

Busbee...from Page 1A

a meeting on Tuesday where the competitors were given an idea as to what to expect, received their uniform stipulations and turned in a resume' and their CPR cards. It would be Thursday before Busbee would get to compete and with more than 15,000 students, teachers, and family in town for the four-day event, plenty of activities were available to keep them occupied not only at the Kansas City Convention Center, but around town. While in town, Busbee visited a large trade show at the convention center, visited the Steamboat Arabia, and the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial.

"We had a great time and got to do some sightseeing," Cook said. "It was a lot of fun since none of us had ever been there before."

"I would like to thank God for blessing me with the chance to go to Nationals," Busbee said upon her arrival home. "I would also like to thank the Union County School System for letting me represent our school at the national level. I would like to thank Jennifer Ludlum and Sandra Cook for all of the time and effort that went in to making sure our trip was successful. I would like to thank my parents for all of their support and encouragement."



Busbee performs CPR on an infant while the judge looks on.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Blairsville community for generously sponsoring and investing in me as one of the next generation of professional workers."

Cook also thanked those who made this trip possible.

"There were a lot of people who sponsored us on our trip and they deserve some recognition too," Cook said.

Appalachian Home Healthcare, Baker Chiropractic, Brasstown Pharmacy, Bruce and Sheila Chapman, Chapman & Chapman and As-

sociates, Dr. Ronnie Dyer, Dr. Thomas Karisny, the UCHS Key Club, Northeast Georgia Dermatology, Walmart, United Community Bank, Union General Hospital, and John Grimer all helped out and made the trip possible.

"I think Courtney did a great job considering this was her first time competing at the National level," Cook added. "I'm sure that next year she will continue to do well and hopefully go to Nationals again."

Ralston...from Page 1A

Dehler, a former contributor to Ralston's political campaign as the investigator, known as a special master, requested by the State Bar of Georgia.

Dehler is married to Young Harris College President Cathy Cox, a former Georgia Secretary of State and a Democratic candidate for Governor.

According to the Atlanta Journal Constitution, records show that Dehler contributed \$500 to Ralston's re-election campaign in 2010, and Cox

donated \$250 to Ralston in 2013.

Dehler told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that he looked at his contribution records last week after being appointed and found that he'd given about \$30,000 to political candidates over the past decade.

"If I thought I was biased (for contributing), I wouldn't have accepted the assignment by the Supreme Court," he said.

Jim Powell, the Federal

Representative to the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) is also confident in the appointment of Dehler as the special master in the Ralston case.

"Mark Dehler is a great choice by the Georgia Supreme Court to serve as an independent investigator into the allegations against Speaker Ralston," Powell said. "Mark is well known for his honesty and integrity. He will not allow politics to cloud his judgment and objectivity."

Boat Parade...from Page 1A

her marina. In fact, it has been more than 20 years since she started one of Blairsville's most popular Fourth of July traditions.

However this time around was different. As crowds fought for position along the shorelines, boats of all shapes and sizes filled the cove, and cars lined the side of the Murphy Hwy., Doucette couldn't hide her excitement as she stood lakeside, witnessing what was without a doubt, the largest turnout ever for her July 4th bash.

"This is the biggest one we've ever had," she said. "This time I was actually able to get out and talk to all of the people who were up there watching. There were people all over the place and the boats were all going all around to make sure everyone got to see."

Following the parade, Doucette, with the help of family and friends decided on the victor. When a winner was declared, they ventured out onto Lake Nottely where Doucette was able to personally hand out the awards.

The vessel titled "Road Kill" took first prize with their Road Kill Café stealing the show. Although they were



The 'Red, White and Blue Canoe' paddled for nearly an hour to reach Nottely Marina. Photo/Todd Forrest

quick to advertise that no animals were harmed during the decorating of their boat.

Other popular boats were the "It's 5:00 Somewhere" boat, "The red, white, and blue," "Fourth of July" boat, the "Beach Party" boat, the "Family Fourth" boat, the "American Proud" boat, the "Happy Face" boat, the "Red, White, and Blue Canoe," the "Amphibious Car" and the "Hula Boat."

As the show has evolved since the early 1990's, selecting a winner has actually become a little less tricky according to Doucette.

"When we first started, everyone decorated their boats red, white, and blue, which

was kind of expected" she said. "We would pick the winner then go out to give them their trophy and we couldn't find them because they all looked the same. That's when I decided to change it and allow any theme and that's when it became very popular."

With fireworks dominating Independence Day's evening festivities, the Nottely Marina Boat Parade has undoubtedly cemented its place as July 4th's must-see family fun in the a.m.

"The weather is perfect and everybody is having fun and being safe," said Tom Kester, who was attending his first Nottely boat parade. "You couldn't find a better day anywhere in America."

Security...from Page 1A

cle but the general consensus remained positive towards the new safety measures.

"We only had three people who were really upset by it," said James. "Everyone else understood what was going on and why they had to be there. They understand that it's the law and some even wondered what took so long."

Union County was one of the last courthouses in the state to put in the metal detectors and if it wasn't for

Georgia House Bill 60, they wouldn't be necessary.

"To keep someone from bringing a weapon into the building, we had to place a deputy at the door," Sgt. James said. "If you don't have a deputy there, there is nothing you can do to prevent weapons from being brought inside."

Sometime this week, James expects the new 'walk-through' metal detectors to be installed which will decrease

the use of the hand wands.

"If we find something we'll simply ask you to return it to your vehicle," he said. "We also understand that a lot of people have medical conditions like knee replacement or hip replacement that will set it off and there is nothing that can be done about that."

Later this month, X-ray machines will be added to the courthouse entrances to scan bags, purses, wallets, etc.

Blairsville Fireworks...from Page 1A

idly disappearing, resulting in a considerable, uphill trek to the best possible viewing locations. However that didn't deter anyone from celebrating our nation's birthday as patriotism was at an all-time high.

Other popular locales were on the other side of Hwy. 515 at North Georgia Technical College, United Methodist Church, and McDonald's.

The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce was selling raffle tickets for a chance to win \$1,000. The proceeds from the raffle help cover the cost of the fireworks.

Causey Orthodontics also showed its community pride by handing out free snow cones at North Georgia Tech.

As the sun began to set

on the horizon over the Blue Ridge Mountains and Hwy. 515 you could sense the excitement in the air as spectators young and old anxiously kept an eye on the sky.

When the daylight finally disappeared and the first streak of light was seen leaving Meeks Park headed skyward one could hear a collective inhale from the crowd. As the streak of light erupted into a dazzling display of colors, cheers erupted from the multitude of onlookers gathered throughout the park and the college.

For close to 30 minutes blast after blast brought an array of loud bangs, glittering lights, clapping, and cheering. After the final fuse was lit and the grand finale provided the

icing on the cake, everyone went home with a sense of American Pride as our nation's birthday came to a close.

To bring you this year's display, the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce teamed up with the Woodmen of the World. The fireworks would also not be possible without the support of the following businesses: Blairsville Realty, RE/MAX Highlands-Blairsville, Causey Orthodontics, Coosa Creek Marketing Products, M-Design, Jeff Davis State Farm, Blairsville Pack & Ship, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Huddle House Restaurant, Victoria's Center, Appalachian Home Health, Logan Turnpike Mill, and Ms. Julie's Child Care & Learning Center.