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state shoot.

For the local Top 5 Senior Team, Blane Brown, Austin Dyer, Tara McCann, Jake McClure and Matt Peney shot their way to second place overall in the qualifying shoot, finishing only behind Pickens County.

“Overall, everybody did really well, so I think everybody had a good time,” said Peney, who is a junior at Union County High School, and has been competing since the seventh grade. “I enjoy it a lot. It’s a good hobby, and it’s just fun to blow off some steam every once in a while, shooting.”

The competition Saturday featured five shooting stations, one of which was a double trap shoot serving as a tie-breaking station.

Seventh and eighth-grade junior competitors had to hit 16 targets to qualify for state, and senior competitors, grades nine through 12, had to hit 20 of 25 targets.



Four Union County competitors hit all 25 of their targets, which put them in positions to shoot for a tie-breaker Saturday: Peney, Austin Dyer, Hayden Smith and Cole Cantrell.

And when it comes down to shooting time, Peney just tells himself not to miss.

“I just have to remind myself to be calm and take it one at a time,” said Peney.

Smith and Cantrell, both on senior teams, finished fourth and fifth respectively as individuals for the qualifying shoot.

This is the fourth year in a row that Union County



has hosted the North Georgia District Shoot, and use of the Airport Industrial Park comes thanks to Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and the county’s Development Authority, led by Mitch Griggs, who has a daughter, Elena, who competed Saturday.

“Last year, we came

second in state out of 1,150 kids,” said Margelli. “Typically, Union County is always in the top two or three, minimum. Sometimes we do a lot better than that. But at state is where we really shine. Last year, we had five kids who were all juniors in high school, and of the five kids, we had three kids hit a perfect

25, and the other two shot a 24.

“So, we missed two targets out of 125 targets,” said Margelli. “We ended up shooting until 8 o’clock at night in competition against a South Georgia team, and we lost by one target. We got a big trophy as second place in the state – that’s a big deal.”

EMC...from Page 1A

would reestablish that trust with the membership.

“I believe I’m qualified because I’ve got 40-plus years of business experience, I’ve served on a number of boards during that time, currently, I’m on the board of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.

“I think I have the integrity to do what’s right for the vast majority of the membership,” Malone said. “And I have no special interests, I’m just a residential customer; I don’t have a business interest tied into the EMC.

“Those are the reasons I’m running, and those are the reasons I believe I am qualified,” Malone said.

Malone would need approximately 105-110 signatures to get his name on the Board of Directors’ ballot for Union County.

“If people would like to sign the petition, they can e-mail me at ptm4936@gmail.com, or they can call me at (706) 835-1308,” Malone said.

Malone joins Towns County petition candidate Roy Perren, and Fannin County petition candidate Larry Wil-

liams as they try to do what Phillips, Charles Jenkins and Chris Logan did last year – become directors by petitioning to be placed on the ballot.

Also, on Friday, at the Mountain Movers & Shakers meeting at Mary’s Southern Grill in Young Harris, Charles Rich will announce he is a petition candidate for the Union County director for BRMEMC Board of Directors.

Rich was a Republican candidate for Union County Sole Commissioner in 2012. He lost to incumbent Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris.

Extravaganza...from Page 1A

right here in our community who are giving back in so many ways. I think that’s the main gist of the whole thing, is just to reiterate how important it is to support our neighbors.”

The Extravaganza was made possible with the support from its corporate sponsors, Allstate Insurance Company – The Enotah Group, Bulldog Restoration and The Loft Boutique out of nearby Hiwassee.

“We want to show visitors what Union County has to offer,” said Erin Huffman, the chamber’s information specialist. “Some people don’t know we have this kind of a restaurant, or that we have these service businesses available here. It’s a great way just to bring awareness of what we can offer visitors.”

Huffman spearheaded the event, which has been in the works since last year’s Extravaganza came to a close.

After studying surveys submitted by vendors and patrons of the 2014 Buy Local initiative, she and the chamber tweaked the layout and organization of the event, and have spent the last three and a half months working hard to make Thursday night possible.

Azzarello Photography Studio took complementary novelty mugshots of visitors who stopped by their booth, and the Union County Public Library gave out information on audiobooks and e-books available to patrons online.

D. Wayne Forbus of Elvis TCB Shows, a recent transplant from Alabama, served as the Extravaganza’s master of ceremonies, performing as Elvis and entertaining both floors of the event with a wireless microphone.

Chris Collins of Carter Insurance and Investments made people aware of the many dozens of companies he is able to provide services through, and Southern Bank & Trust provided bottles of water to everyone as the Extravaganza’s 2015 Water Sponsor.

Blairsville native Amy Harper, an account executive with Amedisys, informed people about the home health opportunities available through her company, and Jerome and Pam Scruggs of Jerae’s Unity Alpacas educated people on the qualities of alpaca fur.

SafeGuard Lock and Vault’s Brad and Jenny Sherman, along with their son Nick, made free house key duplicates for those in attendance, and Sherry Owenby of Hi Country Shops showed off her 2015 Best Of Show display, featuring the work of local artists and gifts for every occasion.

Deputies ...

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with their shift-mates,” Chief George said.

“The knowledge that these four deputies will share with their co-workers will be invaluable to the Union County Sheriff’s Office,” Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.



Overall, the Extravaganza offered the community a glimpse into what makes Blairsville and Union County so special – its remarkably robust local business economy.

“I used to work for the chamber of commerce in

Americus, GA, and we were always trying to get people to buy local,” said Joanne Morris of Blairsville, who came to the event with her husband Jim. “It’s important. We buy local every time we get the opportunity.”