

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Legal Organ of Union County

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April 3, 2013

Whittle Blood Drive April 11th

By Joe Collins
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

April 11th is a special day in Union County.

It marks the first blood drive by Chattanooga, Tenn.-based Blood Assurance.

It's also a blood drive celebrating the birthday of fallen Union County sheriff's Deputy Derrick Whittle.

All the blood donated will be used for Union General Hospital in honor of the memory of Badge No. 221, better known as Deputy Whittle.

The blood drive is scheduled between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Union County Courthouse, on April 11th.

The blood collected will be used at Union General and will serve the people of Union County and its guests. Blood Assurance, will clean



Sharon Whittle welcomes patrons to the Union County Community Center and the announcement of the Derrick Whittle Blood Drive. Photo/Joe Collins

random. The blood donated here, perform 13 different tests on it and then return it right back to our area for use.

Right now they are running approximately 50 percent short of the 1,200 or so units Union General needs for its supply.

The collection date, April 11th, wasn't chosen at

random. It has a special connection to Union County and to the people who loved Deputy Derrick Whittle.

It's his birthday, and Blood Assurance selected the date to host a blood drive here to honor his birthday and to

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Davenport to be honored Friday

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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Most people only know Leon Davenport as the retired administrator of Union General Hospital.

On Friday, an entire community will know him as the namesake of the Veterans Building off Georgia Highway 515 in Blairsville.

The building, formerly the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce Building, now, the county's veterans building, will be dedicated in honor of U.S. Army Major (retired) Leon Davenport.

A Union County native, Davenport is one of the most decorated veterans in U.S. Military history, and without a doubt, the most decorated soldier in Union County history.

Davenport began his



Major Leon Davenport

military career as a U.S. Army private in 1945 and rose through the ranks to major, receiving a battlefield commission in Korea in 1953.

During his 22-year military career, Davenport served 131 months overseas, being stationed in the Philippine Islands (1945), Japan (1945-

1950), Korea (1950-1951 and 1952-1953), Germany (1962-1965), and Vietnam (1968-1969).

He was a member of the famed 24th Infantry Division, the first American unit to see action during the Korean Conflict.

During the course of his military career, Davenport was awarded three Silver Stars, one Bronze Star with V for Valor, one Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, a Purple Heart, an Air Medal with Nine Oak Leaf clusters, an Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf cluster, an American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal (Japan 1945-1950), National Defense Service Medal, Ko-

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Hundreds say good-bye to Union County's Jack Lance Sr.

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County loved Jack Lance Sr. and always will.

Lance, 76, died March 24th following a brief illness. He left behind a legacy of athletic prowess, family and community, all rolled into one.

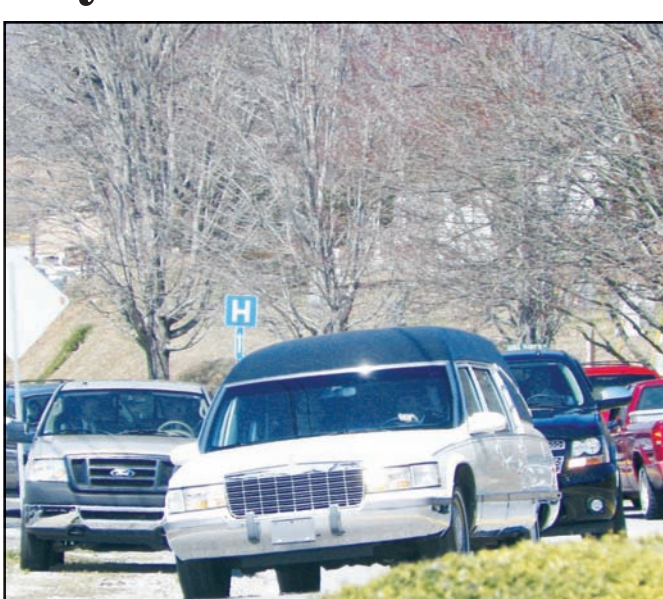
On Thursday, March 28th, friends and family bade farewell to their beloved father, friend and associate, while multitudes sent their condolences to the family that Lance, a man amongst men, left behind.

First Baptist Church held the funeral services for Lance as hundreds packed the sanctuary to honor the lifetime of a man who never met a stranger.

Lance left behind six children and 16 grandchildren during his 76 years on this earth.

During that time span, Lance lived the fullest, accomplishments galore, while touching more lives than most could pull off in 176 years.

Lance wore many hats.



