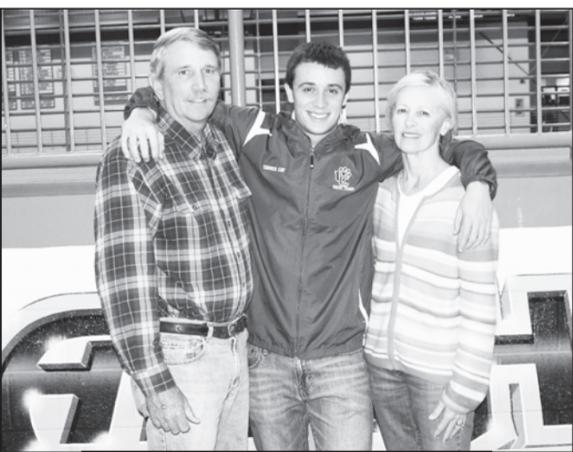


# Panther swimmer Tanner Gay picks Lenoir-Rhyne



UCHS's Tanner Gay with parents Barry and Carol (left). Gay with Coach Carol Knight and teammates (right). Photos/Lowell Nicholson

**By Todd Forrest**  
North Georgia News  
sports@nganews.com

Union County High School swimmer Tanner Gay became the first member of Union County's swim team to sign at the next level.

Gay, who was joined by his parents, coaches, and teammates, put his name on a Letter

of Intent to become a Lenoir-Rhyne Bear in Hickory, NC.

"I chose Lenoir-Rhyne because the swim team there was like a big family and the coach seemed more like a father figure than a coach," Gay said. "The school is beautiful and was exactly what I was looking for. It's not too far away but it's not too close either, so overall it was just a good choice."



However, Gay is not the first swimmer from Union County to sign with a college, he is the first to sign since Union County High School implemented its Swim Program a few years ago.

Gay, who has participated in two State Meets, will be successful at the college level and will hopefully begin a tradition at UCHS of sending

swimmers to the next level.

"We are hoping that he has shown other swimmers that it can be done," Union County Swim Coach Carol Knight said. "He has blazed a trail and hopefully the first of many. Tanner is unique in that he found his passion for swimming early in life. He knew what he wanted and he worked towards and never gave up."

# James Rowe state-bound



On Monday, April 15th, at Hard Labor Creek Golf Course in Social Circle, Union County senior James Rowe finished third in Region 8-AA with a score of 78 and qualified for State Tournament May 20th. The boys team finished second behind Oglethorpe County, while the girls finished fourth in Region 8-AA.

# Tucker resigns boys basketball job, remains coach of the Lady Panthers

**By Todd Forrest**  
North Georgia News  
sports@nganews.com

On Monday, April 15th Union County Head Basketball Coach David Tucker sent his letter of resignation as the boys basketball coach, to the Union County Board of Education.

Tucker will remain the head coach of the Lady Panthers, who he has taken to the State Tournament in each of his two seasons.

"It is my intent to resign as Union County boys basketball coach at the end of the 2012-13 school year," Tucker's letter said.

"I agree to continue as the girls basketball coach and I appreciate the opportunity to have coached both teams in the past."

Tucker became the boys coach during the 2010-11 season and won 19 games. In 2011-12 he became the coach of both teams, making him one of only three coaches in the state to coach both the boys and girls squads. The other two schools were Woody Gap and a small private school.

"We will begin looking from within the school system to find a replacement," Union County Schools Superintendent Gary Steppe said.



Coach David Tucker during the 2011-12 season. Photo/Todd Forrest

# BOE honors SkillsUSA



The Union County Board of Education honored the Union County High School's 2012-13 Skills USA team and Coach Michael Hayes at its monthly meeting last week.

**By Todd Forrest**  
North Georgia News  
sports@nganews.com

The Union County Board of Education sent out a formal congratulations to the Union County High School SkillsUSA team.

The accomplishments of several of the Vocational Skills competition were recognized by Gary Davenport and the Union County B.O.E.

"Congratulations to the students who placed at the Region level and competed at the State level," Davenport said.

As Davenport called out the names, the students came forward and handed a certifi-

cate, given a firm handshake, and round of applause by those in attendance.

As the last name was called, the entire team gathered behind the board members and received a standing ovation from the meeting-goers.

Those recognized were: R.J. Brown in Precision Machine, Tyler Bryson in Plumbing, Dylan Tanner in Auto Service Technology, Morgan Gallagher in Job Interview, Joseph Hughes in Welding Sculpture, Josh Dills in Masonry, and Davy Arrowood in Residential Wiring.

Several placed in Team Works including Vicki Adams, Shawn Stanley, Jacob Vick, Justin Young, and Cody

Roberts.

Another event that had multiple members place was Welding Fabrication Adam Holden Ethan King Austin Beavers, and Michael Carlton, in Welding Fabrication.

Brianna Baine placed in HVAC, Ben Buckley in Carpentry, Cheyenne Dillard in Collision Repair, Carli Tanner in Pre-School Teaching Assistant, Jonah Whitmer in First Aid, Lucas Sosebee in Cabinet Making.

