

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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January 6, 2016

Union General welcomes New Year's first baby

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Happy Birthday and Happy New Year to Kampton McKinney Hughes, Union County's first baby born in 2016.

Kampton came into the world at 3:36 p.m. on New Year's Day at Union General Hospital, to proud parents Evan and Kembra Hughes.

Dr. Kevin Davis of Women's Health of Blairsville delivered the baby boy, who weighed in at 6 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 19 inches long.

Kampton has a unique nickname, one he picked

up before making his first appearance on Jan. 1.

"I told Kembra I wanted a name to start with K - she didn't," said Evan Hughes. "She came up with two or three, but I didn't like them. I came up with two or three, she didn't like them, either. So I said, if you aren't going to tell me anything, I'm just going to call him Kammo."

"Well, two or three days went by, and she says, what do you think about the name Kampton? She said, I am not legally naming my son Kammo."

The compromise worked out - both Evan and Kembra liked "Kampton," and the name proved a proper gateway

to "Kammo."

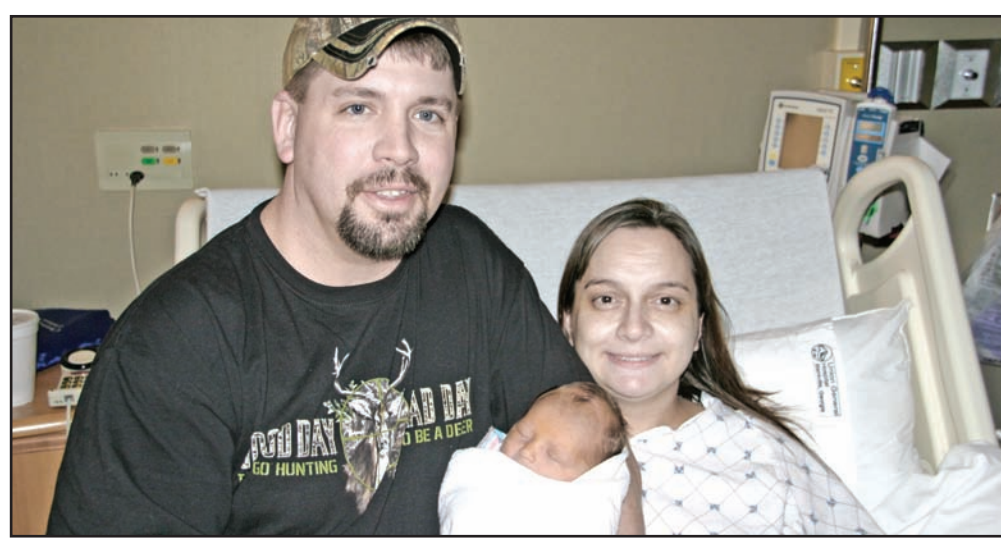
"K" names run in the family, too, as Evan's son from a previous marriage is named Kolby, along with wife Kembra and now young Kampton.

Kolby, 8, is excited to have a little brother, and looks forward to teaching him how to play guitar like his dad taught him, though Evan said, based on his fingers, it is likely Kampton will learn to play the banjo.

Kampton was born into a long line of Hughes men in Union County, and his middle name, McKinney, comes from his mother's maiden name.

Proud grandparents on

See *First Baby*, Page 2



Evan and Kembra Hughes are overjoyed to have welcomed their baby boy, Kampton, into the world on New Year's Day 2016

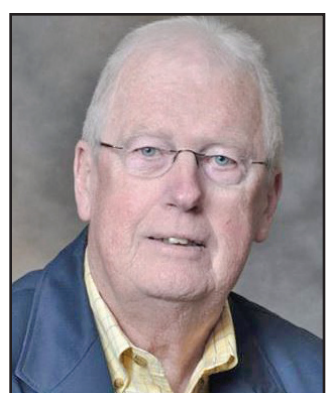
Patrick Malone chamber interim president

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Last week, the Executive Committee of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors named longtime chamber member Patrick Malone as interim president and CEO.

This move comes on the heels of Cindy Williams' resignation as president and CEO in December, as she announced that she had taken the president/CEO position for the Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber of Commerce.

Malone will remain interim president until the



Patrick Malone chamber is able to complete its search process for Williams' permanent replacement. Moving forward, Malone

said that filling Williams' shoes will be a considerable challenge, but in accepting that challenge, he has two main goals in mind: to fulfill the strategic goals previously established by Williams, her staff and the chamber board; and to give the board enough time and leeway to do find the best possible long-term replacement for Williams.

"Cindy has done remarkable things in the nine plus years that she was in the leadership role, and I think it would be a shame for that to suffer any kind of a gap or a lag, and I think I can continue to make sure that those things

are continued at the same level that Cindy was able to do them," said Malone.

With more than three decades of leadership in the business world, Malone has plenty of experience to tackle the role that Williams held for so long, though he stressed the fact that he is only coming on in an interim capacity.

He also has previous leadership experience with the chamber, having served on the executive committee of the chamber board, as well as having been the chamber's treasurer for a year.

