

North Georgia News

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'Never Forget' by attending local remembrance

By Brittany Holbrooks
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

It's hard to believe that 23 years have passed since the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center that shook the United States to its core and changed American life forever.

For the nearly 3,000 people murdered that day in 2001 and those who succumbed to later illness, injury and trauma, their loss is remembered in annual memorial services across the country, and Union County is no exception.

At 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 11, the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce will host a Remembrance Ceremony recognizing Patriot Day – the official national day of mourning for 9/11 – at the Union County Fine Arts Center.

Attendance is free, and while students will be present,

members of the public are encouraged to attend, especially servicemen and women, veterans and first responders.

The 2024 keynote speaker will be Dr. Michael Shannon, President of the University of North Georgia. Hailing from New Jersey, Shannon is an Army veteran who retired in 2015 after having earned the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Along with that, Shannon is a former U.S. Army Nuclear and Counterproliferation officer. Shannon also "provided leadership and technical and operational expertise ... as an expert in nuclear technology" for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Additionally, Shannon has experience working with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and has served at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Commissioner Lamar

Paris is scheduled to speak also, and the Union County Fire Department will be present with an American flag lifted high on its ladder truck. That said, young cadets with the local Civil Air Patrol will be performing the flag ceremony as in years past.

Chamber Event Coordinator Courtney West estimates that the program will take approximately 45 minutes and said that most of the same parties will be involved. One thing she hopes to see is greater community attendance, as a goal of the program is to provide more public interaction.

"We are hoping to bring the public into it a little bit more," West said. "Last year, we had a very low attendance as far as police officers (and) firefighters ... You know, it's a ceremony for the whole community; it's not just for the

high school."

In an age where the youngest generations weren't alive at the time of the tragedy, West said another goal of the Remembrance Ceremony is not only to honor the lives lost on that awful day, but to teach today's children about its importance.

"Growing up, everybody my age remembered when it happened," West said. "It's interesting to think about the fact that there are high schoolers now that weren't even alive (on 9/11)."

Otherwise, there are no plans to change the general outline of the event, so long as reverence is maintained. West believes that "each detail is important," and the chamber will continue to hold the annual ceremony to ensure that, locally, one of the darkest days in American history will never be forgotten.



This photograph by David Monderer captures Lower Manhattan around 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001 – about 16 minutes before a plane hijacked by al-Qaida terrorists struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Photo/911memorial.org

Annual Duck Derby meets Christmas fundraising goal

By Brittany Holbrooks
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Annual Duck Derby, a community favorite event by the Blairsville Police Department, returned to the Union County Farmers Market on Saturday, Aug. 31, to raise money for well-deserving local kids to receive presents under their trees at Christmastime.

With more prizes on offer than in years past, the derby welcomed throngs of people to watch the lucky ducks compete, along with, of course, the fowl bringing up the rear. Tradition holds that, at least at the Rubber Duck Derby, losers can be winners, and the "lame duck" in last place earns its ticket holder a very valuable grill.

Other 2024 prizes

included gift cards, boxes and baskets for local businesses and restaurants, along with monetary sums. Craft goods like knives, jars of honey and woodwork made up the smaller wins.

Blairsville Police Chief Michael "Bear" Baxter shared that over \$30,000 had been raised through 2024's fundraising season, amounting to more than 3,000 quackers filling Butternut Creek for the derby.

Selling for \$10 per duck, the money accumulates in a special bank account reserved for later division during the holidays. The funds go exclusively to local children in need during the annual Shop With A Cop program so that they and their families get a chance to enjoy something nice

for Christmas.

Anyone who buys a duck receives a ticket marked with a number corresponding to one of the birds. Thrown en masse into the languid waters of Butternut Creek, thousands of plastic duckies then "race" to the finish line, where the first winners and the very last have their numbers documented.

So, with prizes to win and the promise of helping a charitable cause, it's no wonder participation was high this year – as it is every year. Not only is there fun in taking part in the derby, but it's also entertaining to show up for the race itself.

It was hard to estimate exactly how many people came out to watch the spectacle, but the bridges leading into the Farmers Market were especially

See Duck Derby, Page 6A



Blairsville Police Chief Michael "Bear" Baxter had some excellent help wrangling ducks during Saturday's derby on Butternut Creek. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Speed reduction coming soon to GA 515 through town



Speed limit signs on Georgia 515 between Weaver Road and Blue Ridge Highway in Blairsville will be changing from 45 mph to 40 mph this fall. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

By Shawn Jarrard
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The speed limit on the 1-mile stretch of Georgia 515 between the Glenn Gooch Bypass and Murphy Highway in Blairsville will soon be reduced from 45 mph to 40 mph.

