

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Union 4-H Shotgun teams headed to State

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Union County 4-H Shotgun Teams are headed to State Shotgun Teams on Saturday, May 9.

Nearly 3,500 rounds of ammunition were fired at the 2015 4-H District Qualifying Shoot at the Airport Industrial Park on Saturday, May 2, where more than 400 people attended.

"This is considered the North Georgia District Shoot," said Shooting Coach Gene Margelli. "You've got to compete here and qualify in order to go to the state shoot, which is a week from today, and is held down near the University of Georgia."

Six counties competing with 127 students taking



aim at a chance to go to the state competition: Pickens, Oglethorpe, Madison, Rabun, Barrow and Union.

Union County 4-H's No. 1 Team, consisting of Patrick Colwell, Emily

Rankin, Mark Cecci, Hunter Kelley and Dakota Taylor, placed first at the qualifying shoot. This placement will guarantee a good spot in the

See State, Page 2A

Malone, Rich to seek Union EMC seats

EMC Board appoints Danny Henson to fill Bob Ensley's vacated spot

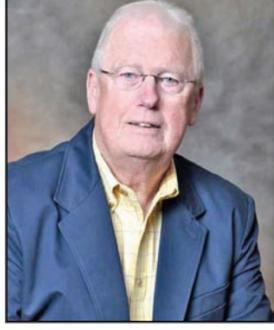
By Charles Duncan
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editor@nganews.com

There is a new director on the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors.

The EMC Board recently appointed Danny Henson to fill the vacancy of Director Bob Ensley, BRMEMC Director Steven Phillips said.

Ensley resigned from the board due to health reasons, Director Phillips said. Ensley died early Monday, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Also, Blairsville businessman Patrick Malone has announced he will petition to get his name on the BRMEMC ballot for election as a director from Union



Patrick Malone



Charles Rich

County. If successful, Malone would vie to replace Henson on the BRMEMC Board of Directors.

"I'm running because I believe the existing board

failed in their fiduciary responsibilities to the members," Malone said. "That caused a lack of trust. I think that new blood on the board

See EMC, Page 2A

Four USCO deputies complete interdiction course

By Charles Duncan
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Four Union County Sheriff's deputies have completed a 24-hour course on criminal interdiction.

Patrol Sgt. Adam Deyton, and patrol deputies Bradley Glass, Keith Lockwood and Mitch Henderson now bring back the experience of knowing what it takes to detect indicators of criminal activity, Union County Chief Deputy John George said.

The training has evolved from concentrating on interstate interdiction to broad-based concepts involving teaching the traffic stop from A-Z, how to handle complex criminal and financial investigations, as well as how to testify in court to assist in successful prosecution of criminal cases to name a few. These techniques will



Left to right, Union County Sheriff's deputies Bradley Glass, Sgt. Adam Deyton, Keith Lockwood and Mitch Henderson.

help the deputies in assisting in detecting criminal activity and locating and seizing illicit contraband. Also, Chief George said, these officers bring their experience back to the department.

"These guys (Deyton, Glass, Lockwood and Hen-

derson) have broadened their training base," Chief George said. "When they make stops they look for certain key indicators to establish probable cause if the person is carrying narcotics or contraband in the vehicle."

The state requires dep-

uties to receive a certain amount of training each year. Criminal interdiction training is quality training in the role of a patrol officer, Chief George said.

"The goal is to spread the knowledge across the different schedules," Chief George said. "There's the sergeant on patrol, a new deputy, and experienced deputies like Glass and Lockwood - they in turn learn these tactics and share those within the department - they teach the deputies that work with them."

"It's not realistic to send every deputy we have to this training because of the costs," Chief George said. "These four will bring the tactics and training back to the department."

"We want them to bring this knowledge back to share

See Deputies, Page 2A

Lilacs blooming at Meeks Park, Senior Center

By Charles Duncan
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About eight years ago, Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris stepped out on a limb - ordering the planting of more than 200 lilac bushes in Union County.

Commissioner Paris was told it would take about 7-8 years for them to provide the aromatic blossoms. And now, even in spite of the weird winter/spring weather, snows, frosts, wild winds, rain-soaked days, he - and the residents of Union County - have been rewarded with the promise of things to come in the future.

The lilac blossoms have arrived.

It was local resident Arlene Gray that sold Commissioner Paris on the idea of lilacs in Union County.

"I love lilacs," Gray said. "I often asked the preceding administrations to consider planting lilacs here in Union County. This is the furthest South that lilacs can grow."

See Lilacs, Page 3A



More than 400 attend Extravaganza

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

More than 400 people attended the Fifth Annual Buy Local Extravaganza as presented by the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, April 30.

