

Fest...from Page 1A

community. Union County was carved from Cherokee territory during the Georgia Land Lottery of 1832.

Many of Union County's early settlers were stalwart, spirit-led adventurers, many of which were dedicated circuit-riding ministers and local preachers who faithfully spread the Gospel.

The land was rugged, and it took heart to labor and build and preserve a community nestled in this deep mountain setting.

Many of the first settlers came out of the mountains of North Carolina and many others from Habersham County.

By 1849, there were 13 Methodist churches in what was called the Blairsville Circuit.

The churches were typical of small churches of the era, simple, but neatly nestled in accessible locations, easily reached by foot or by horse and buggy.

Likewise, the homes were simple and efficient, handcrafted by their owners and carved out of the wilderness that made up the North Georgia Mountains.

The Heritage Festival

is an annual tribute to those early pioneers of yesteryear.

Hosted by the Union County Historical Society, the festival opens a window to the past and the cultural heritage of the North Georgia Mountains.

The event features handmade crafts, traditional foods, music, craft demonstrations that include quilting, spinning, basket making, chair caning, needlework and making rugs.

It also features old-time music with live performances by talented musicians on autoharp, mandolin, guitar and the fiddle.

All activities are centered around the 1906 Grapelle Mock House, the restored 1861 Payne Family log cabin, the Mauney Family barn, the Duncan Family cabin, and other structures from Union County's storied past.

Legendary Union

County Sheriff Harlan Duncan grew up and was raised in the historic Duncan Family Cabin.

Other heritage activities historically have included sorghum cane to taste, gold-panning, holding or petting goats, mules, a calf, and lots of chickens.

Free and open to the public, the Mountain Heritage Festival is a unique event promising wholesome family fun, and teachable moments for all ages.

There is something for every taste and budget at this event so be sure to bring your appetite.

Festival foods also are available with kettle corn, fresh tomato sandwiches, homemade ice cream, candied nuts, corn dogs, and BBQ plates at the top of the list.

Live music is a special treat at this community festival. The event features the

some of the best Bluegrass and Gospel music in the Southeast.

Festival demonstrations include blacksmithing, hatchet throwing, a civil war camp, musket loading, wood-turning, quilting, spinning, basket making, chair caning, needlework, and other exhibits of early settler life here in the mountains.

Make this a Labor Day Weekend you'll never forget.

For more details, call the Union County Historical Society at (706) 745-5493.

Also, visit the Web at unioncountyhistory.org. More details and numerous photographs are available online.

The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 31, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 1.

Admission is free. Come out and be a part of Union County history.

Kemp...from Page 1A

a new system or the current one would go down and you'll never be able to bring it back and that would have been a disaster," he said.

"But we have things stabilized and are working hard everyday to improve the system," he said.

Secretary Kemp praised both sides of the aisle, including former Secretary of State and current Young Harris College President Cathy Cox for putting politics aside and doing what's in the best interest of all Georgians.

"One of my predecessors, Cathy Cox did a wonderful job and made the transition easier for myself and my other predecessor," Kemp said.

"We've got a lot of great leaders in both parties and I think that's one reason why our state is where it is today," Kemp said. "When the economy comes back around, Georgia will be a major player in job growth and economic development.

"Our state is a great place to raise your family, a great place to live, and a great place to work," Kemp said.

Kemp also weighed some of the pros and cons of the new federal laws, especially the Voting Rights Act.

"It's going to save our office and county and city governments a lot of administration time," he said. "This law will affect big issues like redistricting and smaller legislation like a county moving a precinct across the street to another building."

In the past, any changes had to be approved by the U.S. Department of Justice which could take 60-120 days. However the courts threw out part of the new law and according to Kemp, Georgia, and many other states won't have to ask for permission any longer.

"We will still continue to follow the law, however this will now take some of the burden of proof off the state," Kemp said.

One final topic that was brought up was changes to the election calendar.

A federal judge ruled that Georgia's primary schedule must be moved from July to June, making the time between the primaries and runoffs longer.

"Usually runoff are the nastiest part of the campaign," Kemp said. "So now instead of getting three weeks of ugly ads, we're now going to have to suffer through two months of that."

The Huddle House provided breakfast for the event.

