

Missing...from Page 1A

those at the Interpretive Center to watch it for him, Sheriff Mason said.

"He left his car and \$200 for them to look after it and told them he would see them in six months," Sheriff Mason said. "He told them

he would be back in that amount of time.

"What we've learned is that he is under psychiatric care, he attempted suicide in March, he has high blood pressure and won't take his medication," Sheriff Mason

said. "He's been diagnosed as schizophrenic."

Investigator SSGT. Darren Osborn had Paur's cellphone pinged to determine a last known location.

"The last time he used his cellphone was in Cleveland," Sgt. Osborn said. "After that, it's like he turned it off."

Contact information on the backpack led authorities

to call Kathleen Hintz, Paur's girlfriend, in Wisconsin, Sgt. Osborn said.

Sgt. Osborn learned that Paur quit his job last week, and went to the bank and withdrew \$5,000.

He told Hintz that he was going to hike the Appalachian Trail and would be making a trip to Georgia, Sgt. Osborn said.

"I talked with the police

department in Allis, WI and they went to his apartment last night and they didn't find anything that would lead them to believe that he came down here to commit suicide," Sgt. Osborn said.

"His girlfriend is afraid that's what he's up to in Georgia since he's attempted it before," Sgt. Osborn said. "He watched his father commit suicide when he was 19 years

old. He's under medical care at this time.

"We know he's missing, we know he left all his belongings on the Appalachian Trail," Sgt. Osborn said.

"We know something isn't right and we need anyone who may have encountered Mr. Paur to contact us at (706) 439-6066," Sgt. Osborn said.

Runoff...from Page 1A

10-9 in absentee by mail voting. Etheridge had two votes by mail.

At the Blairsville Precinct Pruitt received 130 votes to White's 94. Etheridge got 38 votes.

At Coosa, Pruitt edged White 129-102 and Etheridge gained his third highest precinct total of the day with 40.

Pruitt and White were deadlocked at 70 in Choestoe while Etheridge got 29 votes.

Jones Creek was also in Pruitt's corner, awarding her 98 votes to White's 76. Etheridge tallied 31.

Owltown was another dead-heat with Pruitt and White each receiving 83 votes to Etheridge's 45.

Ivy Log went to Pruitt, who had 118 votes to White's 81. Etheridge picked up 32 votes.

In Suches, the home of District 5, went to White 85-34. Etheridge outdid Pruitt by 11 votes, 45-34.

In Trackrock, Pruitt was victorious by two votes, 68-66. Trackrock wasn't as

kind to Etheridge as he only garnered 19 votes.

Pruitt took Dooly over White, and Etheridge 80-53-22, respectively.

Gum Log went 95-90-30 in favor of Pruitt.

Pat Colwell went to Pruitt by 122-97. Etheridge collected 36 at Pat Colwell.

Awards...from Page 1A

who was at the Union County Relay For Life ceremonies.

Sheriff Mason said the honor humbled him.

"For the Lord to allow me to serve in this capacity, I take it extremely seriously," Sheriff Mason said. "I try to do the best job that I can to be of service to Him, and to His people. I am thankful for all of the cooperation and the good help that we have. This is not a one-man show; it takes a whole team pulling together to get the job done. Our mission is to keep people safe - to keep their property from being stolen and to keep illegal drugs out of the county. We have been doing a real good job at that lately. I'm just honored and humbled that they would recognize me this way. It's incentive to try and do the very best job that I can."

Manuel has been in education for 30 years, 10 of those years in Union County.

She currently teaches at Union County Elementary School as a Para-Professional.

Recently, Manuel coordinated student volunteers to help at the Mountain Animal Shelter.

"Kids and animals - they just go together," she said.

When asked how she felt when notified she had received the Outstanding Edu-



cator Award, Manuel said, "I was shocked! I am very humbled and pleased."

The elegant event was held under a large tent with tables beautifully decorated for an ultimate dining experience.

When guests entered the tent, they had the opportunity to view numerous fine silent auction items donated by local businesses and individuals, and place a bid, if they chose to do so.

Emcee for the evening was local radio personality Steven Phillips of Benny's Sanitation, and music was pro-

vided by Ron Shank.

The event was funded by 150 tickets purchased for the event at \$75 per ticket. Proceeds will go toward scholarships that will be given to high school students next year, with a focus on Young Harris College and North Georgia Tech.

Funds also will be given to fight Polio in Third World Countries through Rotary International.

Through the *North Georgia News* and the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, a nomination form was published for the

selection process of award recipients.

The public then voted on the nominees, and a Rotary Club committee finalized the award recipients.

"We have a motto we say at every meeting, 'Service above Self,' and tonight, we are here to honor people who exhibit service above self," William Stone, Rotary Club president said. "These folks are the precious few in our community who we feel exemplify through their actions and commitment the service that we find special and noteworthy. And, they are not all Rotarians, but they are all Rotarians at heart. We say thank you for being here to accept our gratitude and appreciation."

Stone added, "We appreciate the support of Union General Hospital, the presenting sponsor. We appreciate the support of those who have attended."

It was a fine evening to honor and recognize five outstanding people who have served Union County through their efforts and accomplishments. Well done, folks.

Buy Local...from Page 1A

program in May 2012, we decided to add a Summer Buy Local Weekend and then our traditional Jingle Bell Buys promotion after Thanksgiving."

Along with retailers offering up to 50 percent off or buy-one-get-one-free promotions, shopping local pours revenue back into the local economy, as small businesses employ many local residents.

"Shopping locally supports the stability and growth of our local businesses that depend on each of us to thrive," Chandler said. "Businesses use about 50 cents of every dollar for employee salaries and benefits.

"Much of the rest is reinvested in inventory, expansion and operating costs," she said. "Part of every dollar spent locally helps to improve our schools, roads and emergency and other government services. By making purchases locally, you are supporting the sustainability and creation of jobs for your family, your neighbors, and yourself."

Our small businesses also sponsor local charities, youth sports, and shopping local creates more revenue for the local Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax and Education-Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

Local businesses invest more in our community," Chandler said. "Local businesses give back a significant portion of their proceeds to support a variety of local sports teams, charities, and events which add greatly to our quality of life. And don't forget the sales tax revenue that allows us to have dynamic resources such as Meeks Park and the Farmers Market."

Businesses taking part in Buy Local weekend include 7M Family Farms, Aspen Home and Hearth, Blimpie Subs & Salads, Galaxy Bowling of Union County,

Gift Baskets of Joy, Huddle House, Inspire Art Studio, Knitter's Knitch, Mary Kay Cosmetics - Roberta L. Ford, Mountain Crossings, Mountain Hope Pottery, Pat's Hallmark Shop, SafeGuard Lock and Vault, The Vacuum Store, Waffle House, YES Electric, Azzarello Photography, Alpha Drug Testing, Candles by Jean, Premier Designs Jewelry by Alysia Hargus, WUCG

Community Radio, Jerae's Unity Alpacas, Hi Country Shops, Junebug's Consignment Cottage, Cornerstone Thrift Store, Natural Treatments for Brain & Body, Pappy's Restaurant, Curves of Blairsville, Origami Owl - The Laura's, and From Me 2 U.

"The concept is simple," Chandler said. "Shop local, save big."