"You've got to have a good sponsor and a good leader so Michael Hayes, please come forward," Davenport said as he congratulated Coach Hayes for his team's success.

# Home field...continued from Page 12A

As Zach Odom made very clear in the fall, the goal isn't to advance past the first round, it's to bring home a championship later next month. Coach Bradburn has instilled a championship mentality with his squad and this team has bought into his philosophy.

"We are all really excited about hosting the first round of State, however the focus has been not settling for that," Bradburn said. "We want a State Championship for Union County High School baseball. We have went toe-to-toe with one of the best teams in the State, and we need to make sure we come into the State Tournament red hot and ready to play hard."

As for Zach Odom, Davenport, Croskey, and the rest of the Panther seniors, "I'm really excited for them and I have been around them since they



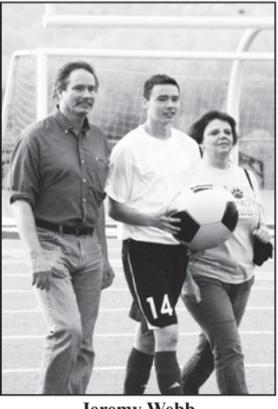
(L-R) Cooper Patton, Keith Brewer, Lane Everett, Coach Brandon Bradburn, Garrett Nix, and Zach Odom. Photo/Todd Forrest

were in 8th grade," Bradburn said. "They are doing a great job of taking their roles seriously and staying focused, but also not forgetting to have fun playing this wonderful game."

Last Friday's Region 8-AA double header and Senior Night festivities with Washington-Wilkes was rescheduled for Monday night due to heavy

rain. Last Wednesday, the Panthers were set to host Murphy, NC in a make up game from Feb. 28th, but it was postponed due to heavy thunderstorms that rolled through Union County that evening. No make up date has been set, although Union is still scheduled to travel to Murphy on Thursday for a 4:30 p.m. match up.

# Senior Night...continued from page 12A



Jeremy Webb



Josh Troche



Lalo Rivera



Tim McKenna

# Lady Panther softball summer workouts

- April 23rd - Free Physicals for all middle/high school Student Athletes at the high school.
- June 10th - Practice 10 a.m. - noon.
- June 11th - Summer League Games vs. Towns 5:30/7:00 p.m. (@ Union).
- June 17th - Practice 10 a.m. - noon.
- June 18th - Summer League Games vs. TBA - doubleheader.
- June 20th - Summer League Games vs. TBA - doubleheader.
- June 24th - Summer League Games vs. Towns 5:30/7 p.m. (@ Union).
- June 25th - Summer League Games vs. Lumpkin at 5 p.m. vs. Dawson at 6:30 p.m. (@Lumpkin County).
- July 1st -5th - GHSA Softball Dead Week. No games or practices allowed. 8-11- Panther Pride Team Camp (TBA)
- July 9th - Summer League Games vs. Fannin. Towns vs Fannin Union vs. Towns (@ Union).
- July 15th -Summer League Games vs. Fannin, Towns vs Fannin, and Union vs. Towns (@Union).
- July 16th - Summer League Games vs. Gilmer and Fannin at Union.
- July 18th - Practice 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
- July 22 - North Georgia Summer Classic - TBA (@North Georgia College)
- July 23 - North Georgia Summer Classic- TBA (@North Georgia).
- July 29th - hitting at 4 p.m. and conditioning at 5 p.m. July 30- Fielding at 4 p.m. and conditioning at 5 p.m.
- July 31 - Hitting/fielding at 4 p.m. and conditioning at 5 p.m. (timed mile and hills).
- Aug. 1st - practice 4-6 p.m.
- Aug. 2- workout 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Aug. 3 - 100 Inning Game at 10 a.m. followed by team cookout at 5 p.m.

Game schedule will be released over the summer. You must have a physical to participate in the summer workouts

Please call Coach Stewart (706-897-7372) or Coach Cagle (706-492-3039) if you have any questions.

# Trout stocking sites week of April 15-19, 2013

Fannin: Rock Creek and Toccoa River.  
Lumpkin: Etowah River and Nimblewill Creek.  
Union: Cooper Creek.

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.

# Miller snags 10-pound largemouth



Trystin Miller of Mineral Bluff, GA caught this 10-pound 9-ounce largemouth Sunday April 7th while fishing with his father on Lake Nottely. This is his first largemouth. His father commented, "he has high expectations now so watch out Pro Bass Circuit, Trystin is in it to win it."

## Turkey Shoot

May 4th • 9 a.m.

Sponsored By

### ALEXANDER'S STORE

20 Rounds of Shooting with prizes every round donated by Alexander's Store with Grand Prizes also.

It's for a GREAT cause!

For More Information Contact:  
Larry Stover 706.897.9769

Directions from Blairsville: Take Hwy 129 South (Gainesville Hwy.) approx 8 miles. Turkey Shoot will be held in the field on the left just past Owltown Rd. If you make it to Hwy. 180 East you've went too far.

# Batting Cages

Meeks Park Automatic Batting Cages now open for the season. Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri 5:30pm- 7:30pm. Sat from 10am-2pm closed on Wed.

