

Walk...from Page 1A

their way to Walasi-Yi Inn in Union County.

It is here that the two, broken in spirit, revel in the taste of a cold Coca Cola and egg salad sandwiches purchased at the hiker Inn.

They also celebrate civilization with Hostess Cupcakes like it was the first time either had devoured sweet treats. They're also amazed at the prospects of a hot shower, fresh laundry and other remnants of civilization found in Union County.

Their stop in Union County was just one of many adventures in the 244-page

travel story by Bryson.

The book, a humorous account of two overweight, middle-aged and out of shape buddies attempting to hike the 2,100-mile AT is sure to be a hit at the box office.

Redford has long wanted to make a film adaptation of Bryson's best-selling book. It's going to happen, and the film will debut possibly in late 2014, or early 2015.

The news of the film is sure to be a boost to local tourism and be a guide to finding the North Georgia Mountains, much in the way Clint Eastwood's *Trouble With The Curve*

helped Towns, Dawson, and Rabun counties in 2012.

Bryson holds a true esteem for the Appalachian Trail.

In his book, he writes "from Georgia to Maine, it wanders across 14 states, through plump, comely hills' whose very names - Blue Ridge, Smokies, Cumberlands, Green Mountains, White Mountains - seem an invitation to amble. Who could say the words 'Great Smoky Mountains' or 'Shenandoah Valley' and not feel an urge, as the naturalist John Muir once put it, to 'throw a loaf of bread

and a pound of tea in an old sack and jump over the back fence?'"

Bryson's book isn't just a humorous account of hiking the AT. It is a personal observation narrative that tells the world of the beauty of the AT, its fragile ecosystem that includes endangered woodlands, nests of copperheads and curious, hungry black bears and other wildlife.

It is the ultimate travel brochure and wilderness narrative that will soon show the world the beauty of the North Georgia Mountains, Union County included.

Halloween...from Page 1A

The Haunted Fire House comes with Free Admission, free candy and lots of spooks.

Meanwhile, back to the Hometown Halloween celebration, Mayor Conley says thanks to Early Bird Antiques and the Book Cellar for sponsoring the costume contest this year.

"This is an exciting time for children, and we try to make this a special event

for them," Mayor Conley said. "We're pulling out all the stops with the help of our Downtown businesses to make this a joyous occasion.

"As in previous years, the square and a few side streets will be closed to thru traffic from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.," the Mayor said. "Please plan on making a detour if you are traveling through Blairsville during Hometown Hallow-

een."

Halloween music from the clock tower will add to the carnival type atmosphere of Halloween on the Square.

Mayor Conley says many thanks to the Union County Historical Society for welcoming all the little children to the Downtown Square for this much anticipated evening.

Businesses and organizations that want to give out candy are encouraged to register by Thursday.

Participating businesses are asked to contribute \$10 to help cover costs of the event or donate 10 canned goods to be delivered to the Food Pantry.

Please call Janet Hartman at (706) 994-4837 to sign up and for more details.

Wings...from Page 1A

Gene Norman, crew chief for the Wings of Freedom Tour, said he was really pleased with the turnout.

"The shows are what help to fund the foundation, and the admission price is actually a donation for the upkeep of the planes," Norman said. "The tour is to honor all World War II veterans, and all veterans get in free, they don't have to pay."

The tour flies 10 months out of the year, Norman said.

"The tour has been in all parts of the Continental United States," Norman said.

The warbirds include a B-24 bomber, a P51 Mustang, and a B-17 Liberator.

All three were at Blairsville Municipal Airport on Monday.

"We're really proud of the B-24, it's the only flying Flying Fortress in existence," Norman said. "It's a combat veteran with the Royal Air Force and the Indian Air Force."

Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley said it was a proud moment to have the warbirds in Blairsville and Union County.

"It truly is an honor to have the Wings of Freedom Tour here in our town," Mayor Conley said. "If these birds could talk, man, the stories they would tell."

"Again, it's an honor to have these war veterans arrive here in Blairsville," Mayor Conley said.

Dale Dyer, a 93-year-old World War II B-24 pilot, will fly on one of the Tours this week.

It's been 68 years since Dale Dyer has been aboard a B-24 Flying Fortress.

Jayden Fernando, 5, of Blue Ridge, was on hand to witness history.

His favorite part of the tour, "the fighting part, with the guns," he said.

The event was a high turnout event for area children, Vietta Mae Dyer said.

"It was good to see all the children," she said. "It's great to know that they witnessed a valuable piece of American History."

Admission to the event is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12 years old.

Visitors may also experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take a 30-minute flight aboard these rare aircraft.

The tour's warbirds will take locals up in the air for a price, \$425 per person for the B-17 or B-24.

The tour also features an opportunity to get some "stick time" in the P51 Mustang. The cost is \$2,200 for a half-hour, and \$3,200 for a full hour.

The tour also features a simulated B-24 bombing mission once a year, Norman said. The planes come complete with "dummy" bombs aboard, Norman said.

Each year, the tour begins in Florida and then heads up the West Coast, then heads East before returning to Florida each year.

The Collings Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit educational foundation devoted to the organizing of living history events that allow people to learn more about their heritage through direct participation.

The tour is in its 24th year and visits an average of 110 cities in more than 35 states.

Since its start, millions of people have witnessed the B-17, B-24 and P51 Mustang up close and personal.

The shows are from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday and 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, when it concludes.



The Collings Foundation Wings of Freedom Tour touched down at Blairsville Municipal Airport on Monday. Photos/Lowell Nicholson