

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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## Attendance up 164 as 2,775 show up for school

By Heather Poole  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The first day back at Union County Schools was a time of mixed emotions.

From nervousness to excitement, the waiting children were all buzzing, except for the ones who were not quite awake yet.

Braylyn Garrett, a kindergarten student, waited outside with her mom and said she was excited, but mostly sleepy.

However, Josh Irick, also a kindergarten student, could not have been more anxious for the day to begin.

Despite the early morning, Irick could not stop showing off his new shoes he had received specifically for the new school year.

Irick and Garrett were just two of the 2,775 students who made the trip for the first



day of school on Tuesday.

That's an increase of 164 students over last year's 2,611 attendance figures, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Williams said.

All of the little girls were in adorable dresses, tutus, and brand new shoes, proving that even at a young

age, Sunday Best seems an unwritten requirement for the first day back to school.

A majority of the little ones had backpacks that seemed bigger than they were, but they all seemed ready to fill them with books.

There was, of course, the occasional student who



Josh Irick

looked like they would rather be back in bed.

Regardless, a crowd of students and their parents lined up outside of the Primary School eagerly awaiting the doors to open.

Before long, the buzzers rang out, followed by an See *School*, 6A

## Dr. Causey and staff protect the Mighty Panthers' bite

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Most people remember Dr. Mark Causey from his basketball playing days at East Hall.

Now he is known for his generous contributions to the Union County High School and Middle School football teams.

In 2001 he dropped 42 points on Union County in the 8-AA Region Championship Vikings Game before leading the Vikings to the program's first State Championship later that season.

He would go on to Duke University where he was a member of the 2002 ACC Championship team.

On Saturday, Dr. Causey fitted more than 50 Union County football players with



Dr. Mark Causey

custom mouthpieces, free of charge.

"He did this out of the goodness of his heart to support the community," said Quarterback Club President Gary Rogers. "It was a great asset for the football players and for everyone."

See *Panthers*, 2A

## Flower Show thrives in Year Five

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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The Fifth Annual Union County Farmers Market Flower Show, a three-day event, at the Blairsville Civic Center, drew a crowd.

More than 200 folks showed up Aug. 7th, through Aug. 10th, to see what all the fuss was about.

The 2013 edition included exhibits from 147 residents from Union County and neighboring communities. Three divisions of flower judging included Design, Education and Horticulture.

Though the show wasn't sanctioned by National Garden Clubs, Inc., the event did attract accredited flower show judges Dorothy Lee, Virginia Palmer, Sharon Payne, Linda Ragland, Edna McClellan and Chris Cooney.

Also native plant expert Elaine Delcuze and design experts Virginia Fancher and Stephanie Gray were here critiquing the flower show for awards.

Many proud participants took home first place awards, said event Co-chair Jo Anne Allen.

"Mainly what the flower show is about is education for the public," Allen said. "People



The three-day event was a success at the Blairsville Civic Center.

come here, they see plants that they've never seen before. Each plant is identified with a botanical and common name.

"They come in for the beauty, it's pretty, the floral design, the table settings were all beautiful," she said.

Allen said the show continues to grow in popularity.

"The first one we held was at the Courthouse parking lot where the Farmers Market used to be," she said. "From then to now, yes, it's growing in popularity. The number of entries then as opposed to now,

well, there were a whole lot fewer then.

"We have more people just coming by to see the show," Allen said.

Co-chair Barbara Baumgardner agreed, the event is growing in size and popularity.

She hopes in the future that more youth get involved in the event to continue the show's legacy.

"We'd really like to get

See *Flower*, 2A

## Reeces celebrate 82nd reunion



More than 130 members of the Reece Clan attended the 82nd Annual Reunion on Sunday at the House of Prayer Family Life Center. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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Weldon Reece, the elder statesman of the Reece Clan, has spent many of his 84 years on this earth at the annual Reece Reunion.

Actually, the reunion is 2 years younger than Weldon. And, as fate would have it, Weldon attended his first Reece Reunion at the tender age of 2 years old in August 1931.

His fondest memories are those of the August gatherings at Mossy Creek Campground held in southern White County.

"There were a lot of memories at those reunions," Weldon said. "My uncles and aunts, my grandfathers and grandmothers. It was really a

joy to see the older people.

"Used to, when you went to the Reece Reunion, you put on your suit, tie, and your best outfit," he said. "We don't do that anymore, but, those were the days. It was really a joy to see all the old folks, and remembering what a good time we had."

