

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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## Union General donates defibrillators to schools

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Union General Hospital has donated a pair of AEDs – that's automated external defibrillators – to Union County Schools.

Specifically, the AEDs will be going one to the main building at Woody Gap School, and one to the vocational wing of Union County High School.

The addition of the new units brings the number of AEDs in the Union County School System to 15 spread across its campuses, including one at the Fine Arts Center.

"An automated external defibrillator is a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the

chest to the heart," according to heart.org. "The shock can stop an irregular heart rhythm and allow a normal rhythm to resume following sudden cardiac arrest.

"Sudden cardiac arrest is an abrupt loss of heart function. If it's not treated within minutes, it quickly leads to death."

And due to the random nature of emergencies, quick access to an AED can quite literally mean the difference between life and death.

Thanks to Union General Hospital, school faculty and staff know how to work AEDs.

Over several dates in February and March, the hospital delivered special training to each of the schools in the system, including Woody Gap.

This training was designed to teach school employees important medical measures that have been proven to save lives, targeting three initiatives for training: the use of AED units; Hands-Only CPR; and techniques from the "Stop the Bleed" campaign.

Union General EMS Director Wesley Rogers led the training, with assistance from Air Life Georgia and Northeast Georgia Medical Center.

Rogers brought plenty of training tools to each school session, such as dummy chests for the practice of Hands-Only CPR, along with actual AED machines, tourniquets and medical supplies used in the cessation of bleeding.

And the hospital was glad to make the donation, which  
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Union General Hospital CEO Lewis Kelley, Union County Schools Superintendent Dr. Fred Rayfield, and Union General Administrator Leslie Daniel.

## Enotah CASA joins with others to prevent child abuse



Kayla Tucker, Army of Hope; Michelle Green, Domestic Violence Task Force; Betsy Ramsey, S.A.F.E.; Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley; Linda D'Angelo, Enotah CASA Director; and Liz Ruf, Enotah CASA Board Chair.

By Lily Avery  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

On Monday, March 27, Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley signed a proclamation honoring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, while unable to attend the official signing on Monday, signed the proclamation later in the week, lending his complete support to the cause.

The proclamation explains that while children are the most valuable assets that any community has, they are also the most defenseless, and it is the community's civic responsibility to ensure their safety and protection.

Enotah CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, is one of the primary advocate groups for abused and neglected children in the area.

The Enotah CASA is aligned with the Enotah

Judicial Circuit, and covers Towns, Union, Lumpkin and White counties.

Through this system, each child is appointed a CASA volunteer who advocates for the child's best interests and provides a source of stability for the child.

In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the lawn of the Union County Historic Courthouse is now home to dozens of blue and silver pinwheels that represent children who have been neglected or abused.

"There are 217 children that were neglected or abused that had to be removed from their homes and put into foster care," said Linda D'Angelo, Executive Director of Enotah CASA. "We continue to see an increase in the number of children, particularly in Union and Towns county."

"We use pinwheels because pinwheels are the national symbol to prevent child abuse. Pinwheels are whimsical and childlike, and

represent the fun a child should have versus the real trauma these children have been suffering.

"We're always looking for volunteers. We've recently increased our number of volunteers because the number of children coming into the system continues to increase."

These pinwheels are not simply for display; they can be purchased at either Army of Hope or any S.A.F.E. thrift store in the area.

"We're going to be selling pinwheels as a way to build awareness," said D'Angelo. "We're going to be selling a bouquet of three for \$10 or one pinwheel for \$5. Our goal is to be able to paint the county blue to show that everyone is taking a stand against child abuse."

More information on the pinwheels can also be found on the Enotah CASA website, www.enotahcasa.org.

The proclamation for  
See CASA, Page 2A

## UC Sheriff's Office detectives complete sex offender training

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Detective Sgt. Tom Mangifesta and Detective Marc Pilote of the Union County Sheriff's Office attended the Sex Offender Registration class offered by the Georgia Sheriff's Association in Forsyth on Wednesday, March 22, and Thursday, March 23.

"The sheriffs in Georgia are charged with the responsibility of maintaining the sex offender registry for sex offenders in their county," said Mangifesta.

Added Pilote: "As such, we're up with them. Registered sex offenders have to provide us with documentation of their driver's license, any vehicles that they own, where they live, their movements, where



Det. Sgt. Tom Mangifesta and Det. Marc Pilote

they work – anything and everything about them."

According to state law, anyone registered as a sex offender cannot maintain a

residence located within 1,000 feet of any school, church, daycare or anywhere that minors congregate.

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## HGTV Lakefront Bargain Hunt to highlight Lake Nottely

By Shawn Jarrard  
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This Sunday, HGTV will set out to prove what Union County residents have known for years – that there's "Nothin' Like Lake Nottely."

That's the name of the upcoming episode of HGTV series "Lakefront Bargain Hunt," which airs on Sunday, April 9, at 8 p.m.

Appearing as the featured real estate agent in Sunday's episode will be Rita Lammot of Blairsville's own Cozy Cove Realty.

Going on three years now, Lammot has worked with Cozy Cove, which sells property all over the area and prides itself as "your source for real estate on Lake Nottely in Blairsville and the



Rita Lammot of Cozy Cove Realty

North Georgia Mountains," according to cozycoverealty.com.

And Lammot loves what she does in large part because

of the lake, the beautiful homes she gets to see and the multitude of activities available for families and  
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## GDOT bulldozer spills onto GA 515, no one hurt

By Shawn Jarrard  
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A mechanical failure of a ratchet binder caused a GDOT trailer to overturn on Georgia 515 the morning of Tuesday, March 28, spilling a medium-sized bulldozer onto the side of the road, according to the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Both Union County Sheriff Mack Mason and Georgia State Patrol responded to the scene.

"It was a slow-motion turnover, the only thing damaged was the hitch and the ratchet binder – no damage to the



A ratchet binder snapped during GDOT's transportation of this medium-sized bulldozer last week, causing it to turn over onto the side of Georgia 515

## Mattee warns of avian influenza in meeting

By Lily Avery  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – University of Georgia Extension Agent Melissa Mattee shared information on avian influenza and spring gardening tips at the Mountain Movers and Shakers weekly meeting at Mary's Southern Grill on Friday, March 31.

Mattee works as the ag agent for both Union and Towns counties.

According to Mattee, avian influenza can be especially  
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Melissa Mattee, UGA Extension Agent for Union and Towns counties

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