

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

www.nganews.com

Legal Organ of Union County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1909

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Historical Society dedicates Mock House Annex to David Friedly

By Jarrett Whitener
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Union County Historical Society celebrated the completion of its new Museum Annex addition at the Mock House in Downtown Blairsville on Saturday, Dec. 1.

Members of the community came together to commemorate the event, and the Historical Society dedicated the building to local Historian David Friedly, who passed away on April 22, 2017.

"We are dedicating this building today to a man that did not seek any recognition, and he didn't want recognition," said Historical Society President Libby Stevens. "He was one of the smartest men I've ever known.

"Our calendar this year contains a good portion of the works that he did, the history that he compiled. He was one of the best historians in Union County that has come along in this past century, and smart enough to have written it down."

Added Stevens, "When he passed, he did not want a whole lot of recognition, but in our little small way, we wanted to dedicate this building in respect to David Friedly."

David's wife Cayce Friedly attended the event that Saturday.

"David would be very humbled, and I am too," said Friedly. "I appreciate all the hard work."

The Annex building took time and hard work to put together and plan as an addition

to the currently standing historic Mock House.

Most of the work and planning for the Annex was formed and directed by Bud Akins, who took on the project to help expand the Mock House, and in doing so, honor his friend David Friedly.

"This building was conceived by Bud Akins," said Stevens. "He felt like we needed the storage room for all the stuff we had in the basement."

"This is Bud's vision come to reality, and it helps to have Commissioner Lamar Paris on board with the addition of the Annex building."

Following Stevens, Commissioner Paris shared a few of his thoughts on the building.

See Friedly, Page 3A



Cayce Friedly and Bud Akins outside of the new Union County Historical Society Museum Annex. The building was dedicated on Saturday, Dec. 1. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Give-A-Gift for Christmas accepting donations at Vogel Tree Lighting



Union County Sheriff Mack Mason with Jack Becker of Vogel State Park, Derrick Hartley of First Baptist Blairsville, and several of his Sheriff's Office employees. Photo by Mark Smith

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Give-A-Gift Christmas program spearheaded by the Union County Sheriff's Office is off to another great start this year, with help from local churches and donations that have already come in.

Also helping the Give-A-Gift drive are the folks involved with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting that will take place at Vogel State Park on Saturday, Dec. 8, where there will be a manned drop-off point for Give-A-Gift.

"The people start

showing up at 4 p.m. — that's when the hayrides will begin to take people up to the ball field," said Park Manager Jack Becker. "There will be people out there to help park vehicles. You can bring a gift to donate to the Sheriff's Department. They'll have a trailer out there."

"There are about five churches that are involved with this event, and they're pretty much the ones that put it on for us. So, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., there will be music and pictures with Santa going on."

"There's arts and crafts. They'll have some baked goods and hot cider (and hot

chocolate). And then at 5:30 p.m., we start. Then around 6 p.m. or 6:15 p.m. is when we'll light the tree."

Becker said that, as in years past, there will be bonfires on the field to take the chill off.

"Come out, have a great time," said Becker.

Of course, First Baptist Church of Blairsville plays a big role in the Give-A-Gift Program by warehousing all the gifts that come in to the Sheriff's Office.

"First Baptist Church wants to be a part of our

See Give-A-Gift, Page 2A

Blairsville PD, UCSO receive Christmas donations for kids

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll and Capt. Doug Loyd of the Union County Sheriff's Office each received monetary donations for their respective agencies from the Rotary Club of Union County on Thursday, Nov. 29.

The donations were awarded to each agency in the Rotary Club's weekly noontime lunch meeting at North Georgia Technical College.

Carroll accepted a check for \$700 on behalf of the Blairsville Police Department

Shop with a Cop program, while Loyd accepted a check for \$700 on behalf of the Union County Sheriff's Office Give-A-Gift for Christmas Program.

Rick Maddox, immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Union County, said the Rotary Club feels that both Give-A-Gift and Shop with a Cop are worthy causes deserving of their efforts.

