

Land swap...continued from Page 1A

in is what we own and what it adjoins," said Commissioner Paris. "I've often said that, and it continues in this case."

The Jenkins property essentially is right beside the Davenport property. The property right across the road from Glenn Gooch Bypass belonged to the Jenkins family. Now you see where Commissioner Paris is going with this.

"We're working with GDOT right now to get an entrance to the Farmers Market at the red light across from Gooch Bypass to give us an alternate route to enter the Farmers Market," Paris said.

"It'll be safer as the Farmers Market gets busier and busier," Paris continued. "Where the entrance to the Farmers Market is now, it's getting harder and harder to get in there (no traffic light). This deal benefits both parties."

The exchange also allows the county to develop a ball complex on the Davenport property, Commissioner Paris said.

He noted that the county

is looking to expand its ballfield capabilities and youth sports programs past what is available at Meeks Park, which has reached capacity.

"A lot of long, hard, and sometimes painful negotiations went into these deals," Paris said. "We finally got to the point where the deal was done. Thank goodness, the Jenkins family was willing to work

with us. "I can tell you that I am so pleased and thankful to have made this agreement," Paris said. "Our recreation programs are growing by leaps and bounds. This will give us an opportunity to expand into the future, and it being adjacent to the Farmers Market makes it even more special."



Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris discussed two land deals in the September county meeting, one to provide a shooting range, the other to extend the capabilities of the Union County Farmers Market.

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conversion lab at 126 Antique Way. The lab components found at Antique Way were consistent with the lab found in Suches. The exception - agents discovered seven empty 55-gallon drums, three of which tested positive for methamphetamine.

As previously reported, a Sept. 15 traffic stop in Dahlonega led to the discovery of a methamphetamine conversion laboratory in Suches, 15 kilos of methamphetamine, and followed with the destruction of said laboratory, which was

capable of producing 25-50 kilos of methamphetamine at a time.

More than \$3.2 million worth of methamphetamine was taken off the street thanks to the bust.

Meanwhile, at the 126 Antique Way address, agents also located two AR-15 rifles, a pistol grip shotgun and a handgun.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation estimates that North Georgia law enforcement has dismantled a criminal organization that at a minimum has produced and distributed 385 gallons of methamphetamine onto the streets of our communities.

Conservatively, this equates to hundreds of kilograms of crystal methamphetamine. The street value of this amount of methamphetamine is in the millions.

Both of these properties were linked to Clara Catarino

Mendoza, 32. Mendoza is a Hispanic female, 5 feet 1 inch tall, and weighs 125 pounds.

Agents believe that Mendoza has fled with her two juvenile children. Mendoza is a fugitive from justice. Arrest warrants have been issued for Mendoza for conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and conspiracy to traffic methamphetamine.

Mendoza may be driving either a 2006 yellow H2 hummer, Georgia tag PYX 5020; a 2003 gray Ford Super Duty Truck, Georgia tag PKM 9409; or a White BMW four-door sedan (exact model and tag unknown).

If anybody sees Mendoza or has any information about her, please call the Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office at (706) 864-3633, the GBI at (800) 597-8477, the FBI at (800) 225-5324 or the Union County Sheriff's Office at (706) 897-8931.

Reece arrested again as GBI discovers second student relationship

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Former Union County teacher Shawnetta Reece was arrested again last week after being accused of having sex with yet another student, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Reece, 40, of Blairsville, was taken into custody at her home on Thursday, Sept. 21, and charged with sexual assault by persons with supervisory or disciplinary authority "after the discovery of an additional victim in the case," according to a GBI news release.

"The continued investigation into Reece revealed that she engaged in sexual conduct with an 18-year-old student in 2015. The student was a high school senior at the time of the incident," continued the release.

Bond was set at \$10,000 in property following her Sept. 21 arrest, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office, though it was unclear at press time Monday whether Reece had been able to post bond over the weekend.

The ongoing GBI investigation led to Reece's initial arrest on Monday, Aug. 14, after she turned herself in to the sheriff's office on charges related to an alleged sexual relationship with a 15-year-old student in 2013, according to the sheriff's office and GBI.

At the time in 2013, Reece, then 36, was a middle school gym teacher, and the student was transitioning between the eighth and ninth grades, according to the GBI.

Union County Schools Superintendent Dr. Fred Rayfield told the *North Georgia News* last month that, effective Aug. 15, Reece was "no longer employed with the Union County School System."

In August, Reece was charged with child molestation and sexual assault by persons with supervisory or disciplinary authority based on the 2013 relationship, according to arrest warrants.



Shawnetta Reece

Each of the two charges carried with it a \$5,000 cash bond or a \$10,000 property bond, and Reece bonded out of the Union County Jail on a \$20,000 property bond several hours after turning herself in that Monday, Aug. 14, according to the sheriff's office.

Reece began working at Union County Middle School in 2004 as a paraprofessional, and she later became a physical education teacher there, according to the Union County Board of Education Office.

She continued to work at the middle school until the 2016-2017 school year, when she transferred to Union

County High School as a gym teacher and the school's new track and field coach, according to the board office.

The 2017-2018 school year would have been Reece's second year at the high school.

GBI investigators paid a visit to Dr. Rayfield on Friday, Aug. 11, to inform him of the original allegations against Reece, and Reece was allowed no further contact with schoolchildren on campus after the board office became aware of the situation, according to Dr. Rayfield.

"The Union County School System is deeply saddened by the investigations involving one of our employees," said Dr. Rayfield last month. "The safety of our students and families will always remain our focus and No. 1 priority. We are cooperating with the GBI and all other law enforcement agencies concerning this active investigation."

Once the ongoing investigation is complete, the GBI said it will turn the case over to Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley for prosecution.

Indian Summer Festival and Run Above the Clouds coming soon

The Indian Summer Festival in Suches is held the first full weekend of October on the grounds of Woody Gap School, Georgia's smallest public school, on GA Hwy. 60, between Dahlonega and Blue Ridge.

The weekend-long event includes crafts, music and dance performances, and family activities.

On Saturday, October 7 the Run Above the Clouds 10K and a one-mile run will begin at 9 a.m. Arrive early to register and check in.

A Country Square Dance with a live band will start at 8 p.m. in the Suches Community Center.

Enjoy performances by students of Woody Gap

School, clogging, a live auction, lots of mountain music and homemade goodies from the Gaddistown Homemakers. Food vendors will feature chicken BBQ, pork BBQ, hamburgers, hot dogs, funnel cakes, boiled peanuts, cotton candy, fried apple pies, homemade preserves and more. Visit the crafts tents for a variety of handmade items.

A brief Prayer Service will be held Sunday morning at 9 AM in the pavilion.

Hours are 9 AM to 5 PM both days with free parking. Admission: 13 & up \$4, 7-12 \$2, 6 & under free!

For more info call 706-747-2401 or email theindian-summerfestival@yahoo.com.

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