

Lance...from Page 1A

Berry said. "This is a great occasion, and a great celebration."

The Rev. Danny Parris offered the invocation for the ceremony.

"Father, we're grateful for this special occasion that has brought us together to honor a very special person, Jack Lance Sr. As we gather with his family and friends, we

rejoice in the life of our friend and brother.

"We're thankful that the Georgia State Senate has seen fit to honor Jack Lance by naming U.S. 19/129 to the North Carolina line, the Jack C. Lance Sr. Memorial Highway. May this stretch of highway serve as a permanent reminder to all who travel this road as an example of Jack's love and leadership to the city of Blairsville and Union County, to his political party and to the state of Georgia.

"I personally thank You for allowing me to be Jack's pastor for 15 years, and thank You for his friendship for 25 years. Now may all who travel this highway be guarded, guided and protected by the One who said, I am the way, the truth and the light."

The winds became more intense; the rain was blowing sideways, Georgia Department of Transportation officials were standing out in the rain.

Bud Akins, the man considered Jack Lance Sr.'s "little brother," led the crowd of more than 60 people under a white canvas tent in the Pledge of Allegiance.

District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch, (R-Dahlonega) who sponsored Senate Resolution 1184 that renamed U.S. 19/129 in honor of Jack Lance Sr., came to the podium.

"Good afternoon. With all this rain, everyone needs to squeeze in," Sen. Gooch said. "This is a great day in Blairsville and Union County. I'm honored to be your state senator. According to the program, I'm here to introduce some folks who probably need no introduction. Before I do that, I want to introduce former Governor and United States Senator, Zell Miller.

"Over the years we've learned so much from Zell Miller in many, many ways. And all of you that knew Jack Lance know that we've learned many, many things from him. The Lance family is here with us today as well," Sen. Gooch said.

Sen. Gooch introduced Union County Sole Commis-



The family of Jack Lance Sr. poses for a group photo just off Jack C. Lance Sr. Memorial Highway.

sioner Lamar Paris, Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley and Union County Sheriff Mack Mason and then cut to the chase.

"There are a lot of people in our country who do things for us, our soldiers, our teachers, people who help raise our families, run for public office," Sen. Gooch said. "We also have heroes in our hometowns. Every community has heroes. Jack Lance was a hero for Union County.

"I'm honored to be here to recognize him. It is an honor to be a part of this, and be a part of your community," Sen. Gooch said.

Jack Lance Sr. was a community icon. He started the first parks and recreation board in Union County, he served the community as one of two pharmacists, and he put Union County on the high school basketball map, scoring 2,000 points in his historic high school basketball career.

More importantly, Jack Lance Sr. impacted the community by helping educate locals about treatments for diabetes. During his time as a pharmacist, he actually diagnosed countless locals before they saw a doctor.

Jack Lance Sr. gave the Union County sports community his basketball legacy.

Five of his descendants scored more than 1,000 career

points each playing for the Panthers or Lady Panthers.

The list included Big Jack's 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 was a man of few words," Commissioner Paris said. "Jack was a longtime friend. When I was a kid, he and Charles Hill, at Hill-Lance Drugs, would treat me and everyone who walked through the doors of that store like we were the most important people in the world.

"His staff did the same," Paris said. "Jack made sure that everyone that came in that store felt special. Jack has volunteered countless hours to helping young people in Union County. Jack was 'Mr. Basketball' in Union County, and his contribution has been long-lasting."

The rain came down harder, the speed of the wind increased, but no one flinched. Jack Lance Jr. came to the podium to speak on behalf of the Lance family.

The Lance family's youngest looked at the heavy rain, braved the howling winds and began to speak.

"I'm going to make this very brief," he said. "I want to

thank everyone who came here today.

"My siblings and I talked about naming this road for him, and it was really fitting," Lance Jr. said. "My father was born and raised on this road, it helped forge his identity. He served his country, got an education, and served this community.

"My father certainly would not have approved of this renaming of this road," Lance Jr. said. "He would be more than livid with everyone of us. True dignity is not in possessing honors, but in deserving them.

"My Dad lived a life where he didn't care for having the limelight, or the awards he obtained, he just wanted to be a part of something bigger," Lance Jr. said. "He wanted to serve his community. He certainly wouldn't be excited about possessing this honor. He would think this is more than he deserved."

After the ceremony concluded, the skies opened, the sun emerged and the winds were quiet.

"You know what all this weather was about," Bud Akins said. "Jack Lance was up there trying to shut this event down."

A humble community braved that blustery and unpleasant storm.

Blairsville man faces multiple charges after incident

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

A 44-year old Union County man faces at least three felonies and four misdemeanor charges stemming from a Sunday morning incident off of Horseshoe Bend Road in northern Union County, Sheriff Mack Mason said.

David Lee Reid has been charged with public indecency, indecent exposure, criminal trespass, and public drunkenness, Sheriff Mason said.

Felony charges include entering an auto, criminal damage to property, and multiple counts of obstruction of a law enforcement officer, Sheriff Mason said.

"He (Reid) was aggressive when the deputy arrived at the scene," Sheriff Mason said. "The deputy shot him in the face with pepper spray, but, that didn't do anything."

Back up soon arrived, and Reid was tazed three times with three different Tazors.

"He broke one of the Tazors," Sheriff Mason said.

According to Union County sheriff's Sgt. Rick Landress, Reid was spotted nude in the backyard of a home off of Horseshoe Bend Road in northern Union County at approximately 10:40 a.m. Sunday morning.

The homeowner spotted Reid in his yard through the window and called 911.

The homeowner alleges that then Reid enter his garden and began pulling up his tomato plants.

Reid allegedly then proceeded to enter the victim's truck and began damaging the inside of the vehicle.

When law enforcement arrived, Reid resisted, Sgt.

Landress said.

"He tried to go toe-to-toe with one of our deputies," Sgt. Landress said. "When the other two deputies arrived, they had a little confrontation and they had to taze him in order to detain him."

Reid has had previous run ins with the law in Union County, dating back to 2005 that include misdemeanor obstruction, criminal trespass, disorderly conduct, theft by

taking, and aggravated stalking.

Reid remains in custody at the Union County Jail without bond after these new charges resulted in a violation of his existing probation.

In 2012, Reid was sentenced to eight years probation for crossing the guard lines at Union County Jail with possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance (Xanax).

I Hate Hamlet

Licklog Players Production of "I Hate Hamlet" will be June 6, 7, & 8th and June 13, 14, & 15th. Friday and Saturday shows will be at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees will be at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$13 for seniors; and \$8 for students. For more information call 828-389-8632 or e-mail licklogplayers@aol.com.

Licklog Players

Summer Youth Program

Licklog Players Summer Youth Program "Rising Stars" will be June 23rd-27th & July 7th-11th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. ages 8-15. Cost is \$85 per person per session. For more information call 828-389-8632 or e-mail licklogplayers@aol.com.