

Gunter ...from Page 1A

Added Gunter, "It's partly for that reason that I'm retiring, but I've got some health issues with members of the family that I know will be more pressing on my time in the next few years, so it just seemed like a good time to go ahead and retire."

Along with a renewed focus on family in retirement, including quality time with his grandkids, "this other endeavor I'm getting into will also take a good bit of my time as well, keep me busy."

"I plan to improve my golf game, too," Gunter said.

The retiring judge hails from Habersham County but has lived in Blairsville for many years, and Gunter said he and wife Rita of 37 years plan to stay in Union County post-retirement.

"I'm not moving anywhere," Gunter said. "We built a home about three years ago, and we're still trying to break it in. We spend a lot of time away from it just because of family stuff going on, which, again, is one of the reasons that I'm retiring."

When it comes to his legacy, Gunter said he hopes to be remembered as a fair judge who treated people well in the courtroom.

As far as what he will miss most about his job, Gunter said that, hands down, it'll be working with people to change their lives in Drug Court, which he brought to the northern part of the circuit several years ago, and Mental Health Court, which he took over after Judge Miller retired.

"The Accountability Courts, they were a big reward for me, and I'm going to miss those folks and really hope that they do well," said Gunter, who views such programs as

crucial aspects of criminal justice reform. "All these folks are regular people but they have issues, and if we can help them with those issues, we can get them back to doing normal things."

"That's always rewarding when that happens. It has a huge impact, not just on the individual who comes through the court, but on all of their family and coworkers and employers—people like that all get a benefit from it."

His time on the bench would have certainly made proud his father, the late World War II Veteran and Chief Judge Jack Norman Gunter of the Mountain Judicial Circuit.

At the time, the Mountain Circuit was made up of Union, Towns, Rabun, Stephens and Habersham counties.

The Enotah Judicial Circuit came into existence not long after Gunter's father retired in 1992, as Towns and Union joined Lumpkin and White to form the new four-county circuit.

N. Stanley Gunter began his own legal career after graduating from the Woodrow Wilson College of Law and becoming a member of the State Bar of Georgia in 1986. The young lawyer shared a special moment with his dad when the elder Gunter swore him in to the practice of law.

Gunter got his first job as an attorney in the spring of '87, working for Gov. Joe Frank Harris as his assistant executive council, and later, his executive council. And when Gov. Harris left office in 1991, Gunter moved to Blairsville to practice law with local attorney Charles Cory.

After working with Cory for a few months, Gunter struck out on his own and ran a private

legal practice for several years until resolving to answer the call to public service.

He ran for election as district attorney in 1998 and won in a multi-candidate field, becoming DA of the Enotah Judicial Circuit in 1999. Gunter served in that capacity for three terms before leaving office in December 2010.

Following an unsuccessful bid for election to the Georgia Court of Appeals, he accepted a job with the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia, and he soon found himself leading the organization as executive director.

He remained there for about a year and a half before applying for a vacant judgeship on the Enotah Judicial Circuit in 2012, and Gov. Nathan Deal selected Gunter for the position.

Two years later, in 2014, Gunter ran for and won re-election to his seat, and he ran again and won re-election to a four-year term last year.

Sept. 9 was the deadline for potential candidates to apply for an appointment to fill the roughly three years left in Gunter's term.

The state's Judicial Nominating Commission is in the process of reviewing submitted applications and will soon send Gov. Kemp a narrowed list for consideration and subsequent appointment.

Appalachian Duplicate Bridge Club News

On Monday, September 9, seven and one half tables of the Appalachian Duplicate Bridge Club played a Howell movement at All Saints Lutheran Church with average scoring of 84.0. Joan and Joe Lane placed first with a score of 106.0. Coming in second were Carolyn Neighbors and Marge Schroeder with a score of 93.15. Third place went to Ray Ferree and Jim Bell with a 92.62 score. Dolores Corsini and Bobbie Mace were fourth with a score of 90.46. Fifth and sixth place winners were only separated by 0.54 points. Susan Palmich and Karen Miller edged out Robert Tolliver and Lucy Kizirian to claim fifth place with a score of 87.77. That left Robert and Lucy in sixth place with a score of 87.23.

