

UCHS' Pride of the Mountains Band to offer a change of tune this fall

By Todd Forrest
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"Change" is the theme for the 2013 Pride of the Mountains Marching Band as Union County High School welcomes its new Band Director, Will Stafford.

Devin Ruff, 2003 Union County graduate is another new face that we'll see this fall as another assistant coach.

Junior Julia Lindsey will also be taking over as the band's Drum Major after Carly Kidd accepted her diploma last May.

The Band was out in full force last week preparing for the upcoming school year with Stafford at the helm.

Stafford, who is replacing Kerry Rittenhouse, is a 2007 graduate of Union County High School.

After being a member of the Pride of the Mountains Band, Stafford went north to Lexington, Ky where he attended the University of Kentucky, studying Music Education.

"I'm really excited about getting the job and being back here in Union County," Stafford said. "This is such a passion for me and I just can't believe it. Sometimes it just doesn't even seem real."

As for Lindsey, the new Drum Major, Stafford had nothing but praise for the young lady who will lead the band onto the field this fall.

"She is a real hard worker," Stafford said. "We sent her to Western Carolina for her Drum Major camp and she had taken off ever since. She's here early every morning and she's just a hard worker."

Meanwhile, Coach Ruff is a graduate of Reinhardt University, where he also studied Music Education.

"He is a really big asset to our program," Stafford said. "I was the one who helped bring him in but it was actually another band coach, Doug Roberts who recommended Ruff to



Band Director Will Stafford



Percussion Coach Devin Ruff

Stafford. According to Stafford the 2013-14 show will be fittingly titled, *The Process of Change*.

"It's a segway into a new band director," Stafford said. "It's also a segway into our new administration at the high school."

"It's four movements, realization, conflict, effort, and acceptance. I believe those are our four stages of change. We're working on life lessons in our shows and we believe that through music we can learn to accept and deal with change. That will help them when they go to college then go out and join the work force later on."

When school is back in session the band will be rehearsing Monday and Thursday after school from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The band will have com-



The Pride of the Mountains Marching Band is already preparing for the 2013-14 under the instruction of a new band director and drum major. Along with a new administration at UCHS, "Change" will be the theme for this season. UCHS Band photos by Todd Forrest



Pride of the Mountains' Woodwind Section



Pride of the Mountains' High Brass Section

petitions on Sept. 28th at Pickens County and Oct. 12th in Fannin County.

Director Stafford says that the 2013 band will be unique and encourages everyone to come out and experience the new and improved Pride of the Mountains Band.

"We're going to have a lot of fun this year," Stafford said. "We're going to have some swing dancing, a lot of fun choreography, a bass drum feature, where we line up the bass drums in a circle. It's going to be a lot of fun."



Drum Major Julia Lindsey



Pride of the Mountains Low Brass Section

Local karate students earn black belts



Front row: Black Belts Buddy Cook, Brandy Cook and Don Kirkland, Second row: Master Ron Wallace, Sensei Sean Duryea, Black Belt Candidate Carson Rhoton and Sensei DJ Tunnell.

Premier Martial Arts stated, we have had many black belt tests and many great new black belts. This one was a little unique in a couple of ways. Don Kirkland who is 77 years old earned his black belt. He started competing last year becoming a National Champion with the IKC and winning his division at Battle of Atlanta World Championships. He is one of the hardest working and most fit people in the Dojo for earning his black belt and reaching one of his dreams. Also Buddy Cook and Brandy Cook have become the first father/daughter team in our dojo earning their black belts.

They have accomplished this after earning multiple National and World Championships. They also both won the overall North American Sport Karate Association Championships last year accumulat-

ing all tournaments held for the entire year. All three of these new black belts work very hard and are pillars in the dojo. They have won all of their forms championships using traditional Okinawan Seidokan Karate forms. Congratulations to our new Okinawan Seidokan Black Belts. We are very proud to present Don Kirkland, Brandy Cook and Buddy Cook, Shodans (First Degree Black Belts) in Okinawan Seidokan Karate. Premier Martial Arts has recently been named Best in Atlanta for Martial Arts Training making earning these Black Belts even more prestigious. The Okinawan Seidokan Karate System that is taught here locally is a traditional system teaching the best in Okinawan Karate as founded by the late Grandmaster Shian Toma.