"They always do a fabulous job. Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce President Cindy Williams said.

"We appreciate all that Matt and his team do."

The sponsor for the meeting was Rotarian of the Year, Bill McGlamery of The Wine Shop.

"I am thrilled," Williams said. "He has been a fabulous member and a wonderful man. One thing I always hear Bill say is, 'in today's world there has got to be more givers than takers.'"

"He definitely is a giver and he gives back in so many ways," she said.

McGlamery spoke for a little more than five minutes on the regrowth of the wine industry during the second half of the 20th Century following the Prohibition era, the Great Depression, and World War II.

He also praised everyone that had a hand in providing Union County with its new community center, and putting the sale of wine into the hands of the voters.

"It is through true visionaries, thinking, and planning that we have this beautiful community center and that we have wine in this county now thanks to Commissioner (Lamar) Paris letting the voters vote on it."

Meanwhile, Kemp has served as Secretary of State since 2010, some of his duties include conducting secure and efficient elections and regulating corporations.

"It's great to be back in Blairsville," Kemp said. "I have so many friends here that it's almost like I'm home."

Rivalry...from Page 1A

at 17-14.

However, Towns' onside kick attempt was recovered by the Panthers securing the win.

Both teams will have a new look in 2013 with Coach Harrison putting added emphasis on the running attack this season with his featured Wing-T offense, led by senior quarterback Jackson Noblet and fullback Cruz Shook.

While the Indians fell 28-14 to Dawson County in a scrimmage, and were trailing Hayesville, NC 20-0 in the second quarter when the game was called due to lightning, Union showed signs of improvement across the board in the scrimmage with White County.

The Panthers, who are led by the dual quarterback threat of junior Ralston Drake and sophomore Joseph Mancuso, took a 14-10 lead in the third quarter thanks to two

scores by Mancuso.

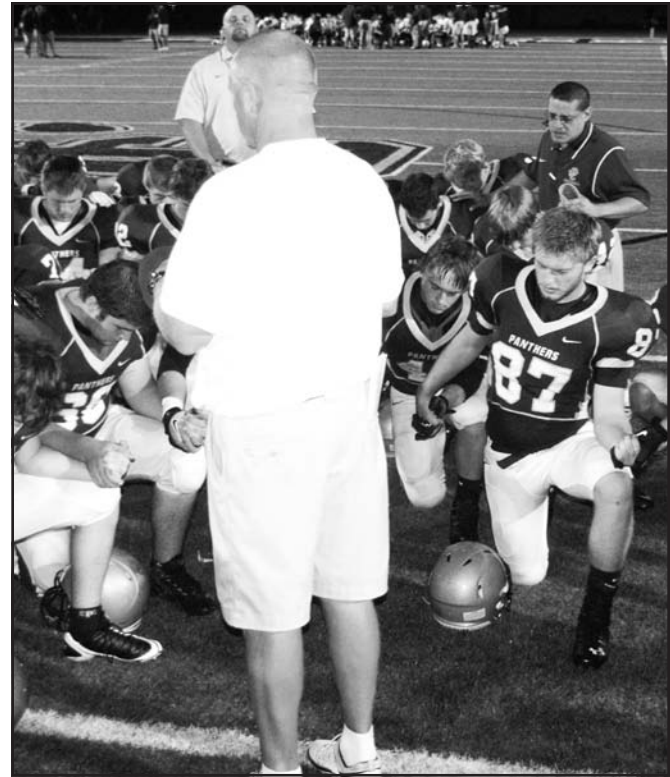
The sophomore bulldozed his way into the end zone from 14 yards out early in the second quarter.

He then hooked up with sophomore Sam Gilbert for a two-yard scoring strike, giving Union the lead at 14-10 with 1:52 to play in the third.

Both squads played their JV team during the fourth quarter and White County added three late scores.

This week's edition of the *North Georgia News* includes the *Fall Sports Preview*, highlighting Panther football, softball, cross country, cheerleading, and the Pride of the Mountain Marching Bands.

Union County Football Head Football Coach Brian Allison is looking to lead the Panthers to their first playoff appearance since 2001, and a win over rival Towns County would be a great way to open the 2013 campaign.



The Panthers pray following their game against White County last week. Photo/Todd Forrest