

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Legal Organ of Union County

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March 27, 2013

Community mourns the loss of the iconic Jack Lance Sr.

By Charles Duncan
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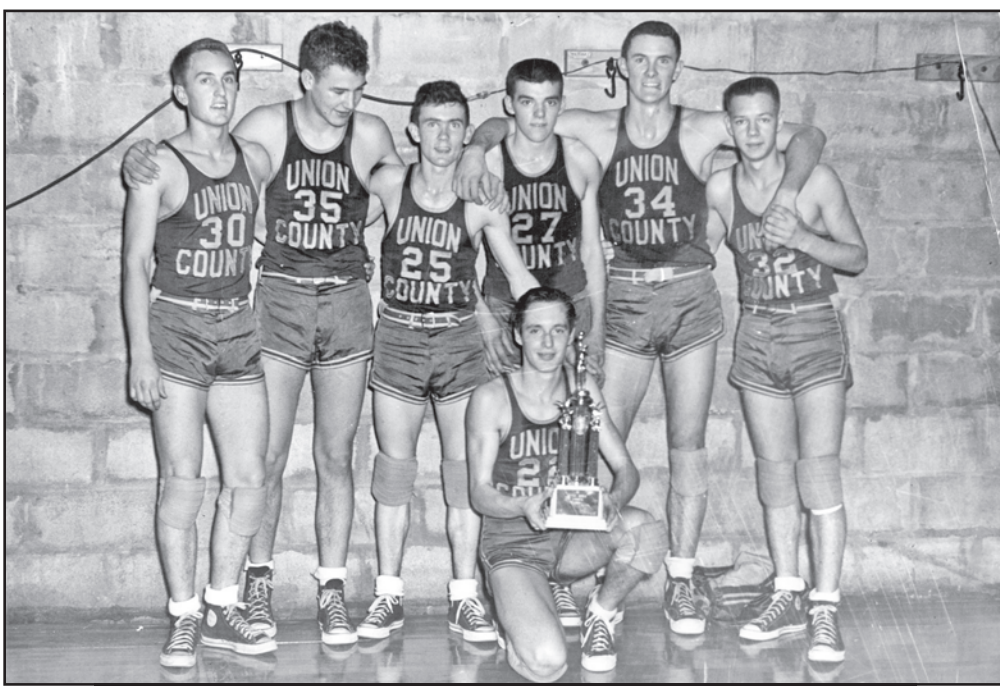
Union County and the Lance family are in mourning today.

Jack Lance Sr., 76, a Community Icon, died Sunday night at Union General Hospital following a brief illness. Mountain View Funeral Home announced Monday morning.

Lance died shortly after 11 p.m., said Union View spokesman Charles Long.

As he lay in a hospital bed Sunday evening, well-wishers flooded Union General Hospital, praying and offering their services if the family needed anything.

Ironically, news of Lance's medical condition reached the Union County Basketball Banquet Sunday afternoon. Banquet goes on headed to Union General Hos-



Members of the 1955 Region Champion Union County Panthers. Left to right, Bud Hill, George Berry, Bud Akins, Tommy Wilson, Jack Lance, Charles Hill and kneeling, Jackie Payne. Photo/Courtesy Bud Akins

pital to offer prayer for the Lance Family.

You see, Jack Lance Sr. was Mr. Basketball in Union County, playing for Coach James Butterworth from 1952-1955.

He led the Panthers to their first Region title in 1955 as well as the team's first state playoff appearance.

He also played baseball, and led the UCHS baseball team to its first State championship and first state playoff appearance, also in 1955.

"Jack and I did everything together," said Bud Akins, a teammate on the 1955 Union County basketball team. "He played honest, he never tried to hurt anyone, but, he played to win."

Glenn Hamby, who played baseball alongside Jack Lance Sr., said his teammate was a true competitor.

"Nobody ever said a bad

word about Jack, because you couldn't say a bad word about Jack," Hamby said. "If someone did say anything bad about Jack, they were making it up."

Jack Lance Sr. also played in the North-South High School Basketball All-Star Game in 1955, Akins said.

"He was like a big brother to me," Akins said, choking back tears. "We lost the first game of the 1955 State Playoffs. We lost, but, we represented the school for the first time at the state playoffs in Macon. That was Jack's senior year."

Union County lost to Lanier County 69-66. Lanier County, 37-0, went on to win the 1955 Class B State Basketball Championship. The next closest team scoring-wise finished 15 points behind Lanier County.

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More than 20,000 Easter Eggs gone in less than 15 minutes

By Joe Collins
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Easter Bunny worked overtime at Meeks Park on Saturday as more than 20,000 Easter Eggs covered the ballfields.

Fortunately, there were also more than 300 children from the local area on hand to help pick up all those eggs.

Must have had something to do with the sweet surprise inside.

The children had all those eggs picked up in less than 15 minutes.

Now all the Moms are thinking, if they would just pick up their rooms that well.

It was a grand turnout at Meeks Park Saturday when The Discover Church along with the Union County Recreation Department presented the Eighth Annual Egg Drop, which benefited the Union County Food Bank.

Each registered child was asked to bring a couple of cans of food for donation.

As the event came to a close, there were more than 400 pounds of donated food on hand.

It was a rainy day and



Some excited youngsters proudly display their haul. Photo/Joe Collins

the usual helicopter that normally dropped the eggs could not fly because of low cloud cover, but all had a good time.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris was on hand to welcome everyone and to thank the recreation department for the efforts.

He also thanked first time Egg Drop sponsor Discover Church for all their hard work and for the bulk of the eggs that were there for the kids.

