

# Panthers share 8-AA title with Rabun

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
sports@nganews.com

Union County got some sweet revenge on Wednesday when they took down Rabun County 7-3 in what was a must-win game if the Panthers were to remain in the Region 8-AA Championship hunt.

The four-run victory equaled Rabun's 5-1 win over Union last month, which tied the Panthers and Wildcats, not only in record but in the tiebreaker as well.

On Friday, Union County hosted a doubleheader with playoff-bound Social Circle squad who came to Blairsville looking to knock the Panthers from atop the standings while improving its own playoff positioning.

The first game was a barn burner that ended with an Andrew Brown walk off, RBI single to take game one 14-13.

"The first game against Social Circle was the most horrific defense we have played all season," Union County Head Baseball Coach Brandon Bradburn said. "The main difference was that we refused to give up, and even though it was our worst game of the year, we still squeaked out a win. The motto for our team is 'whatever it takes,' and that's exactly what we did. We were missing a few key players in the Social Circle game, and then with injuries and one ejection, plenty of guys stepped up and we found a way to win."

The second game was

all Union as the Redskins seemed unable to recover from a heartbreaking loss in game one. The Panthers went on to run-rule Social Circle 15-5 to end the season, still tied with Rabun County.

The second tiebreaker was total runs allowed in Region play, and after the Panthers allowed 18 runs in its last two games, the Wildcats took the No.1 seed in 8-AA. However, Union County is still credited as the Co-Region Champion, which is the Panthers first baseball Region Championship since 1990.

Now the Panthers will turn their attention to the first round of the Class AA State Tournament which begins Friday against a familiar name.

Once again, the Model Blue Devils will travel to Blairsville, looking to upset the No. 2 seeded Panthers on Friday night. As of deadline on Monday, the game times are still unknown but two games will be played on Friday with an "if necessary" third game to be played Saturday afternoon.

Like last year, Union will enter the postseason riding a seven-game winning streak but Coach Bradburn doesn't expect the same results as last year where the Panthers were thumped by a very good Wesleyan team.

"I feel like last year's hot streak and then getting knocked out had nothing to do with each other," Coach Brad-

burn said. "Wesleyan was just a superior team, but the lesson that we took away from that is we need to get better in every aspect of the game if we ever want to compete for a State Championship. In this year's tournament I expect our guys to feel as if they belong there and I expect our team to be more aggressive and mentally focused."

As for Model, Coach Bradburn made it very clear and simple.

"I don't know much about Model except that they are coming out of an area that is known for a high caliber of baseball," he said. "I'm sure they will be a very difficult challenge that we are up for this weekend."



Jake Sisum looks on from first as Joseph Mancuso delivers a pitch vs Rabun County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Left: Senior Jackson Burks is all smiles as he rounds third following his homer that put the Panthers on top and swung the momentum in their favor vs Rabun County. Right: Burks is greeted by his teammates at home plate. Photos/Todd Forrest



## Tri County British Car Club holds its first meeting



By: Edward Wesson  
The 2015's first meeting of the Tri County British Car Club, was held on Sunday, April 26th, at Brother's Willow Ranch Restaurant, in Young Harris, GA. 25 members attended the luncheon, where there was much catching up, of news of the Winter's activities, and discussions about the cars, and upcoming car events.

Meetings are held once monthly, from April through October. The purpose of the club is to promote the preservation and enjoyment of classic British automobiles. Anyone interested in joining the club can contact us by email at [tricitybritishcarclub@yahoo.com](mailto:tricitybritishcarclub@yahoo.com), and "Like" us on Facebook at "Tri county British Car Club". NT(Apr29,C3)AC