On Thursday, five full tables were in play and the Howell movement was again in play. Average scoring was 54.0. Myrna Ponkauskas and Karen Miller Claimed first place with a score of 63.5. They were followed by Joe Wald and Jim Bell in second place with a score of 62.0. Connie Smith and Chris Barnett came in third with a score of 59.5. Rounding out the day's winners were Dolores Corsini and Robert Tolliver with a score of 57.5 to claim fourth place.

The club plays every Monday and Thursday beginning at 1 p.m. at All Saints and would welcome any interested players to join them. If you need more information on the game or need to arrange for a partner, contact Ray Ferree at 850-384-3642 or raygfer1430@gmail.com.

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Operation Care Package

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

The VFW Auxiliary Post 7807 in Hiawassee is in need of monetary donations to help support "Operation Care Package". Postage is needed to send packages to our troops serving over seas.

Make checks payable to: VFW Auxiliary, P.O. Box 624, Hiawassee, GA 30546, Attn: Operation Care Package.

Warriors Veteran Outreach Disaster Relief Trailer



The Warriors Veteran Outreach Disaster Relief Trailer, Murphy, NC, is set up to respond, on location, to situations where lives are in jeopardy and property is in danger. The trailer is set up to support four to six people with equipment and supplies to help out where help is needed. The trailer and crew require no outside assistance for food, water, electricity, shelter, fuel, etc. Our goal is to be there to help without adding to the problem. For information call 828-557-6881, Mike Bessette. NT(Sep18.Z20)CA

Classics, antiques and hot rods on the Square in Blairsville



The Blairsville Cruisers Car Club will host our monthly cruise-in on the historic Courthouse Square in Blairsville from 4-7 PM on Saturday, September 21st. Awards will be given for "Best Rat Rod" and other awards will be given for Class Winner and Club Choice. Come enjoy the show and be sure to get your donation tickets for the beautiful Mustang convertible. The drawing will be here before you know it. The car will be given away at our Salute to Veterans Car Show Nov. 2nd at the Union County Farmers Market.

The Blairsville Cruisers Car Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation consisting of members in North Georgia and Western North Carolina whose members are auto enthusiasts and who are dedicated to the community. Members are predominately from Blairsville, Hiawassee, Young Harris and Blue Ridge in Georgia and from Hayesville and Murphy, North Carolina.

The Cruisers became a non-profit club in 2007 and have supported the community



2008 Ford Mustang Convertible Raffle Car since then with their charitable programs.

The Blairsville Cruisers members and sponsors work diligently throughout the year to bring needy children a brighter Christmas season through the clubs support of the several needy kids programs in Union, Towns, Clay and Cherokee counties.

This year the club will give away a beautiful 2008 Ford Mustang convertible. Donation tickets for the drawing are \$5 each or \$20 for five tickets. They are available at all the club events and shows and from any club member. The car will also be on display at our Union County Farmers Market Car Shows in Blairsville on the first Saturday of each month and at our Cruise-

In on the historic Square in Blairsville and a many other community events.

You can make a donation by mail if you prefer. Send a check and your name, address & good contact phone number to: Blairsville Cruisers, P.O. Box 2502, Blairsville, GA 30514. Tickets are \$5 each and 5 for a \$20 donation. Our volunteers will fill out your ticket and return the stubs to you by mail. Photos of the car are on our website, BlairsvilleCruisers.com. Also see us on Facebook at "Blairsville Cruisers Car Club".

