

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Legal Organ of Union County

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Republicans rule statewide and in Union County

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The GOP swept the mid-term elections in Union County and commanded the overwhelming majority of races in Georgia.

Union County voters chose Republican David Perdue to follow in Sen. Saxby Chambliss' footsteps for U.S. Senate, as Perdue handily defeated Democratic hopeful Michelle Nunn for the seat in the U.S. Senate with 75.54 percent of Union County votes. Perdue took 5,873 of the 7,775 ballots cast. He followed suit statewide, Nunn conceded the race late Tuesday.

Incumbent Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal defeated his opponent, Democrat Jason Carter, both in Union County and statewide.

Gov. Deal took 76.39 percent of the vote in Union County, showing 5,913 votes to Carter's 1,622. He claimed



Gov. Nathan Deal

almost 55 percent statewide.

Continuing the trend, Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, the incumbent, took Democratic Candidate Connie Stokes to the woodshed, winning Union County with 81.41 percent of the vote to Stokes' 18.59 percent. Lt. Gov. Cagle took 60 percent of the statewide vote.

Incumbent Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp, a



U.S. Rep. Doug Collins

Republican, blew his competition out of the water. Kemp captured 80.6 percent of Union County votes to shut down Democrat Christopher Carter. He followed suit statewide.

Republican Incumbent Samuel Olens will retain his position as State Attorney General, as he received a clear mandate of 79.78 percent of votes in Union County against

Democratic challenger Greg Hecht. Georgians followed in Union County's footsteps.

Gary Black, the incumbent Board of Agriculture, will retain his job after winning his race against Democrat Christopher James Irvin. Union County gave Black 80.99 percent of its votes in that race. Likewise, Georgia voters supported Black's reelection.

Georgia will be seeing another familiar face in Ralph Hudgens, who is the Republican incumbent and winner for his reelection as Commissioner of Insurance. Union County handed Hudgens a 78.28 percent mandate against Democratic challenger Liz Johnson and Libertarian hopeful Ted Metz. Georgia voters said yes to Hudgens as well.

The new State Superintendent of Schools will be Richard Woods, also a Republican, as he defeated

See Election, 2A

MRLS continues search for new library director



By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The top candidate to fill the position as director of the Mountain Regional Library System declined the position after considering the offer over the weekend.

The candidate was selected in a vote on Thursday, Oct. 30, when the MRLS Board of Trustees held a called meeting at the Union County Public Library to dis-

cuss the next director.

Current Director Donna Howell is set to retire at the end of December, following a one-month paid leave starting Dec. 1, with a new director hopefully taking over Jan. 1.

The director search committee consists of Teresa Moore, Chair of the MRLS Board of Trustees; Dr. Jounida Bradley, Chair of the Towns County Library Board; Ed Reed, Chair of the Union

See Director, 2A

Daffodil Project remembers children of the Holocaust

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Residents of Union County gathered to plant daffodil bulbs at the dedication of the Children's Daffodil Garden in Meeks Park on Sunday, Nov. 2.

The garden is part of an initiative started by the Atlanta non-profit AM YISRAEL CHAI, which is a Hebrew phrase meaning "The People of Israel Live."

It is the group's mission "to plant 1.5 million daffodil bulbs worldwide for the 1.5 million children murdered during the Holocaust," according to literature distributed for the dedication.

Of the nearly 45,000 daffodils planted to date, about 600 were planted in Meeks Park over the weekend in conjunction with the Towns-Union Master Gardener Association, along with Meeks Park Manager Larry Conley



Local children remembered Children of the Holocaust on Sunday at Meeks Park. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

and his staff.

With each dedication program was a biographical printout of a child lost during the Holocaust, and both children and adults from Union County took part in each planting a bulb in the name of specific children.

Michael Weinroth of Blue Ridge, who coordinated the planting of Blue Ridge's Children's Daffodil Garden last year, led the charge of remembrance in Union County as well.

"My heart is filled with gratitude, not only for your being here, but for so many different communities of people all coming together," said Weinroth, who embraced people of all faiths in putting the garden together. "And that's the whole point of these events. This Holocaust was not a Jewish tragedy—it was a human tragedy, unparalleled. Think about what those

See Project, 6A

Veterans Day services at First United Methodist, Woody Gap School and Union County High

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News Special

American Legion Ira T. Weaver Post 121 & Auxiliary, Disabled American Veterans Woodrow Wilson Chapter 11, and Brown-Davis-Elliott-Woody Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7394 are directing a Veterans Day program and luncheon on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 in the Methodist Activities Center of the First United Methodist Church of Union County located at 938 Highway 515, Blairsville, GA.

