

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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State to honor Lance Sr. with road dedication

By Charles Duncan
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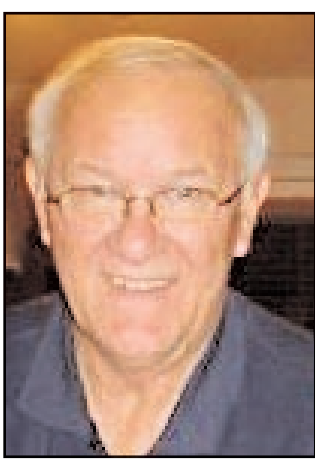
Georgia State Senate Resolution 1184 comes to fruition on Friday at 1 p.m. at the Intersection of Georgia 515 and U.S. 19/129.

That resolution, introduced and sponsored by District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch, renames U.S. 19/129 North to the North Carolina state line as the *Jack Collins Lance Sr. Memorial Highway*.

The ceremony includes a welcome by Class of 1955 teammate George Berry, an invocation by the Rev. Danny Parris, Pledge of Allegiance by Lance's "little brother" Bud Atkins, and comments by Sen. Gooch, Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, with Jack Lance Jr. speaking on behalf of the Lance family.

Jack Lance Sr. was *Mr. Basketball* in Union County, playing for Coach James Butterworth.

He led the Panthers to their first Region champion-



Jack Lance Sr.

ship in 1955 as well as the team's first state playoff appearance.

He also played baseball, and led the UCHS baseball team to its first Region championship and first state playoff appearance, also in 1955.

Lance also played in the North-South High School Basketball All-Star Game in 1955.

Union County lost to Lanier County 69-66 in the

1955 state playoffs. Lanier County, 37-0, went on to win the 1955 Class B State Basketball Championship.

The next closest team scoring-wise finished 15 points behind Lanier County.

Lance enjoyed a solid college basketball career playing for Laker Rushton at Young Harris College.

Lance and five of his descendants scored more than 1,000 career points each playing for the Panthers or Lady Panthers.

The list included Big Jack, children Kris, Kenya, Jack Jr., grandson Seth Merritt and granddaughter Becca Merritt. Another prodigy, grandson Jake Gooch, holds the Panthers basketball record for blocked shots.

Jack Lance Sr. wasn't just about basketball.

For years, he was one of the community's two pharmacists, practicing at Hill-Lance Drugs alongside close friend and fellow 1955 basketball teammate Charles Hill.

During his career, he tipped off numerous customers that they might have diabetes – he was never wrong.

After retirement, he stayed active in the community, often conducting diabetes clinics for senior citizens at Wesley Mountain Village.

He served more than 26 years representing Union County on the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors.

He was an EMC board member at the time of his death on March 24, 2013.

Jack Lance Sr. was one of the charter members of the Union County Parks and Recreation Board of Directors.

He also served on the Union County Historical Society Board of Directors.

SR 1184 recognizes the life of Jack Collin Lance, Sr., and renaming a road in his memory; and for other purposes. WHEREAS, Jack Collin Lance, Sr., has long been recognized by the

See *Highway, 3A*

Election Day is Tuesday

Only 500 cast early ballots; NGN to deliver on Wednesday

By Charles Duncan
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The day of decision for local, state and federal candidates is just six days away.

And much to the disappointment of the Union County Board of Elections, by Monday morning, only 500 people had cast early ballots.

At stake locally, three Board of Education seats, all to be settled in the Union County GOP Primary on May 20. No Democrats qualified for those three BOE seats.

The Union County BOE District 2 race features Incumbent Tony Hunter and challenger Tsalu Bentley.

The District 4 BOE race features Incumbent John Strickland and challenger Keith Pitts.

District 5 BOE features three political newcomers on the GOP ticket, K. Wilburn

Etheridge, Amber Deyton Pruitt, and Patrick W. White seek the GOP approval.

District 5 Incumbent Julie Barton, a Suches Democrat, did not seek reelection.