They also donated the grand prizes

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Sheriff Mason hits the Jackpot

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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Union County Sheriff Mack Mason and his deputies served search warrants at the State Line Marathon Station at 10613 Murphry Highway and came away with quite a haul.

Four gambling machines, more than \$20,000 in cash seized and an illegal gambling operation is history, Sheriff Mason said last week.

Sheriff Mason said his department busted the store's gambling operation that consisted of payoffs on video gambling machines.

The Appalachian Drug Task Force assisted in the bust, Sheriff Mason said.

The bust, at Marathon State Line Gas Station, was the result of an undercover



Union County Sheriff Mack Mason with illegal gambling machines seized in last week's raid at the state line on the Murphy Highway.

operation, Sheriff Mason said.

"We had some undercover officers in the store, playing the games, getting payouts and observing the operation," the sheriff said. "The payouts came in the form of

cash, lottery tickets or gas. Lottery Commission regarding the use of lottery tickets in an illegal gambling operation."

See Gambling Bust, Page 2A

Pray at the City Hall flagpole April 4th

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley and "Awake America" Coordinator Lydia Long urge the community to gather at the flagpole at Blairsville City Hall at noon on April 4th.

That's when the Awake America prayer meeting begins as members of the Union County community and neighboring communities will gather at the City Hall flagpole in Blairsville.

Actually, it's just the beginning as prayer meetings will be held monthly at the City Hall flagpole.

The lone exception, Thursday, May 2nd. That's when the National Day of Prayer will be held at the First Baptist Church in Blairsville.

Monthly prayer meetings resume on Thursday, June 6th at the City Hall flag-



pole. Mayor Conley and Long invite each member of the community to come and be a part of the launching of this Community prayer meeting.

"We lift up our nation's leaders, those in authority and for revival for our communities," Long said.

Awake America prayer meetings began regionally five years ago.

The first site was downtown Blue Ridge, in Fannin

County, at the city park gazebo and is now expanding to Blairsville/Union County.

Every month for the past five years, members of the clergy, government leaders, business owners, and individuals have come together in unity from various denominations to pray.

"Awake America" Community Prayer Meetings are based on II Chronicles 7:14. - *If My people who are called by My name shall humble themselves and pray, seek My face, repent and turn from their wicked ways... then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land.* (KJV)

"We are now beginning to see results from these prayer gatherings by unity in our government, churches and civic organizations," Long said. "We are inviting you to come be a part of the move of God as we continue to humble

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Streetscape meeting at Historic Courthouse

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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A \$429,000-plus Transportation grant has come through and the city of Blairsville will begin a facelift project for the Downtown Square in early April.

The Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. and is scheduled for

property owners and businesses impacted by the renovations, Mayor Jim Conley said.

"It's going to take some time to complete and this meeting with the contractor will let them know what's going on, what's going to happen and how it affects them," Mayor Conley said. "When Streetscape is done, ev-

eryone will have a different taste in their mouths about Downtown.

City Councilwoman Rhonda Mahan said Streetscape is welcomed.

"It's going to give Downtown something it's been needing for years," she said. "A fresh face. It's all about making Downtown pedestrian friendly."

Kiwanis Mountain Fair April 9-14

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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Time flies when you're having fun.

Yes, it's time for the Fifth Annual Blairsville Kiwanis Mountain Fair, scheduled for April 9-14 at the Union County Industrial Park on Airport Road off Highway 515.

The fun filled adventure packs a carnival atmosphere, complete with rides galore.

The event features traditional carousels to lots of rides for the kids.

Without a doubt, there is something for everyone.

The fair also includes games, cotton candy, candy apples, a petting zoo and so much more.

The event brings to life a week of exciting rides, delicious food and fun games, providing one of the most exciting adventures this county



has ever experienced.

It also makes a difference in the Union County community.

The Kiwanis Fair brings the fun-filled carnival atmosphere here, with proceeds benefitting the county's children.

The many available rides at the fair include the Cycles, the Pirate and the Mega Drop.

There are lots of rides for the youngsters too.

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UCFD's first recruiting class is ready

By Charles Duncan
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Friday night was an historic occasion for the Union County Fire Department.

Seven firefighter recruits completed their quest to become members of the Volunteer Division of the Union County Fire Department.

With Fire Chief Charles Worden and Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris on hand, Burnett Class 101, Robert Burnette, Cody Payne, Joseph Woody,

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Union County Firefighter David Burnette welcomes his son Robert to the ranks of the Union County Fire Department. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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CERT
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
Now Accepting New Volunteers
April 11 • 6:30pm
Union County
Fire Dept. Station 3
14 Waldroup Rd
Anyone 18 yrs. or older
Applications Available at Stations 1 & 5 and online

Allegheny Lodge No. 114
BIG Country Breakfast
Saturday, April 6
7-11 a.m.
\$6.00
Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Grits, Coffee, Tea or Milk
See page 8A

Union County 4-H
Going To State
Monthly Meeting
Thurs., March 28
6-8 p.m.
North GA Tech College
See page 7A

WALKING CLUB
Monthly Meeting
Thurs., March 28
6-8 p.m.
North GA Tech College
See page 7A

UCHS Baseball
March 26 • 5 p.m. vs. Riverside
March 29 • 5:55 p.m. JV @ Rabun
UCHS Soccer
March 26 • 5 p.m. vs. Rabun
March 28 • 5 p.m. @ Heritage
UCHS Golf
March 28 • 3:30 p.m. vs. Riverside
Butternut Creek Golf Course