Our guest speaker will be Brigadier General (Retired) Kevin R. Turner. The program will include a Missing Man Table and Honors Ceremony to pay tribute to our missing comrades; recognition of attending POWs or their widow; a recap of the great service provided by the North Georgia Honor Guard; and presentation of the Commander's Award. The Commander's Award is presented annually to recognize a worthy veteran for outstanding contributions to the community and veteran organizations throughout the year.

Starting at 11 a.m., the program will run concurrently with a luncheon and should be over by 1 p.m. Lunch will be \$6 per person and is being catered by Jim's Smokin' Que. Everyone is welcome but seating is limited. For tickets, stop by The Book Cellar (706) 835-9534 at 112 Welborn St., Building A-2 in Blairsville, or contact the GA Dept. of Veterans Service field office (706) 745-6341, e-mail rspauld-



Brig. Gen. Kevin Turner

ing@vs.state.ga.us located in the Blairsville VA Outpatient Clinic to let us know you want to attend.

Thank you for your support and please plan to attend this event honoring service in the past and the present with opportunity for service in the future.

Union County High School will host its second annual Veteran's Day Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 7th beginning at 10 a.m. at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

The tradition was started in 2013 as a way to promote patriotism and Veteran awareness throughout our county and its schools.

All Union County School students will be attending the ceremony.

Multiple groups from the school system will be involved in the ceremony, including the UCHS Band, UCHS Chorus, UCMS Cho-

See Veterans, 6A

Halloween on the Square draws a crowd

By Charles Duncan
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Super heroes, villains, princes and princesses, pirates and witches, Thin Man and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles took to the streets of Blairsville on Friday evening.

No, it had nothing to do with an invasion. It was Hometown Halloween on the Square and there was a crowd of more than 3,000.

City streets were blocked off, and only ghouls, goblins, Ninja Turtles, Darth Vader, a few fairies, Supermen, Super Heroes and aliens were allowed to enter downtown. Well, along with Blairsville Assistant Police Chief Michael Baxter, who came appropriately dressed as, well,



Blairsville's assistant police chief.

Assistant Chief Baxter and BPD officers, with help from Union County Sheriff Mack Mason and the county's finest, blocked off the Downtown Square, allowing costumed children and their sometimes-costumed parents to gather in the roundabout and get a fresh supply of Halloween candy from various businesses, churches, and volunteer organizations.

The costumed – butlerflies and princesses – to the ghoulish, and included everything in between. There were Ninja Turtles, fairies, Supermen, sharks, and aliens. As it grew darker, scarier creatures

See Halloween, 2A

Blairsville police score record drug bust

By Charles Duncan
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An early Friday morning traffic stop on Georgia 515 has led to the arrest of two North Georgia residents on multiple drug charges, Blairsville Police Sgt. Shawn Dyer said.

Misty Dawn Ekeberg and James Allen Ridley, both convicted felons, face charges that include possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, trafficking methamphetamine, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and possession of controlled substances.

Officers seized almost

See Bust, 3A



Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll, right, Office Dustin Walker, center, and Sgt. Shawn Dyer display items seized during a Friday drug bust. Photo/Charles Duncan

Tommy Townsend gets national recognition

By Charles Duncan
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For Tommy Townsend, Thursday was homecoming.

As for his many hometown fans, they were excited to see him, taste the Granddaddy Mimm recipe, and pose for a photograph with the Union County's favorite son.

Townsend was the special guest at the monthly Mountain Marty at the Union County Community Center.

Tagging along with Townsend was CNN *Headline News*, doing a special on the family moonshine recipe and touching on Townsend's magical music career that carried him all the way to Nashville.



Tommy Townsend

The good folks attending the Mountain Marty, a monthly business network meeting, also had the opportunity to try a taste of Grand-

dy Mimm's Authentic Corn Whiskey. There also was the opportunity to taste the brandies that tout the Granddaddy Mimm's name.

It was a full house at the Community Center, and Townsend delighted the crowd with two of his hits. He also posed for photographs and shared with the *North Georgia News* details about Granddaddy Mimm's and the latest from the road, as he and Waymore's Outlaws tour with Shooter Jennings, the only child of Country Music icons Waylon Jennings and Jessi Colter.

"We're doing good, we're going to expand our distribution of Granddaddy

See Townsend, 3A

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VETERANS DAY
Union County High School
Friday, Nov 7
10 AM
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Woody Gap School
Tues, Nov 11
9 AM

PANTHERS UCHS Football
Fri. 11/7 Washington Wilkes 7:30 PM
Cross Country STATE MEET
Carrollton High School
Boys - NOON Girls 12:40