

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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BOE honors Region Champs UCHS Mock Trial team



By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Union County High School Mock Trial Team was honored at the monthly Union County Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, April 21.

"This year, we became six-time Region Champions in Mock Trial, which was awesome," said Teacher Coach Amy Payne. "That competition is held in Dalton at the Whitfield County Courthouse, and they dominated during the Region Championship, winning six out of six courtrooms

and 17 out of 18 ballots. That kind of gives you an idea as to what level this team functions on."

Each year, teams from around the state receive the same cases written specifically for Mock Trial, and students

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National Day of Prayer set for May 7th

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley have proclaimed May 7 as a Day of Prayer in Union County.

This year will mark the 64th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer and Union County will hold a public gathering in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church in Downtown Blairsville on May 7 at 6:30 p.m.

The prayer celebration will feature prayers by area pastors and a prayer testimony by Missionary Jim Arnold. Adam McPherson will lead those attending in worship with a special solo.

The theme for this year



is Lord Hear our Cry, based on the scripture verse I Kings 8:28 - Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in Your presence this day.

This theme emphasizes the need for individuals, corporate and individually, to place their faith in the unfa-

ing character of their Creator, who is sovereign over all governments, authorities, and men.

On Thursday, April 23, area pastors gathered with Commissioner Paris and Mayor Conley to endorse the

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More than 400 attend UGH Annual Health Fair

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

More than 400 people attended Union General Hospital's Health Fair on Saturday, April 25.

Fifty-five vendors and more than a hundred volunteers, both hospital staff and area physicians and healthcare providers, were present to offer their services and to educate the public about health issues.

Visitors to the health fair were able to get \$450 worth of blood work done for a fraction of the cost, and many took advantage of a multitude of free services such as bone density and detailed EKGs.

Blairsville Internal Medicine's Dr. Mary Beth Wiles and Dr. Elizabeth Wiles performed skin checks, and Dr. Linda Szekeresh, an ophthalmologist with Premier



Eye Care Associates, offered free vision screenings.

Dr. Wendy Smith, an ear, nose and throat surgeon, was on hand to give hearing tests, and director of the Union General Wellness Center Jen-

nifer Puryear handed out information about the center, located down the street from the hospital, and conducted body fat percentage tests.

The event offered a chance for area hospitals to

work together for the common cause of public health, as representatives from Erlanger Health System, Northeast Georgia Medical Center and Piedmont Hospital were present to let people know the services they offered.

"In conjunction with Union General Hospital, Northeast Georgia Medical Center Heart Group and Air Methods AirLife Georgia, we're doing community CPR, with the ultimate goal of nobody leaving here not knowing how to do CPR," said Kyle Powers, senior flight paramedic with AirLife Georgia.

"There have been a lot of changes in CPR over the years. It's become very simplified, and statistically shows that the most important part of resuscitation of a patient is the bystander CPR

See *Health Fair, Page 2A*

Two charged with marijuana possession

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

A Hayesville, NC man and a Hayesville, NC woman have been charged with marijuana possession following what Union County Sheriff Mack Mason calls one of the most bizarre traffic stops in recent memory.

Union County sheriff's deputies eventually arrested Rodney Davis, 33, and Heidi Tisi Reitano, 36, after the latter was noticed slumped in what deputies believed was the driver's seat of a 1995 Jeep Cherokee.

It wasn't the driver's seat, but the passenger seat of a U.S. Mail delivery vehicle, according to Sheriff Mason.

The vehicle was noticed at the Pot Haven Store on U.S. 76, Sheriff Mason said.

Sheriff's Deputy Dustin Walker was in the store parking lot and noticed Reitano slumped inside the vehicle, the sheriff said.

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Rodney Lou Davis



Heidi Tisi Reitano

Mountain Home Show draws a crowd

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Since 1999, The Mountain Home Show has been held at North Georgia Technical College.

The event has become an event not to miss for anyone looking to build a home in the North Georgia mountains.

And it's not just home-builders that benefit from the show, but even the do-it-yourself types, or someone just tackling a weekend project. The two-day show provides seminars and exhibits, as well as providing educational tools and everything needed for a



first-time home builder, someone tackling a weekend project, a remodeling novice, the do-it-yourself types, to even something for housing industry professionals.

Richard MacCrea was one of the original organizers of the show and when the show began 17 years ago, things were very different than they are today, as the show

has seen its share of ups and downs since the 1999.

"Back then the economy was a lot better and it (Mountain Home Show) was huge, and every year it was getting bigger and bigger," MacCrea said. "Then when the crash came, we shrunk down to half-size and that was very difficult for a lot of people. But each year since then it's been growing a little bit and this year is a little bit better than last year too."

Then, to top it all off, the show promotes local businesses, and with all of the exhibitors under one

See *Home Show, Page 15A*

Annual Garden Show packs Civic Center

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

More than 150 people filled the Haralson Memorial Civic Center on Wednesday, Apr. 22nd, to attend the 30th Annual Landscape Seminar presented by the Blairsville Garden Club, who was also celebrating its 75th anniversary.

"Paint Your Garden With Color" was appropriately as the civic center was illuminated with radiant spring colors.



Blooming azaleas, rhododendrons, and other flowering plants, native wild azaleas

in full bloom, along with the brightly colored foliage of perennials and shrubs.

See *Garden, Page 15A*

Confederate soldiers remembered in Union

By Mason Mitcham
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

On Saturday, April 25, the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Daughters of the Confederacy celebrated Confederate Memorial Day at Veteran's Memorial Park. After leading the pledge and the salute of the Georgia flag, Commander Harold Levi read the charge of Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee.



"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans we will commit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought," the charge reads. "To your Strength will be given the Defense of the Confederate Soldier's good name, the Guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of these principles which you also

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Union man faces distribution charges

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

The Union County Narcotics Squad has charged a 63-year-old Union County man with distribution of marijuana and a controlled substance, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

David James Potter, of the Ivy Log community, also is charged with felony probation violation, possession of marijuana and violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act, Union County Jail records show.

The case against Potter began to unfold after Potter allegedly gave marijuana and a controlled substance to an individual, Detective Lt. Chad Deyton said.

The Narcotics Squad began an investigation and



David James Potter

eventually served Potter with a search warrant to search his residence, Lt. Deyton said.

The search of Potter's residence yielded packaging materials, approximately a

See *Drugs, Page 15A*

Buy Local Extravaganza set for Thursday

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

In 2013, the annual Buy Local Extravaganza held at the Union County Community Center was focused on the upstairs banquet room.

As patrons entered the 2014 edition, they couldn't recognize the event from the prior year.

In 2014, the Buy Local Extravaganza took advantage of every square inch of space inside and outside the Community Center.

Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce President Cindy Williams said 2015's Buy Local Extravaganza will be the largest ever.

Williams said last year's turnout of local busi-



nesses and countless members of the community for the community business showcase thrilled her to no end.

"The most encouraging part is that people turned out to buy local," Williams

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May 1 - BOYS - TBA
State Tourney Rd 1 vs. Armuchee