

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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December 10, 2014

## Kris Kringle a hit at Kris Kringle Market

By Charles Duncan  
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The first spell of cold weather in two weeks tried to put a damper on the Kris Kringle Market on Friday and Saturday.

Santa Claus would have none of that.

The Jolly Old Elf had no trouble making it to the Union County Farmers Market. He spent his time with the children fielding their Christmas Wish List requests.

And those lists were lengthy – Barbie Dolls were popular requests from the young ladies, while PlayStation 4s and Xbox 360s were popular with the young gents.

Freddie Collins, who spent much of the two-day event filling produce requests for Market patrons, had a special request for Santa Claus – a new Massey Ferguson Tractor.

"I really don't know about that," Santa said. "It's



Little Nora Collins gets a kick out of listening to Santa Claus at Kris Kringle Market on Friday evening. Photo/Charles Duncan

still 50-50 whether Freddie's was the weekend turnout, given the cooler temperatures on Friday and the rain that arrived on Saturday.

Market Manager Mickey Cummings was thrilled

with the weekend turnout, given the cooler temperatures on Friday and the rain that arrived on Saturday.

"Santa Claus was here,

and the kids went crazy," Cummings said. "There were a lot of activities for the children to partake in, and, the train rides were a tremendous hit.

"We've had great crowds all day looking for Christmas gifts and produce, and, we've had the vendors – more than 80 – here to keep them satisfied," Cummings said. "You couldn't ask for a better Kris Kringle Market."

Entertainers sang Christmas Carols, and kept the masses occupied.

There was a bit of confusion among the children however. Some thought they recognized that Cummings was donning a Santa suit. The children had a burning question: "Where is Mickey Cummings when Santa Claus is around?"

One young man went as far as to tug on Santa's beard. The 'ouch' he heard did sound an awful lot like

See *Kringle*, 3A

## Italian Life Caffé coming to Downtown Blairsville

By Charles Duncan  
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A new restaurant is coming to Downtown Blairsville.

Italian Life Caffé is locating in the King's 5 & 10 building on the Downtown Square, Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley said.

Michael and Lisa Collins are the owners. If the names sound familiar, you're on the right track. It's Chef Michael, of Michael's Chocolate, of Michael's Chocolate Caffé in Hiawassee.

Italian Life Caffé is expected to be a full service boutique restaurant with a creative menu and generous portions.

Like Michael's, Italian Life will specialize in house blended loose leaf tea, ily espresso coffee drinks, and those wonderful desserts.

"The Collins' have had a successful operation in Towns County," Mayor Conley said. "The Blairsville restaurant will hold 50-plus; it's about 1,700 square feet. They also took space on the lower floor, where they'll house their coffee, and their chocolate delicacies."



Jim Conley

The announcement comes just two weeks after Cabin Coffee announced its intentions of renovating the historic Chevron building at 44A Town Square in Downtown Blairsville. Cabin Coffee intends to maintain the historic character of the building and will add an outside seating area.

Cabin Coffee serves high-quality coffee and other beverages, along with breakfast and lunch offerings. Cabin Coffee will initially employ eight to 10 people and

See *Eatery*, 2A

## Rain can't stop Santa and his parade



By Charles Duncan  
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Drizzling rain couldn't stop the 2014 Christmas Parade in Downtown Blairsville.

The rain, however, accompanied by 30 mph wind gusts, almost took its toll on local umbrellas. But, umbrella salesmen weren't the only ones smiling on Saturday.

The rain was persistent, but so were the parade participants. As locals and parade watchers lined Cleveland Street, the sound of the Union County High School Marching Band could be heard as they marched down Hunt-Martin Street.

As the band topped the hill beside Harbin Dry Clean-



Santa and Mrs. Claus wave to the parade watchers on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

ers, children shouted with glee. They knew that pretty soon, handfuls of candy would be tossed their way.

"It's an exciting time to be in Blairsville," Mayor Jim Conley said. "The children were all hyped up and ready for this event. It was a chance for them to get a good look at Santa Claus and a chance to have a sit down with him and

let him know what they want for Christmas."

The theme of the 2014 parade was *Frozen*, based on the animated Walt Disney hit movie of the same name.

There were several *Frozen* entries, all with the wintry blue mix and colorful snowflakes.

