

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Legal Organ of Union County

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## Kiwanis Fair kicks off Wednesday

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

It's that time of year again, yes, the Blairsville Kiwanis Mountain Fair is here again.

Yes, it's time for the Sixth Annual Blairsville Kiwanis Mountain Fair, scheduled for April 23-27 at the Union County Industrial Park on Airport Road off Highway 515.

The fun-filled adventure packs a carnival atmosphere, complete with rides galore.

The event features traditional carousels to lots of rides for the kids. Without a doubt, there is something for everyone.

The fair also includes games, cotton candy, candy apples, a petting zoo and so much more.

The event brings to life a week of exciting rides, delicious food and fun games, providing one of the most exciting adventures this county has ever experienced.



It also makes a difference in the Union County community.

The Kiwanis Fair brings the fun-filled carnival atmosphere here, with proceeds benefitting the county's children. The many available rides include the Cyclops, the Pirate and the Mega Drop.

There are lots of rides for the youngsters too. Don't eat before you get

See *Fair, 2A*

## Early voting starts on April 29th

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Early voting for the May 20 Primary is right around the corner.

Registered voters can begin casting their ballots at the Union County Courthouse on April 29th and may do so until May 16th from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Ballots may also be cast on Saturday, May 10th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Union County Courthouse.

Locally, the contested races focus on the Union County Board of Education. All the races will be decided on May 20 in the Republican Primary.

BOE District 2 features Incumbent Tony Hunter against challenger Tsali D. Bentley.

BOE District 4 Incumbent John Strickland faces Keith Potts.

In the District 5 race, three candidates, K. Wylburn Etheridge, Amber DeWynn Pruitt, and Patrick W. White square off in the Republican Primary.

In the federal races in the Republican Party Primary the race to fill U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss' seat includes Paul Broun, Art Gardner, Phil Gingrey, Derrick E. Grayson, Karen Handel, Jack Kingston, and David Perdue.

Gov. Nathan Deal faces a challenge from John Barge and David Pennington; Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle is unchallenged on the GOP ballot.

Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp, Attorney General Samuel S. Ovens, Commissioner of Agriculture Gary W. Black, Commissioner of Insurance Ralph T. Hudgens, Commissioner of Labor J. Mark Butler, Public Ser-

See *Early Voting, 2A*

## District 4-H Shotgun meet on Saturday; county closes on 4-H property

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

Union County has purchased 9.502 acres to construct a Shotgun Park.

Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris made the announcement at the County Meeting last week at the Union County Courthouse.

The purchase price of the property is \$150,000. The county's part is \$135,000. The county paid the entire \$150,000 and will be reimbursed \$5,000 a year over the next three years by Union County 4-H, Paris said.

The property, on the north side of Georgia 515, near Queens Gap becomes the home turf for the Union County 4-H Shotgun, BB Gun, and Archery teams.

The teams turf advantage brings a welcomed relief to the teams who have been forced to



move locations, being spread out like buckshot across the county during 17 prosperous years of shooting.

News of the property closing comes a little late for Union County 4-H as they prepare to host the District Shotgun Meet on Saturday.

There's no way site preparation could be completed in time for the annual District meet.

Instead, the meet will be held at Airport Industrial Park on Airport Industrial Drive off Georgia 515, west of Blairsville. Turn right on Thomas Farm Road and look for the 4-H Clover signs, Shotgun

Team Coach Gene Margelli said.

Concessions will be available throughout the day, Margelli said.

"We plan to shoot, rain or shine," Margelli said. "Obviously, if a downpour or thunder and lightning situation arises, the shoot will be postponed or canceled as necessary."

For the past three years, Margelli and fellow coach Keith Herbert actively looked for a location to call home for the Shotgun Team. They came to Paris for help.

"This has been our biggest challenge as an organization," Margelli said. "We feel we found the right piece of property that would benefit all the 4-H teams we mentioned plus allow local residents the opportunity to enjoy the same activities."

The Union County Shotgun Team  
See *4-H, 2A*

## State: 'cause of Fox's death, undetermined'

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

The March 1 death of 54-year-old Jeff Fox has been ruled an undetermined death, according to the state Medical Examiner's Office.

Initially, the state Medical Examiner's Office ruled that Fox's death was a homicide.

They had to back track on that, as further testing of evidence proved inconclusive, Union County Chief Deputy John George said.

"The biggest puzzle in this case, the doors to the home were locked from the inside," Chief Deputy George said. "We talked with numerous individuals, we conducted polygraph tests, there simply was no evidence to indicate foul play once all avenues of investigation were exhausted in this case."



**Chief Deputy John George**  
"We eliminated all the factors of the cause of death was inconclusive," Chief Deputy George said.  
Fox suffered from underlying medical conditions that could have contributed to his death, according to the Medical Examiner's Office.  
Those underlying medi-

cal conditions include a seizure disorder, according to the Medical Examiner's Office.

"Is it possible that he suffered a seizure? That's a possibility," Union County Detective Sgt. Andrew Hammond said. "However, there is no medical test that can conclude that a person died of a seizure-related event. There's just no possible way to determine if a person was involved in a seizure after death."

On scene, the day of Fox's death inside his Brown Ridge Road home, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation felt like the case was a homicide, Sgt. Hammond said.

"It was definitely a suspicious death the day the body was taken to the State Crime Laboratory," Sgt. Hammond said. "(G.B.I) later determined the death was undetermined. An extensive review of the

See *Death, 2A*

## Day of Prayer set for May 1

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley have proclaimed May 1 as National Day of Prayer in Union County.

This year will mark the 63rd anniversary of the National Day of Prayer and Union County will hold a public gathering in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church on May 1st at 7 p.m.

The prayer celebration will feature prayers by area pastors and a prayer testimony by respected surgeon and missionary, Dr. William Littlefield.

The theme for this

See *Prayer, 2A*



## Patriots brave the elements on a special day

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

Rain threatened Patriots Day, but it didn't dampen the spirits of the Sons of the Revolution Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter.

These men and the Old Unicoi Trail Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution braved the elements Saturday to pay tribute to the events that led to the founding of a nation.

At various intervals, See *Patriots, 3A*



## Leadership Union graduates 18



By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Eighteen graduates were welcomed into the

Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Union in front of a full house at the Union County Community Center last Tuesday.

Sharon Arnold, Julia Barnett, Jim Brown, John Chitwood, Matthew Collins, Renee Deibert, Tony Dyer.

See *Leadership, 3A*

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Fri: Clouds Hi 77 Lo 54  
Sat: Clouds Hi 77 Lo 53

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**The Mountain Home Show**  
Friday, April 25th 5-7PM  
Saturday, April 26th 9AM-5PM  
North Georgia Technical College  
10 North Georgia Technical College  
10 North Georgia Technical College

Don't miss the Mountain Home Show!  
Friday, April 25th  
Saturday, April 26th  
North Georgia Technical College

**18 It's Tournament Time!**  
1st Annual Derrick Whittle Memorial Golf Tournament  
See Page 8A

**UNION COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS**  
**BASEBALL:**  
Tues. Apr. 22nd @ Washington Wilkes 2 PM Double Header  
**Soccer:**  
Wed. Apr. 23rd vs. Fannin County 5 PM