

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Community comes together; supports CTAE programs

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child, but getting the village together in the first place can be a challenge these days.

Enter Josh Davis, the new CTAE director at Union County Schools.

Earlier this month, Davis convened a meeting of stakeholders from across the spectrum of community life in Union County, to hold districtwide CTAE Advisory Board meetings, inside the Union County Community Center.

CTAE stands for Career, Technical and Agricultural Education, and is all about making sure that students are equipped to take advantage of

many number of opportunities after they graduate high school.

"Through partnerships with all stakeholders... we can greatly impact our community and future workforce by providing career exploration, training, and internships at the high school level," said Davis, who considered the discussions that day a win for students.

The schools' CTAE Advisory Board is made up of more than a hundred people, featuring business leaders, parents, students, teachers, school administrators and board of education members, all with the goal of strengthening the ties between the various elements of the community.

Discussions during the Oct. 5 meeting centered on

enhancing the system's many CTAE programs, and advisory board members split up into different program areas to talk about how to get students more real-world experience before they graduate.

The state requires the schools to hold advisory board meetings twice a year, and since it's usually difficult to coordinate schedules for all parties involved, this year, the schools decided to have one big meeting with everyone.

Union County Schools Superintendent Dr. Fred Rayfield said he was excited to have so much involvement in the meeting, as dozens of people turned out to offer input and work on expanding local opportunities for students.

As Dr. Rayfield stated in the meeting, CTAE Advisory



Union County High School Principal C.T. Hussion with CTAE Director Josh Davis in the Oct. 5 Advisory Board meetings. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Boards have been around for decades, and in his long career as an educator, Rayfield has

seen more than his fair share of advisory board meetings. "This is probably the

biggest (advisory board meeting) I have ever been to in 29 years," said Dr. Rayfield to those gathered that day. "And that speaks volumes for the community."

"We've got student participation, we've got governmental participation, we have business and industry, we've got educators. We've got a very, very diverse group of people and backgrounds sitting at the table, ready to exchange ideas. And folks, that does not happen in a lot of places."

The Union County Schools' CTAE program contains the following areas of concentration: automotive, business, computer science, engineering, food science,

See CTAE, Page 2A

Hometown Halloween on the Square promises fun, candy for trick – or – treaters



Hometown Halloween on the Square will take place on Oct. 31 around the Downtown Blairsville Square. Pictured here, last year's festivities. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Grab your most creative costume and biggest candy bag for Downtown Blairsville's

Hometown Halloween on the Square, which promises to be a candy-filled costume extravaganza, on Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Each year, the community comes together for a night that

none will forget, dressing up in creative costumes and enjoying an evening of confectionary fun for the whole family.

Already, dozens of local businesses have signed up to participate in this year's

Hometown Halloween Spectacular and, come next Tuesday night, will be setting up and unloading hundreds of bags of candy to hand out to anyone and everyone who shows up for one of the biggest community events of the year.

While some communities host Halloween extravaganzas on days other than the holiday itself, Hometown Halloween on the Square is always held on Halloween night, no matter what day the holiday falls on, even if it's a school night, making sure that the children get to experience all the festivities on the actual holiday.

And while dressing up in Halloween garb and grabbing handfuls of candy is the best way to celebrate the frightfully spooky holiday, locals can start the festivities early this year with an outdoor movie night.

Thanks to the
See Halloween, Page 8A

Thousands make sweet memories at the 2017 Sorghum Festival



A young lady reaching the top of the Pole Climbin' contest during the 2017 Blairsville Sorghum Festival. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

After two weekends of sticky sweet Sorghum fun, the 48th Annual Blairsville Sorghum Festival finished up this year's festivities with record breaking numbers both weekends and plenty of fun-filled memories to last – until next year, at least. "We've had close to about

6,000 people come through here," said Kim Bridges of the Blairsville Sorghum Festival Club. "This has been a record year. It's been really packed both weekends, really."

