

North Ga Rapids Swim Team Excels

MUSA Registration deadline Aug. 10



The North Georgia Swim League's Championship Meet was held over two days at two different venues. The Rapids Swim Team had seven swimmers qualified to compete in this end of the summer season meet. Three of the Rapids competitors earned trophies by finishing in the top three of their age group. The other four had personal best times and/or won ribbons. Katherine Byxbee won first place in the senior women's age group out of 45 swimmers. "Kat" had three out of four personal best times. Gabbie Aleman, also in the senior

age group had three personal best times and earned two ribbons. Laura Jordan had two best times in her two events. The team's two male swimmers, Hunter White and Tanner Gay each won third place trophies. Hunter swam three personal best times in the eight and under age division. Tanner, swimming in the senior division, also had three personal best times. Courtney Foster and Dawson Mitchell were the remaining swimmers and had strong swims. Courtney had three best times and competed

in the girl's eight and under age group at the age of seven. There were 57 swimmers in this age group. Dawson, age ten, swam in the largest division with 69 competitors. Her best finish was 14th in the 24 yd. backstroke. The Rapids swim team trains at the Union General Wellness Center's state-of-the-art indoor heated pool. Competition is year round so even though the summer season has closed, the next meet is not far off. For more information on the swim team, contact Barry Gay at (706) 835-1662.

The Mountain United Soccer Association is ready for Fall Soccer. Registrations are currently being accepted. Forms will be mailed to all players who have participated in a previous season. Forms are also available by visiting the league's website: www.mountainssoccer.org. The spring 2012 season was a big success. Our younger teams played in Blairsville, Hiawassee, and Blue Ridge. The older age groups competed throughout Georgia. We had players registered from all the surrounding

counties as well as some from North Carolina. In Blairsville, Cott Beverage is our community host for the soccer fields. In Hiawassee, the fields at the Towns County Fairgrounds are utilized through the cooperation of the local recreation department. The league is grateful for their commitment and support. The fall season will begin in early September. Anyone who is interested in playing needs to register promptly. In some cases space is limited. M.U.S.A. is a volunteer run organization and is also a 501C3 non profit. Any and all

donations are directed to the youth player. Field Sponsors, Sign Sponsors, and Team Sponsors are always needed. If you are interested in supporting the youth soccer player in our community through sponsorship and/or a donation, please contact the Association. For additional information contact the league at 706-835-1077, musa.soccer@gmail.com, or visit www.mountainssoccer.org on the web. You can Like "Mountain United Soccer Association" on Facebook and also follow the league on Twitter @MUSoccerA.

Football...continued from page 10A

benefit the team in the near and distant future. "We have a lot more depth at quarterback this year," Allison said. "After Ralston (Drake) broke his collarbone last year we only had one quarterback on the team. All of the quarterbacks have done really good over the summer so we're really excited about them." Up front, the depth chart took a serious hit due to graduation. With only three experienced linemen returning, Coach Allison is hoping that the younger guys will continue to work hard and be ready for the season. "The line has had a good summer as well, it's just a matter of how quickly they're going to be able to pick up some of our schemes," Coach Allison said. "We're good with three of them and it's just how

and how quickly they can learn will determine how good we're going to be." Last week, the Panthers worked out three days and held another morning workout on Monday and Tuesday. Defensively, Union County will line up one of the fastest defenses that the Panthers have seen a while. "We are faster on defense than we were last year," said Allison. "There is no doubt we are a faster team." "It's tough to get a feel for the season from the passing camps," he said. "They aren't indicative of how the games will turn out. You can tell a little bit about your defense from the passing camps. Last year I knew we would have some issues in the secondary and it showed in the passing camps. This year we've looked pretty good but once you start

running the ball and throwing screens it's a different story." Union does get a shot in the arm courtesy of kids who are new to the program, move-ins, some who didn't play last year, and a talented freshmen class. "Defensively we're much better," Coach Allison said. "We've got some new guys that will compete for starting jobs in the secondary and at the linebacker position. We're two deep on defense." How that equates to wins and losses, time will tell, but effort-wise, there's no doubt these kids buy into Allison's claim that they're all Union County Panthers and their age and experience doesn't mean a thing depth chart-wise. "We've had a good summer, our kids are working hard and have done all that we've asked them to do," he said.

