

# AirLife ...continued from Page 1A

stand that when lives are on the line, money is the last thing on our minds. However, often times after a traumatic life-altering event, patients are left with costly transport bills to be paid. This partnership will relieve citizens of such a burden and will be a great asset to all Union County citizens. But you must apply to be covered.

"The county and Union General Hospital are very pleased to be a part of this joint cost-sharing event to provide Union County residents with an opportunity to save thousands of dollars should the need arise that they need air ambulance service," Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said. If you already have a membership with Erlanger/

Life Force, it is strongly recommended to maintain coverage with these organizations as well. For instance, if the Air Methods helicopter (the one stationed at UGH) is being used with another patient, a different helicopter company will be called in for help. If you do not have a membership with the other helicopter company that is brought in, then you could incur bills for their services that your insurance does not cover.

UGH is continuously looking for ways to better serve our community. They are proud to partner with Air Methods as their air medical helicopter of choice for many reasons.

The main reason is safety. Air Methods is the first Air Medical Provider to enter into

the FAA SMS program (Safety Management System) and holds the highest level currently across the nation. Air Methods has invested a lot of time, effort and money into their one-of-a-kind safety program.

Air Methods is placing a Brand New Bell 407 GXP Helicopter at UGH with state-of-the-art safety features.

Air Methods transports patients to all hospitals within our Region including: Chattanooga, Knoxville, Asheville, Gainesville, Atlanta, Greenville ... etc. Patients are transported to the most appropriate health-care facility based on their specific level of need.

Air Methods is bringing more than 140 years of clinical experience and 69 years of critical care experience that will be onboard 24/7.

In order to take advan-

tage of this free and exclusive membership with Omni Advantage an application must be filled out. One application covers your entire immediate family. Membership applications will be available at UGH's upcoming Health Fair on Saturday, April 30th from 6 a.m. - 10 a.m. They can also be picked up or dropped off at UGH's Main Entrance and at the Union County Public Library. These applications are also available online and can be printed off Union General's website -- [www.uniongeneralhospital.com/helicopter-membership-application](http://www.uniongeneralhospital.com/helicopter-membership-application).

The deadline to turn in all completed membership applications is Sunday, May 15th.

For any questions, please contact Leslie Daniel at (706)-745-2050.

# Convict...continued from Page 1A

years old. The crimes occurred on two different dates in July 2013 in Union County.

The Union County jury quickly came back on Wednesday, April 20 with a guilty verdict before Superior Court Judge Stan Gunter.

Nickols was ordered by Judge Gunter to be placed into custody by the Union County Sheriff's Office until sentencing. Sentencing will be set down for a hearing at

the Union County Courthouse immediately following a presentence investigation being conducted by probation.

Due to the severity of the sexual conduct found in the first two counts, Nichols faces a minimum state prison sentence of 25 years incarceration, with a maximum of life in state prison, and will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

At the conclusion of the

case, Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley thanked his entire trial team for this difficult and complex case.

"I especially want to thank Buck Levins, the lead prosecutor on the case, and the team that assisted him: Assistant District Attorney Chase G. Queen, Investigator Kenny Crook, and Victim Witness Advocate Holly J. McCollum. I also want to thank Investigator Andrew Hammond (Union County Sheriff's Office) for

his excellent work on the case. This difficult case has brought justice for two young abused children."

Investigator Hammond said it was a team effort to bring Nickols to justice.

"It was definitely a team effort," Hammond said. "Prosecutors, law enforcement and all the witnesses helped seal a conviction."

Nickols is being held in the Union County Jail pending final sentencing by Judge Gunter.

# Move Over...continued from Page 1A

working around the clock to keep our lights on, even in extreme weather conditions."

BRMEMC linemen Brad Wilson, Leslie Groves, Fred Gray, Travis Lunsford, Colton Payne and Eddy Partin were on hand for the official signing of the legislation into law by Gov. Deal.

House Bill 767 requires motorists approaching utility linemen at an active work site, as indicated by traffic cones or flashing lights, to change lanes

or reduce their speed to a reasonable and proper speed below the posted speed limit.

White is the light color that denotes utility workers in the process of their duties. Any motorist who does not change lanes or drop their speed to avoid the utility workers can be fined up to \$250 per incident.

The new bill, effective July 1, applies to all types of utility workers, including electric, natural gas, cable and telecommunications workers,

right-of-way crews or utility contractors.

The law asks motorists to make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the towing, recovery, or highway maintenance, or utility service vehicle if possible in the existing safety and traffic conditions; or if a lane change would be impossible, prohibited by law, or unsafe, reduce the speed of the motor vehicle to a reasonable and proper speed for the existing road and traffic conditions

and be prepared to stop.

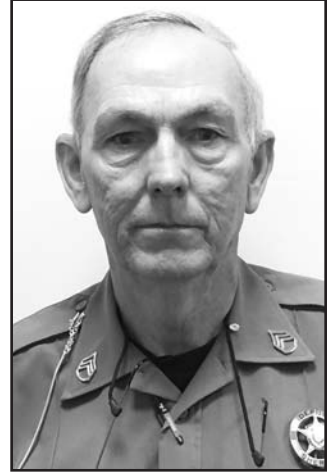
"Hopefully this legislation brings awareness to motorists that depending on the emergency situation, they will give the situation the room it needs," Sen. Gooch said. "That was the reason for the bill. Our utility crews work a lot of crazy hours - at night, during storms, during all sorts of extreme weather. We want to do everything we can to try to protect them."

# Firearms Conceal Carry Class open to the public sponsored by UCSO

On April 28, 2016 starting at 6:30 p.m., with a Meet and Greet, the Union County Sheriff's Office will sponsor a Firearms Conceal & Carry Class. The class is open to the public and free of charge. The actual class will start at 7 p.m. and last until 8 p.m.

This event will be held at the Haralson Memorial Civic Center, 165 Wellborn Street, Blairsville, GA.

Additionally to the class open to the public, all active duty law enforcement officers are invited. There will be one hour of P.O.S.T. credit for all active duty law enforcement officers who attend. This will also be a great opportunity to meet and interact with your



Staff Sgt. Billy Purcell local law enforcement personnel.

The training will be conducted by Staff Sgt. Billy Purcell of the Union County Sheriff's office. Sgt. Purcell has over 30 years of law enforcement experience, including a Georgia P.O.S.T. certified instructor with Firearms and Defensive Tactics as his major course of instruction. Sgt. Purcell was Senior Instructor from 1986 to 2010 at Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College Police Academy and in addition, he was the Assistant Director of the Academy from 2002 to 2010.

Staff Sgt. Purcell has a degree in Criminal Justice and has graduated from the Professional Management Program, Command College

and also a graduate of the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy 159th Session. In addition to his law enforcement service and education, he was one of the few officers selected to travel to Israel and serve as a Law Enforcement Exchange Officer.

The invitation for this community event is open to the public. The training will cover "Do's and Don'ts" for conceal carry and provide you an overview of how you can legally defend yourself and your property as a citizen.

No firearm is required. We will be looking forward to seeing you there. N(Apr27/29)CA

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