## Trout stocking sites week of April 20-24, 2015

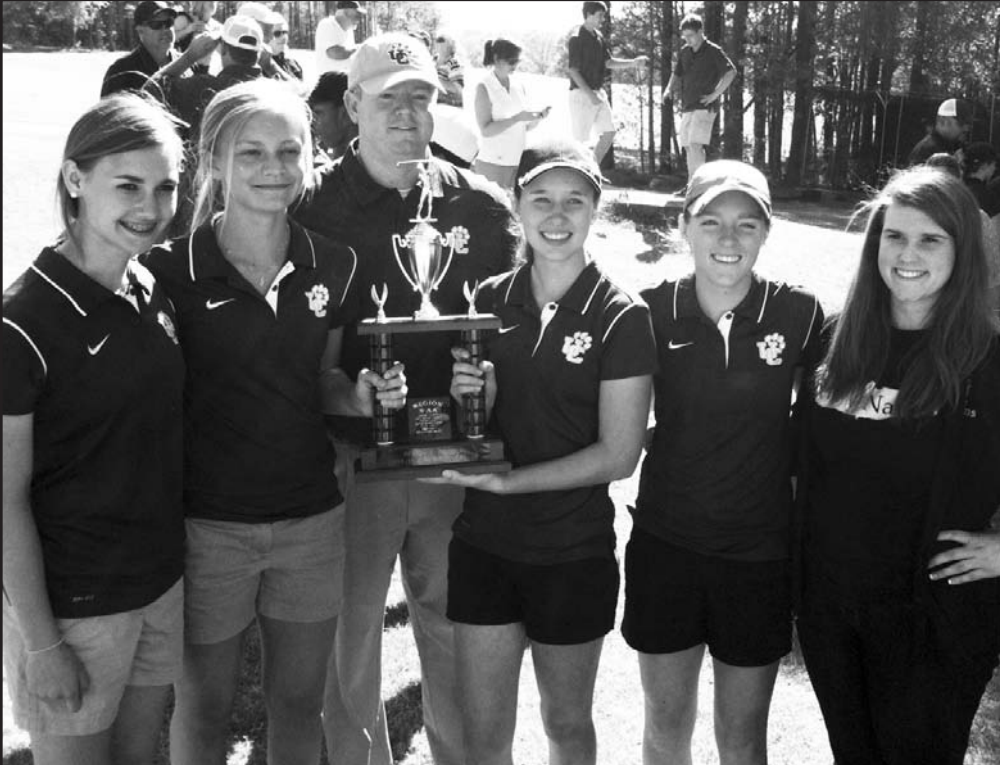
Fannin: Big Creek, Hemptown Creek, Rock Creek, Toccoa River, and Toccoa River Tailwaters of Lake Blue Ridge  
Lumpkin: Etowah River and Nimbleshill Creek  
Union: Cooper Creek and Toccoa River  
Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. NT(Apr29,Z12)CA

## Towns/Union Special Olympics receive donation



(L-R): Tina Lane and Becky Tracy  
The Towns/Union Special Olympics committee and athletes greatly appreciate the \$250 donation from the Woodmen of the World, Field Representative, Tina Lane presented Union County Special Olympics coordinator, Becky Tracy, on behalf of the Woodmen of the World Chapter 1180. Towns County High School will host the Towns/Union 2015 Spring Special Olympic games on May 14, 2015. The games will take place on the TCHS football field with opening ceremonies beginning at 9:30 a.m. NT(Apr29,Z6)CA

## Lady Panthers golf finish second in 8-AA



The Union County Lady Panthers golf team placed second at last week's 8-AA Region Tournament in Monroe. Leading the way for Union was Ally Horinek with an 85 and Maddie Horinek with an 87 for a total of 172, four shots back of first place. Ally Horinek was third and Maddie was fourth overall for the tournament. They will advance to State Sectionals in Vidalia on May 4th. The Panther men finished third with Brady Lawn shooting an 89, Jeremy Herum a 96, Nathan South a 98, and Charles Johnson 102.

