, the UCHS Band, Scouts, Cubs, FFA and Civil Air Patrol to conduct a beautiful ceremony in the Union County High School Fine Arts Center. If you want to sponsor a wreath for Veterans that have passed away, visit <https://legionpost121.org/wreaths-across-america/>. Each wreath is only \$17, and all wreaths are placed on Veterans graves throughout the holidays.

As always, every Wednesday we meet in the Veterans Room at the Blairsville Restaurant for "Grab a Coffee." We meet at 8 AM each Wednesday where we grab breakfast, coffee and laugh a lot. The Holiday Party committee is in full swing as they finalize the details of the final social event of the year. This year it will be at the building behind the United Community Bank on 6 December.

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The American Legion is the largest and one of the oldest and most inclusive of all veterans' organizations worldwide and devotes itself to mutual helpfulness, mentoring youth, advocating patriotic honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to fellow service members and veterans.

All members, and interested veterans, are encouraged to attend our meetings on the third Tuesday of every month; the next meeting is 19 November. We meet at 6:30 PM in the Veteran's Center, 78 Old Blue Ridge Hwy. It's a great opportunity to become engaged in the community and to establish strong bonds with fellow Vets. The Auxiliary, an organization for spouses and daughters of Veterans, will begin its meeting at 6:30 PM in the same building on the same day. Additionally, the Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders will have their joint meeting beginning at 5 PM and 5:30, respectively.

For more information on the meeting or any Post activities email the Post at apost121@gmail.com or visit the website at legionpost121.org.

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Veterans Park...from Page 1A



Veterans and supporters of the Appalachian Veterans Park during the flag-raising last week. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

whether you were wounded or not.”

Crenshaw credits the current state of the park with donations provided by a caring community, and he took the time to thank those around him for their role in making the monument possible. No matter how small a donation, every dollar has helped to make a difference, even if construction isn't finished, as voiced by Mawyer.

After briefly thanking Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris for his role in bringing the image of the park to life, the flags were raised.

With the help of

Mountain Area Christian Academy students, the flags were handled with the respect they deserve. The American flag went up to the National Anthem, with all guests standing at attention.

The Georgia flag and Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag ascended to silence but no less respect, and of course each military branch flag went up to its corresponding medley. Some audience members were vocal with their support; Air Force veterans Mike and Kathy Merritt cheered and sang along to a familiar anthem.

Ultimately, there is more to do for the Appalachian

Veterans Memorial Park. Kiosks are still in the blueprints and are meant to encircle the stone-laid ground, but there is hope that the project will reach completion with continued support from the community.

To learn more or donate to the cause, visit www.appalachianveteransmemorialpark.org to become a sponsor, purchase a memorial brick in honor of a loved one or buy a raffle ticket.

The monument can be visited in-person at 490 Meeks Park Road, just beside the upper ballfields inside the park.

Local Civil Air Patrol Cadets celebrate recent promotions

Congratulations to our outstanding Civil Air Patrol cadets who have earned their next rank! The 152nd North Georgia Composite Squadron is very proud of Cadet SSgt. Levi Bridges, Cadet 1st Lt. Cooper Church and Cadet Capt. Caleb Sheffield.

This achievement reflects your dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence. You have demonstrated leadership, integrity, and a passion for service that sets you apart.

As you step into these new roles, continue to strive for greatness, inspire your peers, and uphold the values of the Civil Air Patrol. Aim high and keep soaring!

For more information on



(L-R): Cadet Capt. Caleb Sheffield, Cadet SSgt. Levi Bridges and Cadet 1st Lt. Cooper Church

the Civil Air Patrol, including visit <https://ga152.cap.gov/members/new-cadets>.

McCain Rescue...from Page 1A

never lost hope, but I would say, when it came to the end of each day, we felt the pressure of, 'Are we going to be able to find him in time?'

"And, 'Are we going to have to call this off?' That is a very gut-wrenching decision that you wrestle with about, if I do call this search off, then this person may be dead because of it."

Unfortunately, the heartbreaking call to end a prolonged search must sometimes be made. Just not this time.

That Tuesday afternoon, searchers were having to sort out how to proceed. They'd already covered hundreds of miles, and they knew their diminishing ranks would be completely depleted in short order, so they had to pick and choose objectives carefully. Where to search next?

They decided to concentrate their efforts on Black Mountain, near Woody Gap. As it turned out, they made the right call, because a rappelling specialist with the Georgia Search and Rescue Task Force heard a knocking sound toward the valley that stretches south into Lumpkin County.

It wasn't much to go on, but it was their best lead yet. The Emergency Operations Center jumped on the opportunity, putting all available resources into pursuing the sound by dividing searchers into two teams to sweep the valley.