Blairsville City Council members are expected to officially authorize the change in their Sept. 10 regular city meeting, after which the Georgia Department of Transportation can order and install new speed limit signs.

Getting the new signs posted could take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks

"depending on how many signs need to be changed and what we have in inventory," said GDOT District 1 Representative Elizabeth Johnson.

And as soon as the council approves the reduction, the Georgia Department of Public Safety will be able to move forward with a new Speed Detection Device Permit for that span of GA 515, which could also take several weeks to complete.

Getting the speed limit reduced on GA 515 through Blairsville has long been a safety initiative of Union County Sheriff Mack Mason, who has been successful in championing other road safety

improvements in the county, like prohibiting commercial trucks on the steep and curvy GA 348.

Mason attended the March 2023 city meeting to formally ask council members if they would help to get the reduction in place, after which Mayor Jim Conley drafted a letter on behalf of Blairsville to express the sheriff and city officials' shared desire to lower the speed limit there.

The sheriff originally sought a reduction from 45 mph to 35 mph to make it safer to pull out of the 28 intersections on the busy stretch of the highway running through city.

See New Speed Limit, Page 3A

GDOT bridge replacement project in limbo after citizen petition

By Shawn Jarrard
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In 2020, the Georgia Department of Transportation agreed to help the county replace the single-lane bridge over Young Cane Creek on Byers Road. But the state decided to cancel the project earlier this year after preliminary engineering revealed a too-high cost estimate of \$8.5 million.

The bridge is the only way in or out for residents living behind it, and while the structure is in "good" shape overall, very occasionally, it becomes impassable due to flooding from torrential rains – a safety issue the state said previously it would help

resolve by building an elevated bridge.

When informing the Union County Commissioner's Office about the cancellation, GDOT recommended that the county explore the possibility of a more affordable alternative to bridge replacement: installing a secondary access point in that area.

GDOT even suggested a potential route to accomplish this, and Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said the county has been working in earnest to follow the state's recommended course of action and get the alternative in place, to be used only during emergencies.

When rumors started swirling about the canceled

project, about two dozen residents of the Creekside and Old Birch Bend communities off Byers Road conducted a petition drive at the bridge to formally request that the new bridge be completed.

Between July 29 and Aug. 1, the petition earned signatures from 104 residents before organizers John and Kelly Bulderbergs sent it to the Commissioner's Office and state lawmakers.

And it looks like their petition, though not legally binding, may have breathed new life into the replacement project.

A legislative assistant with State Sen. Steve Gooch's

See State Bridge Project, Page 2A



Residents who live off Byers Road collected signatures for a petition to complete the bridge replacement project that has been in the process of being canceled by the state. Photo by Shawn Jarrard



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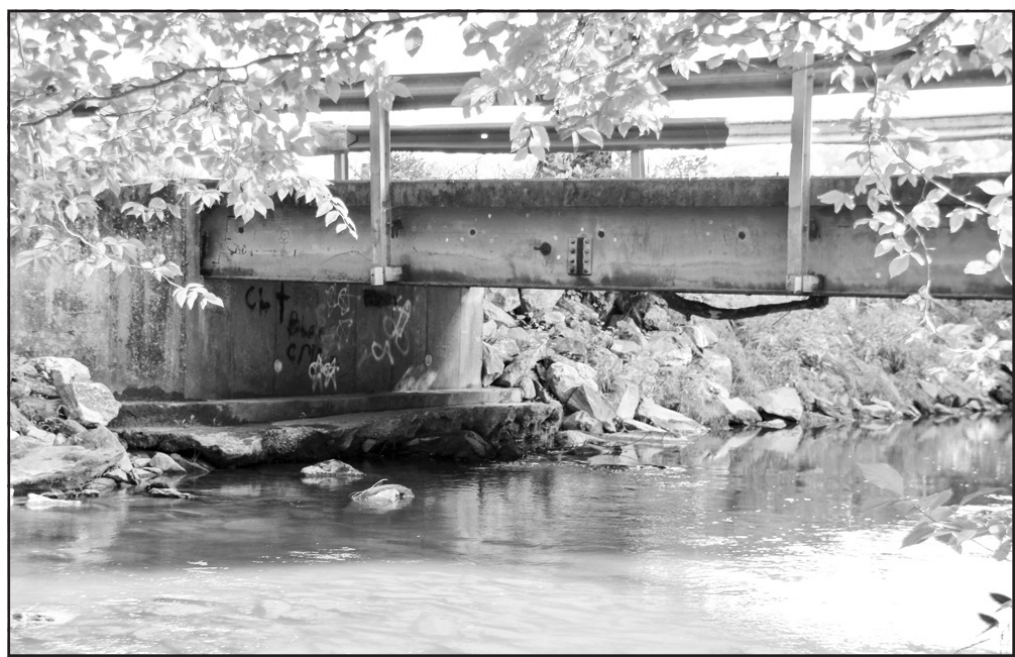
State Bridge Project...from Page 1A

