

MGC celebrates its first 30 years

North Georgia News
Sports Special

The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce was delighted to attend the 30 year anniversary celebration for Mountain Gymnastics on Saturday, March 19th, 2016.

Mrs. Shelley Thomas opened the doors of Mountain Gymnastics 30 years ago due to a need in our town for a place for young men and women to develop their athletic abilities in gymnastics. Having been an accomplished gymnast from the University of Georgia, Coach Shelley took a leap of faith and opened her doors in a small upstairs room in the Rogers Building. With only a \$500 investment and a lot of help from friends, March 8th, 1986, forty children were signed up and ready to flip, tumble, and compete in the sport of gymnastics.

For 19 years Mrs. Shelley made the space work, slowly adding more equipment, until she came across the building they are now currently housed. For the last 11 years and three times the space as the former location, Mountain Gymnastics has continued to serve our youth and have received countless trophies competing in AAU and USA competitive programs levels 1-7.

Coach Shelley's philosophy has always been to achieve specific gymnastic skills, have fun, and be safe, while encouraging the students to be the best they can be. At Mountain Gymnastics they concentrate on the individual gymnast and emphasize their accomplishments and goals. This is the reason why Coach Shelley Thomas and Mountain Gymnastics have developed into THE place in Northeast Georgia to learn and train.

The thirty year anniversary afternoon celebrations began with an energizing performance from the Young Harris College Cheer Team and their mascot, Luke the Mountain Lion. Several of the Cheer Team members are also coaches to the students at Mountain Gymnastics. The Mountain Gymnastics Cheer All-Stars and the Gymnastic Competitive Teams also put on an excellent exhibition of skills for the crowd to enjoy.

Several former students and coaches were in attendance for the celebration and after Mrs. Shelley shared her journey over the last thirty years, others shared how much of an



impact Coach Shelley made in their lives. The theme was consistent, Mrs. Shelley has not only provided a space for skills to be developed, but she

also acted as a second Mom to many of the students. Coaches Julie, Dody, Kacie, Laura, Kara, Morgan, Alice, Bailey and Thomas all said they would not be the people they are today without Mrs. Shelley's attention to detail, her passion for the sport, and her dedication to each and every one of them. Commissioner Lamar Paris thanked Coach Shelley for how much she has done for the com-



Track: Union tops 10 events at Fannin

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
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On March 17th, Union County's Track and Field team rolled into Fannin County and continued its impressive 2016 campaign.

Cole Payne took home first place in the 1600-meter and 800-meter race. Evan Browning won the 3200M race and placed second in the 1600M. Adrian Shaw claimed first in the 400M race and second in the 800M.

The boys 4x400 Relay team of Payne, Shaw, Kanon Hemphill, and Jared Herum posted the fastest time of the day to round the boys winners.

As for the girls, Emma Garrison was her usual self, taking first in the 800M and 1600M race. Anna Danek was first in the 3200M race, and placed second in the 800M race and the Triple Jump.

The girls 4x400 Relay team of Garrison, Danek, Emaline Stuart, and Stephanie Busse also took home first place.



Busse would finish second in the 1600M race and the Long Jump. Stuart was second in the 100M and 300M Hurdles.

Fallon Cipriani was third in the Long Jump, Jordan Stubblefield placed third in the 400M race, and Courtney Moose finished second in both the Discus and the Shot Put.

Union's Skylar Ludlum came in third in the Shot Put event.

The 4x100 Relay team of Stubblefield, Cipriani, Stuart and Moose finished in second.

Other guys finishes include: Hemphill - second in the 400M and third in the Triple Jump. Tyler Howard was third in the 100M race, while Chris Drost was second in the Shot Put and third in the Discus.

The 4x100 Relay team of Aaron Hill, Hemphill, Shaw, and Herum finished in third.

Lady Panthers take down White



The Lady Panthers golf team defeated White County 126-136. Ally Horinek fired a 39, Maddy Horinek shot 41, and Megan Rowe a 46.

