

Home Show...from Page 1A

roof, it provides an excellent opportunity to compare businesses so the customer is able to find the perfect fit for whatever their needs may be. Most importantly, no matter which business you select, the money remains right here, improving the local economy.

"We get exposure (through this show) with the local community and with people who are coming here on vacation and looking to build a home," said Builder's

First Choice General Manager Eric Sebring. "We're here to let them know that we are available for all of their needs, down on the historic square in Blairsville."

With only local businesses in attendance, the focus wasn't competition; it was improving the local economy and local housing market. When the housing industry begins to take off, everyone benefits.

"We try to build part-

nerships with the other trades here at the show," Sebring said. "We all feed off each other and hope to improve business together and that has worked very well over the last three years since we've been involved in the Mountain Home Show."

"This show is a community show," MacCrea said. "It's not generating profit and all the money they put into it goes to running and advertising the show."

Garden...from Page 1A

Living Plant Collection and the repeat blooming Encore Azaleas.

Later Dr. Bodie Pennisi from University of Georgia Experiment Station, Griffin, spoke on *Flowers with a Purpose - The Pollinator Friendly, Sustainable Container Garden*, and showed many tips on how to build the perfect container garden for color and effect in the garden.

In the afternoon she spoke on "Flowers, Fragrance & Medicine From the Garden" and growth characteristics of particular herbs, perennials, and other plants that are used as medicine as well as beauty.

Dr. John Ruter, University of Georgia Trial Gardens, and Department of Horticulture head rounded out the program with a presentation on best use of conifers in Georgia.

Following lunch, the day was highlighted by the 75th anniversary of Blairsville Garden Club, who was honored for its continuous service to the community as an organization.

On April 17th, 1940, a group of 10 ladies met in the old Akins Hotel on the square to organize and start up the club with 12 charter members. The first president of the group was Mrs. Edith Paris, mother of Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and Mary Carol Paris Akins. Commissioner Paris had a former commitment and could not attend, but Mary Carol Akins came as the guest of honor.

The 11 exhibitors at the event were Kombi Shovels, General Supply Co., Natural Mountain Honey, Litton Landscaping, Tower Gardens, Younger U, Simply Aroma, GMREC Preservation Committee, Rusty Yard Art, and last but not least, the Blairsville Garden Club.

The Blairsville Garden Club is looking forward to many more years of service to the community. Anyone interested in becoming a member



of this community-oriented group may contact the Club President, Deborah Raleigh, (706) 781-6552 for more information.

NGTC celebrates students non-traditional career paths



(L-R): Chanel Hilliard and Renee Deibert

People who choose careers based on their interests, skills, and abilities, rather than based on gender stereotypes, experience greater rewards and job satisfaction. At North Georgia Technical College, students are standing out from the crowd and stepping outside of their comfort zone by enrolling in programs of study in which less than 25% of their gender is represented.

"You are all doing something that I have never done," said NGTC President Dr. Gail Thaxton. "I have never stepped out of my comfort zone, but you all have. You may not realize what a huge step up and step out you have taken, but I want you to know that we are aware of the challenges you face. You are all trailblazers, helping to break down the barriers of misconceptions about career choices. You should be

very proud of your accomplishments."

Lesa Byrd of Blairsville has built her non-traditional career through several training opportunities at North Georgia Tech. Thirty-one years ago, she received a diploma in Data Processing. While working for Community and Southern Bank for the last twenty-two years, she returned and graduated with an associate degree in Applied Business Technology. "One of the proudest moments in my life was at graduation," she said. "I am a wife, a mother, and a fulltime-employee, and I did it. Encourage those in your family because you will help them change their lives for the better."

For the non-traditional

Retired Firefighters Breakfast

The Retired Firefighters Breakfast is held the first Friday of each month, 9 a.m. at Hole in the Wall Restaurant, Blairsville, GA. NT(Apr29,21)CA

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Alzheimer's Caregivers support group will meet on the first Monday of the month at Southern Bank and Trust (formerly Cadence Bank) from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the community room. Please contact Sharon Penner for more information (770) 789-2044. Thank YOU. NT(Apr29,21)CA

We Are Still Here meeting May 4

The *We Are Still Here Memorial Project* next Community Information meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4 at 6 p.m. at the Haralson Memorial Civic Center.