office responded to the Bulderbergs on Aug. 9 to say that the project in question was "in its earliest stages and has to go through a federal approval process," noting that "construction is planned for the summer of 2027."

Apparently, the project cancellation was still being finalized behind the scenes, and Gooch's office was unaware that the state had told Union County Government that it would not be moving forward with the bridge replacement for cost reasons.

This miscommunication prompted GDOT to decide last month that it would reinstate the replacement project if the county could not secure the recommended secondary access point, though specifics on how this would play out, including a timeline to replace the bridge, were unclear at press time.

Regardless, Paris said the county remains committed to addressing the safety concerns of the people living behind the Byers Road bridge, with the quickest solution being the establishment of the emergency entrance/exit that he is continuing to pursue.



While floodwaters overtopping the bridge at Byers Road are rare, it is known to happen. When it does, debris gets trapped against the bridge – like the branch stuck underneath it in this picture.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard

The long-simmering issue on Byers Road stems from the fact that the county-owned bridge, ordered to be built by a former commissioner in the early to mid-1990s to replace an old wooden bridge that kept washing out, was erected too low in a floodplain.

Given enough rain, the creek fills up, debris gets trapped against the bridge, and water overtops it, causing flooding that makes safe passage impossible for up to several hours until the waters naturally recede or debris can be cleared.

There are legitimate safety concerns regarding the potential for situations where waiting for flooding to subside is a terrible option, like EMTs and firefighters responding to emergencies, people with pet crises, or kids needing to make it to or from school.

There are even medical professionals residing beyond the bridge who decide to stay elsewhere in the county when flood conditions threaten, just in case they are summoned to the hospital during or after a storm.

Fortunately, bridge flooding doesn't happen often; some years it may not happen at all, but it has been known to occur upwards of three times annually according to several yearslong residents. And reportedly, flooding has yet to take place there during a medical or fire emergency.

As for why the replacement is so expensive, both a new road section and the new bridge would have to be built above the base flood elevation of the floodplain.

And Paris said there's no way the county can realistically afford to replace the bridge on its own, at least not right now; if final replacement costs were

to come in at \$8.5 million as estimated by the state, that works out to nearly a third of the entire county budget.

For now, the plan is to extend one of the roads in the neighborhood to connect with Cook Lane, which sits behind the Byers Road area and lets out onto Georgia 515. There are currently two connection options, the one proposed by GDOT and another the county thinks is a better route.

At this time, the new access is being planned as emergency-use only with a gate because: 1) Cook Lane is a single-lane road that cannot take much more regular traffic as is; and 2) it will be easier to convince private property owners to grant right-of-way for a sparingly used roadway.

If the county is successful in securing the second access point, the gate would be keyed, either electronically or using a padlock, and keys would be provided to the property owner where the gate sits and to emergency first responders, to be unlocked whenever flooding seems likely.

There is no completion timeline yet, but Paris said progress is being made, and he wants people to know they can always come to his office with questions about what's going on in the county, which he believes could have prevented inaccurate rumors from spreading in this case.

After the state initially canceled its plans, people began hearing bits and pieces of what was happening there. One rumor was that GDOT had agreed to fund 85% of the bridge project and that the county said no to paying the other 15%. Paris said that was never presented as an option.

Some residents are OK with the alternate plan, like

George Richardson, who has been seeking redress of the issue for years. Richardson approached the county back in 2020 about the "potentially dangerous situation" and has spoken with Paris multiple times since then.

