

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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## Sorghum Festival back this weekend for more sweet entertainment

By Lily Avery  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

After months and months of preparation, planning and apprehension, the beloved 48th Annual Blairsville Sorghum Festival made its much-anticipated return to Meeks Park last weekend, on Saturday, Oct. 14.

Spanning four days, the first and second weekends in October, the festival is the perfect kick off for fall season in the mountains starting off, of course, with the making of that sweet nectar of the South, sorghum.

Following the festive parade that weaves its way through Downtown Blairsville, hundreds of festivalgoers piled into the park, where biscuit eating and pole climbing

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Makin' syrup! Sorghum syrup sold out as fast as they could make it during the opening weekend of the 48th Annual Blairsville Sorghum Festival. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Zell Miller inducted into Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame

News Special  
North Georgia News

Young Harris' most distinguished resident has added yet another title to his many lifetime accomplishments.

Former Governor and U.S. Sen. Zell Miller has been inducted into the 2017 Class of the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame.

The announcement was made by 2013 founder and president Col. Paul Longgear (USA-Ret) of Pine Mountain.

"The framed photos of this year's 17 inductees, together with those of the 66 previously selected members, will be prominently displayed on the Heroes' Wall of the Floyd Building in the State Capitol complex," said Col. Longgear.

Having enlisted in 1953,



Zell Miller, Former Georgia Governor and U.S. Senator

Sen. Miller is profoundly proud to have served as a U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant. He is the author of a book entitled

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## Grizzle, Fix break state record with 1,306-pound pumpkin



Tim Grizzle, Mickey Cummings and Patrick Fix with the 1,306-pound state record giant pumpkin named "Big Fat Ralph." Photo/Shawn Jarrard

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Big Fat Ralph has set a state record, weighing in at a whopping 1,306 pounds.

Of course, it's helpful to know that Big Fat Ralph is a giant pumpkin that grew right here in Union County, nurtured to girthy greatness by cousins Tim Grizzle and Patrick Fix.

"Going into the season, our No. 1 goal was to grow a pumpkin over 1,000 pounds,"

said Grizzle, a retired Union County educator. "We kept measuring this one and estimating weight, and it kept growing, so we got to thinking, hmmm, we might could get a state record here. And we wound up doing so."

Now, Big Fat Ralph – playfully named after a childhood friend of Grizzle and Fix – resides at the Union County Farmers Market alongside another giant pumpkin grown by the duo,

and curious spectators are invited to stop in for a gander and a photograph with the enormous fruit.

The fruit in for the state record took place at an officially sanctioned event of The Great Pumpkin Commonwealth, the Allardt Great Pumpkin Festival and Weigh-Off in Allardt, Tennessee, on Saturday, Oct. 7.

Grizzle and Fix knew they had a doozy, as their

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## EMC will start holding open board meetings in November

By Charles Duncan  
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Blue Ridge Mountain EMC's Board of Directors voted 5-4 during its Oct. 10 meeting to have open meetings that allow the membership to attend.

That process begins in November, with a meeting place to be determined, Board President Mickey Cummings said.

Open meetings was a platform that some, who are now directors, had promised as they petitioned to become candidates and solicited votes.

Larry Williams, Fannin County's sole representative on the board, told fellow board members that he ran on a



BRMEMC General Manager Jeremy Nelms and Board Chair Mickey Cummings. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

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## Hiawassee woman killed in two-car crash on Georgia 515

By Charles Duncan  
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A 59-year-old Hiawassee woman died Friday in a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Georgia 515 and the Walmart intersection in Union County, Georgia State Patrol Cpl. Jason Braburn said.

A white Ford Escape, driven by Jackalyn Gale Garrett, 59, of Hiawassee, was attempting to turn left onto Georgia 515 (Georgia 2) East from Walmart, Cpl. Braburn said.

The accident happened approximately at 2:54 p.m., Cpl. Braburn said.

"The Ford Escape failed to yield the right of way and traveled into the path of a Jeep Grand Cherokee, driven



A drive-by picture of the Friday, Oct. 13, fatal car crash at the turn-in to the Blairsville Walmart on Georgia 515. Photo/Facebook

by Zachary Luke Moss, 23 years old of Blairsville," Cpl. Braburn said. "The Jeep Grand Cherokee struck the Ford Escape on the driver's

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## Union County Haunted History Tour begins this week



Volunteers with the Union County Haunted History Tour on the front steps of the Union County Historic Courthouse. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Paranormal researcher Greysen Schmitt has been busy over the past year, investigating some of the more storied places

in Downtown Blairsville. His paranormal investigations, which he conducted with the help of fellow researcher Alan Foster and others, have been driven by a larger volunteer effort

to host a history tour in Union County.

And the results of the historical research and investigations will be revealed

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## Sheriff's Office investigators save life of burglary suspect

By Charles Duncan  
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Two Virginia men have been charged with burglary, weapons charges, and drug-related charges, authorities said last week.

The case against Tyler Christian Sterlachini, 18, and Jacob Alexander Lafferty unfolded and was solved within six hours of the initial 911 call for law enforcement, Union County Sheriff's Office Detective Lt. Daren Osborn

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Tyler Christian Sterlachini



Jacob Alexander Lafferty

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