

# Reece...from Page 1A

Trolley providing food for the event – free barbecue, yum!

The North Georgia Chamber Symphony Quartet will be performing, and there will be a Readers' Theatre dramatic reading from a 1979 project from Young Harris College, according to ByronHerbertReeceSociety.org.

Dr. John Kay, founding chairman of the Reece Society, will provide the opening remarks, and Barton College Professor Jim Clark also will speak.

The event's featured speaker is scheduled to be Terry Reece, nephew of Byron Herbert Reece.

Those involved in the Reece Society have been hard at work organizing and spreading the word about the centennial celebration, and many just want

the communities that were once so close to Reece to appreciate the legacy of the Appalachian native.

"One of the most accomplished poets and authors in the history of the state and the region came from this community, and (people) don't know that," said Sanford Freeman, Reece Society President. "His work is not taught; it's not publicized."

"There is a genius that came from among us whose memory should be celebrated. He should be read, and we're taking steps in that direction."

The society has met with local educators to get the Reece in the Schools program up and running, and it has also awarded scholarships to graduating seniors at Union County High School with an eye toward expanding to other

schools.

As a tribute to Byron Herbert Reece, the North Georgia News has reestablished its Student News Page, contributed by students from Union County High School, and Middle School.

Also at the festival, the society will fill the public in on details of the recently installed polished black granite commemorative marker at the Byron Herbert Reece Trailhead, completed last month.

Freeman and other society members have been trying to make Reece more visible in the community, in people's hearts and minds, but also with physical monuments.

Recently, the society installed a seven-foot grave ledger covering Reece's burial plot at Old Union Cemetery in Young Harris.

The Whitener Monument Company of Blue Ridge crafted the grave ledger, and the society again partnered with the company to produce the commemorative marker at the Reece Trailhead.

Reece died in 1958, and a year later, members of his community gathered to commemorate and dedicate a bronze marker set in a boulder at the Reece Trailhead. And the new marker, featuring a poem from Reece's "Ballad of the Bones," is a replacement.

"At some point, somebody stole the bronze marker, so this indentation here that was carved for it in 1959 has just been sitting here all that time," said Freeman during a recent visit to the trailhead.

Continued Freeman: "This place right here gets a tremendous amount of use, so I am hoping that people will come by and see it and be moved by it, and become aware of who this person was."

Dr. Kay, who helped to get the Reece Society off the ground in 2003 and played an integral role in working to restore the Reece Farm beginning in 2012, said he believes the black granite



The new memorial marker at the Byron Herbert Reece Trailhead replaces the former bronze marker, which was installed the year after Reece's death only to be stolen years ago. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

monument is a fitting tribute that is long overdue.

"I'm just grateful to Sanford for having, I call it a vision, or at least a passion, to see that this was something that got completed," said Dr. Kay. "And I hope that many people will make their way here to see

this for themselves."

The trailhead can be found near the county line off U.S. 129 South, and the farm is located approximately a mile past Vogel State Park, also on 129 South.

# Landfest...from Page 1A



Dailey & Vincent's Landfest at Anderson Music Hall on Saturday, Sept. 16. Photo/Lily Avery

Dailey and Darrin Vincent of Dailey & Vincent decided to move the festival to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds this year after outgrowing the previous venue, and the air-conditioned Music Hall was an added plus for both the audience and artists.

Now, after a very smooth and successful first run in Hiwassee, the Fairgrounds will be hosting the Dailey & Vincent Landfest for the next three years and all those involved are excited about what those years will bring.

This contract is not only good news for the Fairgrounds, but for Towns County as well. Even with wind and rain caused by Hurricane Irma last week, all hotels in Towns County were sold out for the event, with plenty of local businesses profiting from the influx of people.

Thomason foresees an even bigger turnout next year and hopes to continue to grow the festival, as it becomes

a staple at the Fairgrounds, adding crafts vendors and more to the already dynamite weekend.

"We have another three years that we're going to be hosting Landfest," said Thomason. "Dailey & Vincent have such a huge following and people will come from everywhere to see them. Bluegrass fans are loyal and follow the artists and we had some of the best entertainment in the industry here for the three days. It was a wonderful lineup."

"I'm excited to see what the next couple of years bring. I'm hoping to grow the festival and maybe add some vendors and a couple of other things like that."

For next year, Thomason and Dailey & Vincent have already started recruiting big name artists such as The Oakridge Boys and Lee Greenwood to headline the festival, along with several other up and coming Bluegrass

artists to round out a weekend of family-friendly fun.

"I hope that everyone had a great time this weekend," said Dailey. "We have a lot of wonderful surprises for next year and we hope that everyone comes back."

"We're going to be here for the next couple of years with Hilda (Thomason) and the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. It's been a great year here and we're glad to call this home for the next few years."

Dozens of tickets have already been sold for next year, many of which were purchased Saturday night. Those interested in the event can purchase tickets at [www.georgiamountainfairgrounds.com](http://www.georgiamountainfairgrounds.com), [www.DaileyVincentFest.com](http://www.DaileyVincentFest.com) and at the Fairgrounds main office. For more details, call (706) 896-4191.

Tickets are \$110 for three reserved days, \$35 for one day, \$65 for two days and \$95 for a three-day pass.

# Meth...from Page 1A

in both Union and Lumpkin counties valued at more than \$3.2 million, authorities disposed of approximately 300 pounds of environmental waste, which included unprocessed methamphetamine, Union County Sheriff's Capt. Chad Deyton said.

Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement agents estimated the Suches lab was capable of producing a minimum of 25 to 50 kilos of crystal methamphetamine at a time, Capt. Deyton said.

Rivera-Santiago, Aponte and Duarte-Vejar were each charged with trafficking methamphetamine, according to GBI.

Eleoncio Perez-Pineda, 29, and Jose Mario Duarte-Vejar, 25, were later arrested in Dahlonega and charged with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, according to GBI.

The residence in Suches was not lived in, but rather was used as a processing site for the methamphetamine,



Angel Luis Rivera-Santiago



Eleoncio Perez-Pineda



Jose Mario Duarte-Vejar



Valentine Duarte-Vejar

Sheriff Mason said.

The Union County sheriff's deputies, Union County Emergency Management Agency and Union County Fire Department helped safely process the meth conversion lab, according to GBI.

Additional charges are pending in both Lumpkin and Union counties, and the investigation continues, according to GBI.

The immigration status of all five men is pending, and they have all been taken to the Lumpkin County Detention Center for processing, authorities said.

The joint operation included the Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office, the Lumpkin County



Victor Rafael Aponte

and Union County Sheriff's Offices, the GBI, the FBI's North Georgia Major Offender Squad, Union County Emergency Management Agency and Union County Fire Department, Capt. Deyton said.

# Celebrate Constitution Week

Celebrate Constitution Week by attending a performance of the Black Robed Regiment with Dan Fisher, a story of America's patriot preachers in the mid-1700s and how they helped shape the future of a nation. Performances on Thursday, September 21, 7 p.m., at the Blairsville Civic Center, 165 Wellborn Street, Blairsville, GA, Friday, September 22, 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., at Tri County Community College, Enloe Building in Murphy.

Sponsored by Dr. Dan's Freedom Forum and Sons of Liberty Riders. Admission is free.