Others, like the Bulderbergs, feel that only a new bridge will do, as having to fiddle with a locked gate in an emergency is a non-starter for them, though the county believes gated emergency access is reasonable given the circumstances and constraints.

The resident who has lived back there the longest, Tony Stillwell, wants a new bridge as well. However, at 86, Stillwell said he doesn't think he will live long enough to see a new bridge erected. Time will tell, but with the current state of play, he may be right.

Union County Government has been up to its neck in bridgework, having recently completed the emergency replacement bridge at Fisher Field Road before transitioning to the bridge replacement at Old Bald Mountain Road that is presently in progress.

And now, the county is busy handling this bridge issue, and Paris is asking for patience as he tries to finalize a solution on Byers Road. In the meantime, he feels confident that the county will be able to respond if anyone does have an emergency there during a flood.

Proceeding with the state's help – if it is available – on the alternate access would benefit the county financially. But because GDOT is known for taking a long time to start construction due to its statewide project list, Paris is weighing options to get the work done sooner.

Stay tuned.

Blairsville Red Hat Sassy Divas July and August Events



(L-R) back: Jeanee McJilton, Pat Hogan, Joy Mormur, Debbie High, Lisa Chrusiel, Marie Fertitta, Judy Yohe, Genny Reid, Lois Wiley, Karen Kittredge & Ginny Clowney

The Blairsville Red Hat Sassy Divas were seen in July at G & G where they had a day playing games. Hostesses Ginny Clowney introduced a game that her family plays every Thanksgiving. It's a little hard to explain but will try. In the center of this oval is a great prize but to get to it you have to unwrap saran wrap. As you are unwrapping if you're lucky you get a little prize. At least one or maybe even two rolls of saran wrap was used. Oh, by the way this is a timed event. As the person is unwrapping another person is rolling dice trying to get doubles. When doubles are rolled then that person gets to unwrap. It keeps going until the center is reached.

In August, the Sassy Di-

vas went to Dahlonga to Waffles a relatively new tearoom. Prior to going to the tearoom, the group went shopping in the downtown square. At the tearoom we were treated to a variety of teas with delicious finger sandwiches, scones and three different desserts. The group highly recommends Waffles.

Vice Queen, Judy Yohe hosted a tea party at her house on the 24th. The spread of delightful food was overwhelming. There was a variety of both hot and cold teas to quench your thirst. So for those that were not at the July game day we were treated after eating with unwrapping what is now known as the "Clowney" game. Queen Pat Hogan was the lucky one to

win the center big gift. Besides this game we played what's on your phone a take from what's in your purse. Jeanee McJilton was the winner for the most apps and the required pictures. The last game was a play on words. A wonderful time was had by all.

"The Red Hat Society is a unique international playgroup for women that promote our passion of fun, friendship, fitness, the freedom to express ourselves in positive ways, and a dedication to the fulfillment of lifelong dreams, gained all through the power of fun!"

Want to know more about Blairsville Red Hat Sassy Divas contact Pat Hogan at hogan.pat848@gmail.com.

Stalker of local minor gets 25 years behind bars

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
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A career criminal will spend every bit of his 25-year maximum sentence in prison, with no possibility of parole, after a Union County jury found him guilty last month of stalking a Blairsville minor and her family.

The four-day trial began with jury selection on Monday, Aug. 19, and wrapped with closing arguments, 90 minutes of jury deliberations and sentencing on Thursday, Aug. 22, at the Union County Courthouse.

Gregory Ryan Spivey, 28, of Jasper, was found guilty of attempted aggravated stalking, aggravated stalking, and placing harassing phone calls, according to Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley, whose office prosecuted the case.

Spivey has a history as a criminal offender, having been previously convicted in Union County in 2016 on methamphetamine and burglary charges for which he served several years in state prison on a 20-year sentence.

After making parole for his Union County crimes, Spivey was convicted of child molestation in Pickens County in 2021 for fondling a child over the clothes. He ended up with a sentence of 10 years for that crime, with one year to

serve in prison.

His latest convictions stem from a connection he made the year before his 2016 convictions in Union County, when Spivey was working for a local business in 2015.

His boss had a pre-teen daughter with whom Spivey never interacted to anyone's knowledge, but it became clear years later that he had nevertheless developed an obsession with the young girl, Langley said.

While serving his 2021 sentence for child molestation, Spivey suddenly started writing to the child here in Blairsville, surprising the family who had not heard anything from Spivey since he was convicted in 2016.