Maddox said the source of the funds for those Christmastime programs comes from small donations made by Rotarians at their weekly meetings throughout the year.

"Broadly, our Rotary

Club and Rotary International have a strong emphasis on helping," said Maddox. "And our particular club, since I've been a member of it, has had a real commitment to working with kids and schools and organizations in the community that reach out to veterans' groups, people who need handicap ramps, and so forth."

"And so, it's just another area of service for us to do something for the kids."

Added Maddox, "We're glad for folks to come and visit us and be our guest for a meeting and see what it's

See Christmas, Page 6A



Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll, Union County Sheriff's Captain Doug Loyd and Rotary Club President-elect David Leopard. Photo by Mark Smith

Commissioner Paris proclaims Nov. 26 as 'Jim and Sally Lassiter Day'



Jim Lassiter accepting a proclamation from Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris on Monday, Nov. 26. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

By Jarrett Whitener
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris proclaimed Monday, Nov. 26, 2018, as "Jim and Sally Lassiter Day" in his regular county meeting on Nov. 26.

Paris and Fire Chief David Dyer led a dedication ceremony recently of Lassiter

Park in the private, gated community of Laurel Brooke, where Jim served as president of the Property Owners' Association for many years.

Before moving to Blairsville, Jim served as a firefighter for 30 years, rising to the rank of Battalion Chief and District Commander in the Fort Lauderdale (Florida) Fire and Rescue Department,

while Sally served as an office manager for a medical group for 30 years.

After retirement, Jim and Sally managed various resorts before finally coming to Blairsville in 1996 to manage Choestoe Falls RV Park.

The couple decided to make Blairsville their permanent home in 2004, and

See Lassiter, Page 2A

Sheriff's Office: Watch out for law enforcement impersonation scam



By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

The Union County Sheriff's Office is warning people not to fall for a telephone scam that's been making the

rounds lately.

It goes like this: a scammer pretending to be a local Sheriff's Deputy calls up an unsuspecting potential victim to tell them they've missed a jury summons.

The scammer relates that, in order to avoid arrest, the victim will need to pay \$1,000 by phone using a prepaid credit card or some other form of traceless payment.

But here's the thing — no one at the Sheriff's Office or any other law enforcement agency will ask people for

monetary payments over the phone.

"We're not going to call and say, if you don't give us some money, we're going to arrest you," said UCSO Lt. Daren Osborn. "That's not going to happen."

"We may come and pay you a visit and say, 'Hey, why didn't you show up for your jury summons? You need to come and be in front of the judge.' We're not going to call you and say you've got to pay us \$1,000."

See Scam, Page 2A

UCSO assists Towns County Sheriff's Office in arrest of suspect

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

YOUNG HARRIS — Deputies with the Union County Sheriff's Office assisted Towns County Sheriff's Office investigators in the Nov. 25 arrest of an aggravated assault and drug suspect at a residence on Sampson Road in Young Harris.

The suspect has been

identified as Christopher Steven Ray, 34, of Murphy, North Carolina, and he was arrested on outstanding warrants from Towns, Union and Gordon counties.

Ray, who has a history of fleeing from authorities, initially evaded arrest on Nov. 25 by running from officers at the residence on Sampson Road, according to UCSO Lt. Daren Osborn.



Christopher Ray

S.A.F.E. Christmas Doll House Raffle

See page 7C



Marine Corps Reserve Toy Drive

See page 4B

Vol. 109 No. 49
4 Sections 28 Pages
Weather
Thurs: Cloudy Hi 47 Lo 30
Fri: Cloudy Hi 49 Lo 34
Sat: Rain Hi 39 Lo 35

Arrests 7A
Church 3C
Classifieds 4D
Opinion 4A
Legals 4D
Obits 6C
Sports 2B

SPORTS BASKETBALL
Dec 5 @ Rabun Gap 6 PM
Dec 8 @ Towns 6 PM
WRESTLING
Dec. 7 5PM Home Sr. Night

Runoff Election Results will be available at www.nganews.com