

North Georgia News

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Fourth of July weekend looks really busy

By Charles Duncan
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The Fourth of July Weekend gets started at the Union County Farmers Market on Friday, July 3 with the Blairsville Cruisers.

The fun starts with a motorcycle show from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 3rd, at the Union County Farmers Market (148 Old Smokey Road) and continues as the classic cars and trucks begin rolling into the Farmers Market around 4 p.m.

The fun continues on Saturday, July 4th as Allegheny Lodge No. 114 F&AM kicks off the Fourth of July with its annual Patriotic Big Country Breakfast at the Lodge, at 60 Rogers St., just off the Downtown Square.

The \$6 breakfast, which begins at 7 a.m. and concludes at 11 a.m., consists of pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea or milk.

The breakfast gets ev-



eryone kick started for the Fourth of July celebration that begins at Vogel State Park at 8:30 a.m. with fun and games for children of all ages. It also prepares everyone as the fun continues with 11 a.m. on Lake Nottely with the 19th Annual Fourth of July Boat Parade at Nottely Marina.

Boats and spectators are expected to be out in full force. In 1996, Nottely Marina owner Carleen Doucette began the annual Fourth of July Boat Parade and it has become a Union County tradition ever since.

The annual Independence Day Boat Parade on

Lake Nottely is sure to delight young and old. Anyone with a boat is welcome to line up at the marina beginning at 11 a.m. At 11:30 a.m. the boats will pass in review.

The fun doesn't end there. The annual community fireworks display at Meeks Park is scheduled for Saturday, July 4 at Meeks Park. The show will begin after dark and is certain to be a memorable one.

As in past years, the Chamber will again offer chances to win \$1,000 by making a \$10 donation toward the fireworks display. The winner will be drawn on the evening of July 4th, and does not have to be present to win. Tickets are available at the Chamber office within the Union County Community Center located at 129 Union County Recreation Road.

The 2015 Fireworks Show is co-sponsored by Woodmen of the World, a See Fourth, Page 2A

EMC Board disqualifies Henson from Board of Directors

By Charles Duncan
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The Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors has disqualified board member Danny Henson because of a business partnership with fellow board member Greg Owenby.

Henson, who was recently appointed to replace Union County board member Bob Ensley, because of Ensley's failing health, said he made the board aware of his business relationship with Owenby before he was appointed.

"I didn't try to hide anything," Henson said. "I guess



Danny Henson

the board members thought that everyone had done their due diligence. The ball was dropped somewhere how-

See Henson, Page 2A

Sheriff's Office to teach how to avoid being scammed

By Charles Duncan
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The Union County Sheriff's Office will host an informational session regarding scams to avoid. The session will be held at Branan Lodge from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

"The session is open to the public and will be conducted by Detective Capt. Pat Williams, and Detective SSgt. Daren Osborn," Sheriff Mason said.



Sheriff Mack Mason

SSgt. Osborn said that the public needs to be

See Scam, Page 2A

Harrah's hosts job fair for Valley River

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Hayesville, NC - Hundreds of area job hunters lined up for a job fair at the Clay County Government Building on Tuesday, June 23, hoping to fill a position at Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino & Hotel.

Valley River is expected to open its doors in Murphy, NC, in late summer, early fall of this year, and 280 of 495 attendees who applied that Tuesday were identified for positions, with still more applications under review.

"We're looking for the best folks that we can find to deliver the best service to our guests," said Valley River Human Resources Manager Nancy Rosenbury to those gathered just before the start of the fair. "So, that's what we hope we have in all of you."

Available positions varied, from surveillance to food and beverage, from table games and slots to



People from all over Northeast Georgia and Western Carolina are hopeful of gaining employment with the new casino being built in Murphy, NC. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

marketing. Hourly wages ran between \$5.25 for tipped positions up to \$15 plus for non-tipped positions.

"We have some jobs that we're looking for a specific job set, but in all of our positions, we're looking for friendly, helpful attitudes, and people with a passion to serve, because that's what we do in

our industry is serve our guests and take care of each other," said Valley River General Manager Lumbert.

"So, we're looking for those type of personalities. We can train and we will train our employees on any of our specific areas, but we're looking for individuals that are outgoing and willing to serve in a

service environment."

The brand new casino and hotel, also owned by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and managed by Caesars Entertainment Corporation, will be geared toward a different market than Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort.

"This property (in See Harrah's, Page 2A

Brown living the dream of the NFL

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Since graduating from Georgia Tech in 2004, Blairsville's Robby Brown has been climbing the coaching ladder, and following stops at colleges across the South, the former Panther quarterback has landed a job in the NFL as the Offensive Quality Control coach for the New York Jets.

