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draw attention to the fact that Deputy Whittle was a caring man who loved people and his community.

To honor him by giving blood on his birthday would mean a lot to many people, especially those whose lives may be saved.

Jim and Sharon Whittle, Derrick Whittle's parents, were on hand at the announcement made last week at the Union County Community Center. Derrick Whittle was the only child of Jim and Sharon Whittle.

"He would have been very touched to have such a special event held in his honor," Sharon Whittle said. "He loved the people of Union County and he enjoyed helping any way he could. This is a way that his legacy can be remembered and he can live on by having his memory help a very important need of our area. It would have pleased him so to see this."

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris was on hand to introduce the event.

"It is a real honor for us to be able to do this in Derrick's memory," Paris said. "He was a joy to be around and always had a smile on his face and a joke to brighten up your day."

"We miss him a lot around here and this is just a way to help draw attention to



the fact that Blood Assurance needs our support," Paris said. "I know Officer Whittle would have agreed to the fact that we need to turn our attention to this situation and help out. It is our goal to hold it in his honor annually and hopefully influence people to donate more often."

Deputy Whittle succumbed to injuries sustained Sept. 18, 2011, three days after a crash while responding to a domestic dispute with weapons involved on Sept. 15, 2011.

He died at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn. Derrick Whittle died in the line of duty.

Blood Assurance is a privately owned not-for-profit blood supply center based out of Chattanooga, Tenn. It is the sole provider of blood for the Union General Hospital network and more than 50 more hospitals in the surrounding

areas including North Georgia, Western Tennessee, Northeast Alabama and Northwest North Carolina.

The only source they use to obtain their supplies of blood is through blood donations. They do not buy blood from outside sources.

Blood Assurance account manager Tim Wilson said it's a new relationship with Union General.

"We have now begun a relationship with Union General through their new director Dr. Mike Gowder and will be supplying all the blood they use," Wilson said.

"We have worked with them some in the past, but now we are taking on their whole supply. One encouraging aspect is that we are going to save the hospital more than \$70,000 and we are committed to customer service," Wilson said. "When Mike needs blood we are close by and our

couriers can get it here quick. There are no prolonged wait times for blood with us. This service can save lives by responding with efficiency."

Wilson spoke of some of the interesting things many people don't realize about donating blood. Some diabetic and high blood pressure patients can now donate blood. An adult can give up to six times a year, but only 3 percent of the people who qualify to give blood actually donate.

The heaviest use period for blood is throughout the summer because of car accidents as many people are traveling.

Union General uses between 70-100 units per month and Blood Assurance only collects on average 40 units per month from Union County residents on their drives.

They have to go outside the county to other counties that give more than they use to fill the need at Union General. They want Union County to become one of those counties because of our population to usage ratio.

For details on how to be a part of the Derrick Whittle Blood Drive, call Pam Worden at the Commissioner's Office at (706) 439-6000. It would be very helpful if you could call to sign up because Blood Assurance uses one bus per 80 donations and they need to know how many buses to bring.

Davenport...continued from Page 1A

rean Service Medal with Nine Battle Stars, United Nations Korea Service Medal, Republic of Korea Service Medal, a Vietnamese Order of Gallantry with Star, Vietnamese Service Medal with three Battle Stars, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Union County Sole

Commissioner Lamar Paris invites the public to attend this historic dedication service on Friday, April 5th at 11 a.m.

Davenport was recently honored along with other veterans at the Blairsville Restaurant's Veterans Wall of Fame.

Davenport shares one wall with two other highly decorated veterans, Evan Legg and the late Larry Prather.

Come on out to pay tribute to a man who bravely fought for his country and has the hardware to prove it.

City Council...continued from Page 1A

self, we've got to still agree on some regulations, strictly on size," Mayor Conley said. "Of course we'll have to have a maximum size, primarily to areas like on the four-lane, or, an area that actually would be able to have the maximum size sign."

"The maximum square-foot sign would be a 60-square-foot sign," he said. "That's a rather large sign. The sign ordinance would cover the city of Blairsville and the Downtown area. We're not going to have to specify anything in one area, and regulations for another area. Every thing is straight across the board and will govern signs citywide."

"We used to have a Downtown Development Authority district in the sign ordinance," the mayor said. "There will not be any districts in the revised ordinance. The revised ordinance will apply citywide."

Before the council takes on any revisions, they must first determine the size restrictions for signs in the city, Mayor Conley said.

"We've got to determine the signage that we'll allow on storefronts and in windows, and outside the businesses," Mayor Conley said. "We're going to be business friendly."

The city already is business friendly. There's no charge for a sign application fee in the city.

"We have no intentions to ever charge a sign application fee," the mayor said. "The fees have been done away with, and there will be no fees for anyone to apply for a sign." In other business, the city will raise sewer rates 18.6 percent because the current sewerage collections aren't enough to pay off the bond indebtedness owed on sewer upgrades.

"When you receive funds from state funding agencies, and some of the funds are created through bonds, whatever department

that received those funds, that department has to be able to repay those funds out of that department," Mayor Conley said. "The sewer department has not been able to repay all of their portion of their indebtedness. So, we've had to use money from the water side to repay that debt. "It's not good having to use funds from the water side to help offset the shortfalls in the sewer department," Mayor Conley said. "Our rates have always been less than anybody's rates around us, but we're having to make some adjustments."

Those adjustments include changing the minimum

amount of water used before the bill starts to accumulate.

The city has always allowed customer bills to be based on the first 3,000 gallons of water used. They will soon change that to the first 2,000 gallons used.

Sewer charges are based on water usage.

"All we're trying to do is meet the requirements of these agencies that we have to reach out to for funding," Mayor Conley said. "We're getting our rates to where they need to be, which will guarantee that the money to repay those agencies is there. It's a sewer rate increase only."

Union County Historical Society meeting

The Union County Historical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 9th at the Historic Union County Courthouse at 7 p.m. upstairs.

Following a short business meeting, a program of "The People's Act," will be held. Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and David Friedly will oversee the program. N(Apr3,X2)CA

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