

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Lance, Perren and Trull elected to EMC Board; no district voting

By Shawn Jarrard
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The membership of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC has spoken, and Jack Lance Jr., Roy Perren and Gayland Trull will serve as newly elected representatives on the BRMEMC Board of Directors.

Results of the election were announced at the EMC Annual Meeting on Sept. 8 inside the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center.

Lance of Union County faced three competitors – John Batts, Larry Flegle and Richard Hyer – and he won his race with 2,359 votes. Lance is taking over the seat most recently occupied by Mickey

Cummings. "I want to thank everyone who voted for me or voted period, showing participation," said Lance. "My vision is to try to work with the board to provide the best service we can for the members, and also on behalf of the employees."

"I don't think it has to be mutually exclusive, that you're just for one or the other. That can be balanced in a manner that benefits everyone, and that's what I hope to assist in providing moving forward."

Incumbent Perren faced one challenger, Jason Waldroup, for the Towns County board seat, and Perren won the race with 2,343 votes to Waldroup's 1,706 votes.

"We will continue to provide safe, reliable electricity,

and will look at getting broadband expanded to more of the service area," said Perren. "I just want to thank the voters for their confidence and their support for my re-election."

Trull ran unopposed in Fannin County and received 2,967 votes. Trull is taking over from Director Larry Williams.

"I certainly thank everybody that put their confidence in me to elect me to the board," said Trull. "Two things that's really important is the employees and our membership."

"I look forward to working with the board to make sure that our employees have the training and the equipment to do a safe and efficient job. And of course, our membership,

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Meet the new BRMEMC Directors – Roy Perren (returning), Jack Lance Jr. and Gayland Trull. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Union County Fire Station No. 1 Open House a huge success in 2018

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

A few thunderstorms and a bit of rain couldn't stop the Union County Fire Department Station No. 1 Open House on Saturday, Sept. 8.

And what fun it was, especially for the young'uns.

This year, in addition to the apparatus and equipment that was on display, Station 1 firefighters set up a live firehose and the infamous "smoke house."

The smoke house is actually the old Station 1 office building that was in service prior to construction of the current state-of-the-art building. It was converted to a training facility where the Fire Department conducts training programs.

Station 1 firefighters activated the smoke machine inside the building for guests of the open house and their children, and they led them through the building while



Kids attending the Station 1 Open House had a blast using the fire hose on Saturday, Sept. 8. Photo by Mark Smith

demonstrating a thermal imaging camera, referred to by firefighters as a TIC.

With a TIC, a firefighter can go into a smoke-filled room totally blind and search for people in distress using thermal imaging, which senses heat.

So, firefighters can literally see through the smoke using this technology.

Several of the Station 1 firefighters took turns manning the two-and-a-half inch hose line that was hooked up to a

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Union General Hospital integrates ham radio into emergency plan

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
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On Wednesday, Aug. 29, Union General Hospital conducted one of its semi-annual, full alert emergency preparedness exercises required by the Georgia Hospital Association.

It might come as a surprise to some, but an integral component of communications for the exercise was ham radio.

Recently, the Georgia Hospital Association, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Georgia Mountains Healthcare Coalition incorporated ham radio into their requirements for emergency preparedness for participating providers and suppliers.

Included in the exercises were Union General, Chatall Regional Hospital, and all affiliate nursing homes and



A specially designed radio antenna mass atop Union General Hospital that can pick up all the major emergency frequencies, which will save lives in the event of a major power outage. Photo by Mark Smith

outpatient clinics.

"It was a regional exercise, and the region that we fall into here in Union County (and Towns County)

is the Georgia Mountains Healthcare Coalition," said Hospital Security Director Cecil Solaguren, adding that

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Council discusses parking, approves UCHS annexation

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The City of Blairsville has with a temporary fix for the lack of handicap parking in the gravel lot located on the Haralson Property Development.

