

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

www.nganews.com

Legal Organ of Union County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1909

May 11, 2016

Towns Sheriff Clinton to remain on Republican Primary ballot

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton will remain on the 2016 Republican Primary Ballot, the Towns County Board of Elections voted 4-0-1 last Monday.

Board member Barbara Shook abstained from the vote.

However, the Board voted to advise Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley that information of a 1987 conviction of misdemeanor theft by receiving stolen property in Union County was part of Sheriff Clinton's past.

Langley said last week that he had not received the paperwork from the Towns County Board of Elections, so, he couldn't make comment at this time.

The reason to give that



Chris Clinton
information to District Attorney Langley is to determine if Sheriff Clinton has committed felony false statements, said Board Co-Chair Mark Dehler. Sheriff Clinton's qualifications, namely that he had not been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude, were brought into question recently

See Clinton, Page 2A

Sen. Gooch delivers \$1.4 million for projects

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

The City of Blairsville airport projects for longer than Steve Gooch has been a Georgia State Senator.

With all requests from the City falling on deaf ears, along came the State Senator from Dahlonega.

With close ties to the Georgia Department of Transportation, Sen. Gooch helped secure funding for the airport's apron and runway projects.

With those projects complete, that raised the question of where the funds to build a new airport terminal would come from.

"Once again, this was Department of Transportation money, part of it was federal, part of it was state," said Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley. "When I first got elected,



District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch presents Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley with a check for \$1.4 million for projects at Blairsville Municipal Airport. Photo/Lily Avery

I came out here and met with Mayor Conley and W.C. Nelson," Sen. Gooch said. "They

gave me an overview of the projects and talked about the new apron, the parking lot

and runway projects. They See Airport, Page 2A

Strawberries a hot commodity at County Farmers Market

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Strawberries went fast this year at the annual Strawberry Day event at the Union County Farmers Market on Saturday, May 7.

Berry lovers in attendance mentioned that most of the beloved fruit sold out before the venue even opened, leaving many wishing they'd been the early birds to this festivity.

"We only had a few berries last year because there weren't many to find. This year they were hard to find, but we picked 102 gallons and all of it was gone by 9:30 (this morning)," said Freddie Collins of Collins Farms.

Only one strawberry vendor had any strawberries left by 10 a.m., and that was 7M Family Farms. Market-goers flocked to their stall as word spread of the hard-to-find juicy red berries.

"We were out of strawberries within an hour," said John Marletter of 7M. "We brought 75 gallons. We probably had over 100 come through to get berries just from us."

According to Williams Sparks of SMM Farms,



There were barely enough strawberries for this year's delicious treats. The local fruit was a hot commodity. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the low strawberry yield is largely attributed to the cold weather that has been sweeping through the area.

Regardless of Mother Nature's wavering favor, it wasn't enough to stop farmers

from trying their best to outsmart her and bring the best they could find to the market.

Sparks and his crew didn't arrive until after 11 a.m. due to their desire to get the best, freshest and most straw-

berries they could find, which was lucky for everyone who came after the start of the event.

"We would have been here earlier, but those boys See Strawberry, Page 6A

National Day of Prayer observed in Blairsville



The faithful bow their head in prayer at the 65th Annual National Day of Prayer at First Baptist Church of Blairsville. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

More than 400 Union County residents observed the 65th National Day of Prayer by gathering at the First Baptist Church of Blairsville to answer the call to prayer on Thursday, May 5.

The National Day of Prayer is always on the first Thursday of May each year, and according to the National Day of Prayer Task Force, it is an occasion for people of all faiths to share in the obser-

vance of prayer.

A number of pastors from around the county showed up to pray over various areas of import and relevance to Union County residents, from the local level all the way to Israel, one of America's closest allies.

Richard and Sharon Morrison of Blairsville organized the event, reaching out to the pastors who joined them and residents at First Baptist last Thursday.

The theme for this See Prayer, Page 6A

Rabies Clinic a local hit



One by one, local vets vaccinated countless pets on Saturday in Union County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Pet Hospital and Blairsville Animal Hospital administered Union County's annual Rabies Clinics on Saturday, May 7.

"Dogs are starting to move through," said Pet Hospital owner Dr. Patricia Barnes at the start of the clinic that morning. "The dogs and cats and cars - it's shaping up to be a better year for getting pets vaccinated in Union County."

Carloads upon carloads

of well owners and pets lined up before opening for this year's clinic. While the wait could be a hefty one, everyone was in good spirits knowing they would drive away with a healthier pet.

Pet owners were given the opportunity to get one-year rabies vaccines for \$10, as well as other vaccines for varying prices if they so chose.

Vaccines were offered at a discounted rate as a more affordable option for those

See Pets, Page 3A

Union County falls for Beauty and the Beast

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Personalities ran amok on stage as Union County High School put on its first spring production, Disney's classic *Beauty and the Beast*, at the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center.

The show pulled in hundreds of attendees for each of its three successful shows, which ran on April 29, April 30 and May 1.

While each day of the show was spectacular, the last day held a special surprise for guests. The cast and crew of the show invited children to dress up in their favorite Dis-



Small children greet the cast of UCHS' production of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Union County Fine Arts Center. Photo/Lily Avery

ney or *Beauty and the Beast* attire and join the cast after the show for pictures and laughs.

It was an evening enjoyed by all, as children ran up to meet Belle, Mrs. Potts, Cogsworth, and many of the other characters these kids had always dreamt of meeting.

UCHS Chorus Director Alicia Covington teamed up with Theater Director Chris Adams to bring this 11-weeks long project to life. This was Covington's first theatrical production as well as the choral department's first official venture into the realm of theater.

"I did most of the mu-

See Beauty, Page 3A

Joshua Dream Ranch is a therapeutic haven

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Building Champions - that's the name of the game for Joshua Dream Ranch, which held its Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting with friends, guests and the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, April 30.

Situated in an idyllic cleft of the North Georgia Mountains just a few miles from Downtown Blairsville,



Joshua Dream Ranch had its groundbreaking on April 30th. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

<p>Vol. 107 No. 19 4 Sections 32 Pages Weather Thurs: T-Storms Hi 84 Lo 59 Fri: T-Storms Hi 77 Lo 51 Sat: Sunny Hi 80 Lo 51</p>	<p>Inside</p> <p>Arrests 2B Churches 4C Classified 4C Classifieds 4B Opinion 4B Legals 6D Obits 6C Sports 2C</p>	<p>Annual CCC Day at Vogel State Park May 14th</p> <p>See page 2B</p>	<p>Early Voting is Under Way and will be available Saturday, May 14</p>	<p>OPEN HOUSE Fire Station 2</p> <p>See page 2B</p>	<p>SPORTS BASEBALL State Elite 8 Lovett @ Union county Tuesday, May 10 4:30 PM (DH) Game 3 (if necessary) Wednesday, May 11 5:30 pm</p>
---	---	--	--	--	---