

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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The beat goes on: 12-U Girls win Dizzy Dean Fast Pitch Softball Title!

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

CHICKAMAUGA – The Union County Recreation Department added some important hardware to its trophy case last week as the Union County Lady Panthers' 12-U Softball Team brought home the State Championship from Walker County.

After winning the District Championship in Jackson County last month, the Lady Panthers traveled to Chickamauga to compete in the Dizzy Dean State Fast-Pitch Softball Tournament.

The Lady Panthers drew a line in the dirt as soon as they wheeled into town and made it known to everyone that Union County would be

a force to be reckoned with in this tournament.

Union outscored its opponents 38-9 in the three games, driving home the fact that the Lady Panthers were clearly in a class among themselves during the three-day tournament.

After drawing a bye on Friday, Union played their first game on Saturday morning, and thumped Gordon County 13-2 in four innings.

On Sunday morning, Union knocked out Catoosa County by a score of 12-1, also in four innings, setting up the Lady Panthers for a chance at another state title opportunity later in the evening.

In the Championship Game against the hosts, the Chickamauga Thunder, a see-

saw battle ensued early but Union brought the Thunder down to earth by scoring five runs in the fourth inning.

From that moment on, it became evident that Chickamauga was waiting for the other shoe to drop. It did and Union brought the state title trophy back to Blairsville. The Panthers went on to win in a walk with a 13-6 decision and the celebration was on.

"It was a great team effort to win the title of State Champs," Assistant Coach Dean Everett said. "There were good ball teams at State, but we just jumped on them so hard that it got into their heads."

The Lady Panthers returned home to Blairsville where they were greeted with a parade on Monday evening.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris arrived at Meeks Park to greet the Lady Panthers before sending them out on their victory lap through Downtown.

The Union County Sheriff's Office, Blairsville Police Department, and Union County Fire & Rescue escorted the float from Meeks Park and through town.

There the Historic Courthouse Square was packed with supporters, friends, and family, anxiously awaiting the arrival of Union County's State Champions Fast Pitch Softball Team.

They weren't disappointed.

"We just want to thank everyone who made the parade happen," Head Coach Jeff Tanner said. "The



Union County's 12-U Softball Girls celebrate a state title.

Blairsville Police Department, Union County Sheriff's Office, the fire department, and we appreciate Tanner's Wrecker Appreciate for providing the float. Union County

Recreation Department Athletic Director Ed Webster took care of everything for us through the park.

"We're grateful," Coach Tanner said.

Meeks Park shines on Fourth of July

By Joe Collins & Janice Boling
North Georgia News
Staff Writers

The annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration held at Meeks Park attracted what many consider to be record crowds for the annual holiday celebration.

Thousands of spectators enjoyed the pyrotechnical show that lit the night sky over beautiful Meeks Park.

Crowds cheered and celebrated as the fireworks explosions appeared at three different levels overhead.

The largest of the blasts were high up in the air with smaller bursts occurring at two separate levels below.

The park itself was packed with spectators and cars were parked up and down Highway 515 with almost every parking lot near Meeks Park being full.

It was an amazing event that not only brought the local folks out, it brought people into Union County to enjoy the show as well.

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Thousands flocked to Meeks Park to celebrate the Fourth of July. Photo/Joe Collins

Donations to Iraq War Memorial have begun

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

The ball is rolling to raise the necessary funds to erect an Iraq War Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park in Blairsville.

Veterans Committee members Roy Hamby, Chuck Honaker and Bob Spaulding met last week with Commissioner Lamar Paris to make the necessary arrangements to collect donations for the memorial.

Donations to the memorial can be made to Union County War Memorial, P.O. Box 91, Blairsville, GA 30514. Steve Rowe will oversee the financial aspect of the collections, and the effort will utilize the county's tax identification number for tax purposes.

"I think this is a significant move forward," Commissioner Paris said. "I think it is fitting that we honor those who fought and served in Iraq. I think it is fitting that we include this tribute to our county's War Memorial."

"I'm behind this 100 percent," he said.

The project is estimated to cost almost \$3,900. Any funds collected over the \$3,900 amount will be utilized to erect a future memorial to those who have fought and served in Afghanistan, once that military action is completed, Commissioner Paris said.

Roy Hamby, the retired Veterans Affairs director for

See Donations, Page 2A



Nottely Boat Parade a blast

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

In 1996, Nottely Marina owner Carleen Doucette began the annual Fourth of July Boat Parade and it has become a Union County tradition ever since.

Boats and spectators were out in full force and filled the cove beside Highway 129, even before the festivities kicked off at 11 a.m.

The event featured live music provided by local rock band Modern Vinyl.

The tunes were sponsored by Nottely Marina and MytownsUSA, a local mobile based shopping guide.

This year marks the second straight year that Modern Vinyl has performed at the event and the band has already been invited back for the 2013 Boat Parade.

The boats were named

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The 17th Annual Boat Parade attracted hundreds to Nottely Boat Marina for the annual holiday event. There were a few surprises including a car that morphed into a boat. Photo/Todd Forrest

Suches tradition continues

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

SUCHES – Spending an evening in Suches on the Fourth of July can make one proud to live in this wonderful country called America.

The evening had a small-town, all-American feel to it and you won't experience a better slice of Americana than you could in Suches on Independence Day.

An air of patriotism and freedom hits you like a pie in the face as you stepped out of the car.

Most visitors gathered in the field behind Woody Gap Schools. Some brought their pets and their grill. Others tossed a football, children chased lightning bugs, played with glow sticks, and just enjoyed the freedoms offered in America.

Brooks and Dunn,

See Suches, Page 3A



Fireworks lights the sky in Suches on the Fourth. Hundreds attended the annual holiday gathering. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Butternut Fest almost here

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

The Butternut Creek Festival began 14 years ago out of frustration.

Today, it's ranked among the Top 20 Events in the Southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society and it attracts more than 10,000 arts and

See Butternut, Page 6A



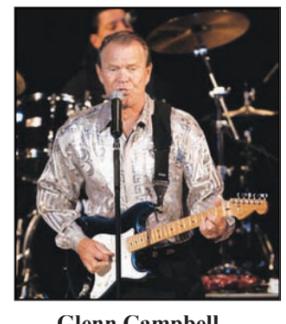
The Butternut Creek Festival is a Top 20 event in the Southeast.

Campbell to say 'good-bye'

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

HIAWASSEE – For 54 years, Glenn Campbell has delighted crowds worldwide with his iconic voice and gentle guitar instrumentals.

He's sold 45 million records, won countless industry awards, has been



Glenn Campbell

nominated for an Academy Award and a Golden Globe, was hand-picked by John Wayne to co-star in the original True Grit and somewhere along the way had time to raise eight children.

Three of those children, Cal, Shannon and daughter Ashley will accompany him to Anderson Music Hall on Friday for his final appearance

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Third Annual Green Bean Festival Pageant

July 28 at The Haralson Memorial Civic Center
contestants will compete for the 2012 King & Queen Titles!

For information contact the Blairsville Downtown Development Authority, Lisa Little, Dir. 706-374-3228

3rd Annual Sweet Corn Festival

Saturday, July 14

See JoAnne Leone, Page 4A

Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Beauty Pageant

Now Accepting Entries

For info & application:
www.georgiamountainfairgrounds.com
706-255-2870