

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Legal Organ of Union County

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## Four BRMEMC directors countersue

Directors Lance, Owenby, Nichols and Ensley claim defamation

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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Four members of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC's Board of Directors have filed a counter claim in Towns County Superior Court seeking damages for defamation of character.

Attorneys for Kenneth Lance, Greg Owenby, Jerry Nichols, and Robert Ensley claim their clients have been subjected to false and defamatory charges by a membership group that has filed suit against BRMEMC.

The suit revolves around a petition sent out by the membership group claiming that the directors breached their duty of honesty and good faith owed to all members and stakeholders of BRMEMC; the petition also acts that the directors failed to act with undivided loyalty and diligence to protect the financial and social interest of BRMEMC; that the directors violated the by-laws, were negligent and that their failure to act resulted in financial losses to BRMEMC; that the directors authorized preferential treatment of fellow directors to the detriment of BRMEMC; that the directors allowed misuse of BRMEMC assets and equipment; that the directors acted with carelessness which resulted in perjury to the Internal Revenue Service; that



the directors failed to maintain a high standard of conduct, condoned conflicts of interest, showed favoritism, were dishonest, and acted with carelessness and violated rules and standards.

The petitions were circulated in the *North Georgia News*, the *Towns County Herald*, *Clay County Progress* in Hayesville, NC, and the *Cherokee Scout*, in Murphy, NC, according to the counter claim filed in Towns County Superior Court.

The counter claim also cites a postcard with the same allegations mailed to every BRMEMC member.

The counter claim on behalf of Lance, Owenby, Nichols and Ensley emphasizes that the four have been libeled, slandered, and maliciously damaged, to be proven in court.

The four seek award of damages to be determined by a fair and impartial jury.

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## GBI seeks public help in finding CVS robber



By Charles Duncan  
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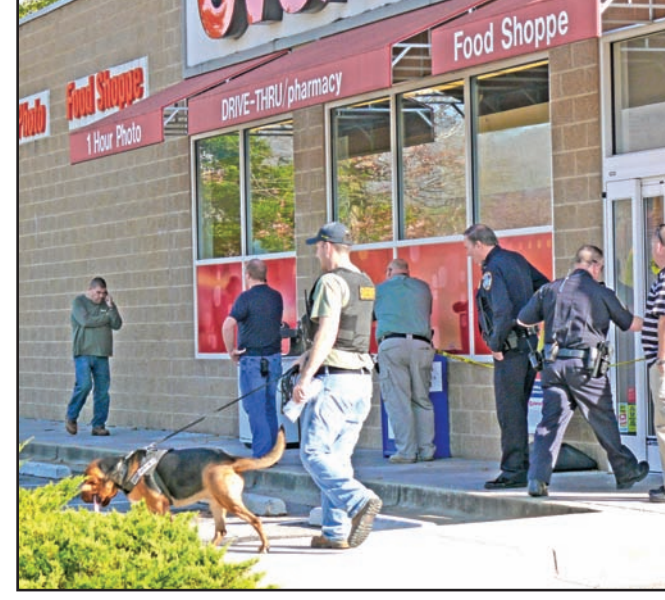
The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is seeking the public's help in identifying the person responsible for a series of armed robberies of CVS Pharmacies throughout North Georgia.

The man, who robbed the CVS Pharmacy in Blairsville, was wearing a camouflage fishing hat, was armed with a handgun and demanded Dilaudid, a narcotic pain medication.

Witnesses say he parked his vehicle at a local restaurant and walked to the CVS Pharmacy off Georgia 515.

The GBI was able to develop an artist rendering of his appearance from those witnesses.

The GBI says the man has committed robberies of CVS Pharmacies from October 2014 through March 2015. The robbery in Blair-



The scene outside CVS Pharmacy the day of the robbery in November 2014. Photo/Frank Uhle

ville occurred in November 2014.

The man always wears a wide-brim hat during each robbery.

The GBI says the man is responsible for multiple armed robberies of CVS Pharmacies in Calhoun, Blairsville, Dawson County and Cherokee County.

The law enforcement agencies in those communities are working closely together to help solve the crime spree.

If anyone has any information contact one of the following numbers. Information may be provided confidentially.

