

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County since 1909

www.nganews.com

Legal Organ of Union County

Union County's & North Georgia's Largest Newspaper

May 16, 2012

Good food, music, good time

By Janice Boling
Staff Writer
North Georgia News

Glenda Gooch was smiling down on the Third Annual Butterfly Bluegrass Festival on Friday and Saturday.

The annual event featured talented musicians, artists, and crafters. During the two-day event, event goers enjoyed Bluegrass music, good food, and friendly faces.

It was all in support of the Glenda Gooch House, which allows guests of the Glenda Gooch House a place to stay at no cost to them, and be close to their loved ones during times of illness.

It's a way for Glenda Gooch's loving spirit and legacy to live on.



Photo/Janice Boling

Music, food, crafts and the Georgia Highlanders made for a memorable time at the Annual Butterfly Bluegrass Festival.

The two-day event featured a great line up of traditional Bluegrass performers including David Peterson, The

Bluegrass Sound Band, Lonesome Road Bluegrass, Ron &

See Butterfly, Page 6A

Relay events begin Friday

Special to NGN
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Local Union County American Cancer Society volunteers are putting the last minute touches on the 18th Annual Relay For Life event scheduled for Friday.

"The excitement of a new location (the Union County Farmers Market) has created a good bit of interest," said Event Co-Chair and Logistics Chair Sue Upchurch. "Our committee is so appreciative of the cooperation we have gotten from the Union County government departments who have been working with us to get the Market location ready for the invasion of dedicated cancer fighters this weekend."



Teams will begin setting up their "campsites" at 8 a.m. on Friday and will be ready for the action to begin around 4:30 p.m. when our DJ begins

music and announcements.

The Cancer Survivors picnic will begin at 4 p.m. with picnic foods provided by G & G

See Relay, Page 3A

BETA Club honors its best and brightest

By Todd Forrest
Staff Writer
North Georgia News

The Union County High School BETA Club held its first awards banquet last week at the Union County High School Gymnasium.

The ceremony honored those who achieved outstanding performances in the areas of participation, attendance, community service, along with

the presentation of chords and the introduction of next year's Executive Committee.

The BETA Club is an organization that you must be invited to join. Acceptance is based on Grade Point Average, attendance, behavior, and participation in extra-curricular activities and community service activities.

In 2011, the BETA Club

See BETA, Page 6A



BETA Club Secretary Callie Dyer discusses her club project last week at the UCHS Gym. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Hughes retires; Bradburn offered baseball coach

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

After 27 and a half years in the Union County School System, Jim Hughes is calling it a career.

Hughes, the director of Athletics for Union County, punched the button of official retirement on Friday. His last day on the job: May 31st.

Hughes came into the Union County system as a coach and educator in 1985. He served as assistant football coach, Head Girls' Basketball Coach and Head Golf Coach.

"I wouldn't trade my ex-



Jim Hughes

perience here in Union County for anything," Hughes said. "I got here in 1985 and have never once thought about leaving. Both of my girls were

able to graduate from Union County High School, both got fine educations, good athletic careers and I couldn't ask for more.

"My wife Jackie has had an excellent career here as well," Hughes said. "Union County, well, it's home."

Brandon Bradburn, a native of Fannin County, also is feeling his Union County roots.

The grandson of the late Preacher Hughes Chatham has been offered the opportunity to accept the position of Head Baseball Coach for the Panthers. Bradburn has served as an assistant under outgoing



Brandon Bradburn

Coach C.T. Hussion for five years, Union County Board of Education Chair Gary Daven-

See Decisions, Page 3A

Rabies Clinic reaches 2,000 pets

By Janice Boling
Staff Writer
North Georgia News

How important is a rabies vaccination for your pet?

Just ask the owners of the more than 2,000 pets vaccinated during the annual Rabies Clinic held in various locations throughout Union County.

The morning vaccination rush was underway by 9 a.m. and didn't let up until late Saturday afternoon. Giant dogs, tiny dogs, cats, thoroughbreds, and mixed breeds came out to

get their rabies and distemper shots. An estimated 2,000 pets or more were protected against rabies during this local event held at various locations throughout the county.

Hundreds of local pets and their owners depend on the annual Rabies Clinic. This event has helped thousands of pets and their owners over the past 17 years by providing low-cost rabies, distemper, PARVO, feline FVRCCP, and feline leukemia vaccinations.

