

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Legal Organ of Union County

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## Zell Miller's loss mourned in region, state and nation

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Assistant Editor

YOUNG HARRIS – Larger than life political player and Young Harris hometown hero Zell Miller died on Friday, March 23, after battling Parkinson's disease.

Miller, 86, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by family, said grandson Bryan Miller.

"The family is taking this pretty tough," said Bryan Miller, founder and CEO of the Miller Institute Foundation, in a press briefing that Friday. "We ask, again, that you would respect our privacy."

"Our family was able to spend the last 24 hours with him, and I will tell you that we need some time to be able to



Photo/Miller Institute  
Former governor and U.S. Sen. Zell Miller passed away on Friday, March 23, 2018.

process this as a family, to be able to hold him together." Condolences for Miller's loss have been issued

by individuals in every state in the nation, from family friends, political and civic leaders, thoughtful citizens and beyond.

Three services were planned for Miller, including a Memorial Service on March 26 at Young Harris College; a Celebration of Life Service on March 27 at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta; and his Executive State Funeral Service in the Rotunda of the Georgia State Capitol on March 28.

All services occurred after press time.

Those fortunate enough to have known Miller understood that he had both a lion's and a servant's heart, and his loss will be counted by innumerable many.

"He always strived for

excellence, and that is, I think, the greatest tribute that I could pay," said Bob Short, Miller's lifelong friend and former political advisor. "He was never satisfied with the status quo, and that's been proven by his legacy, by his career as governor and as a United States senator."

Miller's reach in life extended far, and his rich legacy will ensure that his reach continues far beyond his passing.

His crowning achievement as governor – the Georgia Lottery-funded HOPE Scholarship – has broadened the horizons of greater than 1.8 million students by enabling them to afford postsecondary educations in Georgia.

"Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE)



Photo by Shawn Jarrard  
Zell's grandson Bryan Miller giving a press briefing on behalf of the family on Friday, March 23.

has provided more than \$9.4 billion of financial assistance for educational programs beyond high school," per the Georgia Student Finance Commission. Another of Miller's great achievements was the Georgia State Lottery. See Miller, Page 2A

## Union General, county renew medical helicopter service

News Special  
Union General Hospital

In an effort to provide our local communities critical care in the air without the financial burden, Union General and Chatuge Regional Hospitals reached out to both the Union County and Towns County Commissioner's Offices to provide another year of medical helicopter membership through the Air Methods Advantage program.

We are very excited that we will be offering FREE Air Methods Helicopter Memberships again, for the third year in a row, to all residents in both Union and Towns County. There are two helicopter companies that service Union and Towns County.

The first is AirLife GA owned and operated by "Air Methods," which is the one being paid for by Union General and Chatuge Regional Hospitals as well as the Union and Towns County Commissioner's Offices.

The second helicopter company is AirMedCare, which charges a \$65 renewal fee and is not affiliated with Air Methods Helicopter Membership.

The Air Methods Membership is free and has no fee, and the current year's Air Methods Membership for all county residents will take effect on June 1, 2018.

Union and Towns County residents do not have to sign up for or fill out anything to become a member

of Air Methods Helicopter Membership.

Air Methods provides emergency air medical transport to the nearest trauma center for patients in critical condition.

As we stated earlier, there are two different helicopter companies that service this area.

Air Methods is the helicopter service based at Union General Hospital, which is the membership being paid for by Union General Hospital, Chatuge Regional Hospital, and both Union and Towns County Commissioner's Offices.

This free membership covers you locally, as well as in 48 states throughout the country wherever Air Methods helicopters are based.

See Helicopter, Page 2A



Photo by Shawn Jarrard  
Pictured L-R: Lewis Kelley, Union General Hospital CEO; Cliff Bradshaw, Towns County Commissioner; Lamar Paris, Union County Commissioner; Joe Perdue, Air Methods; Derrick Moody, Air Methods; Marcus Lindsey, Air Methods; Leslie Daniel, Union General Hospital Administration

## Annual Easter egg hunt triumphs over weather

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Assistant Editor

The Easter egg hunt has become a time-honored tradition that is guaranteed to bring children outdoors, even in the cold and rain.

Just ask the Union County Recreation Department, which put out 4,000 Easter eggs for its annual hunt on Saturday, March 24.

The temperature remained grudgingly in the mid-40s that morning, and a steady trickle of rain began to fall just before the start of the hunt at the upper ballfields in Meeks Park.

But the kids came ready in their coats as parents held umbrellas overhead, and over a hundred children eagerly awaited their chance to scoop up more than their fair share of the pastel-colored candy capsules.

The Meeks Park Egg Hunt was a success. See Easter Egg Hunt, Page 2A



Photo by Lowell Nicholson  
A little rain couldn't stop this dad from having fun with their children during the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Meeks Park on Saturday, March 24.

## ADC doubles space with \$15 million expansion

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Assistant Editor

Advanced Digital Cable celebrated the completion of its 105,000-square-foot facility expansion with a reception and ribbon cutting on Monday, March 19.

Today, the facility inside the Blairsville Airport Industrial Park employs 75 workers, and the expansion will benefit the local economy by allowing ADC to add an estimated 40 to 60 new jobs in Union County over the next few years.

ADC manufactures a wide variety of cables, including electronic, industrial, renewable, IMSA traffic signal, RF and hookup wire and cable.

On top of the 12,000 square feet of front office area, the expansion doubles the facility's previous capacity from 105,000 to 210,000 square feet of manufacturing



Photo by Shawn Jarrard  
Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris congratulating father and son team Steve and Cory Payne on the Advanced Digital Cable expansion.

space. "This definitely gives us the room to expand our growth, and increase our employee count," said ADC Vice President Cory Payne. "We were getting to where it was so full you could barely move. This is going to create more manufacturing area in our existing building. We're going to increase production." See ADC, Page 6A

## Local students place at SkillsUSA Georgia

By Mark Novak  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

ATLANTA – Students of the Union County Schools System represented their home county well in the SkillsUSA Georgia competition that took place Thursday, March 22, through Saturday, March 24.

Union County High School students Slade Rowan, Andrew Collins, Michael Raper and Isaac Tritt finished Second Place in the Welding Fabrication competition.

Woody Gap student Austin Crocker placed third in the Building Maintenance competition.

The Georgia International Convention Center. See SkillsUSA, Page 6A



Photo by Mark Novak  
Union County High School competitors with teacher Derick Dillinger at SkillsUSA Georgia in Atlanta on Friday, March 23.

## Mason: 'Weapons Carry Class back by popular demand'

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

Back by popular demand, the Union County Sheriff's Office is once again sponsoring a Weapons Carry Class.

The event will take place on Tuesday, April 10, and will run from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

This class is open to the public and free of charge, and it will be held at the Haralson Memorial Civic Center at 165 Wellborn Street in Blairsville.

Just before the class, at See Carry Class, Page 2A



Union County Sheriff Mack Mason

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**PANTHERS SOCCER**  
Mar 29 vs. Gilmer 5 PM  
Senior Night  
**BASEBALL**  
Mar 28 W North Hall 5:55 PM  
Mar 30 vs. North Hall 5:55 PM

**Blairsville Garden Club Landscape Seminar April 27th**  
See page 3D

**Union County Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony**  
See page 3D

**FREE COUNTRY/WESTERN SHOW**  
STEPHENS LODGE AUDITORIUM YHC  
MARCH 30TH  
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