From prison, Spivey sent multiple letters to the then-teenage but still minor child detailing his infatuation with her, and her parents reached out to the warden to get the letters stopped, Langley said.

"He just became weirdly obsessed with this person who'd never had any interactions (with him)," Langley said. "Of course, his sentence on the child molestation case said he was not to have any contact with minors – anyone under the age of 18 – but he kept writing letters to her.

"Well, when he got out of prison, in March of 2023 – that's when the crimes we charged occurred – he started

repeatedly calling her house, a dozen calls or so; he just kept calling over and over asking to speak to her.

"Her mother and her grandmother were intercepting those calls and refusing to let him talk to her. Eventually, he called and said, 'I'm on my way to get her.'

"You can imagine someone saying they're on their way to get your teenage daughter, and this is a person you know has been in prison for child molestation, so they were in an absolute terror.

"Law enforcement was called and came to the house. He continued to call the house even while Union County Sheriff's Department was there at the house. So, they actually heard these calls coming in.

"Essentially, they intercepted him driving on his way between (Jasper) and Blairsville and pulled him over and arrested him."

Spivey's parole was revoked, and he was charged with attempted aggravated stalking of the girl, aggravated stalking for repeatedly calling the mother and grandmother to contact the child, and harassing phone calls, for which the jury found him guilty on all counts Aug. 22, Langley said.

"He showed no remorse at trial," Langley said. "He acted disinterested, often laying his head down on the defense table in the middle of the trial.

He is a disturbed and dangerous individual."

Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge Raymond George presided over the trial, and when it came time to sentence him, Judge George handed down the maximum possible sentence based on Spivey's criminal history.

"For sentencing purposes, we put in certified copies of all his prior convictions, including distribution of meth, burglary, criminal damage to property and child molestation," Langley said. "That is going to require the (Georgia Parole Board) to make him serve the entire 25 years."

Spivey will get credit for time served in the Union County Jail from March 2023, as he awaited trial. He will be 52 at the conclusion of his sentence, while the girl will be a woman in her early 40s, so Langley said this outcome will provide safety for the victim "well into adulthood."

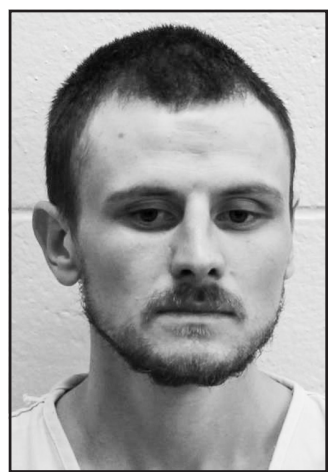
If Spivey continues to

attempt to reach out to the victims over the course of his long incarceration, which he is legally forbidden to do, Langley said his letter-writing privileges could be revoked in prison and he could face all new charges.

"My sympathy goes out to the family; it was a terrorizing situation for them," Langley said. "Thankfully, through much of it, this little girl was not made fully aware of it, but she certainly is aware of it now – she testified, and we had eight or more witnesses testify at trial."

Added Langley, "The judge had a lot of information available to him for sentencing, and we think that it's an appropriate sentence ... This is a case that points to the importance of the recidivist statute.

"I believe that's a very useful tool for a prosecution that ... allows us to put people who commit repeated serious felonies away for a long time, in



Gregory Ryan Spivey

which the Pardons and Paroles Board has to house them for the entire sentence the judge gives them. This case was a good example of that statute being applied."

Langley would like to thank his Assistant District Attorney Anna Guardino for "doing a very good job" serving as the primary trial counsel in the case.

New Speed Limit...from Page 1A

limits, as motorists routinely drive 10 mph or more over the limit to reach speeds of 55 mph or greater.

Responding to the reduction request last year, the state conducted a traffic study, informing Mason that the results demonstrated a 5-mph decrease was warranted instead of 10 mph.

While the sheriff would have liked to see his initial proposal enacted, he believes the 5-mph reduction is movement in the right direction, as "speed kills," and slowing down traffic to any degree in such an active part of town will

certainly make motorists safer.

Plus, there's always the chance that the speed limit will be further revised in the future as the area continues to grow.

"We'll continue to evaluate the corridor," GDOT Engineer Jason Dykes said last November. "As traffic does increase, then we can look at all the different factors as development comes, and we can go back out and revisit it. If it needs to be lowered again, we'll do that as well."

