

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Online voting for EMC Board of Director seats goes through Sept. 10th

By Charles Duncan
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The election of three board members of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC is ongoing online or at the Cooperative's headquarters off Georgia 515.

In a note from General Manager Matthew Akins in the August electric bills, he tells members that one of the most important parts in the operation of the Cooperative is their participation in the election of Board members.

"In the past, you have had to attend the Annual Meeting to vote in person. To provide more member participation in the process of Director Elections you will now be allowed to vote online," Akins writes.

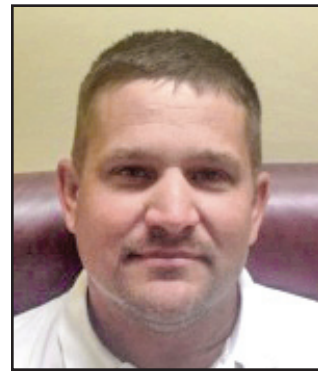
Online voting is available at www.brmemc.com until September 10th at 4 p.m. Login information (identification number and verification



Lenny Parks



Charles Jenkins



Mike Patton



Julie Payne



Steven Phillips



Brian Trout

code) is provided on the front side of each member's bill.

"Login information will appear only on the bill tied to your membership number," Akins writes. "If you have any questions, please call our office at (706) 379-3121."

Each member who is not in a status of suspension, as provided in Section 2.01, of the EMC bylaws, shall be entitled to one vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at any meeting of the

members, including votes cast by mail ballots and electronic transmission.

All ballots cast other than those cast in person at the meeting shall be in the office of the EMC on or before the close of business the day before the member meeting.

There are three members nominated by the Cooperative's Board of Directors, Brian Trout of Clay County, NC, Julie Payne of Towns County, and Lenny Parks of Suches are seeking reelection to the Board of Directors.

There are four persons nominated by petition of the Membership. They are Chris Logan of Brasstown, NC, Steven Phillips, of Towns County, Charles Jenkins of Blairsville, and Mike Patton of Blairsville.

Members from the five-county service area can vote for all three Board members seats.

See EMC, 2A

Reece Reunion's 83rd event a close knit affair

By Charles Duncan
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Somewhere up there, Jim Roberson Reece, Alice Reece Hayes, and Valentine "Fella" Reece were all smiling on Sunday.

That's because for the 83rd year, the Annual Reece Reunion was the place to be on the second Sunday in August.

Since August 1931 the Reece family has gathered for the oldest organized family reunion in Union County. The Annual Reece Reunion falls on the second Sunday in August every year.

Approximately 145 direct descendants of William Frank and Eliza Reece attended the 2014 event at the House of Prayer Family Life Center on Sunday. The attendees included 75 descendants



The Annual Reece Reunion has been ongoing since August 1931. It's the oldest family reunion in Union County.

of James Roberson "Jim" Reece and 63 descendants of Eli Josiah Reece.

They were all under the same roof on Pat Colwell

Road at the 83rd Annual Reece Family Reunion on Sunday.

The reunion is a tribute to the family that descended from William Reece of Wales,

who was born in 1709. Actually, when William and Mary Reece's son, Valentine "Fel-

See Reece, 2A

Attorney General, GBI involved in BRMEMC probe

By Charles Duncan
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The Georgia Bureau of Investigation and Attorney General Sam Olens' Office are investigating Blue Ridge Mountain EMC regarding the debt of former Board of Directors' President Terry Taylor, Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley confirmed on Monday.

"The GBI has become involved in the investigation and has already conducted interviews," Langley said. "I have spoken with the Attorney General's Office and asked them to get involved."

"I have spoken with



Jeff Langley

the Attorney General's Office about the matter and they are involved in the investigation," Langley said. "The GBI is in-

See Probe, 2A

Hughes named president of Coaches Association

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Following his retirement in May 2013, former Union County High School Athletic Director Jim Hughes is taking on another administrative role as the President of the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association (GACA).

The GACA is the oldest Coaches Association in the nation with its inception in 1939. Its purpose is to enhance coaching across the state and to promote high school athletics in Georgia.

