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Jack Lance Sr. enjoyed a solid college basketball career playing for Luke Rushton at Young Harris College.

Akins broke the news to fellow 1955 UCHS basketball teammate George Berry on Monday morning.

Berry said that he "couldn't even imagine Blairsville, GA without Jack Lance."

Jack Lance Sr. 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 Becka Merritt.

Another prodigy, grandson Jake Gooch, holds the Panthers basketball record for blocked shots.

Before he passed away on Sunday, Big Jack learned that the Second Annual Glenda Gooch Foundation Tip-off Basketball Tournament would be a reality. Glenda Gooch, of course is Jack Lance Sr.'s beloved late granddaughter.

Jack Lance Sr. wasn't just about basketball.

For years, he was one of



Jack Lance Sr.

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 a board member at the time of his death late Sunday.

"Blue Ridge Mountain EMC members have lost the services of a dedicated and loyal board member," said EMC General Manager Matthew Akins. "Jack Lance has served the members of Union County on our board for more than 26 years.

"During that time, he never wavered in his commitment to his community and our co-op," Akins said. "I am deeply saddened, along with the employees and his fellow directors at the loss of our dear friend."

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.

"We went to a Historical Society meeting in Habersham County just last week," said Akins, president of the Union County Historical Society. "It's hard to believe Jack's gone."

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall remembers Jack Lance Sr. very

well. He played against the Union County basketball star for four years.

Jack Lance Sr. scored 126 points in four of six matchups against the Indians. The 1954 scorebook is missing so no totals from his junior year were available in two other rivalry match ups with Towns.

"Jack was a ballplayer," said Kendall, who scored 56 points in those four match ups with Jack Lance Sr. "He was a fierce competitor, but most of all, he was a gentleman in every sense of the word."

Kendall and Jack Lance Sr. had some memorable games in the Towns-Union basketball rivalry.

The Indians won three of those four match ups.

"We played against each other, but we've been friends for years," Kendall said. "You couldn't know Jack Lance and not be his friend."

Visitation is Wednesday from 1 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. at Mountain View; funeral services are Thursday at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations should be made to the Glenda Gooch Foundation.

Gambling bust...continued from Page 1A

The search warrant was executed on March 21st at the Marathon station.

It was the result of an undercover investigation into illegal gambling activities. Four gambling machines were placed out of service and more than \$20,000 was seized.

"Arrests are pending the results of this ongoing investigation," Sheriff Mason said.

"We've been investigating for a while," Sheriff Mason said. "We sent our undercover officers in there to investigate."

"We're here today be-

cause of that investigation," the sheriff said.

The sheriff said he had no problem with any establishment having video poker machines.

"As long as they're not paying off, I don't have a problem," Sheriff Mason said. "Of course, I don't have any idea why anyone would want to play those machines if they didn't payoff."

The sheriff said the bust was solid.

"The proprietors cooperated with us fully," he said.

Sheriff Mason said he hopes to send a message countywide.

"If there's criminal activity going on, you need to go somewhere other than Union County," he said. "If you don't, we'll come knocking on your door sooner or later."

"We're working hard to continue to make Union County free of the drugs, criminal activity and people just breaking the law."

"Since I have come into office, we're doing just that," he said.

Pray...continued from Page 1A

ourselves, repent, turn, seek and pray for God to touch our nation as instructed in this scripture."

For more details about community prayer meetings, please contact Long at (706) 374-6175, ext. 302 or prayer@

whcnorth.org.

Any home-bound, elderly, or citizen at work unable to attend the "Awake America" Prayer meetings, please join the community in private prayer at 11:59 (noon) each Thursday.

Mayor Conley says, "See you at the flagpole."

"The city of Blairsville is excited about this continuing event," he said. "We're proud to be a part of this humbling experience."

Kiwanis...continued from Page 1A

Bluegrass music and a cattle show.

Don't eat before you get there because there's ample supplies of appetizing food.

Come join the family tradition.

Parking is free, and the gate admission price is a very

reasonable \$2; children under 12 years old get in free.

An unlimited ride ticket \$15, single ride tickets are available.

Fair operation hours are Tuesday – Friday 5 p.m.; Saturday at noon; Sunday at 1 p.m.

Vendor applications are available at the Blairsville – Union County Chamber of Commerce Office at the Union County Community Center.

Come on out and support the Blairsville Kiwanis Mountain Fair. You'll be glad you did.