

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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September 24, 2014

## Coosa United Methodist Church celebrates 180th Homecoming

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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Sept. 28 marks the 180th anniversary of Homecoming at Coosa United Methodist Church off Mulky Gap Road. Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris has declared that day as *Coosa United Methodist Church Homecoming Day* in Union County.

"Coosa Methodist Church stands today due to the love and devotion of its present members," Commissioner Paris said. "The standards that stood 180 years ago are the same standards that will be in place at Coosa's 200th Homecoming Celebration."

On Sept. 28, Coosa will celebrate 180 years of Homecoming with a celebratory service at 10 a.m.

at the church on Mulky Gap Road. An Old Time Singing will be held at 7 p.m. on Sept. 27 to celebrate the occasion of Homecoming.

Devolving Methodist Charles Duncan, who moved to the Coosa District in 1833 from Buncombe County, NC with his wife Mary Ford Duncan and their 12 children, started the church in 1834. The Duncan family had migrated to North Carolina from Buckingham County, VA in the early 1800s.

It is believed that the first church service at Coosa happened on the Duncan Family property near the present day location of Duncan Cemetery off Fairview Church Road.

In *Coosa History*, a compilation of significant happenings in the church, it is written that like many small



The little white church on Mulky Gap Road celebrates its 180th Homecoming on Sunday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

country churches, Coosa began when a group of faithful Christians saw a need and, following the lead of the Lord,

the ground for a living and to stay alive. The Coosa Church family worked hard, but more importantly, they remained faithful.

While the early settlers of this congregation may seem far removed in time and culture, their spirit still guides the life of the congregation even today.

The early years featured some of the county's legendary circuit rider Methodist ministers, a group that included the Rev. William Cotter, the Rev. Milford G. Hamby, and the Rev. Thomas Coke Hughes.

The latter, affectionately known as "Uncle Tom Coke," was considered to be the father of Methodism in Blairsville and Union County. Rev. Hughes was born in Union County in 1844 and

died in 1932. He gave his life in service to the mountains of North Georgia, not only as a dedicated Methodist minister, but also as a representative in the Georgia State House, Clerk of Court, and as a trustee of Young Harris College.

Coosa United Methodist Church where it is today was built in 1865. The church building was typical of small churches of the era, simple, Spartan and utilitarian, but nestled in a location accessible to the membership by foot or by horse and buggy.

In 1875, a deed was recorded at the Union County Courthouse for the land where the current church still exists today. It was deeded by David Newton Duncan, John Ledford and Wellborn

See *Coosa*, 2A

## Lowell Nicholson Field Dedication on Sept. 30

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Hiwassee - Towns County Schools will honor its No. 1 Fan, Lowell Nicholson, with a special ceremony before the last high school softball home game of the year on Tuesday, Sept. 30, against Providence at 4:45 p.m.

The ceremony will culminate in an official dedication of the field as *Lowell Nicholson Field*, commemorating his many years of service to the young people of Towns County sports.

Nicholson has spent almost 40 years covering youth sports for newspapers, and he is the long-time photographer for the *Towns County Herald* and *North Georgia News*.



Tuesday, Sept. 30 is a special day for our very own Lowell Nicholson. Towns County Schools will officially dedicate the girls' softball field as *Lowell Nicholson Field*. Photo/Tava Bradshaw

He remains humble about the dedication. "I appreciate the school

and what they're going to do for me," said Nicholson. "I really don't deserve that - it's

not about me, it's about the girls that play softball."

People started calling the field *Lowell Nicholson Field* more than a decade ago, when Nicholson was asked to throw out the very first pitch ever thrown there for a softball game.

Lady Indians' High School Basketball Head Coach Jim Melton remembers well that pitch, and knows what sports and the athletes of Towns County mean to Nicholson.

"He's our No. 1 fan," said Melton.

"Any time you think about Towns County Athletics, Lowell Nicholson comes to mind," added Towns County High School Principal and

See *Nicholson*, 2A

## Kiwanis Club, UGH team up to help Union's underprivileged children

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The Blairsville Kiwanis and Union General Hospital have teamed up for this Friday's Kiwanis Club Golf Tournament at Old Union Golf Course.

The tournament raises much needed funds for the underprivileged youth of Union County. Whenever Union County students require school supplies and other necessities, the Kiwanis are contacted by the school and the items are provided free of charge.

Along with the Kiwanis Fair in April, the golf tournament are the two largest fundraisers, with the tournament being the only event where the public is asked to help out.

At press time, the tournament has approximately 16



Mike Gowder

teams signed up for tournament, however the Kiwanis are shooting for around 24 teams for Friday's shotgun start.

