

# Run ...continued from Page 1A

of 43:06. Shortly after Nordheim, Aaron Stafford crossed the line with a time of 43:41.

The first female runner, Katie Tomczyk returned in just over 50 minutes, followed by Christina Stiles at 53:08.

The first and second place finishers for each age group were: 19-and-Under male: Stafford at 43:41 and Jacob Kelley at 47:41. Females were Ansley Garrison at 57:40 and Amanda Helton at 66:34.

For the 20-29 age group, Chase Hobby led the way for the guys at 50:21 along with William Stafford at 55:29. Females were led by overall winner Tomczyk and Allie Jones at 51:40.

In the 30-39 year old class, Joe Rivera finished with a time of 55:22, while Stiles' 53:08 and Kim Hamer's 55:34 brought home the top two finishes.

The 40-49 age bracket provided overall winner's Nordheim's time of 43:06 and Ronnie Abernathy's time of 47:12. Teri Hilchie led the ladies with a time of 54:40 and Pam Abernathy's time of 60:31.

Don Cummings took home first in the 50-59 division at 47:09, meanwhile Greg Jones finished at 50:05. Paulette Crabb won the female side with a time of 57:39 and Barbara Schmeig came in second at 63:00.

Finally, the Over-60 group was won by David Tinsley at 60:31 for the men and B.J. Foster's 74:00 for the women. Hoyt Butler and Charlotte Jones finished second in that age division.

Afterwards everyone met in the Community Center to be presented with their awards. Handing out the awards was David Barton. While waiting for the finishing touches to be put on the medals, Barton took a few moments to talk about his days as a track runner at Woody Gap High School.

"We had a track program when I was in high school here," Barton said. "Our practices started in front of the school and we ran during the last period of the day. The coach made us run up to the top of Woody Gap, which isn't too bad once you get used to it and if you're in shape. The problem was, it was dur-



Ronnie Abernathy finished second in the 40-49 category. Photo/Todd Forrest

ing the last period so if you didn't make it back on time, the buses left you and you had to keep running on home."

The Run Above the Clouds originally began in the early 1970's but had to be discontinued and then re-routed according to Jim Minor.

"The race used to start at Lake Winfield Scott and finish in front of the school," Minor said. "When it was restarted, we decided not to go back to Lake Winfield Scott for a couple of reasons. The first is, it would have put the whole race on the highway. It seemed for some reason or another, our neighbor used to have his annual chimney fire during early October. We ended up with a road full of runners, and here comes the fire trucks trying to get through. People were scattering into the bushes and all over the place, so that was a part of the new route."

The run now helps raise scholarship money as well as, allows students to participate in specialized programs while still in high school.

"We sent a student to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab for some study last year,"

Minor said. "So as a rising high school senior she picked up four or five college credits for doing that."

Barton also stressed the importance of all the volunteers who make the annual 10K a possibility. Barton used his son, who is currently a full-time firefighter in Blairsville, as a walking, talking example of the powerful capabilities of only a handful of volunteers joining together for a worthy cause.

"In 2005 my youngest son flipped his Honda four-wheeler," Barton said. "Everything from his orbitals, down through his face was broken, he had severe chest trauma. The paramedics told me to 'prepare for the worst.' But from the time he was injured to the time he was airlifted out, there were nine EMT's, three paramedics, and a Registered Nurse already on the scene. Everyone one of them were volunteering and all from right here in this community. So wherever you are from, if you've got time, your community needs you."

## The Appalachian Trail is coming to theaters this fall

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) will be showing the National Geographic film *America's Wild Spaces: The Appalachian Trail (A.T.)* at the Union County Historical Society, located at 3 Main Street, Blairsville, GA on Friday, November 9, 2012 at 7 p.m. as part of their 2012 membership drive. All proceeds will go towards the protection and management of the Trail. This limited engagement is in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the completion of the A.T. Stretching from Maine

to Georgia, the A.T. is approximately 2,180 miles in length, making it one of the longest, continuously marked footpaths in the world. The film explores the natural beauty and splendor of the Trail and provides viewers the opportunity to discover the remote, and often unknown, corners of this 5-million-step journey.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear real-life stories from the people who have hiked the Trail as well as those who volunteer to protect and maintain it.

