

Education

Local blind student wins national writing contest



National Federation of the Blind

Isabel Nieves, a 13-year-old from Ellijay, recently won first prize in the middle school poetry category of the Youth Writing Contest of the National Federation of the Blind.

Federation of the Blind (NFB) Writers' Division. Her success was first announced at the NFB's annual convention in Orlando, and her winning entry is entitled "Directions to Music Land." Nieves, who will be attending Clear Creek Middle

School this fall, is the daughter of Ramon Nieves, who has been with Home Depot in Blue Ridge for 20 years, and Elizabeth Nieves, who is a stay-at-home mom. She has two siblings: Emily, age 14, and Raymond, age 7. This talented young lady

is also a music lover and is especially fond of such classics as Doris Day. Nieves is herself a singer and self-taught pianist. She won first place for her solo performance of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" this past year at Gilmer Middle School.

She occasionally sings with the Good Samaritan Catholic Church choir. She is also an excellent Braille reader and loves reading all kinds of books, especially mysteries and Nancy Drew, which she borrows from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Nieves was born premature at 24 weeks and weighed just one pound eight ounces. "She's definitely a miracle," stated her father. She suffered from a lack of oxygen and has Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), the most common cause of blindness in children. Despite four surgeries, she is totally blind.

The annual NFB writing contest promotes Braille literacy and excellence in creative writing. Despite strong evidence that Braille literacy significantly improves a blind person's ability to obtain employment and advanced degrees, only 10 percent of America's blind children are taught to read it.

Contestants were required to hand emboss their entries using either the slate and stylus or a Braille writer (no computer generated Braille was accepted). Entries were judged on creativity and quality of Braille. The NFB Writers' Division encourages all blind people to adopt a "can-do" attitude and learn the skills that will enable them to live full, productive and independent lives.

"We are all impressed and delighted with Isabel's creativity and Braille skills," said Robert Leslie Newman, president of the NFB Writers' Division, "and we

2011-2012 GHS parking permits

Gilmer High School will be selling student parking permits for the 2011-2012 school year Tuesday, August 9, and Wednesday, August 10, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The parking permit forms are located in the GHS front office.

There will be no drug testing this year.

Cost for permit is \$35, cash or money order only (make money orders payable to Gilmer High School). No prorated fee.

are thankful for the support she is receiving at home and in school."

Nieves will receive a cash prize of \$25 and the chance to be published in "Slate and Style," the quarterly literary magazine of the NFB Writers' Division.

With more than 50,000 members, NFB is the largest and most influential membership organization of blind people in the United States. It strives to improve blind people's lives through advocacy, education, research, technology and programs encouraging independence and self-confidence.

It is the leading force in the blindness field today and the voice of the nation's blind. In January 2004, the NFB opened the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, the first research and training center in the United States for the blind led by the blind.

For more information about the NFB organization, visit www.nfb-writers-division.net.

2011-2012 Gilmer County School System Registration

For forms and registration information go to www.gilmerschools.com > Parents > Prospective Parents > Registration

To register your child, contact his or her school for an appointment:

GRADES PRE-K - 4

Ellijay Elementary School
32 McCutchen Street
Ellijay, GA 30540
706-276-5020

GRADES 5 - 6

Gilmer Middle School
1860 South Main Street
Ellijay, GA 30540
706-276-5030

GRADES 9 - 12

Gilmer High School
408 Bobcat Trail
Ellijay, GA 30540
706-276-5080

GRADES K - 4

Mountain View Elementary
350 Calvin Jackson Drive
Ellijay, GA 30540
706-276-5100

GRADES 7 - 8

Clear Creek Middle School
1020 Clear Creek Road
Ellijay, GA 30536
706-276-5150

HEAD START

305 Calvin Jackson Drive
Ellijay, GA 30540
706-636-2064 or
706-635-4045

Mark your calendar with these Registration and Open House dates:

SCHOOL	REGISTRATION	OPEN HOUSE / ORIENTATION
Pre-K at Ellijay Elementary	August 8 at 6 p.m.	August 8 at 6 p.m.
Ellijay Elementary School	August 1 - 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	August 11 at 4 p.m.
Mountain View Elementary	August 1 - 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	August 11 at 4 p.m.
Gilmer Middle School	August 1 - 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	August 9 at 4 p.m.
Clear Creek Middle School	July 27 and August 1 - 11, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	August 10 at 4 p.m.
Gilmer High School	August 1 - 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	August 9 at 6 p.m. (Cat Herding for freshmen)

If you are planning to enroll your child in any Gilmer County school for the 2011-2012 school year, the following documentation is needed:

- Withdrawal form from the previous school (copy)
- Current Immunization Record (must be a Georgia form, copy)
- Proof of Custody (as noted in the divorce decree - copy)
- Eye, Ear, Dental examination record (copy)
- Proof of Residency (copy of a utility bill, rental lease or other paperwork with the 911 street address printed on the document - P.O.

- Boxes are not considered proof of residency)
- Transcript from the previous school (form must include school address and contact person, copy)
- Report card from previous school
- Social Security Card (copy)
- Discipline record (if the student has no discipline record, the previous school should indicate such on the withdrawal form)
- Birth Certificate (copy)

All of the documentation listed above (except for proof of residency) is easily obtained from the student's record at the school he or she is leaving. All students enrolling at any Gilmer County school will need to be accompanied by the custodial parent or guardian.

Girl Scouts to host Princess Party

Kindergarteners and first graders who are interested in getting involved in Girl Scouts through the Apple Blossom Service Unit are invited to a Princess Party Thursday, July 28, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the ETC pavilion on Legion Road in Ellijay.

This dress-up party for potential Daisy Scouts will feature all things princess, including facials, fancy hairdos and nail polish. At the end of the event, the girls will even get to walk across a stage and show off their new looks.

For more information, write to appleblossom-girlscouts@yahoo.com.

Scouts complete CPR training



Contributed photo

Debbie Neese, an RN and First Aid/CPR instructor from North Georgia Medical Center, recently conducted a First Aid/CPR training with members of the Girl Scout Troop 8146. She also taught the Troop members the correct usage of the AEDs that are located throughout Gilmer County, including local schools. Above, the girls enjoy practicing their new lifesaving CPR skills.

FFA receives donation



Contributed photo

Clear Creek Middle School and Gilmer Middle School accepted a donation from the Gilmer County Farm Bureau Monday, July 18. The funds will be used to purchase FFA officer emblems. Both the CCMS and GMS FFA chapters would like to thank Gilmer County Farm Bureau for their support. Pictured from left to right are Kaylee Crook, reporter; Kali Cochran, treasurer; Linda Evans, Farm Bureau secretary; Candra Frady, Farm Bureau office manager; and David West, FFA president. Agriscience teacher Keith Pankey is not pictured.