The 82nd Reece Reunion was held Sunday at the House of Prayer Family Life Center. Approximately 130 members of the Reece Clan gathered and dined on covered dish delicacies like fried chicken, fresh green beans, corn on the cob, casseroles, tomatoes, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, cornbread and biscuits.

You get picture.

Since Aug. 9th, 1931 the Reece family has gathered for the oldest organized fam-

ily reunion in Union County.

The Annual Reece Reunion falls on the second Sunday in August every year.

Approximately 130 direct descendants of Quiller Frank and Eliza Reece attended the 2013 event at the House of Prayer Family Life Center on Sunday.

Weldon, who lives in Union County, and his cousin Betty Ralston, of Blue Ridge, are the lone survivors of the 76 grandchildren of patriarch Quiller Frank Reece and Eliza Clarica Adele Logan Reece, both of Union County.

The annual reunion is a tribute to the family that descended from the line William Reece of Wales, who was born in 1709.

Actually, when William

See *Reece*, 6A

## Gentlemen, and ladies, start your engines

By Heather Poole  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Hiawassee - The Fifth Annual Georgia Moonshine Cruizin made its way to Hiawassee on Thursday, and was treated to a very warm welcome thanks to the Ridges Resort and Marina.

Complete with live music and good food, the Ridges hosted the Haulin' Mash Moonshine Bash which was free to the public.

Numerous cars parked on the grounds to serve as a preview for the 500 cars that would be at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds through Saturday.

On Friday, the crowds thrilled to the Fairgrounds and danced to every available parking space to admire the numerous cars that ranged from the 1940s to present.

Later, there was a parade in Downtown, followed by the Boot Leg Boogie after party at The Lodge at Lake Chatuge next door to the Cruizin that included music and door prizes.

Throughout the three-day event, Terry Mason's Hot Rod Show provided some great car-related hits such as "Dead Man's Curve" by Jan and Dean, complete with trivia such as how many taillights the Stingray mentioned in the song had.



The Classics came to Hiawassee for three days. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Winners received gift cards to various businesses.

Along with handmade quilts, cars lined up the vendor stations in the craft area of the Fairgrounds, including a Hulk Chevrolet Nova, complete with a plush Hulk toy hanging from the driver's side window.

Although the rain held off on Friday, the humidity was nearly unbearable.

To cope, most of the visitors sat down throughout the event to enjoy lemonade and sugary goodies available at most of the food vendors.

Along with Classic Cars, there were numerous Classic Trucks such as Chev-

let Apaches and picturesque Fords.

One dad could be overheard explaining to his young son, "See, they used to make trucks like this."

The nostalgia was palpable, as everyone seemed to mention, "They just don't make them like this anymore," throughout the Cruizin.

However, considering all of the fresh paint jobs and updated engines, some could have argued they were never made like that.

Dave Miller, an out-of-towner, was showing off his 1959 Corvette LT1 Convertible

See *Cruizin*, 3A

## Farmers say Tuesday beats the crowds

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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If you're missing out on the green beans, sweet corn, cabbage, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, eggplants at the Union County Farmers Market, you're probably going on Saturdays.

Tuesdays, the other day of the week when the Market is open from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., is a prime time to cash in on the bumper crops offered at this year's Market.

On Saturdays, you have to get to the market between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. to get what you're looking for at the Market. The green beans, sweet corn and fresh eggs have mostly disappeared by then.

On Tuesdays, the word



Willy Kerr has sold a lot of eggs this year. Farm fresh is what customers are looking for, Kerr said. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

"It was fairly busy this morning, by 8 o'clock, things were

See *Market*, 3A

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August 15<sup>th</sup>  
at 5:30 p.m.  
at the  
**Woody Gap  
School**  
**Woody Gap  
Back to School Bash!**

**Mountain  
Heritage  
Festival**  
Aug 31<sup>st</sup>-Sept 1<sup>st</sup>  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
at the Mountain Life  
Museum

**AWAKE AMERICA MINISTRIES**  
Awake America gathering  
Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 a.m. at  
Blairsville City Hall

**FOOTBALL:**  
Fri, Aug 16<sup>th</sup> MEET THE TEAM  
6:30 p.m. Mike Colwell Stadium  
**SOFTBALL:**  
Tuca, Aug 19<sup>th</sup> vs. North Murray 5 p.m.  
JV: Wed, Aug 14<sup>th</sup> @ Towns 5 p.m.  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL:**  
Thurs, Aug 15<sup>th</sup> vs. Wilbanks 5:30 p.m.