2016 football schedule released

2016 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August 5	H	White County (Scrimmage)	7:00
August 18	H	Rabun Gap (Scrimmage)	7:00
August 26	H	Gilmer County	7:30
September 2	H	Hayesville, NC	7:30
September 9	A	Andrews, NC	7:30
September 16	A	Banks County	7:30
September 23	A	Greater Atlanta Christian	7:30
September 30	H	East Hall	7:30
October 7	A	Dawson County	7:30
October 14	H	North Hall	7:30
October 21		OPEN	
October 28	A	Fannin County	7:30
November 4	H	Lumpkin County	7:30



Trout stocking sites week of March 21-25, 2016

Fannin: Big Creek, Hemptown Creek, Hothouse Creek, Little Fightingtown Creek, Noontootla Creek, Sugar Creek, Rock Creek, Rock Creek Lake, Toccoa River, Toccoa River Tailwaters of Lake Blue Ridge, and Wilcox Creek

Gilmer: Boardtown Creek and Rock Creek
Lumpkin: Cane Creek, Clay Creek, Dockery Lake, Etowah River, Nimblewill Creek, and Ward Creek

Union: Canada Creek, Cooper Creek, Suches Creek, Toccoa River, Wildhog Creek, and Winfield Scott Lake

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. N(Mar30,A9)CA

Pro wrestling coming to Blairsville to benefit S.A.F.E.

On Friday, April 15, 2016 at the Old Rubber Gymnasium, Georgia Premier Wrestling will hold a family fun event to raise money for S.A.F.E. GPW is a family oriented independent wrestling company that holds events in Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. GPW has clean, family events that are good for all ages and brings in top stars from all over the south. GPW is locally owned and operated by Darrell Morris and Greg "Woody" Hullender.

Don't miss this event if you are in the area! GPW has a great card on April 15th and S.A.F.E. is working hard to build a crowd. The main event will definitely be a great match with Cyrus the Destroyer defending his Southern States Title. Jessica Powerhouse Leigh is certain to be at the top of her game as she takes on Ohno. Also on the card are the DSCW tag team champions: "The Movement" Chip Hazard and Talon. The Good

Old Boys, Cletus and Shaggy, could end up stealing the show though with their shenanigans.

Tickets will be available at the door starting at 7 p.m. \$10 a person and \$5 for 11 years old and younger. Bell time for the first match is 8 p.m. and supporters are encouraged to come early to get a good seat. Food will be available for purchase at the event for \$1 an item. All proceeds from the event will support S.A.F.E.

S.A.F.E. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides services to victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Child Abuse in Towns and Union counties. For information on available workshops or to volunteer for S.A.F.E. please contact 706-379-1901. If you are a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault or know someone who is, call S.A.F.E. for confidential assistance 24 hours a day. 706-379-3000. NT(Mar30,A1)SH

New Liberty Baptist Church 3rd Annual Heavenbound Bass Tournament

In Memory of
Jimmy Lynn Abercrombie

Saturday April 9, 2016 • 7:30 AM-3:30 PM

Lake Chatuge

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Boat Ramp

Entry Fee \$50 Per Boat • 60% Payback

\$5 from each boat goes toward the

BIG fish payout

Raffle tickets will be sold for a pair

of Costa Sunglasses the day of the tournament.

There will be door prizes!

All proceeds go to

HEAVEN BOUND SPORTSMAN MINISTRY

For any questions:

Call Stevie Abercrombie @ 706-781-4914

Trenness Elliott @ 706-781-8883

UC Learning Enrichment Center Dance Competition

The UCLEC program at Union County Primary School took part in a fine arts competition based around various styles of dancing and music. Kindergarten, first, and second grade each produced their own free-style dances, as well as specially choreographed and structured dances to perform on March 21, 2016.

Students were placed in small groups based upon their musical preferences and dancing interests. Some students competed in their own form of break dancing, while others danced their hearts out to their favorite hip-hop or coun-



Bustin' some moves

try song! Each and every student worked hard in showing what they have learned about rhythm and beat, but most im-

portantly, they had an amazing time dancing along side one another and simply having fun! N(Mar30,A3)CA



The boys got it...



... and the girls got it too!