

Sophomores shock the world with stunning upset at U-lympics



Union County High School's yearlong competition known as the "U-lympics" crowned a champion last Friday, and to the surprise of everyone - with the exception of the Class of 2019 - the sophomores reigned supreme. The final day of the U-lympics was expected to be one last coronation for the seniors - until the sophomores rained on their parade. The U-lympics are a competition between each grade that judges the entire class based on the performances of individuals. The students are not only judged in athletic prowess, but academics, behavior, school spirit, fewest library/lunch fines, and other factors throughout the school year. Spirit Week during the fall also plays a role in the crowning of a champion. The classes decorate and design a float for the Homecoming Parade that is judged by faculty. The classes are also scored on participation and school spirit throughout the week of Homecoming.

Run Above The Clouds, Inc. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce celebrates with Run Above The Clouds, Inc. On Monday, May 8, the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Run Above The Clouds, Inc. The mission for this non-profit organization is to provide scholarships for Suches youth, most of whom are Woody Gap graduates, but also including students from on-line or home school programs. Recipients are chosen from applicants after the June 25th deadline and grants are based on need and funds available. The funds are paid directly to the student's school for academic purposes. Several years ago, the program was expanded (in a leap of faith) from eligibility only in the graduation year to up to four years with evidence of successful study. A committee of the organization evaluates the applications and presents recommendations to the membership and board of directors for action. The organization board of directors consists of Ruth Ann Miner (Chair), Lamar Barber (Vice-chair), Jim Miner (Secretary), Ward New (Treasurer), and Rick Smith (Race Director) as well as a growing number of committed and energetic committee members all of whom volunteer their time to assist Suches youth in pursuit of their educational goals. The scholarships are funded by sponsorships from businesses and individuals from the area (some of which make generous anonymous contributions) as well as proceeds from the 10K, 5K and 1 mile Fun Run. The event is managed so that costs of operations are covered by runner registrations and a grant specifically made to cover operating costs. The Run Above The Clouds is the kickoff event for the annual Indian Summer Festival which also supports The Woody Gap School and its students and is held on the first weekend in October at the Woody Gap School in Suches. For more information about Run Above The Clouds, please visit their website at <http://www.run-abovetheclouds.org> or Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/10kand5k>. Questions can be directed to (706) 747-1047 or email cloudrun10k@yahoo.com.
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Union County Primary School Physical Education hand out coaches awards; recognize Battleball champs



Top: Union County Primary School P.E. teacher Chris Robbins recognized seven 2nd graders that successfully demonstrated a level of mastery in eight different skills stations given in different areas of Physical Education. These seven students received the Coaches Award for excellence in P.E at UCPS. In 2017, only seven second grade students (out of 181) accomplished this difficult task. Those students from left to right are: Naomi Nelson, Emmy Kight, Emma Martin, Brandon Lynch, Andrew Nushtayev, Will Henson, and Xavier LeBlanc. Bottom: Mrs. Morgan's 2nd grade class was victorious in claiming the Union County Primary School Battleball Championship. The North Georgia News would like to congratulate each of the recipients of the Coaches Award along with Mrs. Morgan's class on all of their success during another fantastic school year at UCPS. Photos/Todd Forrest

Blairsville Pickleball Club members succeed in White County Tournament



(L-R): Chuck Herrera, Nolan Lang, Cathy Berggreen of Blairsville; Karen Staffins of Morganton; Janet Bush, Lora Ash of Blairsville; Blake Harper of Young Harris. Several members of the Blairsville Pickleball Club participated in a fundraising event held May 5th through May 7th in Cleveland, GA. Tough matches were watched by large crowds in the new sports complex, which has nine dedicated pickleball courts. The tournament attracted nearly 200 players, representing eight states. All proceeds went to the 'Community Helping Hands Clinic of White County,' an organization which provides free medical services to low-income patients. The Women's 3.5 Doubles Gold medals were won by Cathy Berggreen and Karen Staffins; the Women's 3.5 Singles Bronze medal was taken by Cathy Berggreen. Blake Harper won a Gold medal in Men's 3.0 Doubles. Lora Ash and Janet Bush were in the 3.5 category of Women's Doubles. The Blairsville Pickleball Club has grown in popularity and in numbers, with over 160 members. The Oasis program in the First United Methodist Church of Union County continues to offer classes in pickleball, which is an ideal sport for all ages. Kathi and Bud Patrick, of Hiawassee, are the Club Ambassadors and frequently hold special clinics in Blairsville for players of all levels. To get information about the game, contact Kathi Patrick at kathipatrick3@gmail.com.
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Allan Ross Fundamental Camp

Dates: June 8th - 10th

Location: Union County Recreation Gym

Age Groups: Boys and Girls; Rising 3rd grade - 8th grade

Time: 9AM-12 Noon

Cost: \$60 per child (\$50 if child is registered by **May 22, 2017**)

Elite Level Training (ELT) is happy to announce it will be hosting its 4th annual fundamental based basketball camp in Blairsville, Georgia. The focus of this camp will be player and skill development through focused teaching of fundamentals and functional movement. All instructors of this camp will have collegiate basketball experience, through their playing or training backgrounds or will be a part of the Union County High School Basketball Program, to better help campers achieve their own goals and improve their own personal development. For additional information and registration forms email ELT instructor Michael Ross at eltcoachross@gmail.com or by calling 706-897-4581. Acceptable payment methods are cash or check and must be made out to Michael Ross. We look forward to helping our athletes improve their skills and overall game!

It is time for Football and Cheerleading

Sign-ups at the Union County Recreation Department begin May 1-June 23rd.

Ages 7-11 (Age cut off is April 30)

Sign up on-line at unioncountyga.gov

Go to park and recreation/youth athletic programs or at the Recreation Office located at 310 Wellborn Street

** For more information please call the recreation office at 706-439-6074**

Union County Recreation Senior FULL-OF-LIFE

2017 Senior Outdoor Exercise Program
Ages: 55 and over

Did you know outdoor exercise could be fun? Outdoor exercise is very beneficial to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. This program is designed to meet each individual participant's ability. The Program Director of Union County Parks and Recreation will be leading a free outdoor exercise session two times a week for 6 weeks in session 1! This is a great time to socialize and exercise with a fun group. We will meet at Meeks Park Backside Exercise Equipment (off Old Blue Ridge Highway entrance) and work out for 60 minutes!

**Session One Registration begins on May 9 and ends May 31, 2017 at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.)

Registration must be done in person due to cap on participants per session! If you have any questions, you can call