To date, the city has not heard any complaints from the public about the speed limit being lowered, and for people

concerned that the change will delay their travels, Mason has said that the reduction should amount to less than a half-minute of additional driving time through town.

According to the traffic study, aka the Engineering and Traffic Investigation Report, between 2018 and 2023, there were 309 crashes along the corridor where the speed limit will be decreasing. Of these, there were one fatality, 81 injuries and 227 with property damage only. GDOT expects the 5-mph decrease will result in a 12% average reduction in the frequency of all crash types.

United Community prepares students, teachers for success

United Community Bank is always working to live up to its name with community events and giving, and when it comes to preparing local children for each new school year, they've certainly got students and teachers in the community covered.

The bank's Stuff the Bus Challenge, which augments the annual Backpack 2 School Bash that provides school supplies for Union County students, ensures that, with the community's help, local kids are "set up for success," in the words of Amanda Harrison of United Community.

Approximately four years ago, the bank started the Stuff the Bus campaign. Always looking for ways to engage with the public, the supply drive was proposed among bank staff to "help give back to the community."

The premise is simple: donate enough school supplies to fill a school bus parked outside the main branch on Georgia 515. Blairsville Branch President Adam Born said the program took the community by storm, and people started donating "tons" of supplies to the cause.

Donations reliably increase every year, and now, each July, folks can expect to see a school bus sitting outside the bank.

"I am humbled at the outpouring of the community," Born said. "I mean, gosh, we had people coming in and writing checks for several hundred dollars, we had cash donations ... (A customer) pulled her whole neighborhood together and brought in all kinds of supplies. It was a whole truckload of stuff they brought in."

Stuff the Bus facilitates a larger effort, wherein bank customers drop off supplies or make monetary donations for supplies, which go from there to the First United Methodist Church of Union County for local families to browse with other donations and take as needed during the Backpack 2 School Bash in partnership with Union County Family Connection.

"They have the church auditorium set up like a store. I mean, you have paper on one table, you have pens on a table, you have highlighters, you have pencils, glue - whatever they need," Born explained, adding

that no child is turned away, as the financial status of families is not considered.

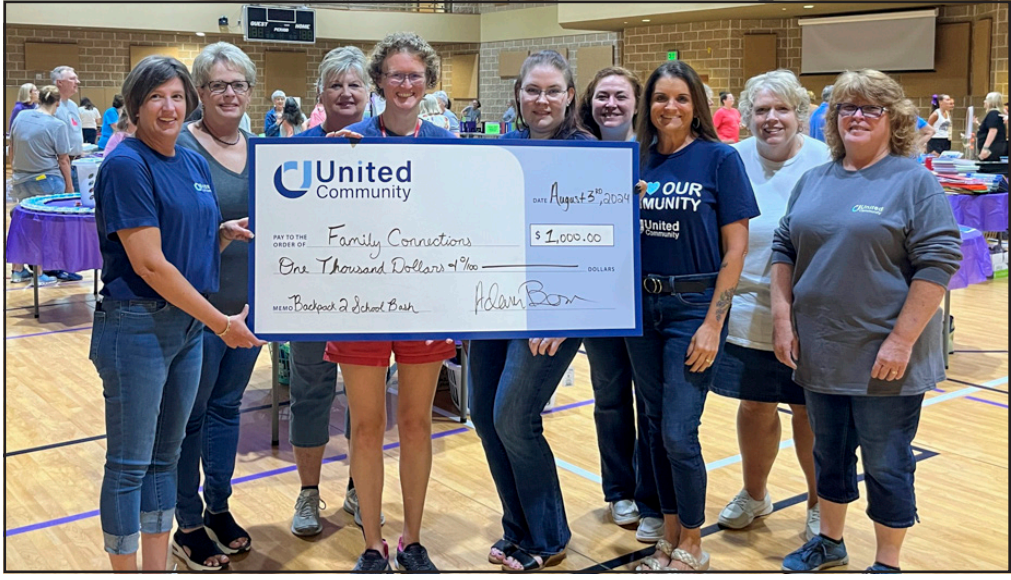
It's hard to calculate a total in terms of just how many supplies folks brought in this year, but Born estimated that in terms of pure poundage, bank customers provided "a literal ton" of items like backpacks, binders, hand sanitizer and even calculators.

