

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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January 23, 2013

BOE to put ELOST on ballot for March

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Union County Board of Education was presented with a case for a new Education Local Option Sales Tax, reelected Gary Davenport as chairman, welcomed its newest board member Cindy Byers while saying goodbye to outgoing Post 3 Board Member Carlton Collins.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Williams announced a proposal for another ELOST, that would be on the ballot in March.

Williams used school security, instructional additions and enrichment additions as the main talking points for extending the sales tax.

"We want to be able to use the SPLOST money to convert the analog cameras to digital, that way we can zoom



The Union County School Board has voted to move forward with an Education Local Option Sales Tax initiative set for a March 19th vote. Photo/Todd Forrest

in on instances that need it." Williams said. "A consultant came in right after the Newtown incident, spent a day going around to each one of the schools to determine the points of vulnerability. They came up with a plan of where the areas are and projected solutions in

case we need to go down the route of increasing security."

Over the past seven years, the highest grossing month for the ELOST came in 2007 at \$385,000. The lowest month that year, the school brought in \$257,000, with the average being slightly above

\$300,000.

Williams estimates that 30-40 percent of ELOST money comes from tourists visiting the community.

"The peaks are in July, August, and September, while

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Gooch helps begin drive to end state income tax

By Charles Duncan
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If state lawmakers approve it, Senate Resolution 8 could set the state on a course to put more money back in the pockets of Georgia taxpayers.

District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), who represents Union County in the state Senate, has co-sponsored legislation that could bring an end to Georgia's state income tax.

The resolution, proposed by Sen. Josh McKoon (R-Columbus), is a plan that would create a Constitutional Amendment to phase out the Georgia State Income Tax. The measure must be approved by both houses and then put to a vote by the people of Georgia.



State Sen. Steve Gooch

"I have given my support to this resolution because I believe that Georgia citizens deserve to take home more of

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Dyer leaves UGH in good hands

By Charles Duncan
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If you had told Rebecca Dyer in August 1970 that by the end of 2012 she would retire as the administrator and Chief Executive Officer of Union General Hospital, she probably would have laughed.

She came on board the Union General Hospital ship as a college student in August 1970. She worked weekends as a receptionist and helped wherever she was needed.

Soon, the clock began to click on her more than 40-year career at "Union General Hospital, and "Becky" began to climb a ladder that saw her stop at the top rung.

Dr. David Gowder remembers when he was a 16-year-old orderly at the old Union General Hospital.

He had a very important question about his paycheck, and it was Dyer who would have the answer.

"Becky was always quiet," he remembered. "She spoke when spoken to and she always had the answer you were looking for."

"I came to her about a payroll question. I did the math and my check didn't add



Becky Dyer has handed the reins of Union General Hospital over to Mike Gowder after serving the facility for 42 years.

up the way I thought it should," he said.

"I showed her my check and I asked her why it didn't match up with my figures," Dr. David Gowder said. "She promptly replied, 'David, they have to take out for taxes.'

"That's a moment I'll never forget," he said, with a sheepish grin.

Dyer would go on to answer a number of questions over the years. Mainly, she

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Cold weather prompts early weather alerts; some subscribers irked

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

If you blinked, you missed the Union County Commission Meeting for January.

It was a quick one last Thursday evening as the county braced for a winter storm that never came. In the early hours of Thursday morning, a series of phone calls and texts went out to those on the County's weather advisory call list for an ice storm warning.

"What I did not know, is that it will send out automatic phone calls at 3 a.m. and 4:15 a.m.," Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris said. "Why they had an ice warning for Georgia that early, I do not know, since it was never forecast to be here that soon. I got several phone calls today about those who



Commissioner Lamar Paris

didn't appreciate being woken up that early and I can't blame them."

After receiving several phone calls on Thursday, Commissioner Paris then contacted the Union County Fire Department and was informed that it's an automated system and the county has no control over when the weather warnings go out. The only way to prevent getting weather alerts,

warranted or unwarranted, in the future is to have your name removed from the call list.

"You're either on the list or off the list," Commissioner Paris said.

Paris went on to add that weather doesn't follow a time schedule and weather advisories can be issued at anytime.

"You'll just need to decide for yourself whether its worth getting woken up at 4 in the morning," he said.

In other news, the Robert L. Head Jr. donated .48 acres of land to Union County for sewer lines at the Farmers Market.

