

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Thousands expected to attend 45th Sorghum Festival

By Charles Duncan
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It's October, and the smell of the sweet sorghum is in the air.

The 45th Annual Blairsville Sorghum Festival kicks off on Saturday with the annual parade that begins at 11 a.m. in Downtown Blairsville.

"It's going to be a great festival," said Sorghum Festival spokesperson and co-organizer Kim Bridges. "We've certainly got a great lineup of entertainment and a record number of vendors."

"We have 100-plus vendors as of right now, and that is a good thing," she said. "It's the most vendors we've ever had."

"The only informa-



tion that isn't out there is that Wayne Nix of the *Moonshiners* will be there Oct. 11th and Oct. 12th," Bridges said.

"He'll be there the whole time the Festival is open that first weekend."

If you want to get a head start on the festival, the Sor-

ghum Mill starts crushing and cooking at 9 a.m. on Saturday at beautiful Meeks park.

Vendors open their booths, demonstrations be-

gin, and food vendors start selling their delicious treats, also at Meeks Park on Saturday morning. There will be canning demonstrations, the

moonshine still, woodcarving and many more demonstrations.

Indeed, it is that special time of year again in Union County.

The 2014 Sorghum crop is exceptional and an abundant supply of sorghum syrup is expected this year. Union County's FFA students are helping in the cane fields this year, Bridges said.

"I think it's good to get the FFA students involved in the agricultural part of the festival," Bridges said.

This year's cane crop is simply spectacular, Bridges said.

"Maybe it will make up for what we didn't have last year. We sold out last year, and didn't have as much sorghum

See *Sorghum*, 2A

Nicholson humbled by fan appreciation

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Tuesday, Sept. 30, was a special day for all who attended the Towns County Lady Indians' final regular season game of the year against Providence Christian Academy at Lowell Nicholson Field.

It was Senior Day. Head Coach Brandon Rowland's birthday, the Lady Indians won their game, and last but certainly not least, Lowell Nicholson was treated to a special dedication ceremony before the game.

"It was a special occasion for me, but I didn't deserve all that credit," said Nicholson. "It was an honor, and I give the good Lord credit for it, as he saw fit for me to have it."

That Tuesday was special for many, but it held a particular significance reserved solely for Nicholson.

"Tuesday was my



Towns County Herald photographer Lowell Nicholson was honored last week with the naming of the FastPitch Softball Field as Lowell Nicholson Field. Towns County High School Principal and Athletic Director Jonathan Gibson made the presentation. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

mom's birthday," said Nicholson, whose mother passed away 24 years ago.

Nicholson took the field just before the game, joining

Towns County High School Principal Jonathan Gibson before the enormous crowd of spectators.

"I could not believe the

amount of people that turned out to support Lowell," said Principal Gibson. "I think it

See *Lowell*, 2A

Crowd flocks to Gowder Chapel Dedication



Dr. George Gowder gets a hug from long-time friend Long Akens during the Chapel Dedication Ceremony. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Friends and family turned out by the dozens for the Chapel Dedication in honor of Dr. George Gowder Thursday at Union General Hospital, for his many contributions to the community over the years.

Tears and laughter, spirited conversations and fond remembrances pervaded the chapel and hallway just outside, as people paid their respect to Dr. Gowder.

The line to greet him went out the door, and the overall feel that day was one of family and togetherness.

"This will be a good place to come and rest, meditate and relax a little - maybe read a little out of the good book," said Dr. Gowder of the chapel.

Bradley Gowder, one of Dr. Gowder's many grandchildren, called his grandfather "a pillar of the community."

"He's a great Christian man, and we're extremely proud to have his name at-

tached to the chapel," said Bradley Gowder. "We're absolutely tickled - we couldn't be more proud."

Dr. Gowder's approach in his career was focused more on patients and the community than anything else.

"He did house calls back in the day when nobody did that," said Bradley. "I can remember him trading medical services for doves or yard work or whatever anybody could pay, he didn't care."

Long time Union General Hospital Administrator Leon Davenport came to the dedication to say hello to his friend and former colleague, and to share in remembering the accomplishments of Dr. Gowder.

"He's meant everything to this hospital," said Davenport. "If Dr. George Gowder had not given up a great practice in Gainesville, Ga., and come to Union County, we could not have made it - I'm not exaggerating, we could not have made it."

