

Whittle family says 'thank you' to tournament sponsors

The Whittle family would like to thank the following for their sponsorship during the Second Annual Derrick Whittle Memorial Golf Tournament, held earlier this month at Butternut Creek Golf Course.

Corporate Sponsor - Union General Hospital.

Rich Trucking, Robert Schroter, Sears, West Printing, Treasured Creations, G & G Bakery, Mike's Heating & Air, Cabin Coffee, Mike's Seafood, Park Sterling Bank, Rountree's Furniture, Woodmen of the World, North Georgia Signs, Brasstown Valley Resort, Carolina Furniture, Jim's Smokin' Que, Lucretia Collins, Griddle Cafe, Brasstown Pharmacy, United Community Bank, Hogged Tees, Commissioner Lamar Paris, Lea Reality, Julie Bonham & Celina Stephens, Kelley Family, Fast Forward Foto, Blairsville Cinema, WJRB/WJUL Radio, Safeguard, Cornerstone Thrift, American Catch, Mountain View Funeral Home, Alexander's, Hoyt's. Al Garnto, DH Communications, Gause



Whittle family L-R: Jim, Sharon, Nick, and Leigha

RV, Valerie Polding, Moore Insurance, Hughes Accounting, New Graphic Designs, Joe Johnson, Walker-Tison, Chuck Honaker, Boondocks Bayou Grill, Sicily's, Tanner's

Towing, MoJo Pressure Wash, JoAnne Leone, Home Depot, Fellowship of the Hills, Bi-Lo, White Dove Release, Crooked Creek Farms, Angels Landing Inn, Cone & McKinnon CPA,

Southern Bank.

Committee members: Sam Hogged, Robin Story, Pam Worden, Doug Shea, Mary Fortenberry, Jeff Fortenberry, Sheila and Gerry Rudd.

Mountain Gymnastics pictures



MGC's Regional qualifiers: Front row (L-R): Erin Raper, Mia McComb Back row (L-R): Evelyn McBride, Reagan Ledford. Photo/Todd Forrest



State Champ Lola Patton



State Champ Bailee Stiles

TCHS hosts spring Towns-Union Special Olympics

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The joint Union and Towns counties Spring 2015 Special Olympics took place in Frank McClure Stadium at Towns County High School on Thursday, May 14.

"The kids love it," said Union County High School Principal John Hill. "It's a really big day for them. They look forward to it. They talk about it for weeks before and then afterwards. It's very enjoyable. All the kids in the green shirts are Union County, and then the kids in the red shirts walking around are some volunteers from our high school that came to help with the events."

Overall, Principal Hill was impressed with the turnout of both volunteers and athletes, and he attributed the numbers to the passions of those involved.

"It's the most important thing in my day," said Principal Hill. "We've got a lot of stuff going on with AP testing and End of Course testing, preparation for graduation, honors night, baccalaureate. But this is a priority for me, to be here and support our kids. It's a priority for me, it's the No. 1 thing today. And you can see that Towns County's superintendent is out here supporting his kids. These kids are very important to both of us."

Towns County athletes wore sky blue shirts that offset the neon green of Union County, and everyone competed in a show of good sportsmanship and camaraderie.

"In the winter, we have the Special Olympics that we hold in Union County, and so then in the spring, we have Union County come over and we host the Special Olympics here every May," said Towns County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Darren Berrong.

"They are competing amongst themselves, for the most part. I think everyone that participates just has a good time, and it's



not as much about competition as it is coming out here and having a good time. I personally haven't missed a Special Olympics I don't think since I taught in Union County back in 1998. I absolutely love it, so I'm always here."

Joining the kids from Union and Towns counties were adult athletes from the Master's Program of Avita Community Partners.

Becky Tracy, who is the parent mentor for special education services and the local coordinator for Union County, helped to organize Thursday's event.

"We always try to plan it to be the second Thursday in November and the second Thursday in May," said Tracy. "And then we do the Friday as rain dates for both."

Athletes competed in a series of sporting events, including the softball throw, the 100 meter run, the soccer run and kick, the 400 meter walk and the standing long jump.

Each event was divided into age groups, and athletes competed with their peers for chances to win

medals. Cadence Nichols of Towns County sang the national anthem with Union County athlete Katie Dyer at the beginning of the games.

Several sponsors came together to make the event a success. McConnell Memorial Baptist Church provided lunch to those in attendance, and Coca-Cola donated bottled water for the day.

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC and United Community Bank each donated a tent for athletes and volunteers to eat under and rest out of the sun.

Various student groups, such as the Union County FCLA and the Towns County Spanish Club, volunteered for the Olympics.

Towns County had several clubs on campus to assist the athletes. The Pinterest Club handed out stick-on jewelry, the Leo Club and Towns County Cheerleaders painted faces and the Robotics Team held live robot demonstrations.

The cross country and soc-

cer teams, as well as seniors not busy taking End of Course tests, conducted the Olympic events.

"If they're having a good time, we did our job, and that's what it's about," said Towns County Cross Country Head Coach Jeannie Ledford. "And that's the thing with them - we're so competitive. To them, they win every time, and that's really what it's about for them. When they compete, they win. They're just so happy, and it's the true meaning of sport and athleticism."

Scottish Festival 12th Annual Kilted Golf Classic

Sign up now for the Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games 12th Annual Kilted Golf Classic on Friday, May 29, where 20 teams will vie for 1st place. The tournament will be held at the Old Union Golf Course with an 11 a.m. registration and lunch and a 1 p.m. shotgun start.

The \$75 per golfer registration includes a catered lunch and great prizes. Cash prizes will be awarded for Low Gross, 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Closest to the hole and most accurate drive winners will also receive prizes.

Adding to the fun, golfers wearing Scottish Kilts will get a \$10 discount.

Blairsville's Sears has donated a Lawn Tractor for the "Hole in One" winner.

Bring your foursome, or sign up as an individual and you will be grouped in a team. The teams are forming quickly so send your entry to Scott Carter at scotte9292@gmail.com. Entry forms can be found on the BSFHG website, BlairsvilleScottishFestival.com or by calling Scott at 706 745 7359.

"This is always such a suc-

cessful and fun golf tournament full of Scottish humor. The funds raised at the Classic support the festival and games which bring locals and tourists to one of the top twenty events in the Southeast. Our original goal was to help the economy in Union County and to show off this wonderful area. We feel that our 12th year will continue to do just that", said Golf Chairman, Scott Carter.

The money raised at the tournament supports the Scottish Festival and Games. For further information, see the website BlairsvilleScottishFestival.com.



Members of the Sass 'n Saddles Precision Drill Team enjoyed serving chicken to the supporters at their recent Zaxby's fundraiser.

Saddle Club meeting May 21st



Let the Saddle Club know what you think! Join the club and attend the next meeting, which will be Thursday, May 21, at 7 p.m. at the arena.

On May 22, come out to the arena for 2-person team penning, starting at 6 p.m.

The drill team would like to thank all fans who supported their successful Zaxby's fundraising night on May 5. Look for the team in the Blairsville Memorial Day Parade!

The arena and show grounds are located on the corner of Hwy. 515 and 325 in Blairsville. All shows are open to the public, and there is no charge for admission.

If you need further information, visit the website at www.UnionCountySaddleClub.org. Also, look for us on Facebook.

Union County Recreation Football & Cheerleading
7 through 13 years of age registration is going on **NOW!!**
Registration ends June 12th



Don't be left out!

Register now at the UC Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.)

OR

Online at www.meeekspark.com