"Mr. Head was gracious enough to allow us to put a sewer line in across his property," Commissioner Paris said. "Despite lowering the value of his own property, he was generous enough to donate the property to the county, in

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Grand Jury indicts crime spree suspect

By Charles Duncan
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A Union County Grand Jury has handed up a 16-count indictment against a 40-year-old Blairsville man accused of eight counts of second-degree burglary, five counts of theft by taking, two counts of criminal damage to property and possession of tools for the commission of a crime.

Daby Waddell Loflin is accused of being responsible for breaking into seven local businesses and a local church, Union County Superior Court records show.

He is accused of breaking into Galaxy Bowling, Classic Cuts, Heavenly



Daby Waddell Loflin

Hands, Chiropractic Health Center, Sicily's Pizza, Dan's Grill, Coosa Water Authority, and Blairsville Church of God, court records show.

He is accused of taking thousands of dollars during the thefts, court records show.

The 40-year-old Loflin was paroled from state prison Feb. 3rd, Georgia Department of Correction records show.

Since August 1995, he has been convicted and sentenced to 105 years in state prison for 11 felony crimes in four counties that include burglary, forgery, possession of tools of a crime and criminal damage to property, state Department of Corrections records show.

In that same time frame, he's served seven years and six months of those 105 years, according to the state Department of Corrections.

Loflin lived within walking distance of several of

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Sheriff's detectives arrest three on drug charges

By Charles Duncan
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A month-long investigation has yielded the arrests of three men on multiple drug-related charges, Union County sheriff's Lt. Chad Deyton said.

Aguas Resendiz Camillo, 28, Filiberto Rafael Ruiz-Nebina, 27, and Miguel Delacruz Sanchez, 27, were arrested at the home they shared on Serenity Drive following the execution of a search warrant, Lt. Deyton said.

Lt. Deyton said Union County detectives and deputies recovered 19 grams of methamphetamine, 15 grams of cocaine and authorities seized approximately \$3,000 in cash.

Camillo is charged with three counts of manufacturing



Aguas Camillo

methamphetamine, and two counts possession of a controlled substance, Lt. Deyton said.

Ruiz-Nebina is charged with two counts manufacturing two counts possession of a controlled substance, and possession of less than an ounce of marijuana, Lt. Deyton said.

Sanchez is charged

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Filiberto Ruiz-Nebina



Miguel Sanchez

January Grand Jury Term Indictments

The following were indicted during the January Term of the Union County Grand Jury:

Troy Zachary Brading, first-degree burglary; second-degree burglary; possession of tools for the commission of a crime; theft by taking.

Keya Reshea Bradley, giving false information to a law enforcement officer; possession of methamphetamine; five counts possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

Joshua Michael Brock, interstate interference with

custody.

Harold Lee Cooper, Jr., riot in a penal institution; terroristic threats.

Casey Brandon Cox, three counts aggravated assault in violation of Georgia's Family Violence Act; two counts first-degree cruelty to children; terroristic threats; simple battery in violation of Georgia's Family Violence Act; three counts reckless conduct; hindering an Emergency telephone call.

Wyatt Steven Crawford, first-degree burglary; second-degree burglary; pos-

session of tools for the commission of a crime; theft by taking.

Sasha Nicole Davidson, possession of methamphetamine.

Krista Annette Doucette, obstruction of an officer; interference with government property.

David Michael Drake, third-degree forgery.

Lori Jean Foster, interstate interference with custody.

Wiley R. Harper, second-degree criminal damage to prop-

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Ninth District Opportunity closes out 2012

By Joe Collins
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Towns and Union County Emergency Food and Shelter Board met Wednesday at the Towns County Community Resource Center to approve the 2012 allocation from the National Board for household assistance in Towns and Union Counties.

The purpose of the board is to insure that the allocations to the county by the National Board are spent on



Towns-Union board members discuss the distribution of remaining Ninth District funds. Photo/Joe Collins

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Clyde Mauney Jr. Memorial Concert
Friday, January 25 • 7 PM
Old Courthouse
on the Square
Hosted by the Union County Historical Society
Come enjoy good finger-picking!
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Union County Rec. Dept.
Baseball/Softball/Coach/Softball
T-Ball/Start Smart
Registration
Jan. 14 - Feb. 15
See page 9A

Coat Swap
Suches Community Center
Jan. 26 & Feb. 3
10am - 12 noon
Jan. 30
10am - 1pm
See page 15A

Relay for Life
Kick Off
Jan. 31 • 5:30pm
Mountain Presbyterian Church
fellowship hall
See page 7A

UCHS Basketball
Tues., Jan. 22 • 6pm vs. Rabun
Fri., Jan. 25 • 6pm
@ Washington-Wilkes
UCHS Wrestling
Tues., Jan. 22 • 6pm vs. Pickens