Dr. Gowder was Larry

See *Gowder*, 3A

Towns deputy stabbed during traffic stop

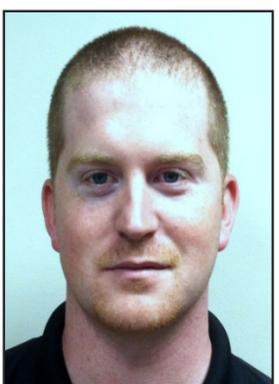
Deputy Aaron Deyton of Blairsville improving in Gainesville hospital

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Towns County Sheriff's Deputy Aaron Deyton, who was stabbed and airlifted to Northeast Georgia Medical Center for treatment Wednesday, Oct. 1, appears to be out of immediate danger, Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton said.

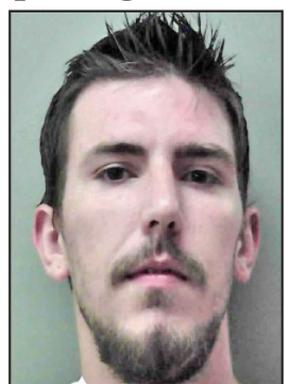
"He came through his surgery good, he's just in the process of trying to get better now," said Sheriff Clinton. "From what I understand, the doctors feel like he's going to make a comeback."

Deputy Deyton, who lives in Union County, was stabbed in the neck following a brief foot chase and physical



Deputy Aaron Deyton
confrontation with Daniel Lee Bower, 28, of Hayesville, NC, Sheriff Clinton said.

A city of Hiawassee police officer allegedly pulled



Daniel Lee Bower
Bower over on a Hiawassee in the parking lot of a Hiawassee's Mull Motel. The officer had assistance from two sheriff's deputies, one of which was

Deputy Deyton. The incident where Deputy Deyton was stabbed in the neck, ended in the Hardee's parking lot in Downtown Hiawassee, Sheriff Clinton said.

Bower, who faces charges of aggravated assault on an officer during the performance of his duty, driving under the influence, seatbelt violation, and tag light requirements, was taken into custody at the scene.

"We're not finished with the investigation yet, but he is currently in jail, and he has had some charges made. There are other charges that are pending," said Sheriff

See *Deyton*, 3A

Early voting begins Oct. 14th

By Charles Duncan
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Early voting for the Nov. 4 General Election begins Tuesday, Oct. 14 at the Union County Courthouse, at 65 Courthouse Street.

Registered voters can cast early ballots from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Courthouse. A Saturday voting opportunity exists on Oct. 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The ballot includes two proposed constitutional amendments and one proposed statewide referendum issue.

All local races have been decided, with Republicans Tony Hunter, Keith Potts, and Patrick White already the choice of voters for Board of Education.

At stake at the federal level is a U.S. Senate seat vacated by retiring U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, and U.S. Rep. Doug Collins, (R), faces opposition from Democrat David Vogel.

Republican David Perdue faces stiff opposition from Democrat Michelle Nunn and Libertarian Amanda Swafford in the U.S. Senate race.

Also, the Governor's seat, Lieutenant Governor's seat, Secretary of State, and Attorney General are on the ballot. Also up for grabs, seats for Commissioners of agriculture, insurance and labor, state school superintendent and two seats on the Public Service Commission, which regulates and sets rates for public utilities.

Gov. Nathan Deal, (R),

faces opposition from State Sen. Jason Carter, (D), and Libertarian Andrew Hunt; Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, (R), faces opposition from Connie Stokes, (D); and Secretary of State Brian Kemp, (R), faces opposition from Democrat Doreen Carter.

Attorney General Sam Olens, (R), faces opposition from Democrat Greg Hecht; Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black, (R), faces opposition from Christopher Irvin; Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens, (R), is up against Democrat Liz Johnson, and Libertarian Ted Metz.

In the race for State School Superintendent, Republican Richard Woods faces Democrat Valerie Wilson; Labor Commissioner Mark Butler, (R), faces Democrat Rob-

See *Early*, 2A

Indian Summer Fest draws a crowd

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Suches - People traveled near and far over the weekend to take part in Suches' annual first-weekend-in-October tradition known as Indian Summer Festival.

Despite chilly temperatures creeping into the North Georgia Mountains early Saturday morning, the *Run Above the Clouds* went off without a hitch at 9 a.m. and sub-40 degree wind chills didn't deter the runners in the 10K Race and the 1K Fun Run.

The race leaves the Suches Community Center and follows Georgia 60 South past the General Store and the scenic Woody Lake before taking a right on Cooper Gap

See *Fest*, 3A



Woody Gap School students put on the play that tells the story of the Indian Summer Festival. Photo/Todd Forrest

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Tuesday 10/7 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM
Wednesday 10/8 If Necessary
JV Football
Thurs 10/9 @ Fannin Co. 5:30 PM