

Rescue...from Page 1A

off the trail. Approximately 100 yards later, Emery was staring at them.

Emery received immediate medical attention from Gwynn and Norton.

"Ben Emery was in the early stages of hypothermia," Deputy McConnell said. "He had a hammock, he had wrapped himself and his dog in the hammock to stay warm. It took approximately 30 minutes for his body temperature to rise to a respectable level to allow him to travel. Gwynn and Norton used blankets,

thermals and hot packs to get him back on his feet."

With Emery back under his own power, Lacey, Deputy McConnell, Gwynn and Norton escorted Emery and Rori back to safety.

Approximately 3.5 miles later, Emery had a story to share with family and friends.

"Lacey and I got Gwynn and Norton to where they were needed, and they did the rest," Deputy McConnell said. "Mr. Emery was in definite need of medical attention. All Lacey and I can do is lead

help to the right place in a desperate situation. The real work begins when you find that person. That's where the rescue team kicks in."

Chief Dyer praised Lacey, saying without her, the effort is lost.

"Without Lacey, we're looking at a very different scenario," Chief Dyer said. "All of our training is useless if we can't find our victim. Lacey is an incredible search dog."

Lacey's story as a Union County Sheriff's deputy began when she was 3 months old.

That's when she hooked up as Deputy McConnell's partner.

She saved her first life when she was 9 months old, rescuing a DUI driver who had wrecked his vehicle and set out off the beaten path during a snowstorm.

She's nabbed five would-be criminals in three different incidents, and she's frequently requested outside of the county to search for lost hikers and people who have fled from the law.

Lacey has been success-

ful on more than 60 percent of her searches. The other 40 percent, she's led authorities to the place where folks have been picked up by vehicles.

"If you had a supreme pizza, and she could talk, she could tell you every ingredient on that pizza," Deputy McConnell said. "Her nose knows."

David Tanner...from Page 1A

that he needed to be out by Jan. 1 of 2015.

"At that point, I started looking for a place," said Tanner, and he ended up selecting the Blue Ridge Highway location.

Tanner and his family's strong faith helped him get from one point to the next.

"I'm a Christian and I love the Lord, and I know the Lord leads in a way that will be the best for me, anyway," said Tanner. "And I knew that if the Lord wanted me to stay in that place, it would all fall through with them. He would provide that way. And if it didn't, then I was ready to make whatever changes I had to make."

The convenience of the old location is what Tanner

will miss most, as customers were able to drop their vehicles off and walk around to shop or eat in the square.

"It was just very convenient for a lot of my customers," said Tanner. "I guess the biggest thing I'm concerned about is my customers. I mean, I can change, but a lot of my customers may not want a change. A lot of them liked the convenience."

Already, Tanner has received a strong showing of support from that customer base in the face of that challenging time for him and his family.

"I had a bunch of my customers - and matter of fact, a lot more offered, but I'd have had more help than

I'd have known what to do with - offered to help me move," said Tanner. "And a lot of them did. There were probably 10 or 15 of my customers, not counting family and friends, who came and helped me move, so that made me feel good."

Tanner is thankful for the help he received in the move, and for his loyal customer base over the years.

"It's all been worth it," said Tanner. "Yeah, it's a job, and I make a living at it, but I've always looked - and that's the reason, I guess, I've never gotten rich and I've always just had to rent or whatever, because I look at, that customer isn't just my customer, he's my friend. That's

the way I want to treat them."

Looking ahead, Tanner and his usual cast of characters around the shop - wife Shirley, teenage son Micah and brother-in-law mechanic Alan Petry - are excited about the move and the new opportunities that come with change, and he has no hard feelings about the transition.

"I would like to thank the Candler and Burrells family, Tom, Blanch, Mark and Tommie, for the years they have let us use their property," said Tanner. "I am excited for the Jolly family, Wayne and Judy, and their new business, Cabin Coffee. I am looking forward to see what they do with the business, and plan to visit their shop."

Younger brother now faces armed robbery charges

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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The younger brother of the man accused of robbing Dollar General Store on old Blue Ridge Highway now stands accused of being involved in the robbery, Union County Sheriff's Investigator Tom Mangifesta said on Monday.

"Yesterday, Jan. 7, Dallas Logan Mitchell, 19 was arrested by Fannin County sheriff's deputies on an arrest warrant I obtained on Dec. 29, for Armed Robbery," Mangifesta said.

Dallas Mitchell is the younger brother of Caleb Mitchell who was arrested on Dec. 10 for the Dollar General robbery on Dec. 8.

Dallas Mitchell currently is being held in the Union County Jail, Mangifesta said.

It was a one of a kind jacket that led to the arrest of 22-year-old Caleb Mitchell in connection with Dec. 8 armed robbery of the Dollar General Store on the old Blue Ridge Highway.

Caleb Mitchell is charged with one count of armed robbery, and two counts of aggravated assault.

He is currently being held at the Union County Jail, Union County Sheriff's Det. SSgt. Darren Osborn said.

Blairsville Police Officer Dustin Walker, who also serves as a part-time Union County Sheriff's Deputy, spotted a male fitting the description of the suspect in the Dollar General Store robbery, Sgt. Osborn said.

Officer Walker, who was in the Circle K Convenience Store near Bi-Lo, saw Mitchell wearing the same jacket that was worn by the Dollar General armed robbery suspect.

"Officer Walker didn't approach the suspect, rather, he waited for Caleb Mitchell to leave the store before making a move," Sgt. Osborn said. "He watched Caleb Mitchell get into a vehicle with two other persons. At about the same time investigators with the Sheriff's Office received a tip from our Facebook page that a male, wearing the same jacket, was seen earlier at Walmart."

Officer Walker observed the male get in the rear seat of a vehicle; the vehicle traveled toward Georgia 515, Sgt. Osborn said.

The vehicle then traveled west and Officer Walker contacted Union County Sheriff's Office personnel and made a traffic stop at North Georgia Technical College, Sgt. Osborn said.

Caleb Mitchell told authorities without being prompted that he had indeed robbed the Dollar General Store, Sgt. Osborn said.

"We call that a spontaneous utterance," Sgt. Osborn said.

The gun Caleb Mitchell used was a gas-operated BB gun, that closely resembled a semi-automatic handgun, Sgt. Osborn said.

Following a thorough investigation by the Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division, Caleb Mitchell was arrested and charged with crimes related to the Dollar General Store robbery, Sgt. Osborn said.

Union County sheriff's investigators began working to solve the armed robbery of the Dollar General Store at the Old Blue Ridge Highway and Kiutuestia Creek Road shortly after the robbery was reported.

The robbery occurred at 8:25 p.m., on Monday, Dec. 8,

Union County Sheriff's Detective Tom Mangifesta said.

Mitchell was armed with what appeared to be a semi-automatic handgun, Det. Mangifesta said.

The suspect, later identified as Mitchell, was last seen running around the side of the store with the cash drawer, following the robbery, Det. Mangifesta said.

Investigators searched the residence where Caleb Mitchell was living after he was stopped on Dec. 11. Mitchell was cooperative, and told investigators where he had disposed of the cash drawer on Pleasant Hill Road.

Mitchell later took investigators to the location where he dumped the cash drawer, Sgt. Osborn said.

In an unrelated incident, Sgt. Osborn asks that residents lock their vehicles when attending their local churches.

A series of break-ins has authorities on the lookout for someone breaking into vehicles at local churches.

Anyone with details of these break-ins, contact the Sheriff's Office at (706) 439-6066 or the TIP Line at (706) 781-1973, Sgt. Osborn said.

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