

North Georgia News

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Council approves two signs

By Charles Duncan
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The Blairsville City Council approved two sign application permits and one occupational tax application at its meeting last week at City Hall.

Though the council was less than a week into a 90-day moratorium regarding sign applications, it approved the applications of local business owners Jeff Allen and Denise Windham.

The reasoning behind those approvals: the two applications were submitted days prior to enacting the 90-day moratorium, Mayor Jim Conley said.

Allen, head of Lookout Waffles, LLC, doing business



Mayor Jim Conley discusses two sign applications that arrived before the city imposed a 90-day moratorium on sign permits.

as Waffle House, is the new owner of the local Waffle House, Mayor Conley said.

The city also approved Look-
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Glattli wins District II essay

By Charles Duncan
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Madison Glattli may be on her way to an influential career in politics.

The Union County Middle School sixth-grader won the District II "If I Were Mayor" contest. She was up against almost 800 entries.

Her essay combined environmental awareness, with housing solutions and re-development in the Downtown sector to earn the annual award presented by the Georgia Municipal Association.

Her English teacher, Christina Mashburn, was convinced the District II winner

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UCMS sixth-grader Madison Glattli, Mayor Jim Conley and Madison's teacher Christina Mashburn celebrate Madison's District II Essay victory in the "If I Were Mayor" contest.

Coach Hussion steps down from baseball

By Charles Duncan
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Union County baseball is about to face a surprise change.

C.T. Hussion, the man who built the Panthers' program back to respectability over the past five seasons, is stepping down.

He'll still be teaching at Union County, but he won't be coaching for a while.

Hussion, 38, is stepping down to further his education. He's in pursuit of a six-year specialist's degree to prepare for a step up into administration.

"My wife and I are both planning on starting at Piedmont in the fall in the specialist program," Hussion said. "We're both getting teacher leadership specialist and I'm going to go on and get a three-class educational leadership add-on. It's kind of like getting a double-specialist."

Hussion said that his educational pursuits would take about two and a half years to complete.

"I'm going to spend some much-needed time with my family," he said. "We've got young kids and all they've



C.T. Hussion

ever known is me being Coach Hussion. I'm looking forward to spending more time with them and watching them grow up."

Union County Athletic Director Jim Hughes said Hussion's decision came as "a big shock."

"And I totally understand what he's doing," Hughes said. "It's a career move. He's going after that six-year degree while his kids are still young."

"We hate to lose him as a coach, he did a great job," Hughes said. "Right now, we're in the process of filling that position. And hopefully, we'll be able to announce that soon."

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UCSO retires Whittle's No. 221

By Charles Duncan
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Tears streamed down the face of Union County Sheriff Scott Stephens as he spoke about something near and dear to his heart.

Union County Sheriff's



Deputy Derrick Whittle died in the line of duty Sept. 18, 2011; Chief Deputy Charles King, went "10-7" on March, 9, 2005.

On this day, Sheriff Stephens and his entire department and an endearing community gathered along with Whittle's family, father Jim, mother Sharon, his widow Karen and the two children he left behind, Nick and Leigha.

The purpose of the gathering: dedicate a memorial to the fallen Whittle, and Chief Deputy King. A marble

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Union County Sheriff Scott Stephens declares Badge 221 officially retired as the Whittle family looks on. Photo/Charles Duncan

A community prays for its Nation

By Charles Duncan
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Pastors, government leaders, business leaders and local residents gathered last week at First Baptist Church to pray for our nation, the state and Blairsville and Union County.

The National Day of Prayer ceremonies attracted a crowd to the church on Blue Ridge Street.

Roxanne Powell opened the ceremonies by reminding

the crowd that the 2012 theme of the National Day of Prayer is "One Nation, Under God."

"We live in difficult times," she said. "We can't have real peace until we get the kind that comes from God."

Powell reminded that crowd that "Blessed is the Nation whose God is Lord."