See Rabies, Page 3A



Dr. Livingston prepares to give a rabies shot to a willing participant at the annual Rabies Clinic. Photo/Janice Boling

Expo a hit at Market

By Janice Boling
Staff Writer
North Georgia News

The Tri-State Business Women Sixth Annual Business Expo came to the Union County Farmers Market on

Saturday. The free event offered a place for small businesses in the area to set up a booth and showcase their items and services. It was fun for everyone

See Expo, Page 3A



Men and women of all ages attended the sixth annual Tri-State Business Women Expo at the county Farmers Market. Photo/Janice Boling

Mayor praises volunteer efforts in City

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

The Great American Clean Up has come and gone, but Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley said it won't soon be forgotten.

And, it won't be a year before the next one arrives.

The Downtown Development Authority is planning another city cleanup effort for the fall of the year.

Mayor Conley said he is always humbled by the turnout to make the community a more beautiful place to live and enjoy through the Great American Clean Up.

"One of the benefits of the Great American Clean Up for all who participate each year, we meet new people who volunteer to help that didn't

help the previous year and that is a pleasure," Mayor Conley said.

Last week, Mayor Conley praised the community volunteer effort that took place during the event.

"Each year we have a lot of the same people to volunteer to help plant and clean up around the square and other streets," he said. "The fellowship that we all share is very rewarding; it's kind of like a reunion."

The groups involved this year included Towns-Union County Master Gardeners, Blairsville and Union County Chamber of Commerce, Blairsville Garden Club, city and county officials and workers, and the Downtown Development Authority.

See Clean Up, Page 3A



Volunteers from the annual Great American Clean Up hold up a banner recognizing efforts to keep the city clean.

Mack Mason



Candidate for Sheriff
See page 2A

Charles Rich



Candidate for Commissioner
See page 2A

UCSO investigates theft of local cabinet business' trailer

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Daniel and Kimberly Sims have encountered a small business nightmare.

The red trailer they use to haul finished cabinets to their customers has been stolen.

The incident happened on Wednesday, May 9th around 4:30 p.m. When they returned to Southern Cabinetry off Highway 515 near City Plumbing that afternoon, they made the unfortunate discovery.

The bright red trailer was missing. They asked the owner of a neighboring business if they saw anything unusual.

The owner told them that they saw a vehicle come in and hook up to the trailer and drive off. He could only assume that it was someone related to their business.

Unfortunately, it wasn't and the trailer is still missing. "We called the Union County Sheriff's Office, they put a Be On the Look Out (BOLO) for our trailer all the way into Fannin County,"



Kimberly Sims said. "No one reported anything that fit the description of our trailer."

"We live in hard economic times and for someone to just drive up in broad daylight and steal our trailer is beyond comprehension," she said.

"We're struggling as a cabinet business already in this economy," she said. "It's hard to believe that people would be so callous in such hard times."

The Union County Sheriff's Office is investigating the theft. Anyone with information about the disappearance of the red trailer, call (706) 439-6066.

Cruise Out on the Square

Come out to the Historic Downtown Square on Saturday to experience a rare treat - a Cruise Out. The Cruisers will gather at 3:30 p.m. and then Cruise Out at 4:15 p.m. on the way to Jacky Jones Customer Appreciation Day in Hayesville, NC. If you happen to live along GA 515 to GA 76 to GA 117 route and want to join in, feel free to jump in line as these classic beauties roar on by.



The Kids are 'Moving On Up' Parade

Attention parents and supporters of Eighth Grade Students at Union County Middle School.

On Thursday, May 16th, at 1:30 p.m., the community is invited to the inaugural "Moving On Up Parade" for

the Class of 2016.

The parade will begin at UCMS and end at the UCHS Gym. Come out and show your support as we celebrate the students' crossing from Middle School to High School.

Vol. 103 No. 20
3 Sections, 28 Pages

Inside

Arrests	8A
Church	12A
Classified	2B
Opinion	4A
Legal	5B
Letters	4A
Obits	14A
Sports	10A

Weather

Wed: Clouds Hi 76 Lo 52
Thur: Sunny Hi 77 Lo 54
Friday Storms Hi 78 Lo 55

8 04879 19314 2