

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Fourth Green Bean Festival thrives in 2013

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

If the Union County Farmers Market seemed a little more crowded on Saturday, it's because it's that time of year again.

The Fourth Annual Green Bean Festival was held at the Market with the action starting on Friday evening with a square dance.

The festival was then up and running bright and early Saturday morning, literally.

The Green Bean 5K run began at 8 a.m. - 15-year-old Adam Urbaniuk took top finish with 18:20.7 - followed by a beauty pageant, the festival itself, then a Block Party on Saturday night featuring live music by Modern Vinyl.

The festival has something for everyone, not just those who were in the Market



Mr. Green Bean, Sammy Ensley, was making everyone's day on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

for some farm fresh fruit or produce.

The 2013 edition featured live music, crafts, artisans, demonstrations, cannery tours, some tent with appearances by Mr. Green Bean, and a little bit of everything to suit everyone's

taste. However, the focus of the festival is our nation's backbone, local farmers.

All vendors were in high spirits as the general consensus among the farmers on Saturday, was this one saw possibly the

largest crowd the Market has seen all year, far exceeding the 2012 festival.

A regular at the Market, Larry Elliott from Sunrise Grocery, was able to sell all his stock of fresh South Carolina peaches and make some new friends in the process.

"It's been a great day so far," Elliott said. "I've sold a lot of peaches and have been able to talk with some great folks."

Items were going fast and furious and if you weren't at the Market before noon, the pickings were slim.

"It's been wonderful and I've sold out," Pat Lorenz said. "I've already used up all my cheese and it's not even noon yet. I'm down to only beef jerky and cupcake left."

That was the theme of the day among the vendors, who were returning home to grab more goods, as many

See *Green Bean*, 6A

SPLOST IV on Nov. 5th General Election ballot

By Charles Duncan
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Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris is putting the extension of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax on the Nov. 5th General Election Ballot.

The six-year run of SPLOST III comes to a close in March 2015. The county is looking to extend the 1-cent sales tax for six years with an affirmative vote in November. Collections, if approved by voters, would begin in April 2015.

The early ballot for SPLOST IV allows time to put the measure back on the ballot in two years if there is a negative vote with only minimal lapse in sales tax collections.

Commissioner Paris said



Lamar Paris

a series of public hearings will be held to help choose the projects list and priority in which they will be completed.

The current SPLOST III ends March 2015 following a six-year run.

The projected dollar amount for SPLOST IV is

See *SPLOST*, 2A

Cseh, Durden and McCurry Indicted during July Term

By Charles Duncan
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Three men from out of state have been indicted on charges related to an April 18th traffic stop in Blairsville by the Georgia State Patrol, according to indictments handed up by the July Term of the Union County Grand Jury.

Jason Levi McCurry, 33, and Allan Richard Cseh, 53, both of Murphy, NC, and Kevin Dewayne Durden, 39, of Famer, Tenn., have been charged and accused individually and as parties concerned in the commission of a crime, with the offense of possession of a vehicle to commit a crime, a five-count grand jury indictment shows.

The three men were arrested following a traffic stop by Georgia State Trooper Jason Bradburn, Union County Sheriff's Office reports show. Trooper Bradburn conducted a traffic stop on a white Jeep Grand Cherokee for failure to signal as it turned into the Golden Pantry off Georgia 515 and U.S. 129.

Sheriff's reports show



Richard Allen Cseh

that there were three male occupants in the vehicle.

Trooper Bradburn's suspicions were aroused by the amount of items visible inside the vehicle, sheriff's reports show.

The three men consented to a search by Trooper Bradburn. Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll and Assistant Chief Michael Baxter provided backup for Trooper Bradburn. Union County Sheriff's deputies and detectives would arrive and assist in the vehicle search, sheriff's reports show.

The driver of the vehicle was McCurry, of Murphy, NC,



Kevin Dewayne Durden



Jason Levi McCurry

Cseh and Durden were passengers, sheriff's reports show.

See *Indict*, 3A

Fire Station 1, a community celebration

By Charles Duncan
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Union County Fire Chief/EMA Director Charles Worden got emotional last week as the county welcomed the new Fire Station 1 into the fold.

