

Union County Primary Learning Enrichment Center



Union County Primary students

The Union County Learning Enrichment Center (UCLEC) began on Tuesday, September 8. This is a federal grant program that incorporates all the Union County Schools (grades K – 12 and Woody Gap). UCLEC is designated for students needing extra academic assistance. Certified teachers and paraprofessionals staff the program. At the Primary School, we begin our After School Program at 2:45 p.m. with a nutritious snack. Then each class proceeds to their respective grade level classrooms to work on academic enrichment in reading and math as well as spelling. Each class has a thirty minute

segment every day with an Enrichment teacher with a variety of activities including art, crafts, music, drama, games, sports, etc. Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade also spend time each day in the Computer Lab working with either Waterford or SuccessMaker (programs used during the school day as well). We end our day at 5:30 when students are either picked up by their parents or ride the bus to designated drop-off spots.

Parent Involvement Nights are held once a month. Dinner and a program for parents are provided at no cost to the families. NOct7,25/CA

Hunter Education now available completely online

Beginning Oct. 1, the Georgia hunter education course is available completely online, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division. "This significant enhancement provides our customers with the opportunity to complete the hunter education course online," says Walter Lane, hunter development program manager with the Wildlife Resources Division. "We join 12 other states in allowing students to complete the course at their convenience and completely online."

This online opportunity improves the previous online option where students had to take the course partially online and partially in a classroom.

Customers that desire

a classroom course will still have this option. Last year, more than 4,600 students chose to take advantage of almost 300 classroom courses offered statewide. Additionally, customers can obtain a free CD-ROM and take the course at home.

The four available online courses each require a fee (from \$9.95 - \$24.95) but all are "pass or don't pay" courses. Fees for these courses are charged by and collected by the independent course developer. If the online course vendor fees are an obstacle, students can obtain a free CD-ROM by contacting their local DNR law enforcement office or the Hunter Development Office (770-761-3010). Additionally, the classroom course is free of charge.

Completion of a hunter education course is required for any person born on or after January 1, 1961, who purchases a season hunting license in Georgia; is at least 12 years old and hunts without adult supervision; hunts big game (deer, turkey, bear) on a wildlife management area.

The only exceptions include any person who: purchases a short-term hunting license, such as the Apprentice License or the 3-day Hunting and Fishing Combo License (as opposed to a season license); is hunting on his or her own land, or that of his or her parents or legal guardians.

For more information, go to www.gohuntgeorgia.com/hunting/education or call 770-761-3010. NTOct7,G1)SH

Deer - vehicle collisions increase during breeding season

Fall is prime breeding season for deer across Georgia. It's also when drivers are more likely to hit deer that run into the road, according to a new study from the University of Georgia.

UGA researchers have completed a county-by-county analysis of when motorists should be more aware of possibly hitting a deer. They looked at breeding data and then compared it to deer-vehicle collision statistics across Georgia.

According to the study, between 2005 and 2012, there were 45,811 reported deer-vehicle collisions across all Georgia counties.

Deer-vehicle collisions increase during "rutting season" because white-tailed deer move around a lot more looking for mates, according to James Stickles, lead researcher on the project. Stickles, who led the study while earning his master's degree from UGA's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, said researchers were able to create a map that more accurately

reflects when motorists are in greater danger of hitting a deer. The new map lists specific peak dates for each of Georgia's 159 counties.

Recently published in the Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the study analyzed deer-vehicle collisions from 2005 to 2012 and then compared the timing of those wrecks with available conception data, deer movement information obtained from deer wearing GPS collars in Harris County and the old "rut map" from Georgia Outdoor News.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources is already using the new map created by UGA to inform hunters of peak rut dates. The Georgia DOT is also considering using the map to develop specific motorist warnings for each region. But there are things motorists should do to avoid hitting a deer, said Bob Warren, a professor in the Warnell School and one of the researchers on the study.

Deer are mostly active

from dusk to dawn, Warren said, so that's when the risk of a deer-vehicle collision is greater.

