

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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UCHS Homecoming Friday night

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

On Friday night at halftime of the Union County Panthers' Region 8-AA contest with Greene County, 14 young ladies from Union County High School will be escorted onto the field before one receives the crown of the 2015-16 Homecoming Queen.

Representing the Senior Class is Layne Colwell, Kim Coyne, Sidney Davenport, Addie Murphy, and Janey Thomas.

The junior class representatives are Logan Colwell, Joanna Irvin, Meighan McCammon, and Kendra Tanner.

Bailey Daniel, Jessica Palomo, and Emily Rittenhouse represent the sopho-



more class.

The two freshman class representatives are Carson Chambers and Carlyne Stone.

The 2014-15 Homecoming Queen Emma Smith will be on hand to crown this year's queen just as 2013-14 Queen Amry Theriot passed her crown to Smith.

The other four UCHS Homecoming Queens from this decade are Cassidy Davis (2012-13), Meagan Barnett (2011-12), Tori Dyer (2010-11), and Hayley DeBell (2009-10).

The Homecoming ceremony marks the culmination of Spirit Week at UCHS. The Student Council and the Cheerleading squad plan most of the activities over the five-day extravaganza of school pride.

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Gene Watson comes to The Hall on Oct. 24th

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Country Music Icon Gene Watson is headed to Anderson Music Hall, so buy your tickets now before they sell out for the Saturday, Oct. 24, show.

The native Texan has recorded 51 albums, seven No. 1 hits, 23 Top 10 hits, and more than 75 charted songs, and is known as the Singer's Singer for his smooth, soulful voice.

"I was born in Texas, raised in Texas and still live in Texas," said Watson. "I have a lot of people ask me how come I never moved to Nashville - because I like Texas."

And even though Watson, who turns 72 this month, is a lifelong devotee of his home state, he has plenty of love for the beautiful North Georgia Mountains.

"I love them," said Watson. "I've always said that if I moved anywhere from Texas, it would probably be to Georgia. I love the people there, I love to perform there. I just love the state of Georgia. I've always had real good luck in the Peach State, and I've got a lot of friends there - tons of friends - and we're just



Gene Watson

so much looking forward to coming to Hiawassee and entertaining them."

Watson is no stranger to Hiawassee, having performed at Anderson Music Hall of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds a number of times in his long career, and there's every indication that he will be back, even after his Oct. 24 show.

"Music is my life," said Watson. "I think if I had to sit down and retire, I'd go crazy. I've got so many friends and fans out there, and the good Lord has blessed me with my voice, that it will sustain. I'm going to stick with it. I have

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Vietnam Moving Wall important details

North Georgia News
News Special

This is an event in Blairsville that you don't want to miss.

The Moving Wall is a truly unique and inspiring experience for everyone.

The opening ceremony is at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8th and the Wall will be available for viewing 24 hours a day until 1 p.m. on Oct. 12th, when there will be a closing ceremony.

"We are honored that the Wall will be located in our own Meeks Park," Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said. "It will be located on the hill just to the right after entering the Park.

"There will be extra park-

ing on Saturday and Sunday at the Industrial Park on Airport Road," Paris said. "There will be shuttle buses and vans there to transport people to The Wall and back to their car."

The Wall will be located in Meeks Park, near the pool, and is free to all people.

When you visit please remember the Wall is a solemn place, dedicated to the 58,307 men and women who died in service to their country.

Please give them the dignity and honor they deserve.

There are a total of 30 names listed on the Wall from Union, Towns, Lumpkin, Fannin and White counties in Georgia and Cherokee and Clay counties in North Caro-

lina.

If you would like a rubbing of a name from the Wall, a Vietnam Veteran will assist you in finding the name and supplying the material to get the rubbing.

If you already know the name of the person(s), you may visit <http://www.virtual-wall.org> to find the location on the Wall before you get to Meeks Park.

You may also visit <http://www.themovingwall.org/> to get a prelude of what you will see at the Blairsville site.

All the names on the Virtual Wall, the Washington, D.C. Wall and the Moving Wall have the same wall address.

Handicapped veteran

parking will be available in the upper ball field against the fence closest to the Wall.

A tram will circle the park bringing people to the Wall, or the Sorghum Festival, which will take place at its normal location in the park. Attendants are available at all sites to assist visitors.

Something new has been added to this event for Saturday, Oct. 10th from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Anticipating the large volume of visitors to the Wall and the Sorghum Festival, auxiliary parking will be provided.

The parking will be free and is located on Air-

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46th Annual Sorghum Festival Parade

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

For more than two decades, Charles Worden has been coordinating parades within Union County - and that will be no different with the 46th Annual Sorghum Festival Parade this Saturday, Oct. 10.

