

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Straight line winds damage trees, boat and dock

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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Residents on Pat Colwell Road and the Jack Lance Memorial Highway experienced a power outage and some property damage as a result of 50-60 mph winds early Monday.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said that Union County collected almost 3 inches of rain on Sunday and early Monday.

He reported that the Union County Road Department cleared 16 trees from various locations in the county.

Pat Colwell Road was the hardest hit area.

The storm destroyed a pontoon boat, and a boat dock on Pat Colwell Road, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.



Blairsville's Larry Madison points out early morning storm damage on Pat Colwell Road. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

said.

That was in addition to the power outage, and the downed trees, the sheriff said.

"It looks like a tornado whipped in and left as quickly as it came," Sheriff Mason said.

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC crews worked to restore power as county road crews removed debris.
See *Storm*, Page 2A

Union General Hospital Health Fair on Saturday

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Hundreds of people from Union County and surrounding areas will be rolling up their sleeves on Saturday, April 25, between 6 a.m. and 11 a.m., as Union General Hospital's Annual Health Fair kicks into high gear.

The UGH Health Fair has been an ongoing service to the community for nearly four decades, and more than 80 hospital staff will be volunteering their time on Saturday to perform a variety of wellness checks for any who choose to attend – there is no residency requirement.

At the heart of the hospital's offerings will be deeply discounted lab work, as well as free exams across a wide range of medical disciplines.

Lab work will feature a \$30 Comprehensive Lab



Mike Gowder

Panel, a \$10 Prostate Specific Antigen test for men and a \$10 Hemoglobin A1C, which will check blood glucose over the last three months.

The \$30 comprehensive lab panel will include: checking levels of glucose, creatinine, electrolytes, total protein, albumin, alkaline phosphatase,

AST/ALT, calcium, total bilirubin; a BUN test to monitor kidney function; a lipid screening for total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, triglycerides, LDL calculation; TSH, which will check thyroid function; and offer a CBC, or complete blood count.

Usually, this same lab work runs around \$450—a savings of \$400, should someone choose to undergo all of the available lab work on Saturday. And this is just one reason why the health fair is such a special opportunity for Union County and abroad.

"There are some people who would not come in and have anything done otherwise, so this encourages people to come in," said UGH CEO Mike Gowder. "You'd be surprised at the things we catch just because of this lab work."

Other services will be offered at no charge, including

education on accident prevention, hands-only CPR and women's health information.

Physicians and hospital staff will also be conducting free tests, such as checking body mass indexes and vital signs, giving free hearing and vision screenings, skin irregularity screenings, offering EKGs and stroke screenings/risk assessments, and much more.

All lab work will be done on the second floor of the hospital, so attendees should enter through the main entrance and take the elevator up.

No appointment is necessary for lab work, though the event is first come, first serve. Children under 12 will not be eligible for the lab work. Payment is required at time of service, cash or check.

See *Health Fair*, Page 3A

Jennifer Queen is interim County Clerk

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris held the regular monthly commission meeting on Wednesday, April 15.

The meeting took place on Wednesday instead of Thursday, April 16, due to a scheduling conflict with the Annual County Commissioner Conference in Savannah.

In the meeting, Commissioner Paris named Jennifer Queen, who has been working for the county for nearly five years, as interim county clerk.

The position came open following the retirement of Union County Clerk and



Commissioner Paris introduces the new County Clerk, Jennifer Queen, at last week's commission meeting. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Commissioner's Executive Assistant Peggy Deyton on March 27.

Queen's interim title will be lifted after she completes the necessary train-

ing to be the certified county clerk, and she was added as a signer on all county checking accounts.

Also, the commissioner signed a series of proclama-

tions for the month of April.

"I hereby proclaim the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, calling attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in our community," said Commissioner Paris. "Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority, being as young people experience heightened rates of sexual violence, and youth ages 12-17 are 2.5 times as likely to be victims of sexual assault."

"We must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, supporting survivors and speaking out against

See *County*, Page 3A

Patriot's Day still special in Union County

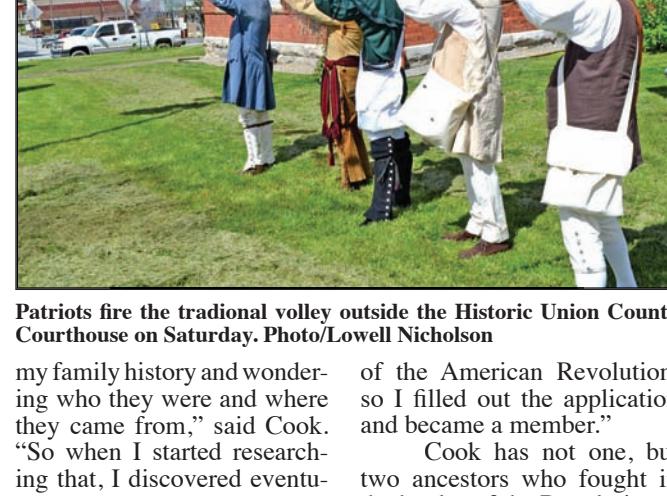
By Mason Mitcham
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

On Saturday April 18, the Blue Ridge chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution pre-emptively stood outside the Historic Union County Courthouse to raise awareness for National Patriot's Day. Patriot's Day is on the 19th, but the Sons elected to commemorate it on Saturday instead of Sunday.

"Patriot's day is to commemorate the battle of Lexington where the first shots of the Revolutionary War were heard," said Sid Turner, vice president of the chapter and member for three years. "The patriots met at Lexington and the first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired on April 19."

Turner, like the other Sons, has traced his heritage back to ancestors who fought in the Revolution. David Cook, President of the chapter, did the same.

"I became interested in



Patriots fire the traditional volley outside the Historic Union County Courthouse on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

my family history and wondering who they were and where they came from," said Cook. "So when I started researching that, I discovered eventually that one of them fought in the Revolutionary War. So then when I discovered that, it looked like I could qualify to become a member of the Sons

of the American Revolution, so I filled out the application and became a member."

Cook has not one, but two ancestors who fought in the battles of the Revolution.

"I did my research and discovered I had another ancestor," he added. "The significant thing about that was that

it appears that he crossed the Delaware with George Washington when they fought at Trenton. When you get into researching your family history, you find a lot of interesting things, and that's what intrigued me."

In addition to the national holiday, the state of Georgia also recognizes a statewide Patriot's Day. The state holiday commemorates the capture of three British ships by the Georgia Navy on the same day as the battle of Lexington and Concord.

To celebrate, the Sons dressed in 1776-era clothes that the Patriot Militia might have worn, consisting in part of leather and frock coats.

"They are realistic and true to the period," said Turner.

He added that the militia did not wear the uniforms of George Washington's regular Continental Army. Instead they could dress mostly like civilians.

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Memorial Day Parade May 23rd

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Mountain Home Show April 24-25



By Charles Duncan
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The 2015 Mountain Home Show at North Georgia Technical College's Blairs-

ville Campus begins Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The two-day event also is scheduled for Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

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Blairsville
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Buy Local
EXTRAVAGANGA
April 30th

See page 15A

UHHS Baseball

Apr 22 vs Rabun Co 5 PM

Apr 24 vs. Social Circle (DH) 5 PM

UHHS Soccer

Apr 21 @ Riverside - Boys

JV 4:30 PM Varsity 6 PM

Apr 22 vs. Oglethorpe

4:30 and 6: 30 PM

Derrick Whittle Memorial Golf Tournament May 1st @ Butternut Creek Golf Course

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See page 10A

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