Also taking part in the 2014 parade, Mountain Shelter, and many, many delight-

ful dogs, marching down the street.

The boys from Boy Scout Troop 101 also marched along, carrying Old Glory as they braved the chilly temperatures and ran between the raindrops.

Eighteen minutes into the parade, the rain stopped,

See *Parade*, 3A

## Capt. Williams says to watch for scams

By Charles Duncan  
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Union County Sheriff's Capt. Pat Williams says 'tis the season to watch for scams.

Capt. Williams says that the Union County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division has recently experienced a high volume of complaints regarding possible scams and fraudulent activity.

"The scams target numerous age groups and are received in numerous ways," Capt. Williams said. "Notifications may be received by mail, email, or phone calls. Most scams share the common factor of requesting money to be sent by the recipient, however, some scams request that your personal information be sent in order to confirm who



Capt. Pat Williams

you are so that money owed to you can be forwarded to you."

To date, the reports received by the Sheriff's Office have been from different companies and sources and

See *Scams*, 2A

## Union County achieves Disaster Match

### GEMA Chief English gives credit to Charles Worden

By Charles Duncan  
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Union County government got a pleasant surprise in the mail.

Charley English head of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency-Homeland Security announced that the county qualifies for reduced local match requirements for Public Assistance programs in the event of a major Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Union County Sole Commissioner said the achievement was the result of Union County Emergency Management Director Charles Worden and staff.

"I know that Charles Worden doesn't like anyone wording his horn, but, Charley English tells me this is the result of Charles' hard work," Commissioner Paris said. "If there is a major disaster, this will save taxpayers a whole lot of money."

English said that earning this level of achievement included Worden's development of four operational recovery plans, participation in



Fire Chief/EMA Director Charles Worden played a critical role in helping Union County achieve Disaster Match from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency-Homeland Security.

the National Flood Insurance Program, the establishment and training of a local Preliminary Damage Assessment Team, completion of yearly standards as outlined in GEMA-HS' Emergency Management Grant Program, and the county's designation as a StormReady Community by the National Weather Service.

"Each of these plans, programs and initiatives is

very important and plays a critical role in a community's overall preparedness and ability to respond to and recover from a disaster or emergency," English said.

Commissioner Paris again commended Chief Worden for making sure that Union County is ready for when disaster strikes.

"We have truly been blessed to have Charles

Worden in Union County," Paris said. "He's why we have such a top-notch group of individuals working here. Charles has worked so hard to make sure Union County always is in the best hands. Charles has a full grasp on what it takes to be the best at what we do. Like I said, we are truly blessed to have Charles Worden working for the betterment of Union County."

Worden recently received the Legends Award, handed out by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

Worden, who serves as Union County Fire Chief, EMA Director and 911 Director, was honored recently with the Emergency Management Association of Georgia's Legends Award.

The award honors Chief Worden's career achievements during his more than 20-year career in public safety.

"Receiving that award was a surprise to me. I feel

See *Worden*, 2A

## Farner allegedly molests a third victim in Union

By Charles Duncan  
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Carl J. Farner was a free man.

A Union County Grand Jury had handed up a 12-count indictment against the 55-year-old Blairsville man on charges that included three counts of child molestation.

Farner was accused of molesting two girls under the age of 16, Union County Superior Court records show.

He faced three counts of child molestation, three counts of sexual battery against a child under 16, two counts enticing a child for indecent purposes, and four counts contributing to the delinquency of a minor, Superior Court records show.

The incidents are alleged to have occurred between Nov. 15, 2013 and May 8, this year, Superior Court records show.

Farner also is alleged to have provided the two minor girls with marijuana and alcohol, Superior Court records show.

To an extent all that changed on Oct. 22 when Farner's legal counsel Charles Brown and Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley reached an agree-



Carl Farner

ment to Dead Docket the charges against Farner.

Per the agreement, if Farner did not violate any additional charges at the federal, state or local level, or, have contact with the minor children who were victims in the case against Farner, the charges would go away.

The Dead Docket deal had the approval of the custodial parents/guardians, Union County Superior Court records show.

Union County Senior Superior Court Judge Murphy Miller agreed to withdraw bond conditions that Farner

See *Molest*, 2A

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