

"Land of Lakes, Mountains, Scenic Beauty and Friendly People"

75¢

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

www.nganews.com

Legal Organ of Union County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1909

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

UCHS Boys, Sanchez take home state championship victories

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

CARROLLTON – After playing the role of bridesmaid on so many occasions, Union County High School finally walked the aisle on Saturday, Nov. 3.

Prior to this past weekend, State Runner-up was the best any Union County High School team had ever finished.

From the hardwood to the diamond and the course, UCHS has suffered through numerous near-misses and Second Place finishes over the years by teams loaded with talent and experience.

The half dozen state title banners currently hanging in the UCHS gymnasium were claimed by individual athletes who turned in exceptional performances at state, but no team has ever gotten UCHS over the hump to bring a Panther group championship back to Blairsville.

That is, no team until the

2018 Union County High School Boys Cross Country Team, which flew under the radar on Nov. 3 to capture the Class AA State Championship.

And the boys did it while knocking off the very same Banks County squad that denied them a region title just nine days earlier.

Following the historic performance of the Union County boys, the girls took to the Carrollton course.

That's when junior Zoe Sanchez proceeded to blister the field and capture UCHS' second state title of the day with a time of 20:04, which was more than 51 seconds better than Second Place.

Sanchez joins fellow cross country runner Emma Garrison (2012 and 2013) as the second female state champion in school history.

For more on Union County's championship performances, check out the Sports Section in this week's North Georgia News.



Congratulations to the Union County High School Boys XC Team on their state championship, and to Zoe Sanchez for her individual state title on Saturday, Nov. 3. Photo by Todd Forrest

Local men and women to be honored at various Veterans Day events

News Special
North Georgia News

Veterans Day is Sunday, Nov. 11, and folks in the community have lined up several activities around the patriotic holiday to honor the local men and women who have served their country.

Union County Schools will be hosting its annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 9.

Prior to the ceremony, veterans and their spouses or a friend will be treated to a free breakfast at the Union County High School cafeteria from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The actual ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. in the Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium, and there will be a shuttle service to and from the cafeteria and stadium for any guests attending the breakfast.

This annual ceremony began as a way to promote



patriotism and veterans awareness throughout the county and school system. All students and staff members of Union County See Veterans, Page 2A

Rayfield wins Reserve Grand Champion at Livestock Show

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Bailey Rayfield of Union County 4-H won Reserve Grand Champion with her steer Bandit at the Georgia National Fair Junior Livestock Show in Perry last month.

Rayfield, a senior at Union County High, also placed first in the Crossbred Class and won Reserve Champion Crossbred with Bandit.

"All my show team helped me get there," said Rayfield. "They supported me when I was in the ring and in the back of the barn."

"I've worked hard for it. I've been through a lot of show seasons. I've never won that big, and it was just a long time in the making. You have your ups and downs in show season, whether you're showing a hog or you're showing a cow. "Sometimes they get



Bailey Rayfield with her award winning show cow Bandit. Photo by Mark Smith

stiff, sometimes they won't walk right, sometimes you feed them and they get too big, and then you have to cut back. It's like facing adversity in the past – it'll bring you to the present. You just have to stay humble and work hard for it." Rayfield said she won Reserve Grand at the Georgia Beef Futurity this past summer See Rayfield, Page 3A

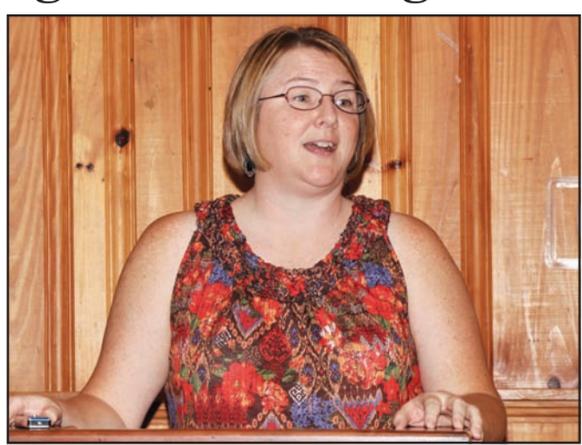
Moore: Lake Nottely safe for fishing and swimming

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

HAYESVILLE, NC – Great news for folks who like to fish and swim in Lake Nottely – the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition has declared that the lake is safe for both activities.

The coalition made the announcement in its annual State of the Water Address on Tuesday, Oct. 30, at the Hinton Rural Life Center in North Carolina.

This year's annual meeting occurred in Clay County, North Carolina, though each year, the location of the meeting rotates between the member counties of the coalition: Cherokee and Clay counties in North Carolina, and Union and Towns counties



Callie Moore is the executive director of the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition. Photo by Mark Smith

in Georgia. About 50 people attended the 2018 State of the Water, which was led by HRWC Executive Director See Moore, Page 2A

Towns/Union Dancing with North Georgia Stars rocks Blairsville

By Jarrett Whitener
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Months of hard work and dance practice paid off for volunteers raising money for the Enotah CASA for Children, as the Third Annual Towns/Union Dancing with North Georgia Stars arrived on Saturday, Nov. 3.

The event took place at the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center, where seats quickly filled up that evening.

"We are very thankful and happy with the turnout tonight," said Linda D'Angelo, executive director for Enotah CASA. "It is great for all these people to come out and help us raise money for the children and help us continue to provide See Dancing, Page 6A



Dawn Saraney and Keith Christensen took home coveted Mirror Ball trophies for their winning routine during the 2018 Dancing with North Georgia Stars on Nov. 3. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Gun Club holds annual meeting, discusses target range progress

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

With a shared sense of purpose in their goal of realizing a local target range, members of the Union County Gun Club gathered for their annual meeting on Thursday, Nov. 1, inside the Blairsville Civic Center.

Guest speakers in the meeting were Union County Sheriff Mack Mason and Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, along with several Gun Club officers who brought members up to speed on club news.

Much appreciation was expressed in the annual meeting for Sheriff Mason, who advises the club, and

Commissioner Paris, both of whom have worked closely with the dedicated Gun Club Board to get the project off the ground.

For his part, Sheriff Mason offered thanks to those who have maintained contact with the Gun Club and county regarding the proposed target range, including Joyce

White, who is the Georgia State Director for USDA Rural Development.

White answers directly to former Georgia governor and current U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, and she attended the Oct. 24 Target Range Public Meeting conducted jointly by the U.S. Forest Service and Union

County Government.

Also in the Nov. 1 meeting, the Gun Club entertained a handful of new business items, including:

Moving annual meetings from November to March to coincide with the deadline on club dues; the covering of board vacancies by appointment until the next annual meeting; voting

to allow Caroline Pirie to fill the board secretary vacancy; and having the official date of the bylaws changed to Nov. 1, 2018.

The first annual meeting was held earlier this year on May 1, and the next will be held in March 2019. After that, the club will continue to See Gun Club, Page 6A

Vol. 109 No. 45
4 Sections 28 Pages
Weather
Thurs: Cloudy Hi 65 Lo 49
Fri: Rain Hi 56 Lo 33
Sat: Cloudy Hi 53 Lo 31

Inside
Arrests 7A
Church 5C
Classifieds 2D
Opinion 4A
Legals 4D
Obits 7C
Sports 2B

SPORTS
FOOTBALL
Nov. 10 vs. Bremen
State Playoff 7:30 PM

Livestock Show
November 10th

UCHS
Painted Chair Auction
November 8th

UCS
PTO Meeting
November 12th

See page 4B

See page 3C

See page 7A