Turner...continued from page 10A

along the way through his perseverance," Turner said. "If I forget what real strength is supposed to look like I go and watch John and the other men he trains with and I try to replicate that intensity with my athletes." Hill, a Blairsville native, and trainer, meets with Turner at least once every two months to bounce ideas off each other. The continue to push each other professionally.

"Curtis helps me to understand training at a deeper level," Hill said. "He comes down here some and I go up to Nashville sometimes and watch those guys train and I pick up a lot of stuff from Curtis," Hill said. "I've seen him work with Division I athletes for 10 years now. He's really good with them. "The kids really respect him and look up to him," Hill

said. The stuff he recommends to them, it works. It works really, really well. He's right where he needs to be. At a Division I school. "I'm thankful for the opportunity to tell my story, Turner said. "I hope that this reflects a person who is proud of his roots, aware of his blessings, and thankful for the opportunities that were presented in growing up in the great town of Blairsville."

Mark your calendar now for a day at the Mountain Heritage Festival

The 11th annual Mountain Heritage Festival is September 1st and 2nd, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Mountain Life Museum, one block south of the Old Courthouse in Blairsville, GA. The activities are centered around the restored 1861 Payne family log cabin, the Mauney family barn, the Duncan family cabin, and other structures from Union County's past.

Hosted by the Union County Historical Society, the festival celebrates the cultural heritage of the north Georgia mountains. The festival features locally produced hand-crafts, traditional foods, music, demonstrations of "old ways," and farm animals. Demonstrations like quilting, spinning, basket making, chair caning as well as hands-on activities like gold-panning make this a trip

for all to enjoy. Free and open to the public, the Mountain Heritage Festival is a unique event promising wholesome family fun and teachable moments for all ages. Call the Union County Historical Society at 706-745-5493 for additional information. View our website at www.unioncountyhistory.org. N0125Z13)CA



Trout stocking sites week of July 16-20, 2012

Fannin: Big Creek, Noontootla Creek, Rock Creek, Toccoa River, and Toccoa River Tailwaters (below Lake Blue Ridge Dam). Union: Cooper Creek and Toccoa River. Note: Information is

subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the State. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the State. N0125Z8)CA

Date change for Sadie Hawkins Golf Tournament

Attention ladies! The date for our Annual Sadie Hawkins Day Golf Tournament had to be changed to August 11th. Ladies, it is time again to 'Pick a Partner' and sign up to play in our Annual Sadie Hawkins Day Golf Tournament to be held on Saturday, August 11th at Butternut Creek Golf Course. Format is 'Select Shot' between you and your partner. Cost is only \$50 each (\$100/couple). Prizes will be awarded to flight winners and closest to pin. Registration along with a delicious breakfast prepared by our ladies will begin at 7:30 a.m. and we will dine in the Cart Barn. Tee time is 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start. Lunch will be prepared and served by the View Grill and served upstairs in the Banquet Room. To sign up call Betty Taylor at 706-745-2248 or 706-781-9910 or go by the pro shop and sign up with Blair or the guys or gals who work at the pay counter. We need you! And hey, we have tons of fun! Come on out and join us for a good day of golf. N0125Z16)CA

Woody Gap Trailhead and Chestatee Overlook schedule

The Woody Gap Trailhead, located in Union County at the intersection of State Highway 60 and the Appalachian Trail, will close on Monday, August 13, 2012, and will reopen on Saturday, August 18 to allow crews to repave the parking area. This closure includes both parking areas located on each side of Highway 60. The Chestatee Overlook, located in Lumpkin County south of Woody Gap along State Highway 60, will close beginning Monday, August 20, and will reopen on Saturday, August 25 to allow crews to repave that parking area. The Forest Service regrets any inconvenience this may cause forest visitors. The areas will be clearly marked with notices two weeks in advance of the closures. Any vehicles parked in the lots during the closures will be towed at the owners' expense. Alternate access points to the Appalachian Trail include Neels Gap in Union County on US Highway 129, Amicalola Falls access trail off State Highway 52, and other access points along Forest Service 42. For more information, please contact the Blue Ridge Ranger District of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests at (706) 745-6928.