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UNION SENTINEL



Ethlene Dyer-Jones discusses church homecoming: 6A

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 21

FOUR SECTIONS • 50¢

Thursday • June 7, 2007



UCADC receives \$50,000 grant

By JARED PUTNAM
Union Sentinel Editor

The Union County Anti-Drug Coalition (UCADC) will receive a significant boost in funding after obtaining a \$50,000 Community Assistance Grant from the state of Georgia.

The organization only recently learned that they will be awarded the grant. They have not yet determined the specifics of how the money will be used once the funds are transferred later this year.

"There are a number of programs that we want to do," UCADC Chairman Mike Priven said. "We are trying to influence the Union County school system to start a Mendez program. According to Priven, it is a proven system that goes from 1st grade to high school. "It is a series of educational programs that is integrated within the school," Priven said. "They instituted it in Clay County, North Carolina a few years ago, so we are going to use them as our guide"

The Chairman added that he was in the process of finding out how much the program would cost, and that he hopes the UCADC can at least be the catalyst for it. "We also have some displays, we have a hotline we need to set up, billboards we need to pay for, presentations we want to put together, stickers we need distributed, brochures we need, so there are a lot of things that we can do," he added.

Priven credited State Senator
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Scottish Festival begins June 8th

By JARED PUTNAM
Union Sentinel Editor

Kilts, bagpipes, and all things Scottish will descend on Blairsville this weekend, as the fourth annual Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games (BSFHG) kicks off.

"There has been so much excitement and anticipation building up," Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce (BUCCC) President

Cindy Williams said. "This year we are again anticipating a great turnout, hopefully record breaking. I have been so impressed with everyone on the committee. The way they work together to pull this thing off is just amazing."

Each year the festival adds new things to keep the experience fresh even for those who are seasoned attendees. In the past the event has

featured workshops for the fiddle and harp. Williams said that among the new activities this year is a workshop featuring bagpipes.

Also new this year is a children's tent, adding more variety to an event that festival organizers create with all ages in mind. "It can totally be a family event," Williams said. "There real-



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Sentinel photo/Jared Putnam
Celtic rock band Hunting McLeod.

MECHS Graduation 2007



Sentinel photo/Jared Putnam

A Union County graduate puts his hand to his ear, gesturing for his friends to cheer louder.

192 earn diplomas

By JARED PUTNAM
Union Sentinel Editor

Last year Mountain Education Center High School graduated a class of 127 students, the largest in its' history. This year the alternative education program easily topped that number, allowing a record high 192 graduates to make the most of a second chance to earn a diploma.

The ceremony was held at Fannin County High School's performing arts facility, and included graduates from Fannin, Gilmer, Lumpkin, Pickens, Towns, Union, and White

Class of 2007 largest ever

County. The 39 Union County graduates in attendance was the largest number from any of the seven counties. A total of 66 students graduated with honors, including 16 Union County students in attendance.

MECHS Principal Wade Smith told those in attendance just how proud the entire faculty was of "these students who have demonstrated an outstanding determination and character."

Smith continued, "We are gathered here tonight to applauded them and help them celebrate this momentous occasion."

An annual scholarship in honor of Principal Smith was unveiled at this year's ceremony, as he personally handed out the awards to the inaugural recipients.

81-year-old Rev. Troy Acree

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Ga. resolves DA funding emergency

By JARED PUTNAM
Union Sentinel Editor

Georgia's District Attorneys and staffs avoided furloughs, after Governor Sonny Perdue issued an Executive Order transferring funds from the Department of Revenue to cover the payroll costs of state-funded District Attorneys until the Fiscal Year 2008 budget takes effect on July 1, 2007. The Governor's Order was entered in response to Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears's declaration of a judicial emergency, which allows the Governor to transfer funds from outside agencies to cover the costs of District Attorneys.

The order averted a potentially significant personnel shortage in the Union County District Attorney's office, which already operates with a small staff. "The shortfall that was created by the impasse over the '07 budget was going to cause four attorneys and one investigator to be furloughed for six days," Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Stan Gunter said. He added that while he is lucky to have circuit paid employees that could take up some of the slack, having more than one third of his most senior staff laid off during that time would have made it very difficult for the office to keep up with the number of cases coming in.

"These are my most experienced attorneys who handle the most complicated cases," Gunter said. "It would have been very difficult to continue forward with the court's business without those people working." Gunter said he believed that most of the staff would have continued working no matter what, due to the

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Dropping the hammer on illegal gaming

By JARED PUTNAM
Union Sentinel Editor

The Union County District Attorney's Office is making it known that illegal gaming machines will not be tolerated.

Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Stan Gunter tried to help make that perfectly clear as he watched

Blairsville Chief of Police Johnny Carroll destroy three such machines last week. Under Georgia law, the machines are to be destroyed in the district attorney's presence.

"I want to get the point

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Sentinel photo/Jared Putnam

DA Stan Gunter looks on as Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll takes a swing.

City to move polling location

By JARED PUTNAM
Union Sentinel Editor

Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley and the City Council have approved a resolution to move the city polling location to the City Council room located inside the Police Department.

The prior polling location was the mayor's office in City Hall. While a Justice Department filing is required, no problems are expected. "That will be in effect for the

November general election this year," Mayor Conley stated. Three city council seats, held by Tony Collins, Rhonda Mahan, and Betty Williams will be on the ballot at that time.

The mayor and city council briefly discussed how election terms of the city council are set up. Mayor Conley said he believes the current staggering of election terms [so that all seats are not on the ballot at the same time] is the best approach.



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YOUR WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Isolated T-Storms High 87° Low 64°	Isolated T-Storms High 88° Low 60°	Partly Cloudy High 88° Low 61°