At the beginning of March, eight people from Union County traveled to Tulsa, OK to meet with the Chiefs of the United Keetoowah Band, the Cherokee Nation, and the Muskogee-Creek Nation.

After returning from Oklahoma, the Union County delegation met with the Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina.

The delegation included Jim Brown, Jack Lance, Pam Worden, Matt Collins, John Chitwood, Joe Mealey, Haley Grizzle, and Kathie Garrett.

The group shared with them news about our project and invited them to Union County in September.

They have all agreed to be a part of this project and will be here in September.

"We are thrilled to be hosting four heads of sovereign nations while commemorating their people as the original inhabitants of Union County and North Georgia," delegation member Jim Brown said.

This project first began as a Leadership Union small group project.

It has now grown with many more people from the community joining in. The entire group is excited to be a part of what is happening.

"We are so pleased to

honor these tribes by inviting their Chiefs and Vice-Chiefs and spouses here to Union County," said delegation member Pam Worden. "While the Chiefs are here for a few days in September, we will be hosting a Black Tie Dinner, a groundbreaking ceremony at Meeks Park where the memorial will be placed, a tour of archaeological sites for the Chiefs, and more."

"Please join us at the Civic Center on May 4 at 6 p.m. for this meeting to find out more about the project and how you can be a part of this exciting time for Union County," Worden said. "A huge thanks goes out to all the people who have made contributions to this project thus far."

Postal...from Page 1A

"Walker ran the plates on the vehicle and they came back expired in North Carolina and also had an inspection violation," Sheriff Mason said.

With Davis driving, the vehicle pulled onto U.S. 76 and Deputy Walker initiated a traffic stop.

When questioned by Deputy Walker, Davis said he was delivering packages.

Davis told Walker that he had picked up Reitano at a friend's home in Warne, NC. With Reitano in tow, he told Deputy Walker that he set out to deliver packages, Sheriff Mason said.

"Walker asked him what was wrong with his girlfriend and he told Walker that she had had a 'pretty good night,' and that's why he was driving her," the sheriff said.

Following consent to search the vehicle and Reitano's purse, deputies discovered marijuana in Reitano's purse, Sheriff Mason said.

Deputies also found a black and silver container that allegedly contained marijuana. Deputies asked Davis who the container belonged to and what it was used for.

"He told them that's where he put his marijuana," Sheriff Mason said.

While searching the vehicle, deputies found U.S. mail mixed in with a lot of trash in the vehicle, Sheriff Mason said.

Both Davis and Reitano were placed under arrest for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana. Davis also was charged with traffic violations, sheriff's reports

show.

The vehicle, with an ample supply of U.S. mail, was impounded. Sheriff's Sgt. Shawn Dyer notified the U.S. Postal Service that the vehicle and its contents had been impounded by the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Inside the vehicle were 17 packages, 251 pieces of U.S. mail, a 600-count bundle of post cards, and 10 magazines, and or catalogs, Sheriff Mason said.

The case remains under investigation, Sheriff Mason said.

"A postal inspector came to Union County in reference to this case," the sheriff said. "I can tell you that it is and remains under investigation regarding the undelivered mail."

Drugs...from Page 1A

pound of marijuana, and approximately 80 Lortabs, Lt. Deyton said.

The pound of marijuana was discovered on Potter's property by three K-9 patrol dogs, Lt. Deyton said.

This isn't Potter's first brush with law enforcement. He was convicted of posses-

sion of marijuana with intent to distribute in August 2007 in Union County Superior Court. He also was convicted of manufacturing a controlled substance, state records show.

He received 10-year sentences for each conviction, state records show.

Potter served almost

five years of those sentences and was released on parole on Feb. 27, 2012, state Department of Corrections records show.

The Sheriff's Office will begin property seizure procedures in regards to Potter's most recent drug-related arrest, Sheriff Mason said.

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