Warren said that when he drives at night, he's diligent about driving at a cautious speed and scanning both sides of the road because a deer can come from either direction. But he also warned that typically, it's not the first deer that's the problem.

"Deer are rarely alone," he said. "If a motorist sees one deer, look for the second one. In many instances, it's the second deer that crosses the road that gets hit."

Other researchers on this project include David Stone, Charles Evans, Karl Miller and David Osborn, all with the Warnell School; and Charlie Killmaster from the Georgia DNR. The project was funded by the Georgia DOT.

The map can be found online and downloaded at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' website, www.georgiawildlife.com/rut-map.

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ICL courses beginning October 15

Southern Literature - Starts 10/15: In this class we will read a variety of Southern literature. One of the goals of the course is to look closely at mid-20th century Southern literature and trace the arc it has taken in the 21st century (primarily the last 50-60 years). To this end, we will read both classic and contemporary se-

lections.

The Science Of Plants - Season 2: Episodes 5-8 - Starts 10/16: In these sessions, we will continue to ask how and why plants function and how they have such an enormous impact upon our existence just as we did in last winter's course. Again, the questions we'll address will range from

the trivial, "Why are unripe fruits green?" and "Why don't my children like broccoli?" to the medically important, "How can a commonly-eaten bean be nutritious, cause gastric distress, or result in deadly hemolytic anemia in different individuals?"; to the role of plant science in determining the rapidity of climate changes and the rejection of uniformitarianism. To answer these types of questions, the class will be introduced to some of the easily understandable aspects of plant physiology, plant genetics, and, to a certain extent, human genetics, through presentations, discussions, and simple demonstrations.

For more information please visit www.iclyhc.org for registration and detailed course information. You can also find us on Facebook as "ICL at YHC".

S.A.F.E. meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of S.A.F.E. (Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc.) will be held on October 20, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. Call 706-379-1901 for location.

Market...from Page 1A

it and sell it before it gets too hard. And if he misses that window, he loses what's left of the sweet corn."

Successful crop harvests depend on a good mix of wet and dry weather, especially in communities like Union County that bring in millions of dollars a year in agriculture income.

"This is Agricultural Harvest Day," said Cummings. "Harvest Day is all about harvesting, how much gross income our agriculture brings into our county. It's an important facet of our economy."

At the Farmers Market on Saturday to highlight the importance of agriculture in Union County was 11-year-old Landon Kight, who delivered the facts to all who would hear.

"I'm talking about the income of vegetables and cattle and beef," said Kight, a sixth grader at Union County Middle School who is also a part of Union County 4-H.

According to Kight, recent totals of agriculture income in Union County came to nearly \$29 million, including income from vegetables, beef and cattle, ornamentals (including nurseries and greenhouses), agro-tourism, forage/row crops, fruits and nuts, poultry/egg industry, forestry industry, as well as other livestock and aquaculture.

Kight's father, Shawn Kight, owns and operates The

Sawmill Place, which Kight the younger declared as being the only farm-to-table restaurant in Blairsville. The family restaurant gets its ingredients from the Farmers Market, and Kight was quick to point out another advantage of the market.

"The cannery here, you can go there, and it's pretty cheap," said Kight. "You bring apples and they can them. You can make apple butter, applesauce. You can make chicken noodle soup there - it's pretty cool."

Perfect examples of successful agriculturalists in the North Georgia area were Mike and Sally Clark of English Country Gardens out of Hiawassee, and they sold their lovely assortment of plants and flowers at the market that Saturday.

"We grow everything in Hiawassee," said Mike Clark. "We don't buy anything in, it's all grown either from seeds or cuttings or liners, so it's all acclimated to this area. We grow annuals, perennials, flowering shrubs, hanging baskets, vegetables, herbs - the whole spectrum."

The Clarks grow vegetables, but to sell the plants, not the produce specifically, and alongside their many varieties of mums, they brought a particularly welcome plant to such a rainy market day - a type of sunflower called "Happy Face."

And happy faces were

definitely seen throughout the market, given that many vendors were still available despite the continuous downpour.

