

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

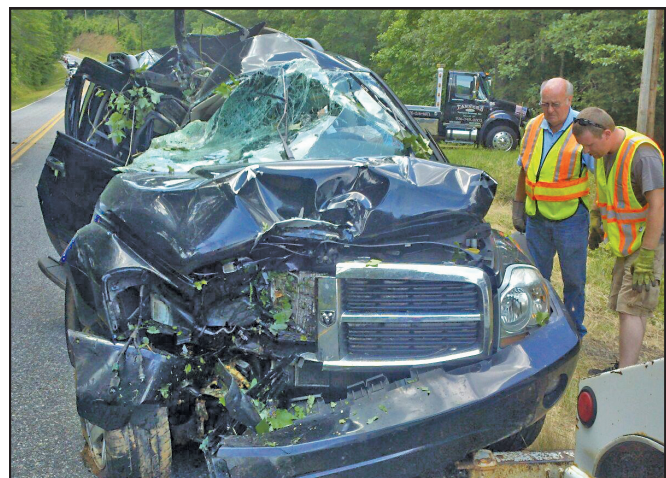
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## One dead, one lifeflighted in separate crashes



Left, a black Dodge SUV involved in a one-vehicle crash on Georgia 180; right, emergency workers rescue Jean Wright who was trapped in a crash at Pat Colwell and U.S. 129. Photos/UCSO Sgt. Josh Berry and Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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The Fourth of July Week is off to a bad start on Union County roads. A 76-year-old Blairsville

woman, Jean Wright, has died from injuries sustained in a two-vehicle accident on Monday on U.S. 129 at Pat Colwell Road, Georgia State Patrol Post 27 Assistant Commander Sgt. Jonathan Barrett said Tuesday



gundy Jeep Cherokee, was driving northbound, Panter, driving a black Silverado was driving south. "The driver of the Silverado was coming up on the

Sgt. Barrett said 27-year-old Logan Panter, of Young Harris, has been charged with failure to maintain lane and second-degree vehicular homicide. Wright, driving a bur-

## Rain threatens Union Fourth of July celebrations

By Charles Duncan  
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Only one thing could spoil the fun as Union County celebrates Independence Day – the elements.

The National Weather Service is calling for a 60 percent chance of rain as the community celebrates the Fourth of July on Thursday from Vogel State Park to Lake Nottely Marina to Suches and later, Meeks Parks.

Weather permitting, the fun begins on the Fourth at 8:30 a.m. at Vogel State Park.

The second oldest state park in Georgia celebrates our independence with a flag-raising ceremony, bicycle parade, pedal boat races, sandcastle building competition, watermelon eating, sack races, egg



tosses and greased pole climbing. Parking is \$5.

At 11 a.m., again, weather permitting, the annual Independence Day Boat Parade is scheduled at Lake Nottely Marina.

Anyone with a boat is welcome to line up at the

## Jordan brings his class and smile to Union County

By Joe Collins  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Atlanta Braves All Star outfielder and Atlanta Falcons All Pro Safety Brian Jordan was in town last Thursday to promote his kids books series to help raise awareness for the Brian Jordan Foundation.

The dual sports star signed books, baseballs and pictures with fans of all ages as he answered questions and talked to folks about the goals and operation of the foundation and the benefits it provides for underprivileged children.

Jordan was drafted in the first round of the 1988 MLB draft by the St. Louis Cardinals and worked his way through their farm system until he got his first start in the "Show" in April of 1992.

He was also drafted in 1989 as a NFL seventh round draft pick by the Buffalo Bills, but was cut during training camp. He was picked up by the Falcons that same year to play free safety and finished his NFL career with the Dirty Birds in 1991, as the Cardinals demanded that he forego football for a career in baseball.



Former Brave and Falcon star Brian Jordan signs autographs at the Union County Community Center. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

His best year for the Cardinals came in 1998 hitting .316 with 25 homers and a .534 slugging percentage.

He played major league baseball for 15 seasons starting with the Cardinals and then moving to the Braves in 1999, receiving an All-Star nod that same year.