Chief Worden has watched helplessly as his firefighters lived in mold conditions and later, in a cramped mobile home.

However, he knew a day was coming that the county and its firefighters would soon have a new headquarters.

"This new station is really a highlight of my career," Chief Worden said. "It's been an incredible day. To see this expansion completed, to see the people of the county come together to be a part of this special day."

"It all started through the Commissioner (Lamar Paris) and the taxpayers," he said.



UCFD Capt. Richard Jones does the honors as the county welcomes a new Fire Station 1 on Shoe Factory Road. Photo/Charles Duncan

"I'm well pleased for the firefighters that are here 24 hours a day. I'm humbled that the taxpayers have provided them with a comfortable place to stay and the facilities to cook and sleep. It's just a great day."

The facilities also include a state of the art Emergency Op-

erations Center, a place where well informed decisions during an emergency crisis.

"We've been working for a long time to make this happen," Commissioner Lamar

See *Station 1*, 2A

Students return to classrooms Aug. 6th



Pay close attention to the map. There's a new drop off location at Union County High School.

By Charles Duncan
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The collective yell you may have just heard as you read this story was probably the voices of Union County students.

Some are excited, some long for more summer vacation.

The bottom line: those big yellow buses are ready to roll on Aug. 6th.

On Aug. 5th, the Union County School System will host its annual "Meet Your

Teacher" Day, the day before school begins countywide.

Parents and students are invited to drop by their children's schools to tour the buildings and meet their teachers.

See *School*, 6A

Townsend inaugurates Sturgeon's Amphitheater

By Charles Duncan
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Ellijay - If you loved the music of Waylon Jennings, you'll love Waymore's Outlaws.

All you have to do is kick back, close your eyes and you'll swear you're listening to the Outlaw himself.

Of course, the voice you're listening to is that of Blairsville native Tommy Townsend.

Townsend and Waymore's Outlaws help inaugurate the brand new Sturgeon's Amphitheater on Aug. 10th in Ellijay.

The amphitheater isn't hard to find. It's at 7661 Highway 515 North in Ellijay. The gates open at 5 p.m., the shows start at 8 p.m.



Tommy Townsend and Waymore's Outlaws will perform at Sturgeon's Amphitheater Aug. 10th in Ellijay at 8 p.m.

Townsend and Waymore's Outlaws will be joined by Confederate Railroad as James Sturgeon's masterpiece amphitheater kicks off the first of what will be

many a mountain concerts. "It truly is an honor to be a part of this excitement," said Townsend, who now calls

See *Tommy*, 3A

Collins named new advertising director

By Charles Duncan
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NGN/TCH Inc. Publisher Kenneth West has chosen Joe Collins as the new advertising director in Union and Towns counties.

Collins, 50, comes to the position after serving in a writing capacity with the *Towns County Herald*, sister newspaper of the *North Georgia News*.

At the *Herald*, Collins served as a staff writer and Sports Editor.

"We're proud to have Joe with us in this capacity," West said. "In this business, you have to surround yourself with people that you know and trust."

"Joe Collins is one of those people that I want going to bat for the *North Georgia News* and *Towns County Herald*,"



Joe Collins

West said.

"He's proven his work ethic over the past year," West said. "I know that people here know and respect Joe, and we're proud to have him working with us."

Collins was a standout athlete at Union County High School where he played several sports, but, mainly, basketball

and golf. The 6-foot, 5-inch Collins was a mainstay on the basketball court and golf course for the Union County Panthers.

Collins also is a top flight golfer, carried over from his playing days in high school and professionally.

He will continue to write his weekly column, *Tips from the Range*, West said.

As for Collins, he's excited about his new duties.

"It's such an honor to get to work for Kenneth West," Collins said. "Kenneth is a fine man and a wonderful human being."

"The opportunity to serve as advertising director for the *North Georgia News* and *Towns County Herald* is exciting," Collins said. "It's humbling to hold that much trust in the eyes of Kenneth West. It's easy working for such a good and honest man."

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