

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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UCMS presents *Death by Chocolate*

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Students of the brand new Union County Middle School Theater Arts program will be performing their first play ever, a murder mystery called *Death by Chocolate*, on Thursday, Oct. 29, and Friday, Oct. 30.

The two performances will occur at 6:30 p.m. at the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center, and admission will be \$5, though students and staff of the school system will get in free with ID.

"We have been shocked and amazed at the amount of talent that we have for a brand new program, something that they've never had in the county before," said UCMS Theater Arts teacher Karen Massey. "I have been really surprised



Union County Middle Schoolers present *Death by Chocolate* at new Fine Arts Center

at the ability level - I guess it would be considered natural ability."

Death by Chocolate is the first of four plays the middle school program will be putting on this school year.

Out of 35 who auditioned for parts in the production of *Death by Chocolate*, 12

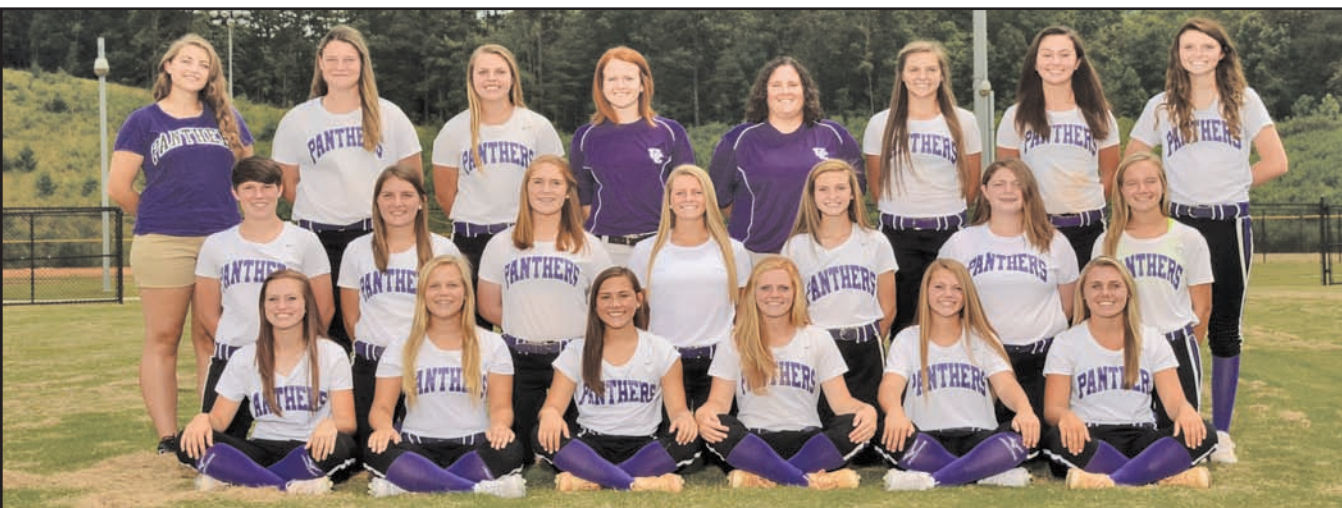
students mixed between sixth, seventh and eighth grades made the cut to fill the roles of actors, student directors, stage managers, as well as light and sound technicians.

"The play is a whodunit mystery, the kind of a whodunit show," said Massey. "It takes place in a coffee shop named

Precious Perks. The murder victim's name is Vinnie the Leech, and he died drinking their signature drink, *Death by Chocolate*. Everybody in the coffee shop becomes a suspect, and the Detective, Nicki, is trying to figure out whodunit, and in the process

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The Lady Panthers are in Elite 8



By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Barnesville - The Lady Panthers are in.

Following a five-year hiatus, Union County

softball is returning to the State Tournament's Elite 8 in Columbus after a two-game sweep of Lamar County last week.

Union (25-7), who played Thursday at 2 p.m., took the first game by a score of 14-5

after blowing things wide open with six runs in the seventh inning.

The second game was nip and tuck, but Union, despite six fielding errors, eventually pulled ahead with a run in the fifth and another in the sixth to

take a 5-3 victory.

However, the Lady Panthers received quite a scare in the second inning of Game 1 when junior first-hander Laken Chambers fell to

See *Softball*, Page 3A

FUTURES program brings change to graduation

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

In the October regular meeting of the Union County Board of Education, the board voted to reduce the number of credits required to graduate for students in the system's Alternative Education Program and FUTURES Program.

"Right now, these students are in a very non-traditional, online, self-paced classroom," said Union County Associate Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Williams. "So, as they accrue these credits and as they start to catch up, we said, why should they really have to do more than what the state is asking?"

The state currently

requires students to earn 23 credits in high school, and Union County Schools has traditionally required more elective credits than the state.

"The problem is, when you're at the Alternative school or you're in the FUTURES Program, your access to electives is not as accessible as a student in a traditional high school," said Williams. "So what this is going to do is it's going to allow our students at the Alternative school and in the FUTURES Program to graduate with 23 credits versus the 29 that we require as a system."