This year's tournament is sponsored by Union General Hospital, and along with the Kiwanis, the duo share a kindred interest in meeting the needs of the children in our

See *Tourney*, 3A

## Wiles returns to her Union County roots

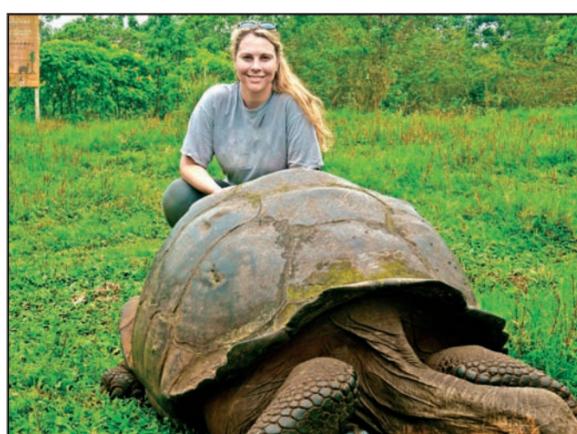
By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Welcome home, Dr. Elizabeth Wiles.

Elizabeth, the daughter of Blairsville's own Dr. Mary Beth Wiles, left home seven years ago to pursue a medical education, and now returns to join her mother in practice as an Internal Medicine physician.

The mother and daughter duo currently hold their practices at Blairsville Internal Medicine off Pat Haralson Drive. They specialize in primary care and the treatment of adult disease. Each provider has privileges at Union General Hospital and Nursing Home.

The Wiles family moved to Blairsville in 1979, when Mary Beth was fresh out of



Dr. Elizabeth Wiles is a world traveler, but she says there is no place like home and no place where she'd rather be than living in Union County. Her residency at Emory and Elizabeth was less than a year old. Mary Beth credits then hospital administrator Leon Davenport, hospital board member Edith Paris, Mayor Howard

Thomas and Director of Nursing Patsy Efrid with providing open arms to bringing her and her family to Union County.

"These were Blairsville's finest," said Mary Beth.

"I knew there was no better place in the world to practice medicine."

Medicine might seem a Wiles family tradition, as the two now treat patients out of the same office. But Elizabeth's original plan was to become a powerful business executive to embrace her love of travel.

She joint enrolled at Young Harris College while at Union County High School, and attended the University of Georgia where she graduated Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in international business.

But jobs were scarce at the time, and Elizabeth took a sales position with a natural gas company instead of traveling the globe.

See *Dr. Wiles*, 3A

## UCHS Homecoming 2014



Here is the 2014 UCHS Homecoming Court. Homecoming is Friday.

## Three charged in shoplifting capers

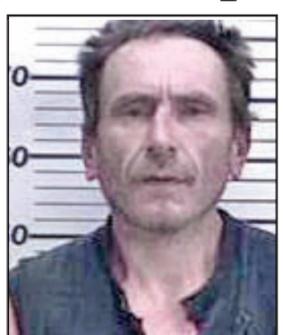
By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

A North Carolina woman and two Blairsville women are behind bars following a chase by a private citizen, Blairsville police and Union County Sheriff's deputy.

The Sept. 5 incident began at Wal-Mart off Kiuestia Creek Road as Angela Freeman, Elizabeth Donaldson and Scott Cable attempted to flee the store after Donaldson and Cable allegedly shoplifted welding tools from the store, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

Freeman is from Andrews, NC, and Donaldson is from Murphy, NC, Sheriff Mason said.

"The person reporting the theft was a private citizen," Sheriff Mason said. "That individual followed those three as they fled the store parking lot in a pickup truck. The private citizen stayed behind the fleeing pickup truck until deputies pulled the vehicle over



Scott Cable



Angela Freeman

on Pat Colwell Road." Once the pickup stopped, Cable jumped from the vehicle and attempted to elude law enforcement on foot, Sheriff Mason said.

"Deputy Dustin Walker and Blairsville Police Officer Seth Dyer pursued the suspect on foot and apprehended him after a short chase," Sheriff Mason said.

Union County Sheriff's Investigator Staff Sgt. Darren Osborn took over from there, See *Shoplift*, 3A



Elizabeth Donaldson

## Daffodil Project comes to Meeks Park

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

The Daffodil Project is coming to Meeks Parks.

The project's goal is to plant 1.5 million daffodils worldwide in memory of the 1.5 million children who died in the Holocaust, said Project Coordinator Mike Weinroth.

During the Holocaust, 1.5 million children died senselessly in Nazi occupied Europe. "No one knows what kind of lives these children would have gone on to lead," Weinroth said. "Their potential for growth and fulfillment was cut short. We aspire to build a Living Holocaust Memorial by planting 1.5 million daffodils around the world to remember the children."

A 600-bulb daffodil garden was planted last November in Blue Ridge.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said it's an honor to be a part of the project.

"Mike came to me and



Daffodil Project team members Robert Brown, Barbara Baumgardner, Judy Caines, Mike Weinroth, Larry Conley and JoAnne Allen in the middle.

asked if we would be interested in doing a similar project that they did in Fannin County," Paris said. "We thought it would be a positive project and add to our children's me-

See *Daffodils*, 3A

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