

# STAR...from Page 1A

nomination, high school students must have the highest score on a single test date on the three-part SAT and be in the top 10 percent of their class based on grade point average.

Each high school STAR Student is asked to name his or her STAR Teacher. High School recipients compete for school system titles, and system STAR Students in turn compete for region honors.

Region winners and their STAR teachers are invited to Atlanta to compete for state STAR scholarships and awards.



Woody Gap STAR Teacher Althea Cantrell with Woody Gap STAR Student Logan Wood. The two will be honored Feb. 18 at Union County Community Center. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

# DDA...from Page 1A

"The City has been great to work with, the business owners have been phenomenal," she said. "The experience has been great. Getting the Streetscape completed obviously has been a goal of mine and it's great to see that come to completion before I leave. I'm going to miss it."

Mayor Conley has nothing but praise for Hartman's successor, Darren Harper, whose roots run deep in Union

County.

"It's a great transition time, lots of stuff happening in Downtown with property development, with the restoration on the Square, and Darren is just the guy to take us forward," Mayor Conley said.

Harper, 46, was born in Union County, and, he's always considered Blairsville home, no matter where he has lived.

"Over the years, when

people have asked me where I was from, I told them Blairsville," Harper said. "I graduated from Young Harris College, I spent 20 years in Atlanta, I owned my own business. I finally came back to my senses and moved back to the mountains.

"I love it here, it's home," Harper said. "There's already a connection here; you don't have to worry about all the crazy atmosphere in Atlan-

ta. When this job opportunity came up, it was a Godsend.

"I have very strong memories of going into Kings' 5&10 with my grandpa when I was a boy, or going to the service station to get something fixed on the tractor," Harper said.

"It's neat to be a part of all of this again, and keep the work that Janet started moving in the right direction," he said.

# Panthers...from Page 1A

1957, and the Panther football program.

The Class of 1957 also will purchase a life-size bronze sculpture of a Panther to be placed outside the team's field house.

The monument and the panther sculpture are lasting legacies to the school's 57-year-old football program. The team needs donations to help offset the costs.

They will solicit businesses, individuals, and civic organizations to help pay for the almost \$10,000 in costs.

1957 Most Valuable Player Jim McAfee smiles when he thinks of that momentous first football season.

"We were undefeated, playing East Fannin, and we beat them," he said. "It didn't say that on the scoreboard, the final score was 18-14 East Fannin.

"Wendell Runion scored a touchdown, but the referees said he didn't cross the goal line," McAfee said.

"I believe he did, and everyone from Union County believed he did. The referees saw it differently," McAfee said.

McAfee, a standout lineman on that Panther squad, said the East Fannin game would always stand out in his mind.

"It was cold, raining, the field was solid mud," he said. "It was a hard-fought game that just stands out in my memory."

Bill Parker, the team's center in 1957, remembered the game as well.

"We played our hearts out," Parker said. "We didn't want to be beaten."

Under the leadership of Coach Dave Hardin and Assistant Coach R. Neal Collins, the Panthers shut out their first two opponents by a combined score of 51-0.

They faced Cleveland in the season's third game. They won that one by a score of 18-13.

It wasn't until the season's fourth game that a Panther football team ever lost a game. It was the dreaded, heartbreaking loss to East Fannin, 18-14.

The final score of that game was oh so close.

That loss started a los-

ing streak as the Panthers were downed by Madison County the following week 35-13.

"I believe I'd like to forget that game," McAfee said. "They had a 200-pound fullback that couldn't be stopped."

The loss to Madison County was the last game the Panthers would lose in 1957, as they shut out their final opponents by a combined score of 70-0.

McAfee, Max Helton, Roy Dyer and Charles Owenby became the first gridiron legends in Union County football history.

The other 22 Panthers on that 1957 team went on to legendary status in later years. And, the rest as they say is history.

"You know, we had some folks that went on to serve as elected officials in Union County on that team," Parker said. "Earl Odom, Herbert Dyer, and Jim Conley were on that team."

For those who wish to donate to the cause, contact Bill Parker, 390 Pauline Lane, Blairsville, GA 30512 with a notation that the contribution is for "1957 football project," or can give check directly to the Union County Quarterback Club with the above notation.

# Pride...from Page 1A

*An Angel Good Mornin'* made Pride a Country Music legend.

"We're so excited to have Charley Pride come to Hiawassee," Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' General Manager Hilda Thomason said. "He is truly a Country Music legend."

Tickets go on sale Feb. 7 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Thomason said. "Level I seating is \$47, and Level II seating is \$37. You

can go online at 10 p.m. on Feb. 6 and purchase tickets online at our website."

# Brown...from Page 1A

but Deputy Gibson could see it in the front seat. It was a 12-gauge sawed off shotgun."


Union County sheriff's Deputy Julio Cruz and then Union County sheriff's Sgt. David Goodwin also arrived at the scene to assist in the arrest.

At the time, the first charge against Ronnie Brown was misdemeanor obstruction for lying about not having a weapon, Deputy Dyer said.

Other charges against Ronnie Brown followed after investigators had the opportunity to interview Debra Brown and her parents, Deputy Dyer said.

Those charges included kidnapping, false imprisonment, possession of an illegal sawed off shotgun, possession of a weapon during the commission of a felony, and aggravated assault in violation of Georgia's Family Violence Act, Union County arrest warrants show.

**Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse**



In memory of  
**Loretta Honea**  
by UC Historical Society

**Bell ringing information  
at 706-745-5493**