

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Legal Organ of Union County

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Graduation weekend will send 163 seniors into the world

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Reagan Hooper will deliver the Valedictorian Speech when the Class of 2014 bids farewell to Union County High School May 23, at 8 p.m. at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

Prior to Hooper's farewell, Alice Francis, UCHS STAR Student for 2014, will deliver the Salutatorian's Speech. Approximately 125 seniors will walk the aisle at UCHS.

Logan Wood, The Woody Gap School's 2014 STAR Student, will deliver the school's Valedictorian Speech on May 24 at 10 a.m. at The Woody Gap School Gymnasium.

Prior to Wood's farewell, Lauren Adams, The Woody Gap School's 2014 Homecoming Queen, will deliver the Salutatorian's Speech. Five seniors will walk the aisle at WGHS.

Madison Kelley will deliver the Valedictorian Speech



Reagan Hooper



Alice Francis



Logan Wood



Lauren Adams



Madison Kelley

when the Class of 2014 bids farewell to Mountain Area Christian Academy at Temple Baptist Church in Morganton on May 24 at 11 a.m.

Prior to Kelley's farewell, Emily Shamblyn will deliver the Salutatorian's Speech. Ten seniors will walk the aisle at MACA.

Twenty-three Mountain Charter High School students will walk the aisle on May 29 at 5 p.m. at the Fannin County Performing Arts Center.

These graduations bring to a close 12 years of learning at the high school level for the 163 graduating seniors.

UCHS Principal John Hill said graduation is an exciting time.

"Graduation symbolizes the end of one journey and the beginning of another," Hill said. "The Class of 2014 leaves behind a legacy of leadership both in and out of the classroom. You all will be greatly missed."

Sheila Tritt Collins and

David Murphy, the coprin-

cipals at The Woody Gap School, wish the Class of 2014 all the best.

"Step valiantly forward into your very own future," Collins and Murphy said.

"Remember that your future now rests upon you."

MACA Principal Barbara Brooker wished the Class of 2014 the best life has to offer.

"May the Lord bless you with the courage and endurance to strive toward your

dreams," Brooker said.

At MECHS Union site, principals Roy Perren and Angie Adams urged graduates to follow their dreams.

"We wish you all the best as you reach the milestones in your dreams," they said.

This edition of the North Georgia News includes a graduation section for all four area schools. Please enjoy this section and celebrate such a joyous and momentous occasion.



Emily Shamblyn

Hunter, Allison and Collins return to office

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Tony Hunter was beside himself on Tuesday night.

"Wow," he said after defeating challenger Tsali Bentley in the District 2 Board of Education race.

Hunter offered many thanks to his supporters defeated Bentley 1,403 to 1,264. However, that was the tightest race of the evening as 3,498 ballots were cast.

In District 4 Incumbent John Strickland was unseated by challenger Keith Potts by a slim margin of only 47 votes. Potts collected 1,309 votes to Strickland's 1,262.

In the District 5 race, Amber Deyton Pruitt collected 1,025 votes to Patrick White's 897 votes. Wilburn Etheridge managed only 364 votes in the race.

Pruitt and White now find themselves in a runoff.

The local races weren't the only contested races.

Entering the election it was safe to assume that each of the three school board spots would be determined in the primary.

A runoff will determine the District 5 seat.

The interesting point in the District 5 BOE race, the Suches precinct went in a different direction than the rest of the county with White and Etheridge each garnering more support than Pruitt.

White picked up 85 votes and Etheridge remarkably defeated Pruitt by a 42-34 margin in Suches.

The District 4 race went down to the wire with Potts edging the incumbent Strickland.

The Blairsville and Coosa precincts provided Potts with the bump to overtake the incumbent. Potts took Blairsville 173-122 and Coosa 185-138, while Strickland

took five of the other nine precincts, including Dooly 113-65.

Meanwhile, Hunter (R) defeated Bentley with 52.6 percent of the vote to earn another term representing District 2.

The race was tight early as Bentley took four precincts. But strong support in Dooly and Owlton secured Hunter's reelection bid.

Hunter was humble as he congratulated his supporters.

"I really don't have an agenda," he said. "No, I take that back, the kids are my agenda. I just want to say thank you Union County."

Hunter was proud he and Bentley kept the race clean.

"I mean, we're not here for the money," Hunter said. "We're here for the kids. Tsali ran a clean race. I tip my hat to him."

See Elections, 3A

Rain doesn't stop Lance dedication

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

The wind was fierce, the rain came down hard, and programs blew through the air.

Still, the day set aside to dedicate U.S. 19/129 as the Jack C. Lance Sr. Memorial Highway to the North Carolina line went on as planned.