Michael Collins, owner of Michael's Italian Life Caffe in Downtown Blairsville, broached the subject in the regular monthly meeting of the Blairsville City Council on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

In the meeting, he asked for clarification as to the timeframe for construction of a formalized parking lot behind this restaurant on the Haralson Property.

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Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley, City Clerk Kaye McCann and City Councilwoman Mary Ruth Cook in the Sept. 4 regular city meeting. Photo by Mark Smith

Six stores fail alcohol inspections, one leads to sexual battery arrest

By Shawn Jarrard
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Six local stores failed alcohol inspections conducted by the Union County Sheriff's Office last week after selling alcohol to a person under the age of 21.

Detectives with the Narcotics and Criminal Investigations divisions carried out the stings on Thursday, Sept. 6, utilizing an underage informant to attempt the purchase of alcohol at eight different locations, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The five stores that failed the inspections were Walmart, the Food Heaven Convenience Store, Chevron Food Mart #2, the State Line Marathon,



Syed Tirmizi

and J.T.'s Victory Express, according to the Sheriff's Office.

This was the second

time in less than a year that the Victory Express had failed a sting, according to authorities.

The sixth failed alcohol inspection occurred earlier in the week, on Labor Day, at the Wolf Pen Gap Country Store in Suches, according to the Sheriff's Office.

That particular sting resulted in the arrest of Syed Tabassumqal Tirmizi, 59, on two misdemeanor counts of sexual battery, stemming from an incident that occurred on Aug. 22 at the Country Store, according to the Sheriff's Office.

On Aug. 22, a 25-year-old woman entered the store as a customer, and Tirmizi,

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30-year-old Blairsville woman dies in accident

By Shawn Jarrard
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A Blairsville woman suffered a fatal car crash on Thursday, Sept. 6, after her vehicle left the road and hit a tree off Nottely Dam Road, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Crystal Marshall, 30, who moved here from Florida to live with her grandmother, is thought to have died on impact, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The tragic accident occurred in the Cozy Cove area, about two miles from her home on Arrendale Estates Lane, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Authorities learned of the accident after following



Crystal Marshall

up on reports of smoke in the area around 10 p.m., according to the Sheriff's Office.

"Upon arrival, the Union County Fire Department located an accident where a

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Suspect in Murphy man's murder arrested in Union County

By Shawn Jarrard
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A 19-year-old man from Murphy, North Carolina, was taken into custody on Saturday, Sept. 8, in Union County, for the beating death of Jerry Neal Dalrymple, 77, also of Murphy, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Isaiah Eric Beavers has been charged with murder and larceny of a vehicle by the Cherokee County (NC) Sheriff's Office, according to UCSO Lt. Daren Osborn.

"This all started Friday, Sept. 7, at approximately 9:52 in the morning," said Lt. Osborn. "Union County



Isaiah Beavers

Sheriff's Deputy Chris Jackson was traveling east on Highway 325 when he observed a 2002

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Authorities looking for woman wanted in attempted murder

By Shawn Jarrard
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HIWASSEE – The Towns County Sheriff's Office is asking the public's help in locating Crystal LeAnne Carter, 37, of Hiwassee, who had not been found as of press time Monday.

Carter is currently wanted for attempted murder and aggravated assault, according to the Sheriff's Office.

She is known to have ties in Union County and Clay County, North Carolina, and her Facebook page lists her as a graduate of Union County High School.

Anyone with information



Crystal LeAnne Carter

is being asked to call 911, and people are being advised not to approach Carter, who should be considered armed

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PANTHERS

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Tues. Sept. 11 vs. Rabun/Lumpkin

5 PM Senior Night

SOFTBALL

Thurs. Sept. 13 vs. Oglethorpe

5:55 PM Senior Night

Union County Schools

Fine Arts Schedule

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Puttin' on the Dog

Benefiting the Towns & Union County Humane Society

Humane Society's Mountain Shelter's 18th Annual Puttin' on the Dog™ event is finally here!

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Mountain Music Day Festival

Vogel State Park

Sept. 15

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