

# Sports

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## Union County football gives back on Community Service Day

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On the morning of Thursday, July 21, Panthers football players and managers thanked Union County for 66 years of support by hosting its first-ever Community Service Day.

Despite rain and thunderstorms, the players and managers brought the elements to lend a helping hand at local businesses, daycare centers, Meeks Park and other spots around town.

The event was spearheaded by UCHS Wide Receivers coach Paul McBride along with the blessing of head football coach Michael Perry.

“This is something I’ve been wanting to do for a while and Coach Perry agreed,” McBride said. “Coach Perry thought it would be a good thing for our kids to realize that they need to give back to the community.”

The young men and women spent time playing and reading with children at a daycare center. They also aided customers at Ingles by loading groceries or by simply holding an umbrella.

“We can’t bag their groceries, but since it was raining we helped customers in and out of their cars and covered them with an umbrella so they wouldn’t get soaked,” McBride said.

Other team members performed landscaping at Corrugated Replacements while additional groups picked up trash at Meeks Park or assisted janitors with various tasks at Union County schools.

In the past, UCHS football has hosted similar events involving just a couple of players, but according to McBride, they weren’t on the same scale



as this year’s event which saw every player take part. And after the success of this recent community outreach, he plans on making Community Service Day an annual occurrence.

“We’re going to start doing this every year, for sure,” McBride said. “Next year we hope to spread out and add some other locations for the players to volunteer at. This year kind of came together over the last couple weeks, but next year, with more time to plan, we hope it’s an even bigger and better event.”

Union County football is practicing five days a week from 8-11 a.m. as they prep for the 2022 season which opens with a preseason scrimmage at Chestatee on Aug. 12.

Starting Monday, Aug. 1, the Panthers shift into school-year mode with practices beginning at 3 p.m. The first official game is less than a month away when Union County hosts rival Fannin County on Aug. 19.



### Local golfer notches hole-in-one



Congrats to Blairsville’s Jimmy O’Bryan for his hole-in-one on the 154-yard 6th hole at Old Union Golf Course on Wednesday, July 6.



Members of the Union County football team were out and about on Thursday, July 21 as part of the first-annual Community Service Day. Players and managers volunteered at multiple locations around town as a way of thanking the community for its support. Photos courtesy of UC Football.

08/19	H	Fannin County (Region 7-AA)
08/26	H	Lumpkin County (Region 7-AAA)
09/02	A	Towns County (Region 8-A Division II)
09/09	A	Armuchee (Region 7-A Division I)
09/16	H	West Hall (Region 7-AAA)
10/07	A	● Banks County
10/14	H	● Providence Christian
10/21	H	● East Jackson
10/28	A	● Athens Academy
11/03	H	● Fellowship Christian

Union County Panthers 2022 varsity football schedule. The Panthers visit Chestatee for a preseason scrimmage on Aug. 12.

### GENDER EQUITY IN SPORTS

State law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletic programs of local school systems (Equity in Sports Act, O.C.G.A. 20-2-315). Students and Parents/Guardians are hereby notified that Union County School System does not discriminate on the basis of gender in its athletic programs. The Sports Equity Coordinator for Union County School System is: Mrs. Mandy Hunter, Union County Schools Athletic Director • 153 Panther Circle • Blairsville, GA 30512 • 706-745-2216.