Dr. David Gowder, director of Union General Hospital's Emergency Room, told the crowd that America began with Christianity as its

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The Rev. Terry Stuart leads the prayer for our nation. Blairsville/Union County residents joined in. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Showcase a blast

By Janice Boling
Staff Writer
North Georgia News

The recent Blairsville - Union County Chamber of Commerce Business Showcase Extravaganza, held at the Union County Civic Center,

was a huge success. Hundreds of people attended the two-hour event. They were treated to door prizes, give-a-ways, and free samples of delicious food.

The Business Showcase
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Last week's Chamber Showcase was a huge success. Event goers enjoyed door prizes, food and give-a-ways. Photo/Janice Boling

Customer Appreciation Day at UCB

By Charles Duncan
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It was Christmas in May at United Community Bank.

UCB's 35th Annual Customer Appreciation Day was a celebration of beautiful weather, friends, fellowship and the gift that keeps on giving, at least through the summer months.

Tomato plants, thousands of them, were on the minds of the thousands attending the annual event on Friday at United Community Bank's location off Georgia 515.

Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll and his department made sure traffic flow was smooth as the annual event continued throughout the day.

The people came in all shapes and sizes - toddlers to

grandparents. Customers that bankers normally only see at the drive-thru window were definitely in attendance and outside of their vehicles.

The crowd was believed to have been a record for the event, mostly attributed to the struggling economy and the return of an agriculture state of mind.

This event also brought people to town from other United communities. Each customer received six tomato plants at any single location. They came from the border communities where they collected six tomato plants from each location and then added six more in Blairsville.

The whole town benefits from this event each year as

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Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll directs traffic coming into the United Community parking lot. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Lee Knight



Candidate Tax Commissioner
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Student Art Show a success

By Janice Boling
Staff Writer
North Georgia News

During the school year, Union County Middle School students participated in an Appalachian Trail Conservancy program called "A Trail to Every Classroom."

Students learned about the Appalachian Trail in art, history, litera-

ture, math, physical education, science, social studies, and technology.

Students have shared knowledge and expressed viewpoints, requests, and hopes through their painting, printmaking, oil pastels, and sculptural creations. Their hope is that the 2012 Student Art Show will inspire everyone to go out

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Third Annual Butterfly Bluegrass Festival

The Third Annual Butterfly Bluegrass Festival is Friday and Saturday at the Union County Saddle Club Arena.

Come join in the fun as the proceeds benefit The Glenda Gooch House, a hospitality home for family and friends of sick loved ones in Union General Hospital or local nursing homes.

Nearly 200 families have stayed at The Glenda Gooch House at no charge.

The Glenda Gooch

House operates solely on donations.

The event is scheduled on Friday, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday from noon to 8 p.m. (gates open at 10 a.m.).

This year's entertainment features Ron and Meschell Rigsby, with Kathy Denton, David Peterson, The Bluegrass Sound Band, Lonesome Road Bluegrass, Forgiven, One Goal (Raven Welch), The Georgia Highlanders, Vernon McIntyre's

Appalachian Grass and many other performers.

The event features lots of good food, music and arts and crafts.

The Union County Saddle Club Arena is located off Highway 515 in Blairsville.

For details, directions or other information, call (706) 835-9230, or (706) 994-1430 for more details.

The Glenda Gooch House is located on Wallings Road across from Union General Hospital in Blairsville.

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Relay for Life, May 18th-19th

Union County Relay For Life is scheduled at the Union County Farmers Market on Old Smokey Road. The event is scheduled 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. on May 18th and May 19th. For more organizational details, www.unioncountyrelay.org.

Sixth Annual Business Expo May 12th

The Sixth Annual Tri-State Business Women's Business Expo returns to Union County on Saturday at the Union County Farmers Market on Old Smokey Road.

The event is free to the public and includes door prizes, a raffle, services, retail and lots of food. For questions or booth information, call Cathy at (706) 897-2072.

The event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.