As for Brown's connection with Jets' Offensive Coordinator Jets' Gailey, they go back to their days in Atlanta where Brown, a walk-on quarterback for the Yellow Jackets, played under Gailey, who was the head coach of the Ramblin' Wreck.

In 2003, Brown made the team as a walk-on and played in two games during his Georgia Tech career, and both were Tech game victories. He played the final series at quarterback in Tech's victories in the Humanitarian Bowl against Tulsa in January 2004 and the Champs Sports Bowl against Syracuse in December 2004. He was also named to the 2003-04 ACC Academic Honor Roll.

"Everybody has a crazy story, but how the whole thing played out is really amazing," Brown said. "Scott Carter introduced me to Coach Gailey and that's how I wound up walking on at Georgia Tech. He introduced me 17 years ago and I don't even know



The New York Jets' Robby Brown, left, chats with Jets' WR Quincy Enunwa.

how he knew him, but it was pretty neat to call (Scott) and tell him that I was headed to the NFL."

Following graduation in December 2004, Brown, with the help of Coach Gailey, landed a graduate assistant job at Troy State University in Troy, Ala., where Gailey served as a defensive backs coach from 1976-78, and later, as a head coach for two seasons beginning in 1983.

When Brown began his coaching career, an NFL job seemed impossible. As a matter of fact, his original goal was to be a part of Head

Coach Brian Allison's staff at Union County High School.

"Not in my wildest dreams did I believe that I would (reach the NFL)," Brown said. "Coach Gailey asked me a couple of weeks before he took the (New York Jets) job if I 'would ever be interested in going to the NFL.' At that time he was living in Clarksville and I thought he was done coaching. But when he said that he was getting back into coaching, I told him 'absolutely.'"

"I started out wanting to coach at Union County High School and be just like Brian

Allison. I really thought that I'd go to college then come back and work for him and maybe have the opportunity to take over for him someday."

Following two years at Troy that included the 2006 Sun Belt Conference Championship and a New Orleans Bowl victory, Brown was named Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach at Southwest Baptist, a Division II school in Bolivar, Mo. in 2007.

In his first-and-only See Brown, Page 12A

Audit shows increased balance sheet cash for county coffers

By Charles Duncan
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Auditors have finished their work on Union County's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget, and have turned it back over to Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris to amend budgeted figures to actual figures.

This called meeting was necessary because all FY 2014 financial statements are due to the state by June 30, and the actual numbers must be geared before turning in the county's audit.

And the good news is, the audit, running Jan. 1, 2014, through Dec. 31, 2014, shows an actual increased fund balance of \$326,134 to the general fund over the previously budgeted figures.

Commissioner Paris held a called meeting on Friday, June 26, to amend the budget, and gave some highlights of the amended budget in the meeting.

"This is something we do every year that's a normal operation of any county, because you're estimating your budget," said Commissioner



Lamar Paris

Paris. "Just to give you an idea, we're preparing our budget now for 2016.

"We won't adopt the budget until almost the end of the year, but we'll set the millage, which in effect ties us to a pretty good number. And we'll be doing that in September. We're working on next year's budget, and then the auditors are working on last year's budget."

2014 revenues were slightly down from a bud- See General Fund, Page 3A

Sheriff's Annual Picnic brings workers together

By Shawn Jarrard
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Staff Writer

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason, his deputies, jail staff and their families enjoyed some fun in the sun at Meeks Park for the annual Sheriff's Summer Picnic on Thursday, June 25.

"As I told a lady the other day," Sheriff Mason said to those gathered just before food was served, "she was bragging on what a great job we did, or me specifically, and I said, well, you can look at me and tell I'm not anything on my own, and she said, yeah, I know."

"But that's the truth. I get all my strength from the Lord. If y'all have got any, that's probably where it came from, too. It humbles me and it honors me to be where I'm at and to have this caliber of people working for me, and I



Union County Sheriff Mack Mason leads his team of deputies and jailers in prayer at Meeks Park. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

preach that everywhere I go." Since Sheriff Mason took office, he has called the Sheriff's Office and jail staff together for Christmas celebrations and summer get-togethers, featuring plenty of food and fellowship.

"This gives us a chance See Picnic, Page 3A

Vol. 106 No. 27 Inside

2 Sections, 24 Pages

Arrests 8A
Churches 9A
Classifieds 3B
Opinion 4A
Legals 6B
Obits 11A
Sports 12A

Weather

Thurs: Rain Hi 76 Lo 63
Fri: Rain Hi 81 Lo 63
Sat: Clouds Hi 84 Lo 62

Celebrate a SAFE & HAPPY JULY 4TH!