The event was held at the Union County Community Center, and showcased the goods and services of 57 vendors who are members of the chamber of commerce.

Each vendor set up a booth, giving a curious public the opportunity to stop by for information and free samples.

Most vendors participated in table-specific raffish, and patrons of the Buy Local Extravaganza entered their names at each booth for a chance to win prizes, such as free business cards from a lo-



cal printing company or free food from American Catch and Zaxby's.

United Community Bank, the Extravaganza's presenting sponsor, handed out fabric bags made for the

event, and many people went home with full bags and full stomachs.

"We appreciate the support of the community, whether it be the business community or the general public," said

Chamber President Cindy Williams. "And I think that, buying local, we just cannot express and convey enough that it's so important to support the businesses that are

See Extravaganza, Page 2A

Art Show set for Saturday at UCHS

By Colleen Collins
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Union County Schools Spring Fine Arts Show will open to the public on Saturday, May 9th in the Union County High School (UCHS) Gym.

Hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and admission is free. The show will include exhibits from the Union County Schools Fine Arts Department, grades K-12.

There will be something at the Art Show for everyone. As Union County Middle School (UCMS) student Damien Chitwood said, "In art you can express your own ideas." Art Show exhibits will range from Visual to Performing Arts.

UCHS Art Teacher, Molly Marsh said, of High



School entries, "Art Show pieces will include drawings, paintings, some prints, sculpture, and pottery - both glazed and unglazed. Pieces are created by students Level One to AP."

According to Sylvia Garner, UCMS Art Teacher, and Coordinator of the Art

See Art Show, Page 3A

Paris rejoins ACCG Board of Managers

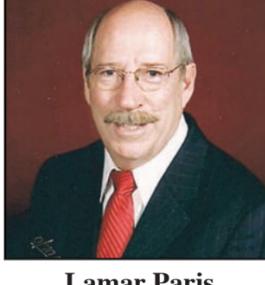
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News Special

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris was installed as one of 40 Board of Managers at the ACCG Annual Conference in Savannah.

Paris and 39 other county commissioners were installed by U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson.

"The ACCG Board of Managers is comprised of individuals with a passion for public service," said ACCG Executive Director Ross King. "They show a willingness to serve not only as a leader in their own community, but also as a leader among their peers by serving their statewide association."

ACCG is Georgia's county association and works



Lamar Paris

on behalf of county officials and their communities by providing public policy and legislative advocacy, leadership development, civic and community engagement initiatives, insurance and retirement programs that specialize in local government needs and other cost-saving pro-

See ACCG, Page 3A

Rabies Clinic has another successful year

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Pet Hospital and the Blairsville Animal Hospital conducted the county's annual Rabies Clinic on Saturday, May 2.

"We do this every year, and so that's provided at a lower cost it's residents of Union County can have their dogs and cats vaccinated, because all animals that are dogs, cats or ferrets over the age of 12 weeks are supposed to have rabies shots, because it is still considered a 100 percent fatal disease if caught," said Dr. Patricia Barnes, owner of the Union County Pet Hospital.

Pet owners were able to get a one-year rabies vaccine for \$10, among other vaccines, which is a more affordable alternative to a trip to a regular vet for the shots because there is no examination



fee during the clinic.

"A typical routine exam is going to be about \$40 to \$45, depending on where you go," said Dr. Barnes. "If somebody comes in and needs medications, we have to have an exam, because we have to

have a valid client/patient relationship in order to do that kind of thing.

"But if they have relatively healthy animals and they are on a budget, as most of us are, then this is one way to get their animals vaccinat-

ed, and get the things that can commonly kill animals, like parvo, like distemper, like feline leukemia and definitely rabies.

"This is primarily be-

See Rabies Clinic, Page 3A

Vol. 106 No. 19
2 Sections, 24 Pages
Weather
Thurs: Clouds Hi 82 Lo 56
Fri: Clouds Hi 83 Lo 58
Sat: Clouds Hi 84 Lo 59

Arrests 8A
Church 9A
Classifieds 4B
Opinion 4A
Legals 6B
Obits 11A
Sports 14A

National Day of Prayer
May 7th
First Baptist Church of Blairsville
6:30 PM

FARMERS MARKET
Home Grown & Handmade
Pre-Season Opener
Saturday, May 9th
See page 8A

RELAY FOR LIFE
American Cancer Society
Captain's Meeting
Thursday, May 8th • 5 PM
See page 7A

UCHS Baseball
May 6 @ Fitzgerald (DH) 4:30 PM
May 7 4:30 PM (If needed)
UCHS Soccer
May 5 - GIRLS - 5:30 PM vs. Thomasville
May 6 - BOYS - 5:30 PM @ Thomasville