Janet "Nana" Hayes, who runs Hand Made by Nana, chose the name of her business because her grandchildren call her Nana, and she makes all of the goods she sells.

"I have aprons for women and men - I have children's aprons and children's bibs, children's backpacks, cozy bowls," said Hayes. "I have potholders, I have casserole carriers, popcorn bags to keep your popcorn warm, placemats, the bag sacks to keep your plastic bags in."

As with all of the vendors at the Farmers Market, Hayes had a particularly welcoming message that day.

"Come on out through the rest of this month and pay us a visit," said Hayes. "And on Dec. 4 and Dec. 5, during the Kris Kringle Mountain Market - we'll be here for that, also."

This upcoming Saturday, Oct. 10, the Farmers Market will be celebrating International Food Day. The Canning Plant will be closed Oct. 6 and Oct. 8, but will reopen for regular hours on Oct. 13.

The last day of the Farmers Market season will be Saturday, Oct. 31, which will feature the annual Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest.

Run Above the Clouds a wet one

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Suches - Despite nasty weather conditions that battered Suches and the Indian Summer Festival all day Saturday, the 16th Annual Run Above the Clouds saw 42 runners compete in the 10K and 5K races. The 10K saw the largest turnout with 27 runners while the 5K had 15 participants.

"The numbers were way down from what they've been but that's no surprise in that," said race coordinator Jim Miner. "The Folk School in Brasstown, NC canceled their festival all-together, and this one down here (Indian Summer Festival) is a rain out."

Interestingly, the race featured one preregistered runner from Spokane, Wash. that participated. And being from the Pacific-Northwest, one would think the rain and wind would have little effect on their performance.

However, when runners began crossing the finish line, it was clear that Union Countians would be the ones taking home the hardware.

The overall winners of the 10K race were Union County High School Cross Country standouts Lance Underwood and Emma Garrison.

Underwood took home first place on the men's side with a time of 40 minutes, and 30 seconds. Coming in first on the female side was Garrison, a two-time GHSA Class AA Cross Country State Champion. The UCHS senior completed the course in 50:58.

Underwood, a sophomore at UCHS was 2 seconds away from becoming the Region 8-AA Individual Champion last October as a freshman.

UCHS sophomore Timothy Murphy was the overall male winner for the 5K race - clocking in with a time of 21:40. Last year, Murphy was 12th at the Region 8-AA Meet at Riverside Academy, where he, Underwood, and the rest of the Union County men won the team Region 8-AA Championship.

Marina Dimitrova finished first overall on the female side of the 5K race with a time of 30:26.

In the 5K, Murphy was first in the 19 & Under age group, while Lawson Harkins placed second at 23:26. In the male 30-39-age division, Adam Faulkner was first with a time of 28:30 and Dustin Engle was second at 32:15.

The 30-39 year old female winner was Kelly White-Bryant (32:43) and second place belonged to Janelle Soldalet (36:18).

The 40-49 year old male winner was Tim Powell (25:51) and the female 40-49 winner was Dimitrova.

Charles Cagle was first in the 50-59-age division with a time of 26:41 while Julie Haggis was first on the female side - checking in at 36:18.

The 60-69 year old male winner was Larry Swartz (42:22) and the 70 & Over female winner was Charlotte Janis (42:50).



The 10K winners are as follows: 19 & Under Men was Underwood and second place Nathan Cobb (50:40). In the 20-29 year old female division, Tori White finished first at 71:10.

The 30-39 year old male winner was Alex Trippe (60:24) and on the female side, Allison Camacho (60:29) was first and Lindsey Haynes (62:40) came in second. The winner of the 40-49 year old male division was John LaBelle (46:25). Second place

went to Thomas Karisny (56:10). The female winner of the 40-49 year olds was Teri Hilchie (56:15).

Johnny Garner (44:52) and Mark Dessomes (55:32) were the top two males in the 50-59-age division. The top female in that age division was Norma Rainwater (60:40).

Finally, the top two males in the 60-69-age division were Charley Sweet (60:55) and Michael Otero (61:32)