Friends and family, and local and state dignitaries gathered Friday to rename the federal and state route in honor of the man who grew up here and became a community icon.

George Berry, high school teammate and lifelong friend, said he was honored to take part in the ceremony honoring his close personal friend.

"Jack and I started the first grade together," Berry said. "We went through school in Union County together. We



Jack Lance Jr. receives a reminder from Sen. Steve Gooch of a momentous day. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

that I wish he was here with us today, but, if he was here with us, he wouldn't allow us to do what we're doing here today,"

"I was telling my wife

See Lance, 2A

Business Expo a hit on Saturday

By Colleen Collins
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Tri-County Business Women held their Eighth Annual Tri-State Business Women's Expo at the Union County Farmers Market on Saturday.

Sixty-one vendors were on hand to meet new customers, make new friends and network with other business owners and entrepreneurs.

Pam Fink, the group's incoming president, said the organization has grown in 11 years from an original group of four women to its current 52 members.

"All you need is 'an entrepreneurial spirit' to join the group," she said. "The purpose of Tri-State Business Women is to help each other grow our business through education, networking, and moral support."

The group meets every Tuesday at The Blairsville Restaurant from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m., and the meeting is over by 9 a.m. sharp, because so many of its members have businesses to open.

This is the fourth year the Business Women's Expo has been held at the Union County Farmers Market, Fink said.

"Many of these women (the vendors) don't have brick and mortar stores, so it's important for them to meet and greet the public - and to let the public to know they exist," Fink said. "An example is my business (the Lucey Group). I build websites for a living, but I work from home."

Vendor offerings at the



Expo ranged from food to make-up to jewelry to pottery to legal services - in short, there was something for everyone.

One of the vendors at the Expo was Jill Goode, of Spa and Deck Creations (Blairsville and Blue Ridge).

Goode has been a member of the Tri-State Business Women since the beginning, she said.

"We have enjoyed the Expo," she said. "I have talked to lots of people who came up and said they already have a hot tub, and other people who want one. Several of these were my current customers who

bought products, and others thought about getting a hot tub, but had no idea of the cost or how the process works. The Expo is a just a good way to display your business product(s)."

Then, Goode pointed toward a couple of young people who were swinging away on a beautiful red Pawleys Island Hammock - a product she now stocks in her store.

Another vendor was Angie Hernden of Mountain Hope Pottery and Sculpture, Blairsville.

Her daughter, Angie Pol-

See Business Expo, 3A

Memorial Day Parade Saturday

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

The Memorial Day honors in Union County will be a poignant and somber event on Saturday.

The community will also host a Memorial Day Parade to honor those who fought for freedom and paid the ultimate price to keep our nation free of tyranny. The parade starts at 10 a.m.

Locals will then gather at Union County War Memorial Park on Veterans Memorial Drive to pay tribute to its fallen war heroes.

The parade route will wind around the Historic Union County Courthouse and end at the Union County War Memorial Park.

Memorial Day commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in military service.



Currently, our nation is engaged in a war with terrorism; one that it cannot afford to lose.

Put aside for the day any

foreign policy issues and honor our fallen heroes. A large turn-

See Memorial, 3A

Jim's Smokin' Que No. 6 BBQ in the USA

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Jim's Smokin' Que, off U.S. 129 in Blairsville, has been selected as the sixth best barbecue restaurant in America by TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel site.

Last week, TripAdvisor announced the highest-rated restaurants and top U.S. states for barbecue, according to TripAdvisor's community of millions of travelers.

From sweet and saucy to simple and smoky, these



spots serve up low-and-slow cooked meats that are sure to satisfy any travelers' tastes.

"Nothing says American summer like barbecue, and with

styles that vary by region, aficionados get fired up over which states serve up the

See Jim's, 3A

Vol. 105 No. 21
3 Sections, 32 Pages

Weather
Thu: Clouds Hi 82 Lo 62
Fri: T-Storms Hi 79 Lo 56
Sat: Clouds Hi 79 Lo 55

Arrests 8A
Church 9A
Classifieds 4B
Opinion 4A
Legals 7B
Obits 11A
Sports 12A

8 0 4 8 7 9 1 9 3 1 4 2

Iota Iota and Morning Glory Circle Yard Sale

See Page 6A

Strawberry Jubilee Saturday May 24th U.C. Farmers Market

See Page 8A

Join us for a complimentary Skin Cancer Screening

See Page 8A

Reece Society annual meeting May 31st

See Page 8A

UC Fire Station 4 Open House Saturday, May 31st 11am-2pm

See Page 6A

Don't Miss Our Special Graduation Section in This Week's Paper!!