Malone is a senior See *Malone*, Page 3

UCMS students get hands on with conservation



L-R: Seventh graders Nolan Bachman, Daniel Griggs, Allie Cox and Haley Hoyer feed trout in the classroom

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

There's something fishy going on in Jacquie Tallman's seventh grade Life Science classes.

To be precise, what's going on is trout.

In a three-way

partnership between Union County Middle School, the Chattahoochee-Nantahala chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery at Rock Creek in Suches, Tallman has been able to bring the Trout in the Classroom program to her students.

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Habitat for Humanity has plenty to offer

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

One of Bryan Thomas' top goals as executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Towns/Union Counties is to increase public awareness about the organization in order to expand what Habitat can do.

"We've been here about 19 years, and we have basically done one house a year," said Thomas, executive director of Habitat for Towns and Union. "We're building our house for our 16th family right now, and we would like to double that. So, we are in the process of



Bryan Thomas and Kate Scroggs make a good team at Habitat for Humanity of Towns/Union Counties

really trying to up our visibility in the community, and see if we can take it to the next level."

One of the biggest ways residents can show support for Habitat and bringing

more homes to the area is by shopping at the Habitat ReStore, located right near the Towns/Union line in Young Harris.

"We would love for people to come by and see our ReStore," said Thomas. "We carry nice merchandise, and we're not trying to compete with thrift stores. When we put merchandise in there, every 30 days, everything gets marked down 25 percent. So it either sells or we give it away, so that every time you come into the store, you see something new."

ReStore manager

See *Habitat*, Page 3

BOE hopes to name new superintendent in February

From Staff Reports
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Applications are in, and the Union County Board of Education has its sights set on the end of February to name a new superintendent.

Continuing the process, the board will be developing a superintendent search profile in a meeting at the board office on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 5 p.m.

According to Sandy Addis, who is heading the search as part of the superintendent search firm that has been hired by the board, the search for

the next superintendent of the Union County School System is progressing as planned and is on schedule.

By the close of the application period on December 22, a total of 27 applications were received. Of the 27 applications, 24 were from within the state of Georgia, and three were from other states.

The current positions of the applicants are varied, with nine currently serving as principals, 11 serving as assistant superintendents or in similar central office positions, and seven being current or

recent superintendents.

At the meeting Wednesday, the board will prepare for next steps of the search by reviewing the results of employee and community surveys that were previously made available online, as well as developing a superintendent profile and preparing for the interview process.

Following this preparation phase, the board will conduct an in-depth review of all applications, receive reports of reference findings and identify applicants for the first round of interviews. The board anticipates conducting



Gary Steppe

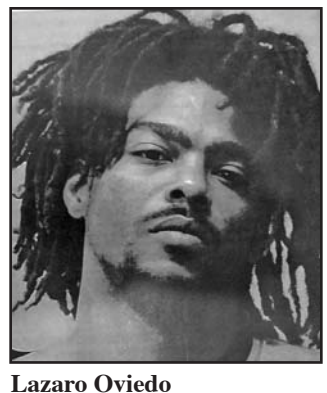
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Towns County man sought for robbery

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Union County Sheriff's Office is looking for a Towns County man and his accomplice after the two robbed the Food Heaven Convenience Store near the Union/Towns County line on Christmas Eve, according to UCSCO spokesperson Detective Lt. Daren Osborn.

Lazaro Oviedo, 28, with an address in Enota Village Apartments in Young Harris, is 5-foot-11, 158 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He was last seen in a white, four-



Lazaro Oviedo door sedan with a sunroof, with an as of yet unknown white male accomplice.

"On Christmas Eve day,



approximately 12:30 p.m., a black male by the name of Lazaro Oviedo entered the Food Heaven Chevron Station at the Union/Towns County

line, along with a white male," said Lt. Osborn. "Lazaro was a former employee there and

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Senior center drops a possum of its own



Lillian Riley makes some noise

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

With all the hullabaloo over a New Year's Possum Drop in a neighboring state, the Union County Senior Center figured out how to drop a

possum and avoid PETA at the same time.

Senior Center Director Kathy Hill and her Administrative Assistant Phillip McGlamery used a fishing pole and an adorable, plushy possum

See *Possum*, Page 12

Brasstown Valley celebrates New Year with salute to troops



Brasstown Valley guests dance the night away in celebratory anticipation of 2016

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Young Harris - Area residents and guests from Atlanta ushered the New Year in with style at Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa's Annual New Year's Eve Gala, themed this year "Salute to the Troops."

The resort has been

hosting a New Year's gala since it opened in 1995, and last year's event featured a pirate theme.

"What's a little bit different over the last nine years is we've been doing a themed party," said Charles Burton, general manager of the resort and spa. "This year's theme is

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January is Stalking Awareness Month

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S.A.F.E. seeking volunteers

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The Sock Hops are back at the Peacock!

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SPORTS

BASKETBALL
Tues. Jan. 5 @ Riverside (Boys)
Varsity 6 PM JV 4:15 PM
Fri. Jan. 8 vs. Rabun Co. 7 & 8:30 PM
Sat. Jan. 9 2 Washington Wilkes 2 & 3:30 PM