Registered voters began casting ballots at the Union County Courthouse on April 29. They can continue to do so until Friday, May 16 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, the GOP Primary race to fill the U.S. Senate seat left vacant by retiring U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-GA, features candidates Paul Collins Broun, Arthur "Art" Gardner, J.P. "Phil" Gingrey, Derrick E. Grayson, Karen C. Handel, J.H. "Jack" Kingston, and David Perdue.

On the Democratic U.S. Senate ballot, O. "Steen" Miles, Michelle Nunn, Brank "Rad" Radulovacki, and Todd

See *Early, 2A*

CCC Boys return to Vogel State Park



Four CCC Boys returned to Union County and Vogel State Park on Saturday for the annual CCC Boys Reunion. Almost 100 people attended the event. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Collins
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The CCC Boys came back to their roots on Saturday.

The Civilian Conservation Corps, otherwise known as

the CCC, held its annual reunion on beautiful Lake Trahlyta at Vogel State Park.

Four "CCC Boys" who served in the Corps were present for the Reunion, along with approximately 70 others, who came together from all over

Georgia to honor and recognize these amazing men.

Vogel Assistant Park Manager Randy Gambrell presented opening comments and welcomed the CCC Boys in attendance, their family and guests.

See *CCC, 3A*

Buy Local continues to thrive

By Charles Duncan
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A year ago, the annual Buy Local Extravaganza held at the Union County Community Center was focused on the upstairs banquet room.

As you entered the 2014 edition, you wouldn't recognize the event.

The Buy Local Extravaganza took advantage of every square inch of space inside and outside the facility.

Driving in, Sunrise Grocery's outdoor venue caught the eyes of everyone coming in from the Community Center Parking Lot – of which barely a space was available.

Upstairs, down stairs and all around, the event was spread out on the grounds just enough to give everyone space enough to mix and mingle.

Indeed, the Union County Community Center



Logan Turnpike Tuesday took Best in Show at the annual Buy Local Extravaganza on Tuesday at the Union County Community Center. Photo/Charles Duncan

was the place to be last week as the annual event showcased a plethora of local businesses

and restaurants.

All came together to let

See *Buy Local, 8A*

Prom royalty crowned on Saturday



Lauren Zollinger and Dylan Coyne were UCHS Prom King and Queen on Saturday at North Georgia Technical College. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Black Hawk Down Ranger speaks at UCHS



By Charles Duncan
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Oct. 3, 1993 is a day

U.S. Army SSGT. Keni Thomas will never forget.

That day became a best-selling book and later, a box office smash on the Silver

Screen.

Most will remember the aftermath of that day as *Black*

See *Black Hawk, 2A*

Finally a new scoreboard

By Charles Duncan
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After more than 30 years, and countless questions about what down it is, the Union County Panthers have a new scoreboard.

Head Football Coach Brian Allison made the presentation to the Union County Board of Education last week detailing the capabilities of the new scoreboard.

The scoreboard has a message center to alert Panther fans of the current game situations. When the Panthers score a touchdown or field goal, the message board comes to life with that information.

The scoreboard was paid for by \$15,000 from Coca Cola, and \$20,000 from the Union County Quarterback Club. The scoreboard



Panthers Head Football Coach shows off a digital scoreboard of the Panther field's 21st century scoreboard. Coca Cola paid \$15,000 on the project, the Union County Quarterback Club picked up \$20,000. Photo/Charles Duncan

also will give Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium a fresh look beginning in the fall.

The new addition was

met with high praise by the Board of Education. It includes a 25-second play clock.

Workforce Development almost 1 year old

By Charles Duncan
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Young Harris - A year ago, Micah Thomas began a journey that no one could predict.

As the mobile jobs bus driver and its only training instructor, Thomas is the link between gainful employment and building an accurate resume for many job seekers in Northeast Georgia.

The journey began when Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Work-



Micah Thomas

force Development obtained

two mobile training units with Workforce Investment Act funding through the Governor's Office of Workforce Development.

Thomas became Workforce Development's connection with a growing unemployed workforce.

Thomas and the jobs bus were on hand Wednesday at the Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris.

"The program is growing," Thomas said. "We focus

See *Workforce, 2A*

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Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games

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