Also in the meeting, the board approved the INCUBATOR EDU Program, which is designed to foster and grow entrepreneurship in the

schools by giving students the necessary tools to create their own businesses.

"It's a concept kind of like Shark Tank, where you have students develop either a product or a business, and along the way they have a mentor for each group," said Williams. "But also, we'll be soliciting coaches from the community that have expertise in certain areas."

"So you're talking about a business model in general, and somebody who's got experience in that. You're talking about start-up funding. You're talking about the legal aspects as far as copyrights and intellectual property. We'll be soliciting people from the community that have expertise in areas that we



Dr. Jeremy Williams just don't have."

The program is slated to begin in the fall of 2017, after the school system takes a full school year to prepare the program for students.

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Community has a host of options for Halloween

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

When it comes to Halloween festivities, Union County residents have several complementing options this year.

Fire Station 10 of the Union County Fire Department is hosting its first ever "Nightmare on School Street," a Halloween Dance to be held indoors at North Georgia Technical College.

The event will take place on Friday, Oct. 30, and

Saturday, Oct. 31, and will run from 7 p.m. until midnight both nights.

A professional DJ will be on hand playing dance music from the '80s, '90s and 2000s, and patrons of the event are asked to donate \$5 for admission.

Guests must be 13 years or older to get into the dance, and people are encouraged to dress in costume to take part in a costume contest, or folks can just come as they are.

For the past four years,



2014 Halloween on the Square is a big hit

Fire Station 10 has turned its station into a haunted house, but this year, the station

decided to do something different.

See *Halloween*, Page 3A

The sky is the limit for Blairsville's annual Fall Fly In

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Members of the North Georgia Mountain Chapter #1211 of the Experimental Aircraft Association met for some fun and fundraising at their annual Fall Fly In on Saturday, Oct. 17.

More than 40 airplanes, many of them homebuilt by their pilots using kits, flew in to the Blairsville Airport that



Saturday, and all attendees enjoyed bowls of chili and each

other's company. The chili - greater than

15 varieties prepared by EAA members - gave the group an opportunity to do a little fundraising for their Young Eagles program, which is an EAA initiative to recruit new pilots.

Young Eagles are young people between the ages of 8 and 17 who are interested in flying in general aviation airplanes, and volunteers from Blairsville's EAA chapter

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Early voting continues for City Council seats

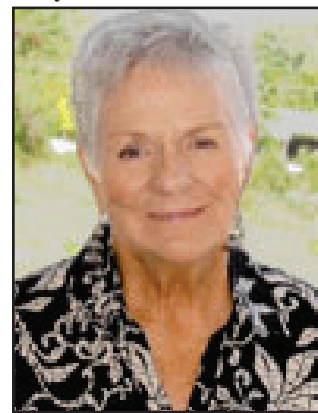
By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Early voting continues through Friday for the City of Blairsville General Election, featuring three open seats and four qualifiers to run for Blairsville City Council.

Running for City Council are the three incumbents, Martha Cone, Betty Easter and Rhonda Mahan, all seeking re-election, as well as newcomer Frank Pack.



Betty Easter



Martha Cone
See *Voting*, Page 2A



Rhonda Mahan

New Convenience Center ready for county residents

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Union County Convenience Center is now open for business.

In order to relieve pressure on the Union County Transfer Station off Deep South Farm Road, Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris partnered up with Advanced Disposal, which runs both sites, to bring another household garbage disposal site to residents.

The brand new Convenience Center is located on the corner of Georgia 515 and Georgia 325, right next to the Union County Saddle Club Arena.

Operating hours are Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays, from 7 a.m. until noon.

The main difference between the Transfer Station and Convenience Center is

that the center only takes bags of household garbage as well as household recyclables, and the prices will remain the same between both locations: \$1 for bags that are 30 gallons and under, \$1.25 for bags over 30 gallons.

Recycling is free, and recyclables accepted at the Convenience Center are aluminum, plastics #1 and #2, newspapers and magazines, as well as cardboard.

"We are working with Bobby Bright, who is the site manager for Advanced Disposal, to see what more we can do on recyclables," said Union County Manager Larry Garrett. "We have talked about taking glass, and we're working on that with them."

The SPLOST-funded Convenience Center is nearly two years in the making, and came about after Commissioner

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New Convenience Center open for business

Misty Mountain Quilter's Show a huge success

By Mason Mitcham
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild held its semiannual Quilt Show at the Union County High School Gym, where an array of homemade quilts of every variety and pattern was displayed on the gym floor.

"Every year, the Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild puts on a show of quilts, and it runs two days, and we advertise to all the surrounding areas and beyond and the money that is generated goes to our outreach projects for the guild. It's a great way of showing younger people to keep the art of quilting alive," said Barb

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2015 Quilt Guild Show a huge success

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Sat: Clouds Hi 68 Lo 55

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OCT. '15
Saturday October 31st

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FARMERS MARKET
Home Grown & Handmade
Pumpkin Carving Contest and Children's Costume Parade!!

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SPORTS
FOOTBALL
Fri. Oct 30 vs. Riverside Military
7:30 pm Senior Night
SOFTBALL
Class AA Elite 8 @ Columbus
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