At any rate, it took several trips of bank staff loading their vehicles to get it all delivered to the church for the event on Aug. 3, where over 500 local children benefited from the Backpack 2 School Bash in 2024.

And Born believes this year may have seen the most participation yet for the Stuff the Bus Challenge.

"We never imagined the community would support it like they have, and because they support it like they have, it will continue to be an annual thing," reassured Born.

More than 530 school staff also enjoyed the annual back to school picnic thrown for them by United Community, which has been going strong for more than a decade. The bank provides a



United Community presenting Family Connection a check representing funds its customers helped raise for this year's Backpack 2 School Bash at First United Methodist Church.

barbecue spread meant to be enjoyed by all members of the Union County Schools staff, not just teachers.

Along with that, lunch recipients usually get a small gift courtesy of United Community. Sometimes that means something to help them through the school year, like leatherbound portfolios, and other times it's a commemorative item to celebrate the partnership of the school system and the bank.

This year, for example, school staff got to take home a comfortable hooded T-shirt featuring logos of both Union County Schools and United Community Bank.

Born said the events have long been solidified as part of Union County's back to school routine thanks to such a positive response by the community.

"We have some very generous people here (with) very giving hearts," Born said.

"To that kid who's nervous and probably excited about going back to school, it probably means the world to them knowing that they've got everything they need to be prepared."

United Community would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to all the bank patrons and members of the community who helped make the 2024 year of giving such a huge success for teachers and students.



United Community was thrilled to be able to give back to Union County Schools once again during this year's United Community Teachers Picnic to kickstart the new school year.

Duck Derby...from Page 1A



As they do every year, volunteers with Safe Pet Project helped conduct the Blairsville PD's derby that raises money for Shop With A Cop. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

packed, and families lined the banks with folding chairs and blankets for an up-close view of the race.

The commotion attracted the attention of several newcomers to the area, and one child, enraptured with the idea of a stream full of friendly yellow duckies, asked her parents if they could return to take part next year. Her mother, happy to support a good cause, agreed.

Around 11 a.m., the

ducks were dumped in the creek, and it didn't take long for them to begin floating down. For a long stretch, one duck managed to stay in front of the vast wave of yellow before getting snagged on a rock to be easily outpaced by its brethren.

Some kids made their way down to the water, poking stuck ducks with sticks to free them and send them on their way. As with every year, volunteers from the Safe Pet Project waded in as the race

wound down, using oars to free the last of the ducks from their weedy snags to keep the environment safe and healthy for real ducks.

Slowly but surely, as the final ducks were fished from the water, folks began to clear out. That said, the 151 winners are listed on the Blairsville PD Facebook page, though they will also receive telephone notifications if necessary. Prizes can be picked up by Tuesday, Sept. 3, at noon.

Free September events at the Union County Public Library

The Union County Public Library has a full calendar of free events for all ages in September.

One of their most anticipated events is the upcoming Book Sale. Starting on Friday, Sept. 13 and running through Thursday, Sept. 19, the library's Community Room will be filled with books of every genre and subject. Shoppers may fill their own bag or one of the library's boxes for only \$5.

Another exciting upcoming event is the Stuffy Sleepover, where kids can drop off one of their stuffed animals any time on Thursday, Sept. 19. When children pick up their stuffed animals the next day, their stuffy will have fun photos of all the adventures they had in the library overnight.

Then, on Saturday, Sept. 21, the library will be having a Harry Potter Party from 11 AM to 1 PM. Costumes inspired by the series are encouraged during the event, which will feature magical activities, games, giveaways, and snacks for all ages.

For crafters, the Scrap

Harry Potter Party
All ages welcome!
SATURDAY
SEPT. 21
11AM-1PM

Book Sale
FILL YOUR BAG FOR \$5!!!
SEPT. 13 - 19
FRI. - THURS.

FREE Public Events at Union County Public Library

A sleepover for stuffed animals!
Drop-off: Thurs. Sept. 19
Pickup: Fri. Sept. 20
Stuffy Sleepover

TUES. SEPT. 24
1PM - 3PM
Scrap Happy
A scrapbooking group

Happy scrapbooking group will be meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 1 PM to 3 PM, and will work on their own projects, share tips and knowledge, and socialize with other local crafters. Participants of all skill levels, including those

wishing to learn scrapbooking, are encouraged to attend.

For even more of the library's upcoming September events, follow them on Facebook and Instagram, or visit the calendar on their website: www.mountainlibrary.com.