Call the GBI Tip Line: 1-800-597-TIPS (8477) or online at <https://investigative.gbi.georgia.gov/gbi-tip-line>.



## Farmers Market hosts Union County Ag Day

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

This weekend at the Union County Farmers Market, springtime takes off on the right foot as the Union County Future Farmers of America (FFA), Nelson's Tractor, and the *North Georgia News* and West Printing present the inaugural Union County Ag Day and the John Deere Drive Green event on Saturday at the Farmers Market.

The concept of Ag Day was conceived during last year's FFA annual Blue and Gold Auction where equipment and livestock that was raised by the FFA members was auctioned off to the public.

Unfortunately, the event would take up most of the day so Will Nelson of Nelson's Tractor and John Pettit of the



Left to right, John Clark Pettit, Union County Agriculture teacher, R.J. Brown, Union County FFA, Austin Brys, Union County FFA, and Nelson Tractor's Will Nelson. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Union County FFA began to brainstorm, and as a result, Ag Day at the Farmers Mar-

ket was born.

"I'm required by John Deere to have a customer

event," Nelson said. "So I can have my John Deere

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## Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast on Saturday

By Charles Duncan  
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It's that time of year again as the Blairsville Kiwanis host their annual Pancake Breakfast at the Union County Elementary School Cafeteria.

The event takes place Saturday, March 21 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Breakfast tickets are \$6 for adults and children under 10 years old eat free.

The Breakfast Menu consists of an all you can eat breakfast with blueberries, strawberries, or chocolate chip toppings.

It also comes with sausage, juice, milk and coffee. Carryover meals also are available.

Tickets can be purchased from any Kiwanis Club member or pay at the door the day of the Pancake Breakfast.

The annual event is held in honor of long-time Kiwanis member, the late Jim Dobson.

All who knew Jim Dobson were keenly aware



of his love and affection for the Blairsville-Union County community and his beloved Kiwanis Club. No one could sell more tickets for any club or organization than Jim Dobson and it's important to keep his memory alive through this annual event.

Thank the family and neighbors and come on out and join the Kiwanians for a delicious hot breakfast and enjoy a mountain of good fellowship.

The \$6 you invest in this delicious meal helps fund the many projects that the Kiwanis Club provides for the youth who call Union County home.

## Union County celebrates Arbor Day

Union County Executive Assistant Peggy Deyton to retire March 27 after 10 years



By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley, Blairsville Garden Club President Debra Raleigh, former Garden Club President Kay Bryant, along with Roy Fortenberry and Tony Har-

kins of the Georgia Forestry Commission braved a cold, rainy February afternoon for Blairsville-Union County's Arbor Day celebration at the Pat Haralson Civic Center.

The 20th day of February was proclaimed Arbor Day by Mayor Conley and Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris.

An Arbor Day proclamation was read by Mayor Conley, and afterwards, Fortenberry and Harkins presented Conley with a Tree City Flag.

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## Counterfeit bills passed in Union

By Charles Duncan  
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The Union County Sheriff's Office is looking for three men who passed 20 counterfeit \$100 at two Dollar General stores in Union County last week, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

The first occurrence happened at the Dollar General located beside Booger Holler store on U.S. 129; the second happened at the Dollar General Store in Ivy Log, Union County Sheriff's Detective SSgt. Daren Osborn said.

In the first instance, two black males, and one white male, all dressed in t-shirts and shorts, on three occasions each, went into the Dollar General Store and purchased \$500 in gift cards each.

"They used \$1,500 in counterfeit \$100 to purchase the gift cards," Sgt. Osborn said. "That happened late Sunday, March 8. The manager discovered what had happened on Monday morning. The \$100 bills had the same



Sheriff Mack Mason series numbers on the last four digits."

Sgt. Osborn said the same three men purchased \$500 in gift cards from the Dollar General Store in Ivy Log using counterfeit \$100 bills.

"We have surveillance video of the men, but it is very poor quality," Sgt. Osborn said. "You really can't tell anything defining from the video."

The Union County Sheriff's Office reached out to other departments in the

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UCHS Soccer  
Mar 20 @ Social Circle 5:30 & 7:30  
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