## Union track claims three 8-AA titles



Pictured above is Julia Lindsey (on the No. 2 stand) and Emma Garrison (on the No. 1 stand). Garrison is the Region 8-AA Champion in the 1600M and 800M events. Julia Lindsey took home the gold in the 3200M event and silver in the 1600M. Both will be attending the State Sectionals at GAC on Saturday. Joining them will be: Stephanie Busse - third in the 3200M and 800M. Cole Payne - second in the 800M, Jakob Brown in the 3200M and 1600M, Jacob Kelley in the high jump, the boys 4x400 relay team of Kelley, Zach Stone, Will Stone, and Matthew Rich.

## Spring brings growth for local scouting program



(L-R): Scoutmaster Rick Corbin, Troop Guide Luke Royston, new Scouts Stephen Vallies, Steven Demarco, Elliott Banks, Parker Scott, Grant Ricks, Evan Bryan, Jack Wiarda, and Michael Bruce. Cubmaster Ryan Scott is standing on the "Crossover" bridge.

By Rusty Royston  
Spring is a time for reflection as the winter recedes and new growth brings a sense of a new start and renewal. The same holds true for the Scouting program. It is this time of year as the school year ends that the Cub Scouting program does the same. As a Cub Scout progresses through the program, he grows and advances through his Wolf and Bear badges earning awards and learning new skills. The final year-long program in Cub Scouting is called "WEBELOS" which stands for "WE'IL-BE-Loyal-Scouts." The final award that can be earned as a Cub Scout in the WEBELOS program requires learning in the areas of citizenship, fitness, technology, mental skills, and outdoor skills. To earn this high award, the WEBELOS Scout must spend six months learning about becoming a Boy Scout and experiencing just what that means. That award is called the "Arrow of Light."

Blairsville and Union County have been blessed with a strong Scouting program for many years. Cub Scout Pack 101 and BSA Troop 101 have been serving this community and its youth by providing a program of adventure, citizenship, and leadership training. This spring, eight WEBELOS completed this program, earned their Arrow of Light award, and were welcomed into BSA Troop 101 by participating in a Crossover ceremony complete with a Native American fancy dance to open the event and celebrate this high achievement. The dance was performed by Blake Hol-

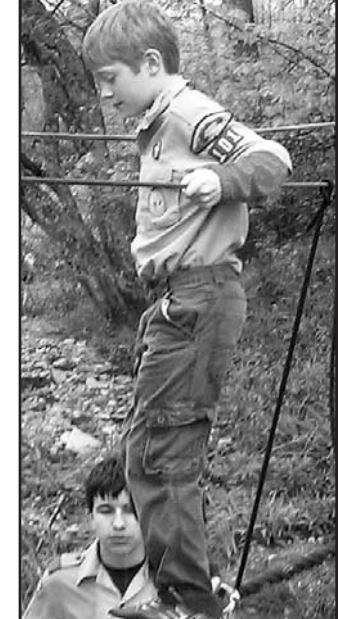
man and Tommy Orchanian of the local chapter of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society. The ceremony began with Cubmaster Ryan Scott recognizing the WEBELOS Scouts for the work they had accomplished over their previous four years as Cub Scouts. Mr. Ryan has served as the Cubmaster of Pack 101 during these years. He then had the honor of recognizing each WEBELOS Scout with their Arrow of Light award and presenting their accomplishments to the crowd of about 60 people (parents, family, local Scouting representatives, and BSA Troop 101).

To complete the ceremony the Scouts of Troop 101 built a Monkey Bridge over a fast flowing creek for the WEBELOS to "crossover." Each WEBELOS Scout crossed the bridge assisted by the youth leadership of the troop and were met and greeted into Boy Scouting by BSA Troop 101 Scoutmaster Rick Corbin and their Troop Guide Luke Royston. Luke will serve as these new Scout's mentor as they become oriented into Scouting.

The leaders of the Cub Scout Pack, BSA Troop 101, parents and family members are very proud of these young men and look forward to seeing



Blake Holman and Tommy Orchanian



WEBELOS Scout Elliot Banks and his family are proud of his growth in the Scouting program and achieve great things. NT(Apr29,Z13)CA