However Hughes is not the first Union County A.D. to be named president of the GACA. Former Panther football and basketball coach Terry Rogers served as president and is currently the Executive Director of the organization.

"The Presidential role is mainly to reward coaches for working for the good of the coaching profession," Hughes said. "The President serves



Jim Hughes

a one year term and moves up to that position after being elected to the Vice-President. Over the years some people that Union County fans may recognize that have been President include Loran Smith, Chuck Miller, and our own Terry Rogers who is currently the Executive Director of the GACA."

Hughes, a graduate of

Copper Basin High School (Tenn.), arrived at Union County High School at the onset of the 1985-86 school year where he was the head girls basketball coach, head golf coach, and assistant football coach. He led the Lady Panthers basketball team to the State Tournament three times between 1985 and 1994, twice reaching the Elite 8 and claiming a Region 8-A Championship in 1994.

"I joined the Coaches Association the first year I coached at Union County," Coach Hughes said. "Over the years I have tried to be involved. At first, just going to the summer clinics and getting to know coaches from around the state. In later years I helped with All-Star games along with helping at the summer clinics doing different jobs."

He would step down as basketball coach following the 1996-97 school year but remained a science teacher at UCHS. In January of 2002,

Hughes took over as the interim head boys basketball coach after Ben Corley was fired during mid-season. Amid the controversy, Hughes guided the Panthers to the Class AA State Tournament with an 18-win season.

Six years later he was thrust back into the coaching field when the untimely passing of Head Coach Mike West left the Lady Panthers basketball team without a coach.

During the 2008-09 season, Hughes' Lady Panthers captured the 8-AA Region title and reached the Sweet 16. In 2011 he took the Lady Panthers back to the State Tournament.

Hughes' wife Jackie Hughes led Union County to three Cross Country State Championships in numerous trips to the finals in Carrollton.

His oldest daughter Kelly played basketball at Union County and was

See Hughes, 3A

City Council forced to buy more tasers for City Police



Blairsville Police Officer Dustin Walker lobbies the City Council for Tasers as a less lethal option for the department.

By Charles Duncan
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Almost a year ago, the City of Blairsville approved an expenditure of \$6,123 to purchase Carbon Arms' brand of tasers for its seven full-time officers, and one part-time officer.

On Thursday, the Council, which is moving its meeting nights back to Tuesdays next month, had to buy more tasers.

Not because the department is expanding. No, Taser has been awarded an injunction against Carbon Arms to prevent the company from selling any more tasers. It also has a court order to prevent

departments who own Carbon Arms brand tasers from using them.

Carbon Arms' taser was too close to Taser's patent, City Attorney Jana Akins said.

In October 2013, Blairsville Police Lt. Russell Walker asked the Blairsville City Council to choose a less lethal option for crime fighting. The council approved the Carbon Arms purchase.

With the court order preventing the use of the city-owned tasers, the Council took a step back and had to rethink the situation.

Blairsville Police Officer Dustin Walker told the

See Tasers, 3A

Fourth Annual sporting clays shoot a success

By Charles Duncan
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On July 25th the Union County 4-H Shotgun Team had its Fourth Annual Sporting Clay shoot at Noontootla Creek Farms.

It was a perfect day with a cool breeze and an overcast sky.

Thanks to the parents and coaches it was a successful event.

The funds generated will go toward the cost of clay targets, updating and maintaining equipment, insurance,



The Fourth Annual 4-H Sporting Clays event was a success as usual.

educational aids, financial funds toward 4-H additional responsibility to the county and add to the shotgun scholarship fund.

Registration started at 8 a.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance and 4-H pledge lead by the students.

"We had 12 squads in the morning and almost a full field for the afternoon," Coach Gene Margelli said. "Lunch was available. Noble and Ruby Rhinesmith again did an excellent job managing the lunch menu."

See 4H, 3A

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Thurs 8/14 vs. White 5:55 PM
Football
Fri 8/15- @ Sonorville 7PM Scrimmage
UCMS Football
Thurs 8/14 HOME 5:30 PM