The knocking came again, allowing adjustments to be made in the search direction. Searchers called out repeatedly but did not hear a response. Still, they kept going, until suddenly they were upon McCain, roughly 2 miles from his starting point and 2,000 feet off the Appalachian Trail.

He had seen better days, had some scrapes, cuts and bruises, but could walk and talk. Dyer said he was confused, however; he didn't realize he was lost, couldn't say if the knocking had been him, and failed to recall where his fanny pack and cellphone went.

The found hiker was experiencing classic signs of severe dehydration and/or hypothermia, which made sense, because he had gone at least three or four days without water while being exposed to the elements.



Union County Fire Lt. Doug Pruitt, Battalion Chief Richard Jones and Lt. Ernie Pruitt looking over a map of the McCain search area last week.
Photo/Facebook

Rescuers gave him water and wrapped him in a sleeping bag to warm him as they formulated an extrication plan. McCain was ambulatory but in no condition to walk out of there. And the terrain was steep and heavily wooded, so carrying him out would be a long and tedious process, and preparation for a conventional airlift by stretcher would take hours.

Fortunately, Union County Fire Lt. Doug Pruitt of Station No. 5 in Suches had a connection that could help. He phoned a friend, a retired Army Ranger, and asked if he could call Camp Frank D. Merrill Army Base for assistance.

The call was made, and thanks to the multiple messages the EMA had pushed to area cellphones via the federal Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, the base commander was aware of the ongoing search and had a medivac team in the air within minutes of the request.

Black Hawks aren't the usual medical helicopter response, but the military chopper gave rescuers a way to quickly lift McCain off the mountain. The Army's "jungle penetration" equipment was perfect for the job, allowing responders to safely lower a harness into the densely packed forest.

successful result.

And to McCain and his family, they are all heroes, which is something Dyer believes of his team, too. Even the people who could only assist the early part of the search helped to rule out areas, putting the crew that eventually found him closer to where they needed to be in time.

"I want to say how proud I am for everybody involved doing it," Dyer said. "It took a whole lot of effort; it took every person who had a job big and small to make this work."

"And I've been there when you're on Day 4 or Day 5, and you've been through the woods and gotten cut up and beat up for days, and you kind of question, what are you doing?"

"But everybody had a great attitude and motivation. It was a lot of work and some tired people, but they got it done, and I'm very proud of them."

Search efforts involved responders from multiple county agencies and groups in Union, Lumpkin, White and Fannin in Georgia, and Cherokee County in North Carolina, as well as state and federal agencies and resources, plus volunteers from Forsyth and beyond.

A medically trained Ranger strapped McCain and himself to the harness, and the flight crew hoisted the pair up for transfer into the helicopter, which promptly flew McCain to the satellite campus of Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Dahlonega for evaluation and treatment.

Because of his confusion, Dyer said that they are unsure of exactly what led McCain to become lost, but they think he got turned around while trying to return to Gooch Gap from Woody Gap – a newer hiking section for him that was much less familiar.

Thankfully, McCain is recovering well following his rescue, according to his family, all of whom are incredibly grateful to have their beloved husband, father and grandfather back.

Due to the length of the search, Dyer said Mrs. McCain was surprised to learn that her husband had been found alive, and her joy at the news was matched by those who did the rescuing.

From the day McCain went missing on Friday, Nov. 1, dozens of searchers hit the trail daily to find him. The list of first responders and volunteers who looked during the daylight hours of five exhausting days is too long to print here, but each one contributed to the

All three of Union County's large search operations on the Appalachian Trail this year have been successful, but this is a highly unusual frequency given that major rescues are typically only needed every few years.

Generally, Dyer urges

hikers not to go onto the trail alone, regardless of their experience level, because accidents and emergencies can happen to anyone. He also advises hikers to prepare for a longer stay on the trail than they are anticipating in case they become lost or stranded.

QuiltFest 2025: Save The Date



The Misty Mountain Quilt Guild (MMQG) QuiltFest Planning Committee has been up and running for a couple months to put on their best show ever for the general public all day Friday, September 12 and Saturday, September 13, 2025 at the Union

County Sports Center located at 519 Industrial Blvd. (aka the Gooch By-Pass), Blairsville, GA.

This is an extremely popular event so makes your plans soon to attend and see some of the most spectacular, unique, exquisitely crafted quilts in the region.

For more information, visit the Guild website from now to next September for new and related information about the QuiltFest at: mistymountainquiltguild.org.

Join Bundle-Up: Warmth on Wheels

Please join Bundle-Up: Warmth on Wheels in giving back to our community! Donate new coats, any size, at these locations: United Community Bank, River City Bank, Union County Public Library, and the Union County Senior Center.

All donations will be distributed to Union County residents. Let's make sure no one is left out in the cold this winter.

For more information contact: Rachel Spratlin at 706-851-6828 or Tanya Gibby at 706-994-3806.