

Veterans...from Page 1A



Nearly two dozen Vietnam Veterans gathered for the unveiling of the display on Saturday – many tears were shed that morning.

here,” said Rev. Bill Honaker, a Vietnam Veteran. “You see everything from the beginning, where they’re pulling it into Meeks Park to when they’re taking the panels down.

“The thing that’s the most impressive to me is, I had forgotten the number of people who came through there. There were hundreds of people.

“To have the opportunity to go up to that wall – it changes you. It really changes you.”

The canvas photographs surround the encased American flag, the same flag that flew in all of her glory in the nation’s capital as well as during the stay of the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall in Union County last fall.

“Someone said, ‘You know, you had a big heart doing (The Wall),’ and I told them, I may have a big heart, but the community has a giant heart,” said Priven.

Just as those veterans protected the flag overseas



Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris shared heartfelt words with Vietnam Veterans before unveiling the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial display at the Union County Courthouse on Saturday, July 23

so many years ago, their photographs serve as a symbolic protection of Old Glory as well as a reminder of their bravery throughout the years.

“What you guys have done, bringing a representation of Vietnam Veterans in Union County and making it an issue – this is not only for you guys to have pride in what you’ve done, but to remind those in the public how much pride there is in that,” said Commissioner Paris.

“Thank you for your service, for what you did, and for what you’ve done for Union County by bringing this to the county,” the commissioner continued. “I’m proud of you all for what you’ve done and what you continue to do.”

As the black curtain draped over the display came down, tears filled the eyes of all veterans present as a silence swept over the room. The men, gathered with their

fellow soldiers, friends and family, saw the fruits of their labor, not only in recent years, but also over a lifetime.

Now, with this exhibit,

their efforts will never be forgotten – their flag and memories have found a “Welcome Home” inside the courthouse.

EMC...from Page 1A

annual BRMEMC elections of new board members this year.

Over the last two years, members have elected six new directors, and the directors have appointed one new director. This year, they will elect two new directors and vote for the beginning of a new term for Director Ray Cook, out of Brasstown, NC, as Cook is running unopposed after a nominee from Murphy, NC, dropped out of the race.

Cook was selected to fill Kenneth Lance’s term, following his resignation last year.

Representing Clay County, NC, R.G. (Gary) Reffit and Adam Cony Payne, both of Hayesville, are seeking the seat of Director Ronnie Burch, who decided not to run for reelection to the board.

Out of Union County come three candidates: Patrick Malone, Andrew Smith and Gene Mason, all three of Blairsville.

The three hope to replace Greg Owenby, who decided not to seek reelection.

“Our Policy Committee is reviewing the Nominating Committee’s process right now, and we’re trying to update it to where people will be more informed if they want to run for the board of directors of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC,” said Phillips, looking down the road. “So, that’s something that Mickey Cummings is looking at right now as the chairman of the policy committee, which we’re

excited about that.”

Along with Owenby, longtime director Ronnie Burch of Hayesville, NC, will be leaving the board.

“I know that, especially Ronnie, as long as he’s been on the board, he sure has helped us this year with a lot of the information that he’s had as far as the knowledge of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, and I know that’s going to be missed,” said Phillips.

Added Phillips: “We’re looking for a new future, and I think things are going in the right direction. It seems like the board is fired up, and we’ve got a new general manager in Jeremy Nelms coming, so things are looking really good at the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC right now.”

As chairman of the BRMEMC Board of Directors, Phillips will lead the meeting this year, as opposed to previous years, when the meeting was led by the EMC’s attorney.

Furthermore, this year’s annual meeting, to take place in Anderson Music Hall inside the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, will resemble the Town Hall-style of public meeting the board has held in Union, Towns and elsewhere in the past year.

“This year we didn’t have time, but next year we feel pretty confident about having the annual meeting at the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC itself,” said Phillips.

Union County man arrested for aggravated child molestation

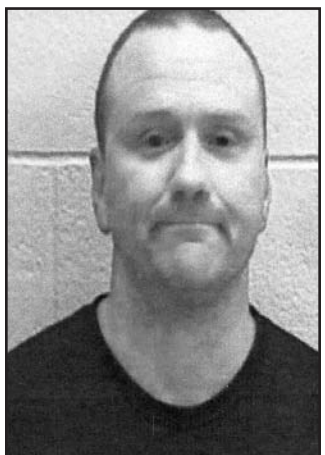
By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

A 37-year-old Union County man was arrested and charged with one count aggravated child molestation and another count child molestation on Wednesday, July 20, according to the Union County Sheriff’s Office.

Mark Anthony Reynolds, formerly of Towns County, confessed to having sex with the 14-year-old victim in May of this year, though allegations were not brought forth until July, according to UCSO Lt. Daren Osborn.

“She was invited over to his house to spend the night, for reasons I can’t reveal, and he had sex with her,” said Lt. Osborn.

Added Lt. Osborn: “If there’s anybody out there that has been a victim of this type of crime, please come forward, we can take care



Mark Anthony Reynolds

of them. “Do what needs to be done so that we can be notified, and we will take appropriate measures to put people like this behind bars where they belong.”

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation assisted the Union County Sheriff’s Office in the investigation.

Gooch...

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of methamphetamine.

“James Robert Gooch was the main suspect who was selling methamphetamine within Union County. Three other individuals were arrested with the execution at James Robert Gooch’s residence – they were all charged with possession of meth.”

Added Union County Sheriff Mack Mason: “Anybody that’s involved with any type of Union County government – we’re not going to tolerate this activity out of anybody, especially somebody like that, who’s being paid with taxpayer dollars.”

Upon learning of his arrest and subsequent charges, the Union County School System immediately terminated Gooch from his position at the schools, according to an administrator at the Union County Board of Education Office.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



July 10th
in memory of
Dr. William T. Meeks, Sr.
Anniversary
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

July 17th
in memory of
Roy Nash
by The Nash Family

July 19th
in loving memory of
Don Platt Birthday
We love and miss you,
Gloria and Becky

Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493