Guest speakers include Frank "Copperhead" Wright, thru-hiker, author, volunteer and member of the ATC and Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC). Wright has served as trails supervisor and president of GATC. He is currently the section overseer for the first mile of the Trail near Springer Mountain, the southern terminus of the A.T. Wright completed his thru-hike in 2000 and is in the process of publishing a novel set on the A.T.

Donnie Kelley, A.T. Community Ambassador for Blairsville, Trail to Every Classroom alumni, ATC and GATC member and hiker, will also speak.

"The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is excited to present this film on the big screen," stated Mark Wenger, executive director/CEO of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. "This event provides the public with an excellent opportunity to learn more about the Appalachian Trail and how to get involved with the Conservancy through our membership and volunteer programs." Raffles and prizes will be awarded throughout the event. In addition, the winning submission from the ATC's "Why Do You Love the Appalachian Trail?" summer video contest will be revealed.

With a suggested donation of \$30, attendees can reserve their seats by visiting [www.appalachiantrail.org/discover](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/discover). Each ticket includes a new membership or gift membership to the ATC. Children 12 and under will receive free admission.

The organization hopes to gain 750 new members in honor of 75 years of the Trail's completion. The ATC will be visiting a total of 10 theaters across the country to raise awareness and garner support for the Trail. Every dollar raised will help the ATC's efforts to preserve and manage the A.T., ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural heritage can be shared and enjoyed today, tomorrow and for centuries to come.

NT(Oct10)28/CA

## Benton MacKaye Trail Headquarters Open House

Saturday, October 13, visit BMTA Headquarters located at Sisson Log Homes, 344 Appalachian Hwy, Blue Ridge, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Members will be sitting on

## Wounded Warriors Golf Tournament a great success

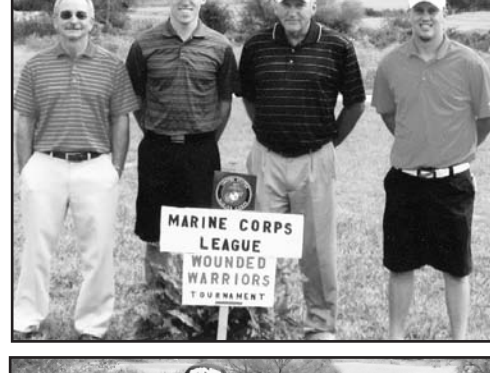
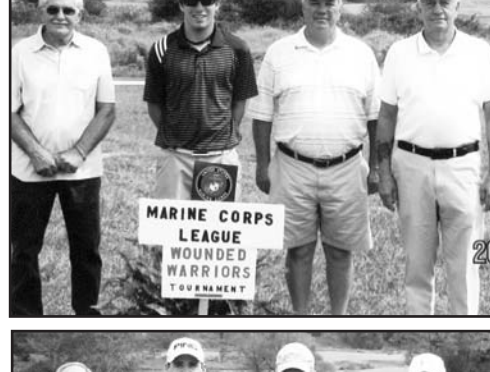
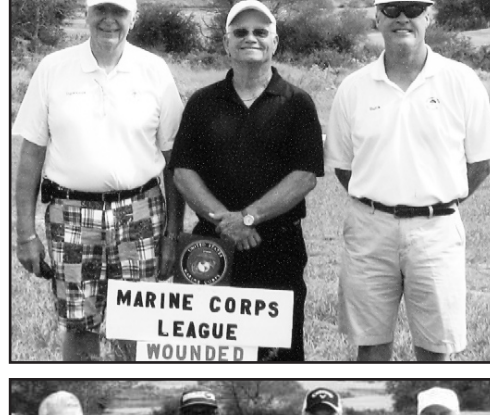
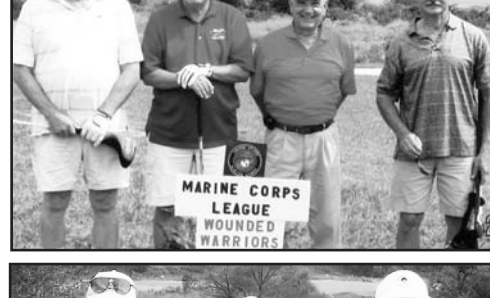
The Marine Corps League Wounded Warriors Golf Tournament was a resounding success. Twelve teams competed for the special trophies, but they were all winners. All players supported this very important program. There were many sponsors that were recog-

nized with signs on the course. Winners of the scramble were Jim Hughes, Lewis and Kathy McAfee and Sandy Gilliam. Old Union Golf Course was the host for this event and the Management of the course was extremely helpful in the conduct of the tournament.