The car will be given away at our last event of 2019 at the Salute to Veterans Car Show on November 2nd at the Union County Farmers Market. NT(Sep18.Z12)CA

Cruise In On The Square

No Entry Fee • Door Prizes • Trophies • 50/50 Drawing • Local Dining

3rd Saturday of the month from 4 PM - 7 PM
On the Historic Downtown Square in Blairsville, GA

Join us all season long as we host events to raise money for the children of our community.

For more information visit:
www.BlairsvilleCruisers.com

Mentalist Terry Wenham ready to amaze at The Peacock

You will not be watching magic tricks on September 28 at the Peacock. Terry says that it's not about "I'm clever and I can fool you". His goal is to ignite that same sense of wonderment and amazement that you felt so often as a child. You will be captivated, thrilled and mystified by the amazing things that you and Terry will do together. You will communicate with Terry, and between yourselves, not by using your voice but directly between your minds. You will experience a murder mystery, an 1850 spiritualist phenomenon, you will do what the FBI couldn't and a whole bunch more.

Some of you experienced Terry's fun talents in 2016 at the Peacock Gala. His mentalist skill was so great, many patrons requested that



Terry Wenham

we invite him back. Join us in welcoming Terry back to our stage and come for an evening of fun and astonishment to be had by all. Terry says: "I have a big secret that I am asked about all of the time. It's hard for me to talk about this, but

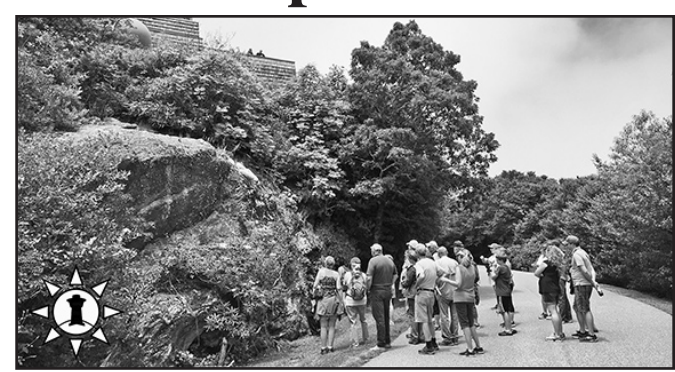
here goes 'I am not a psychic!' But you will find that hard to believe because... we are going to amaze ourselves."

Terry has recently been appointed to the Order of Merlin by the International Brotherhood of Magicians for his twenty five years of continuous membership, has twice served as President of the Georgia Magic Club, is a member of the Society of American Magicians and is an Associate of the Inner Circle of the world's most prestigious magic organization, England's Magic Circle.

Tickets are available online at thepeacocknc.org, at the theater box office Monday-Friday 10 AM-2 PM, at Tiger's Department Store on the Square in Hayesville, NC or by calling 828-389-2975. NT(Sep18.Z17)CA

Our surrounding geology at Brasstown Bald September 21

Two authors will team up on Saturday, September 21 from 11:30 AM - 2 PM to reveal the geology of the Brasstown Bald area and how it influences plants and animals. Geologist Dr. Bill Witherspoon, co-author of Roadside Geology of Georgia and Bio-geographer, Dr. Leslie Edwards, co-author of Natural Communities of Georgia, will present a slide talk in the mountain top theater, "A Window through Time: Geology and Nature at Georgia's Highest Summit." Following the talk and book signing, attendees can explore mountain-top paths with the authors and see the many rock types and plant communities that make Brasstown Bald an exceptional Georgia destination.



The program traces the path of a once-separate tectonic plate that was first thrust over this part of North America, then partially eroded away. Lying in a "window," Brasstown Bald's craggy rocks, with their tiny red garnets, are surrounded by very different rocks from a far-distant ocean

floor. Biologically, Georgia's highest peak is like an "island in the sky," sheltering plants that were more widespread in the southeast when the climate was cooler, and are now in their southernmost outpost here. Program is \$5 and does not include park entry. Pre-register: bit.ly/2KOV6pU.