North Georgia News

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Sorghum Festival back this weekend for more sweet entertainment

By Lily Avery North Georgia News

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,

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

See Sorghum Fest, Page 2A



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 Ĝeorgia News

Young Harris' most distinguished resident has added vet 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 Longgrear (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. Longgrear.

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 See Miller, Page 2A

Grizzle, Fix break state record | EMC will start holding open with 1,306-pound pumpkin | board meetings in November 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

Bv 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, hmm, 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,

Union County Haunted

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

The weigh 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.

Grizzle and Fix knew they had a doozy, as their See Pumpkin, Page 8A

By Charles Duncan North Georgia News editor@nganews.com

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

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

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

See BRMEMC, Page 2A



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

Hiawassee woman killed in two-car crash on Georgia 515

By Charles Duncan North Georgia News editor@nganews.com

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 Bradburn

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. Bradburn said.

The accident happened approximately at 2:54 p.m., Cpl. Bradburn 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/

by Zachary Luke Moss, 23 years old of Blairsville," Cpl. Bradburn said. "The Jeep

Grand Cherokee struck the Ford Escape on the driver's See Crash, Page 2A

Sheriff's Office investigators save life of burglary suspect

By Charles Duncan North Georgia News editor@nganews.com

Two Virginia men have been charged with burglary, weapons charges, and drugrelated 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 See Burglary, Page 3A



Tyler Christian Sterlachini



Jacob Alexander Lafferty

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

Bv Shawn Jarrard North Georgia News

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

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Thurs:Sunny Fri: Sunnny

Sat: Cloudy

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

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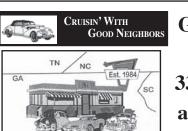
Church

to host a history tour in Union And the results of

the historical research and investigations will be revealed

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9th District **Announces Heating Help** for the Elderly See page 2B



Good Neighbors Auto Club 33rd Annual Car and Truck Show