Thursday was one last ride through Blairsville for Jack Lance Sr. Photo/Todd Forrest

A college graduate, successful business owner, military veteran, legendary athlete, coach, mentor, volunteer, and pillar of the community.

He was a throwback, a product of the Greatest Generation. In today's fast paced society, ruled by an "I want it now," mentality, Lance was a constant reminder of the good old days, when past events were played out, not through

a YouTube video, but through the words of a story.

Lance was no stranger to a kind gesture, and a community first mindset, not for publicity or attention, but simply because it was the Golden Rule.

Just when you believe that 'love thy neighbor' is becoming old fashioned, and "do

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Chief sends bloodline to State Capitol

By Charles Duncan
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DeLayni Stroud and Channa Carroll have something in common besides being cousins.

Both are granddaughters of Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll, both are students in Union County Schools, and both are PAGES to State Rep. David RALSTON, (R-Blue Ridge), Georgia's Speaker of the House.

Both have been PAGES for three years, and BOTH have enjoyed the experience.

"I have a wonderful experience every time I attend the Legislative Session in Atlanta," Channa said. "Every year, I meet new people, make new friends, and learn more about government policies."



DeLayni Stroud

DeLayni Stroud agreed. "Being a PAGE at the Capitol is a great honor," she said. "I have seen and learned more of what our Speaker of the House and our Representatives face daily while in session."

"As a PAGE, you deliver messages to your representative, and take the requests



Channa Carroll

that have been turned in by that you are paging for, or to the Speaker of the House," she said. "Had I never paged, I would not could not have imagined the amount of requests that lobbyists have."

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Streetscape begins in Downtown

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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A long awaited city project is slated to begin early this week.

Streetscape, a revamping of the downtown square, is about to become a reality.

Janet Hartman, program director for the Downtown Development Authority, and Russell Swafford, vice president of Johnson Landscapes, spoke with property owners, business owners and concerned citizens last week at the Historic Union County Courthouse to let folks know what to expect.

The project is slated to take shape from early April until the fall, Hartman said.

There is the potential for some Saturday work, Swafford told the group.

The construction of 8-foot brick sidewalks, and



Locals gather around drawings of what Downtown will look like in the fall. Photo/Charles Duncan

concrete stamped walkways, is part of the \$429,000 project funded by a Transportation Grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation.

"It's hard to say how long it's going to last," Mayor Jim Conley said. "When you're digging up asphalt

and concrete, you never know what you're going to dig up."

The project is slated to be completed in about 120 days, Mayor Conley said.

"I'm excited about this project," Mayor Conley said.

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Union County Grand Jury Indictments

The following persons have been indicted by the Union County Grand Jury:

Eric Lamar Allen, possession of methamphetamine; giving false information to a law enforcement officer.

Aguas Resendiz Camilo, possession of methamphetamine; possession of cocaine

with intent to distribute; possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute.

Christopher Lee Churchill, riot in a penal institution; aggravated assault; aggravated battery; battery.

Lisa Carol Davis, burglary.

Heather Dawn Dock-

ery, crossing guard lines with drugs; Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act, possession of hydrocodone.

Randy LeRoy Epperson, burglary.

Donna Joan Fortenberry, harassing phone calls.

Larry Dean Gooch,

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SROs bust two for drinking at Prom

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Two Union County High School students got a rude awakening at the 2013 Prom, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

And according to the sheriff, the arrest of both girls was more about keeping them safe than it was about anything else.

Union County School Resource Officer Sally Tanner made the arrest of the two teens for underage consumption of alcohol.

According to Deputy

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Robby Brown, Sally Tanner and Darren Jones

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AWAKE AMERICA PRAYER MEETING

Thursday, April 4
11:59 a.m.

Blairsville City Hall flagpole

Allegheny Lodge No. 114

BIG Country Breakfast
Sat., April 6 7-11 a.m.
\$6.00

Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Grits, Coffee, Tea or Milk

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Suches Annual Spring Clean-Up
April 6 & April 13
Call Lisa at 706-747-9773 or Bud at 706-747-2063

Trash bags will be provided & available at Wolf Pen Gap Country Store

Blairsville Kiwanis Mountain Fair

April 9-14
Union County Industrial Park on Airport Rd.
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UCHS Baseball
Thursday, April 4 • 5 p.m. vs. Andrews, NC
Friday, April 5 • 4:30 p.m. @ Social Circle (DH)

Woody Gap Tennis
Monday, April 8 • 4 p.m. @ Lakeview