

Veterans...from Page 1A

survive the horrors of battle and their subsequent ill treatment upon returning home.

"Today, we are here to present special honors through the Quilts of Valor Program," said Commissioner Paris. "I have had the privilege to attend several of these ceremonies, and they are all touching and very special, but none more so than will be today. Like bringing the Vietnam Moving Wall to our community, any project of this magnitude requires many, many dedicated and hardworking volunteers.

"We all know how special our mother's or our grandmother's quilt is to those of us who are fortunate enough to have them. Well, how about being able to receive a quilt from people who you may not even know, but who have poured their love and skill into making a special quilt just for you, Veterans who have served in the combat zone."

Further, Commissioner Paris acknowledged the many hardworking volunteers of the Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild, and thanked them for their service to their country, in honoring veterans with their Quilts of Valor.

Like many of the Vietnam Veterans honored

with quilts that day, Marion Crawford of Blairsville, who considered receiving her quilt an immense honor, took the time following the ceremony to speak with those who attended the special event.

"It's a sad and yet it's a happy occasion," said Crawford of the QOV presentations. "It was probably the worst years of my life when I was over in Vietnam, but thank God none of my women were killed, thanks to the men surrounding our unit every time we came under attack."

Misty Mountain membership includes quilters from Union, Towns, Fannin and Gilmer counties in Georgia, Clay and Cherokee counties in North Carolina, as well as one member from Pennsylvania and one from Tennessee.

The Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution



VVA President Mike Priven with Marion Crawford at Ceremony

acted as Color Guard for the ceremony, and Appalachian Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums opened and closed the event with their Scottish brand of patriotism.

Other speakers at the event were Vietnam Veterans of America Blairsville Chapter 1101 Chaplain Fred Freeman, Susan Gordon and Reverend Richard Hoibraten.

Pot Bust...from Page 1A

arrests," the release continued, referring to a third incident in recent days. "Dave Patterson and Jennifer Barnes were booked into Union County Jail and charged with manufacturing marijuana. The outdoor grow resulted in 34 plants."

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason was quick to point out that the good teamwork on behalf of UCSO deputies, investigators and the Narcotics Division resulted in the three grow busts, which netted a total of 842 plants that were removed from the streets.

Also arrested at the Town Mountain Road residence on Oct. 8 was a man named Daniel Booth, who was wanted out of Indiana on six felony warrants and two misdemeanor warrants, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office, and authorities out of Indiana are expected to pick up Booth.



790 plants seized from Pot Bust on Mull Valley Road

FFA Sale

...from Page 1A offering some new products this year," said John Clark Pettit, FFA advisor and Union County High School agriculture teacher. "For the first time, pineapple will be on the sales brochure. Five different varieties of apples will be on the list in addition to the oranges, grapefruit, tangelos that we've been selling."

Residents interested in supporting the Union County FFA through its fruit sale can call the main office at Union County High School and ask for Pettit, and they can also email Pettit at jcpettit@ucschools.org, as well as Sarah Loughridge at sloughridge@ucschools.org. Loughridge heads up the middle school's FFA chapter.

This past weekend, students competed in the hog show portion of the fair, and Pettit noted that all Union County FFA competitors showed definite improvement over previous shows in both the heifer and hog categories.

"It was a good Georgia National Fair, both weekends," said Pettit, who sees every moment spent abroad in the FFA as a teachable moment for students. "The kids kind of got their eyes opened, when you get down there and there are 500 or 600 head of cattle, 800 to 900 head of hogs. It's in the Georgia National Fairgrounds down there in Perry, which is just huge in itself."

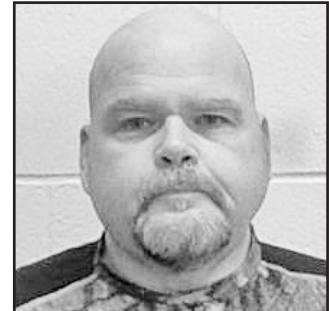
"They're showing on that green carpet in the show ring there in the hog barn, and you've got between 500 to 600 people there watching, or more than that - bleachers full of spectators that you don't normally see sometimes at the little regional shows and local shows that we go to sometimes. It's an eye-opening experience for them to be a part of. They always come back home and say, golly, I've got to get ready and do better."

Students will get their chances to do better when they return to Perry in February for the Georgia Junior National Livestock Show and Rodeo.

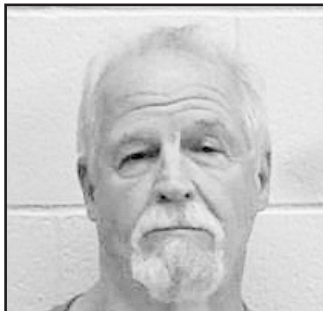
"Hopefully, we'll see more improvement, not only in the kids and how they exhibit their projects, but in the cattle themselves, as they have more days on feed, and grow, and continue to improve," said Pettit.

The students recently did some fundraising at Zaxby's in Blairsville, where the restaurant donated 10 percent of its sales during three evening hours to go toward the purchase of equipment to get ready for the 2015 Georgia National Fair.

Also coming up is the FFA's Blue and Gold Auction, which will be Friday, Nov. 6, and Saturday, Nov. 7. That Friday will feature the small animal and market hog auction, and Saturday will be the equipment sale at the Union County Farmers Market.



Joseph Lionel Houle, age 50, of Blairsville, GA



Ronald Nestor Pitts, age 66 of Blairville, GA



Barbara Lynn Grady, age 57 of Morganton, GA



Ronda Denys Terry, age 47 of Blairsville, GA