He was traded in 2002

to the Los Angeles Dodgers and then again to the Texas Rangers in 2004 and finished his last season as a professional baseball player back in Atlanta in 2006.

He now sponsors the Brian Jordan Foundation and works hard to help kids in need.

See Jordan, 3A

## Mayor Conley moves up GMA ladder

By Charles Duncan  
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Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley continues to advance in leadership responsibilities with the Georgia Municipal Association.

Mayor Conley was elected last week to the Board of Directors for GMA during the association's annual meeting in Savannah.

Conley will serve as president of GMA's 2nd District. He has served the past year as first vice pres-



Mayor Jim Conley, president of the Association's Second District.

The district includes cities in Towns, Rabun, Union, Lumpkin, White, Habersham, Stephens,

Franklin, Banks, Hart, Dawson, Hall and Forsyth counties.

"Being selected to serve by your peers is always a very humbling experience," Mayor Conley said. "It's an honor, a privilege and I'm looking forward to representing the Second District.

"I'm just proud of the Association, the relationship that the city of Blairsville has with the Georgia Municipal Association, and to be a part of all that and represent our town and

See Mayor, 2A

## Clouds scholarship awards handed out

By Charles Duncan  
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Suches – The Run Above The Clouds Committee has handed out their 2013 scholarship awards to two very deserving Woody Gap graduates.

Haley Aponte, the school's STAR Student and Class of 2013 Salutatorian, and Alex Roberts, are this year's recipients, Jim Miner said.

"Haley Aponte will use her scholarship to help con-



Wynn Mott makes Alex Roberts and Haley Aponte's Day, at the Run Above The Clouds awards last week.

## Fire Station 1 Open House July 23rd

By Charles Duncan  
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Union County firefighters at Station 1 on Shoe Factory Road have been living in sub-standard conditions for more than two years.

Their home-away-from-home has been a Federal Emergency Management Agency trailer. They've used this facility to sleep in during their 24-hour work shift.

Obviously, the four on-duty paid firefighters (three shifts 24 on 48 off) couldn't keep living in cramped quarters.

"We just ran out of room," Union County Fire Chief/EMA Director Charles Worden said. "We were elbow-to-elbow; we needed more space as soon as we could get it. These people come in at 8 in the morning, they go home at 8 in the morning the next day. They're here 24 hours straight. It's kind of like a home-away-from-home."



The new Fire Station 1 is open for business on Shoe Factory Road.

Thanks to Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax dollars, that all has changed.

A 6,000 square-foot addition and new construction at Fire Station 1 was recently completed using SPLOST dollars. The addition includes firefighter living quarters, a day room, a kitchen and a

training room/disaster planning room, Chief Worden said.

Also, the building serves as the fire department's new headquarters and headquarters for Union's Emergency Management Agency.

See Station 1, 2A

## Cannery showcased at GMRC meeting

By Joe Collins  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The monthly meeting of representatives making up the Georgia Mountain Regional Council met at the Union County Farmers Market last week.

Representatives of the 13-county council were treated to a tour of the Market and the new Union County Cannery located on the Market grounds.

Former Atlanta Brave and Atlanta Falcon Brian Jordan was on hand as the guest speaker and he gave a brief

See GMRC, 2A



Patrick Fix shows Danny Lewis how to can peaches at the Union County Cannery. Photo/Joe Collins

## Mountain Fling enjoys much success

By Charles Duncan  
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Mike Wilson has been hand-crafting knives for more than three decades.

What began as a hobby more than 30 years ago is now a passion.

The Hayesville, NC resident said his introduction into his craft began with a neighbor.

"He was getting into it, and I was in his shop every time he was in there," Wilson said. "The next thing I knew, I was into making knives. I was hooked and I bought some equipment and got involved with it."

Wilson was one of the

See Fling, 6A



Patrons visited Mountain Fling early and often on Saturday and Sunday at North Georgia Technical College. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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THE NORTH GEORGIA NEWS

Wishes You and Yours a Safe and Happy

**4<sup>th</sup> of JULY**