Worden, who retired at the first of the year as Union County Fire Chief after 21 years on the job, still holds the posts of Union County EMA director and 911 director.

"Parade routes are always the same, with the exception of the Christmas Parade, and it takes a shorter route," said Worden.



Starting at 11 a.m. that Saturday, Oct. 10, the Sorghum Festival Parade will make its way from the Old Middle School Gym on School Circle and around to Cleveland Street. From there, it will take a right to the Blairsville Square and go 3/4 of the way around the square and out Blue Ridge Street.

Then, the parade will take a right onto Earnest Street, followed by another right onto Georgia 515, where it will go until it reaches Harris Street to take a right at the U.S. Post Office.

From there, the parade will make a left between the Old Fort Sorghum and

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Rains soak Indian Summer Festival

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Suches - An uninvited guest visited Suches over the weekend as Hurricane Joaquin crashed the 38th Annual Indian Summer Festival and wreaked havoc in the form of rain and wind.

However, it would take more than rain showers to break the spirit of the community as the locals banded together and still found a way to support the festival, which is Woody Gap



School's largest fundraiser.

"We still made some money this weekend," said long time festival volunteer, and Woody Gap Sports Club President Larry Wood. "Everybody pitched in. All of the locals came down here on Saturday and bought themselves a (barbecue) plate, so we cleared about \$1,400 from the barbecue. It was some of the best that I've ever had."

Unfortunately, rain chased away most of the vendors and festival-goers on Saturday, but

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Farmers Market focus - local agriculture

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Rain fell heavily on the Union County Farmers Market this past Saturday, Oct. 3, but plenty of folks still braved the weather in order to get their hands on the many unique handmade and homegrown goods for sale at the market.



UNION COUNTY TOTAL AGRICULTURE INCOME	
Vegetable Income	2,141,000
Beef / Cattle Income	5,096,000

"This time of year, people will have late crops," said Market Manager Mickey Cummings on the wet weather of late. "It's hurtful because, we have one guy who has got a late crop of sweet corn. If he can't get in to pick the sweet corn - the sweet corn has got a small window of time that you can harvest

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Osborn: Hayesville, NC man believed to be culprit of storage building break-ins

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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A 28-year-old Hayesville, NC man faces charges in Towns and Union counties.

Joshua Ryan Lowe faces five drug charges and one weapons charge in Towns County and faces a burglary charge in Union County with more charges likely.

The charges against Lowe began in Towns County when a Towns County Sheriff's Deputy pulled over his white Ford Ranger pickup assisted by the Appalachian Drug Task Force on Friday, Sept. 25.

Lowe was charged with Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act on charges that include possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, two



Joshua Ryan Lowe

counts possession of Schedule IV controlled substance, possession of Schedule III controlled substance, possession of dangerous drugs, possession of marijuana less than 1 ounce, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime, according to the Towns

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UCSO collects more than \$62,000 from drug seizures

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Union County Sheriff's Office has collected \$62,615.87 through two recent drug arrests, convictions and subsequent seizures, according to Union County Sheriff Mack Mason.

Money awarded through drug seizures goes into a fund to provide the Sheriff's office with necessary equipment such as cars and other law enforcement equipment that is not budgeted by the county.

The two seizures stem from the two narcotic investigations and subsequent arrests.

An investigation into suspected illegal drug sales resulted in the arrest and prosecution of Robert and Joanne Hughes. At the completion of the investigation, both Robert and Joanne Hughes were arrested on Feb. 19, 2015, and subsequently charged and convicted with distribution of a controlled substance, methamphetamine.

Robert Hughes received a sentence of 20 years, with



Sheriff Mack Mason

10 years to be served in prison and the remaining 10 to be served on probation.

Joanne Hughes received a sentence of 15 years on probation. Property seized from Robert and Joanne Hughes included a Ford F-150 truck, a Nissan Stanza car, a Kawasaki Mule and a Kawasaki Motorcycle, including \$5,926.12 in currency, as well as guns and other items.

After the award and disposition of the seized property, the case netted a total of

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Blairsville
SORGHUM
FESTIVAL
2ND AND 3RD WEEKEND IN OCTOBER

WELCOME
to the 46th Annual
Sorghum Festival

SPORTS FOOTBALL
Fri Oct. 9 vs. Greene Co. 7:30 (HC)
SOFTBALL
REGION 8-AA SEMI-FINALS @ HOME
TUES. OCT. 6.
VS. WASHINGTON WILKES 4 & 6 PM