

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Walter Kerr speaks to UCHS students

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Walter Kerr, a U.S. Navy and U.S. Army Veteran of World War II, Korea, and an integral member of the Space Race between the United States and the Soviet Union during the 1950s and 1960s, spoke to Wesley Garrett's history classes last week at Union County High School.

Kerr graciously agreed to speak at UCHS when asked by Principal John Hill, who had previously heard Kerr speak. Kerr spoke to three of Garrett's classes: one on Tuesday morning, one on Thursday at noon, and on Friday at 1:30 p.m.

Kerr opened by asking nine young men to step to the front of the room and form three lines of three, separated by about three feet on each side and in the front and back.



Walter Kerr

arrated by about three feet on each side and in the front and back.

Kerr then asked the students to reach their arms into the air, then extend straight out. With their arms extended, he asked the students to turn around 360 degrees, then squat as low as possible.

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National Day of Prayer on May 5

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris was a busy man on April 19.

At last week's Union County April Commission Meeting, Paris signed six proclamations, including a declaration that May 5 will be a Day of Prayer in Union County.

The 2016 theme, "Wake Up America," is based on Isaiah 58:1, which says, "Cry aloud, spare not. Lift up your voice like a trumpet."

"The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens," Commissioner Paris read from the proclamation. "Whereas, it is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in Union County when all may acknowledge our blessings and



Commissioner Paris makes it official, May 5 will recognize the National Day of Prayer in Union County. The event is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Blairsville. Photo/Todd Forrest

express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation."

The National Day of Prayer event in Union County will take place at the First Baptist Church of Blairsville on May 5, at 6:30 p.m.

Other proclamations included the month of April be-

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Sen. Gooch: Move over law just makes sense

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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Atlanta - District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch said supporting House Bill 762 was really a no-brainer.

"I carried that legislation to the State Senate, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC was thankful for that legislation," said Sen. Gooch, who has brought almost \$1 million to Union County in the last year.

The Senator said that with Gov. Nathan Deal's signature on the legislation, motorists must now move over one lane for utility vehicles in addition to emergency vehicles.

"In the lawyer world that we live in, if something isn't done in the law books and somebody gets hurt, the first thing that lawyers do is start looking at what the law says," Sen. Gooch said. "You have to encourage people to do what is right and to do that, sometimes you have to put that



Gov. Nathan Deal signs legislation that adds to the Spencer Pass Law. Pictured behind the legislative contingent, BRMEMC linemen Brad Wilson, Leslie Groves, Fred Gray, Travis Lunsford, Colton Payne and Eddy Partin, and over Gov. Deal's shoulder is our State Sen. Steve Gooch.

in black and white."

Gov. Deal signed the legislation into law last week with several BRMEMC linemen looking over one shoulder

and Sen. Gooch looking over the other.

"I was proud to sign the Move Over. This bill will

help the selfless linemen and women in Georgia go home safely to their families after

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Skynyrd to play The Hall in Hiawasse

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Hiawassee - Legendary Rock 'n' Roll band Lynyrd Skynyrd is coming to Anderson Music Hall on Friday, June 17, and Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason expects to sell 5,000 tickets for the Southern Rock show.

Interestingly enough, capacity for The Hall is only about 3,000 - which is why concert organizers plan to open up the back of the venue to allow for a standing room only section just outside the concert.

"We're going to sell everything in the building for \$70 plus a \$2 handling fee, and then everything outside the building is going to be



Lynyrd Skynyrd will play Anderson Music Hall on Friday, June 17 at 7 p.m. Get there early.

standing room only, and we're letting them bring a chair in, and that will be \$50 plus \$2 handling," said Thomason. "We're going to set up some extra concession stands to accommodate."

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Patriots Day celebrated



By Mason Mitcham
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Commemorative shots were fired outside of the Historic Union County Courthouse on Tuesday, April 19,

as the Blue Ridge Chapter Sons of the American Revolution celebrated Patriot's Day. Every hour on the hour from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the

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Scottish Festival a Top 20 event in Southeast

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The 13th Annual Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games is just around the corner, taking place June 10-12, and for another year running, the festival has garnered attention both locally and abroad.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley, and President Regina Allison of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce recently met with Scottish Festival organizers to give special recognition to the festival ahead of the 13th annual event.

According to a procla-



Scottish Festival organizers celebrate with Chamber President Regina Allison, Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley and Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris. Photo/Shawn Jarrard.

mation signed by Commissioner Paris, the events that are to take place on June 10, 11 and 12 "celebrate Scot-

tish heritage and provide an introduction to music, dancing, athletics, foods, genealogy and exhibits to those not

sufficiently fortunate to be of Scottish heritage.

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UGH, Union County government join forces

North Georgia News
News Special

Union General Hospital is proud to announce they will have a medical helicopter stationed at their facility beginning in May.

The helicopter is owned by Air Methods, the largest Air Medical Operator in the nation. Air Methods has more than 300 bases and operates in 48 states reaching from Alaska to Key West, Fla.

UGH and Union County government have partnered to provide funding to cover the cost for every individual or family in Union County, and are excited to offer all citizens living in Union County as well as all UGH employees a free Air Methods family membership through Omni Advantage. This membership is not automatic and each household must apply in order for their free membership to be valid.



Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and UGH CEO Lewis Kelley with AirLife Crew.

This membership with Omni Advantage not only gives access to the helicopter stationed at Union General, but it also includes the entire fleet of Air Methods Aircrafts across the country. This is not

the same coverage purchased by some citizens from Airmedical Group Holding (AeroCare) or Erlanger/Life Force; these are completely separate organizations.

Omni Advantage will

provide our citizens access to critical care in the air without incurring a costly bill. Union General Hospital and Union County Government under-

See AirLife, Page 3A

Blairsville man convicted of molesting two young girls

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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A 12-person Union County jury convicted a Blairsville man of aggravated sexual battery, aggravated child molestation, three counts child molestation, and two counts enticing a child for indecent purposes last week in Union County Superior Court.

The trial of 35-year-old Cory James Nickols lasted eight days. The end result was guilty on all counts of molesting two young girls, ages 8 and 11 years old in July 2013.

Among other evidence, prosecutors with the Enotah Judicial Circuit brought to light that Nickols had committed a similar crime as a teenager in Louisiana.

Prosecutors Buck



Cory James Nickols

Levins, and Chase Queen, aided by Circuit Investigator Kenny Crook, and Union County Sheriff's Office Investigator Andrew Hammond, proved without a reasonable doubt to the jury that Nickols committed the sexual assaults in 2013 against two female children, who at the time of the incidents were 8 and 11

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Weather

Thurs: T-Storms Hi 77 Lo 57

Fri: Sunny Hi 85 69 55

Sat: Cloudy Hi 81 Lo 60

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RELAY FOR LIFE

American Cancer Society

Relay For Life Events

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Early Voting begins May 2nd

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Union General Hospital Health Fair

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SPORTS

BASEBALL

First Round State Tournament vs. Manchester Fri. Apr 29 4:30 PM DH

Soccer

Boys First Round State Tournament vs. Temple Thurs. Apr 26 6 PM

Girls First Round State Tournament vs. Chattahoochee Fri. Apr 29 6 PM