

Blairsville man succumbs to injuries from accident

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A collection of prayers are going out for a 32-year-old Blairsville man who succumbed to injuries sustained in an accident at Christian Love Ministries last week, Union County Sheriff's Office spokesman C.J. Worden said.

Matthew Dewayne Hampton had been clinging to life at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn.

He died early Monday morning, Worden said.

Hampton, of Mockingbird Trail, was injured last week at Christian Love Ministries when the vehicle he and his fiancée arrived in rolled over Hampton while she was inside the thrift store, Worden said.

The accident happened following a malfunction of the parking gear when the couple arrived at Christian Love Ministries, Worden said.

"Cpl. Julio Cruz responded to the call, which came into dispatch as a tractor trailer backing over a male," Worden said. "That wasn't the case."

Worden said that Hampton's fiancée told Cpl. Cruz that when the couple arrived, she put the vehicle, a Ford F100 in park, but it would not go in park.

Hampton then exited the vehicle, crawled underneath the vehicle and somehow got the vehicle in park, Worden said.



A 32-year-old Blairsville man died from injuries sustained when his Ford F100 rolled on top of him at Christian Love Ministries last week in Union County. Photo/C.J. Worden

Hampton's fiancée then exited the truck and went inside. Workers at the ministry then placed an entertainment center in the bed of the truck, Worden said.

Hampton's fiancée told authorities that she was inside the store about 10-15 minutes.

When she came back outside, she noticed that Hampton was still underneath the truck.

"She said she tapped him and told him she was ready to go, but Hampton was unresponsive," Worden said.

"She bent down and noticed that he was trapped underneath the vehicle, his face was blue, and he was not responding. She yelled for help."

The truck had rolled approximately 3 to 4 feet before coming to a stop, Worden said.

Help arrived quickly, Heritage Propane brought its service truck with a crane to aid in lifting the truck off Hampton. Tanner's Towing and Recovery sent two wreckers, Worden said.

However, Union County Fire & Rescue decided it

was safer to use airbags to lift the vehicle off Hampton, Worden said.

Hampton was airlifted to Erlanger Hospital following his rescue from underneath the Ford F100, Worden said.

Worden said Hampton was still at Erlanger when he died early Monday morning. Funeral arrangements were not available at press time.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mr. Hampton and his family," Worden said.

Inmate charged with inciting a riot

By Charles Duncan
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A Union County Jail inmate has been charged with inciting a riot at a penal institution, two counts of terroristic threats, interference with government property, disorderly conduct and simple battery following a Oct. 25 incident, Union County Sheriff's Office reports show.

Authorities say Daniel Eugene Mort threatened to



Daniel Eugene Mort

kill Union County Sheriff's Lt. Danny Everett following an incident in B-Pod at the Union County Jail.

Sheriff's spokesman C.J. Worden said that Mort became angered because he had been locked down in his jail cell.

"Officers were called to B-Pod to secure a distraught inmate," Worden said.

When officers arrived Sgt. Jeff Daniel was covered in food, Inmate Mort was blurting out one profanity after another and threatening to kill Lt. Everett on more than one occasion during the incident, Worden said.

Inmate Mort allegedly threatened Lt. Everett during Inmate Mort's anger issues in B-Pod and during the booking process following the jail cell incident, Worden said.

"Lt. Everett entered B-Pod with Inmate Mort and Inmate Mort told Lt. Everett to stay away from him. He told Lt. Everett if he got within 10 feet of him that he 'would kill him quicker than cancer.'"

Inmate Mort also questioned Lt. Everett's family heritage and called him a couple of choice words, Worden said.

Authorities were left with no choice but to use force to restrain Inmate Mort, who was forcibly placed in a restraint chair by Lt. Rick Landress and Investigator Worden, sheriff's reports show.

"This case will be referred to the Union County District Attorney and to the

Union County Grand Jury for indictments on the charges of inciting a riot at a penal institution, two counts of ter-

roristic threats, interference with government property, disorderly conduct and simple battery," Worden said.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



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