In a continuing effort to support this vital program, the Marine Corps League will conduct this tournament next year. Many thanks go to those who participated and sponsored this year and we ask that the same wonderful support continue in the future. NO(Oct10)218/CA



Scramble Winners: (L-R): Lewis McAfee, Jim Hughes, Kahy McAfee, and Sandy Gilliam



## Primitive weapons deer season opens October 13

Muzzleloader. Black Powder Gun, these names apply to the type of firearm that can be used during the week-long primitive weapons deer hunting season that begins Saturday, Oct. 13 - Oct. 19.

During primitive weapons season, hunters may use archery equipment, muzzle-loading shotguns (20 gauge or larger) and muzzleloading firearms (.44 caliber or larger) to pursue whitetails.

All hunters, including archers, must wear at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange above the waist during primitive weapons season. Scopes and other optical sighting devices are legal for muzzleloading firearms and archery equipment.

To pursue deer in Georgia, hunters must have a valid hunting license, big game license and a current deer harvest record. If hunting on a wildlife management area, a WMA license also is required. To purchase a license, visit [www.georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes).

### Being young has its advantages!

During the statewide primitive weapons deer season, children under 16 years of age may hunt deer with any legal deer firearm. Additionally, youth under 16 years of age may hunt deer with any legal deer firearm during any wild-

life management area primitive weapons hunts.

"This special firearms opportunity is a fantastic time to get a kid involved in hunting," said John W. Bowers, assistant chief of Game Management. "It is one of many unique opportunities we promote to encourage the next generation to experience the hunting tradition and learn much about themselves."

Hunters under age 16 do not need a hunting license. However, a deer harvest record is required. A deer harvest record is free and can be found at [www.georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes). Adults accompanying youth must have all appropriate licenses and use seasonally appropriate hunting equipment.

### Safety is critical

Hunters should be alert and aware during primitive weapons deer hunting season, as muzzleloaders require specific safety precautions, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

"Hunters using muzzle-loading guns should know that they have specific safety precautions," says Walter Lane, Wildlife Resources Division hunter development program manager. "Be familiar with the difference between these types of firearms and modern firearms before heading to the woods."

Following are recommendations to ensure a safe experience: Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Never rely solely on the gun's "safety" mechanism. Handle every gun as if it was loaded. Do not use alcohol or drugs while handling a firearm. Never smoke in the proximity of a muzzleloader. Use an intermediate device, such as a measure, to pour powder into a barrel. Keep flask and powder containers away from flames and sparks to prevent an accidental explosion. Use only powders specific to each muzzleloader and recommended by that firearms manufacturer. Place percussion cap on nipple only when ready to shoot. The gun is safely unloaded only after removing the bullet, powder and percussion cap. If using a flintlock muzzleloader, remove the bullet and powder, and un-prime the flash pan. Treat a misfire as though the gun could fire at any moment. Make sure the gun is unloaded before attempting to clean it. Make sure the projectile is firmly seated on the powder before capping and firing. Never blow down the barrel of a muzzleloader to clear or extinguish sparks.

For more information on deer hunting seasons and regulations, visit [www.gohuntgeorgia.com/hunting/regulations](http://www.gohuntgeorgia.com/hunting/regulations).

NT(Oct10)A35/SH

## Benton MacKaye Trail Annual Meeting

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the BMTA will be held Saturday, November 10 at the North Georgia Community Center located in Ellijay, GA. There will be a full schedule of day hikes as well as the Annual Meeting Election of

Officers and Directors, a great lasagna meal and informational program. The Meeting will begin at 4:30 PM, followed by Dinner at 6:00 PM. See [www.bmta.org](http://www.bmta.org) for details and how to register or call Ralph Heller with questions: 770-235-9760.

## Everyone invited to Hometown Halloween on the Square 2012



2011 event in downtown Blairsville

It's harvest time, fall is in the air, and it's time to celebrate! Hometown Halloween on the Square is on Saturday, October 27th from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. Come join the fun and give out treats to the kids! Table space is available for \$10. Don't

forget that boxes will be available for donation to the Union County Food Pantry. Let's fill them up! For more information about reserving a space, please contact Janet Hartman at (706) 994-4837 or email [manager@downtownblairsville.com](mailto:manager@downtownblairsville.com).

NT(Oct10)28/CA