NUJul31,M2JSH

BMTA Hike

Sunday, August 11: Hike from Watson Gap to Dally Gap and back. This hike will be approximately 7.5 miles round trip. The difficulty level is moderate/strenuous due to length; not a large altitude change. Drink plenty of water before hike to hydrate in advance and bring plenty of water during hike. Mostly shaded

hike is largely in the Cohutta Wilderness and will include creeks and possibly beavers. Group limited to 12 hikers due to wilderness restrictions. Pre-register for meeting time and location by calling Hike Leader, Darcy Douglas at 404-497-0818 or email bmtadar-cy@yahoo.com. NTUJul31,C2Bac

Date change for the Annual 'Sadie Hawkins' Day Golf Tournament

Ladies, it's time to 'Pick your Partner' and sign-up to play in our Annual 'Sadie Hawkins' Golf Tournament to be held on Saturday, August 17th at Butter-nut Creek Golf Course. Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. & sign-in; Lunch: provided after play by The View Grill;

Shotgun Start: 8:30 a.m.; Format: Couples 'Select Shot'; Cost: \$50 per person. Prizes for 'Closest to Pin' along with Flight winners!

To register call Lilly Adams at 706-745-2725 or 706-781-4529 by July 29th, or you may sign up in the pro shop.

1st Annual X-treme Dream Hunt Banquet August 3rd

The 1st Annual X-treme Dream Hunt Banquet will be held on Saturday, August 3rd, 5 p.m. at The Refuge, Plott Town Road, Young Harris. X-treme Dream Hunts provide the opportunity for disabled individuals to fulfill their dream connected to God's great outdoors. Whether it be hunting or fishing, the X-treme Dream Hunts

have made dreams become a reality!

Come and support this ministry for a great time for food, fun, and fellowship! Meet participants and future candidates, we will have special speakers and dinner will be provided. For more information call 706-897-5074 or email to jeffxco@gmail.com.

Fish for Food Fishing Tournament

Matthew 25 Food Ministries presents "Fish for Food Fishing Tournament". 60% of tournament money goes to feed needy families in our area. The remaining 40% will go to tournament prize money. Prize money will be awarded for 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place and biggest fish. Actual prize amount will depend on number of entries. Entry fee is \$50 per boat, the tournaments end

in October, occurring the second Saturday of each month rotating between Lake Chatuge, Woods Grove Boat Ramp and Lake Notely, Deaver Road Boat Ramp, from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tournament schedule: August 10 - Nottely; September 14 - Chatuge; and October 12 - Nottely. For contact information call David Crisp at 706-897-5347.

Blairsville School of Dance free registration day

For the eighth consecutive year, Blairsville School of Dance will be offering an Open House and Free Registration Day on Thursday, August 1 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Open House gives the community an opportunity to tour the facility, meet the teachers and find out more about the classes at Blairsville School of Dance.

To celebrate its eighth season, students who register for the upcoming year at the Open House will save the \$25 registration fee. In addition to its highly popular classes, which include Fairy Tale Ballet, Ballet Technique, Beginning through Advanced Clogging, Hip Hop Academy, Jazz, Lyrical, Hip/Hop Jazz Combo, Tap/Ballet Combo and Musical Theatre, this year, BSoD will also introduce a Music and Movement class for ages 2-4.

BSoD will also be holding auditions for its 2013-14 competition groups. Dancers interested in joining any of the BSoD Force

competition groups should call (706) 835-1415 for audition information. BSoD offers competition opportunities in clogging, hip hop, jazz and lyrical. Students may choose to compete in as few or as many dance styles as they wish. BSoD is home to the Grand Champion BSoD Force competition clogging teams, as well as the winning BSoD Flames competition hip hop group. The competition groups include dancers from Blairsville, Young Harris, Hiwassee, Hayesville and Murphy.

Blairsville School of Dance offers classes in ballet, clogging, hip hop, jazz, lyrical, ballroom, musical theater, break dance, Zumba, creative movement and preschool classes for ages 2-adult. BSoD is located in the Merchant's Walk Plaza at 90 Blue Ridge St. in downtown Blairsville. For more information, call (706)835-1415 or visit www.blairsvilledance.com.



Trout stocking sites week of July 22-26, 2013

FANNIN: Rock Creek and Toccoa River.
LUMPKIN: Niblewill Creek.
UNION: Cooper Creek.

***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. NJul31,Z13Jgg

Blairsville Jeep Owners Group II



Yard sale items on display

On July 13th members of the Blairsville Jeep Owners Group II participated in the Mountain Valley Motors Yard Sale behind the dealership in Blue Ridge.

Due to the generous contributions by our members, we had an interesting array of items for sale including Paula Deen cookware, a large generator, bumper winch, truck tailgate, bicycle carrier, as well as many of those items usually

found on garage sale tables.

We at Blairsville Jeep Owners Group II wish to thank Mountain Valley Motors, customers, and the many others who made purchases; which allowed us to experience a very successful day.

All proceeds are being donated to several local non-profit community based organizations in Union County.

Congratulations to the group for 100% member involvement.