Thousands of festival patrons, both locals and otherwise, flocked to Meeks Park to partake in festival favorite games, like the biscuit eating contest and pole climbing, check out the

See Sorghum, Page 2A

Blairsville Cruisers raffle off Mustang at last cruise-in of the year

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Engines revved for the last time around the square as the Blairsville Cruisers hosted their last Cruise-In of the season with dozens of classic cars, old tunes and plenty of raffle prizes to go around on the Downtown Blairsville Square on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Downtown Blairsville lit up on Saturday evening for the Cruise-In, as fellow car enthusiasts browsed the dozens of restored beauties and took their chances at all the many raffles and door prizes the Cruisers had available.

While local businesses, such as O'Reilly's Auto Parts, donated gift certificates for the

club to use as door prizes, the main attraction of the event last Saturday night was the announcement of this year's raffle car winner. Each year, the club purchases a vehicle and sells tickets throughout the season – from April until October – to raise money for the various charitable needs the club participates in and sponsors throughout the year.

Last weekend, a beautiful red 2001 Ford Mustang Convertible was the car up for grabs and many wanted to get their hands on it, purchasing ticket after ticket in hopes of taking home the coveted car.

The club began selling the tickets for the raffle back in

See Cruisers, Page 3A



The Blairsville Cruisers season runs from April through October each year. Photo/Lily Avery

Good Neighbors celebrate more than three decades of car shows



The Good Neighbors Auto Club's annual car and truck show always draws a crowd at the United Community Bank of Blairsville. Photo/Todd Forrest

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

There are certain things in this world that now remain inseparable from will until the end of days. The No. "3" and Dale Earnhardt. Steve McQueen and Mustangs. Chrysler and Hemi engines. The Blairsville Sorghum Festival and the Good Neighbors Car Show.

Like clockwork every fall, the air begins to nip at our skin, the mountains shed the greens of summer for the colors of autumn, and the art of harvesting and cooking cane syrup attracts thousands of

visitors to Meeks Park.

Meanwhile, one Saturday during the Sorghum Festival, the main branch of United Community Bank hosts more than 200 vehicles at the Good Neighbors Car Show.

Muscle cars, motorcycles, or pickup trucks; foreign, domestic, or custom; vintage, antique, or contemporary, the car show has a little something for men, women, children and the entire family.

"I brought the family over for the second straight

See Neighbors, Page 2A

UCSO website features more information

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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The Union County Sheriff's Office has a state of the art website that has been a work in progress.

That project has come to fruition, Union County Sheriff's Office Detective Lt. Daren Osborn said.

The website, <http://www.unioncountygasherriff.org>, comes complete with much information. It's a one-stop shop for all things related to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

It comes complete with a breakdown of each department, from Administration, to the K-9 Unit. It also includes Union County Jail information, breaking down details that include that there are 54 beds for general housing and three beds for observation.

Also, that there are three meals served per day, which include two hot meals and one cold meal. Other details include that there is full-time medical assistance available, which includes a Licensed Practicing Nurse, who is onsite seven



UCSO Det. Marc Pilote is available through Tele-Med 24/7.

Jail information also includes a list of current inmates, however, inmate photographs are not available, per state code section O.C.G.A. 50-18-72, Lt. Osborn said.

The inmate information available via the website includes bond information, the number of days the inmate has been incarcerated, and

See UCSO, Page 3A

Vol. 108 No. 43
4 Sections 28 Pages
Weather
Thurs: Sunny Hi 67 Lo 38
Fri: Sunny Hi 67 Lo 41
Sat: Showers Hi 57 Lo 32

Arrests 2D
Church 3D
Classifieds 5C
Opinion 4A
Legals 5D
Obits 6C
Sports 2C

PANTHERS Football
Oct. 27 vs. Fannin County
Senior Night 7:30 PM
Cross Country
Oct 26 @ Unicoi State Park
7AAA Championship 2 PM

UCHS Performing Arts Dinner and a Show!
See page 1C

Halloween on the Square
Oct. 31
6 PM - 8 PM

S.A.F.E. needs Volunteers
See page 7A