

VETERANS DAY

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North Georgia News

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Senate runoffs coming Jan. 5; PSC runoff possible Dec. 1 Republicans perform well in North Georgia Mountains

By Shawn Jarrard
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The eyes of the nation were on Georgia last week as it worked to complete counting in some of the more densely populated areas of the state. And by Monday, two things had become clear.

First, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger had announced a yet-to-be-scheduled recount in the presidential race due to the razor thin margin, with Joe Biden leading Donald Trump by about 10,000 votes at press time.

Second, the margins in other races featuring three or more

candidates were comparably tight, forcing two federal-level runoffs and a potential state runoff, as no one in those races garnered more than 50% of the vote by press time.

For U.S. Senate, Republican Incumbent David Perdue was leading Democratic challenger John Ossoff with 49.75% of the statewide vote, though Perdue won Union County handily, earning 12,423 votes to Ossoff's 2,616.

In the special election race to fill the unexpired term of Sen. Johnny Isakson, who resigned last year for health reasons, Republican Incumbent Kelly Loeffler and Democrat Raphael

Warnock were the Top Two vote getters in a crowded field of candidates.

Loeffler at 25.92% trailed Warnock's lead of 32.9% after Tuesday's election, though both candidates are expected to pick up considerable support in their upcoming 1-on-1 contest.

Union Countians chose Republican Doug Collins with 8,100 votes to fill this seat, followed by Loeffler with 3,945 votes and Warnock with 1,904 votes.

Runoff elections for the two U.S. Senate races will take place on Jan. 5, 2021, with three weeks of early voting to start Dec. 14.

The statewide District 4 Public Service Commissioner race had Republican Incumbent Lauren Bubba McDonald Jr. leading but lacking a needed majority vote with 49.93%, so it's likely this race will go to a runoff election Dec. 1, with early voting slated to begin "as soon as possible," according to the Secretary of State's website.

McDonald Jr.'s opponent in a runoff would be Democrat Daniel Blackman, who had earned 46.95% of the vote by press time.

The Georgia Public Service Commission has exclusive power to decide what are fair See *Runoff Elections*, Page 2A



Voters will soon be returning to the Union County Courthouse for early voting in upcoming runoff elections. Oct. 30, 2020
Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Allegheny Lodge honors veterans, Past Grand Master Johnnie Garmon



Allegheny Lodge presented Past Grand Master Johnnie M. Garmon, right, and New Grand Master Jan Giddens with American flags during a special Nov. 2 ceremony. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

By Jarrett Whitener
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Allegheny Masonic Lodge No. 114 Free & Accepted Masons hosted a Veterans Ceremony on Monday, Nov. 2, in which they honored veterans and welcomed more than 80 guests.

The ceremony started with North Georgia Honor Guard Member and Lodge Senior Warden Murl Tackett explaining the importance of keeping veterans close to

heart. "We are assembled here in this hall to offer our last tribute and affection in the memory of those who served when their country called," Tackett said. "As the years roll by, we know the sorrow and regret as the ranks of our veterans diminish.

"One by one our allies leave us; one by one they pass into the great beyond to join the company of heroic men and women who have defended our country under arms. Their

departure has left our hearts heavy with sorrow.

"There exists among those that served in the military of this great nation a special comradeship, and those that never served in the military will never fully understand. Some have served in foreign lands far from home and family."

Tackett gave a special tribute to combat veterans, noting the horrors that they faced during their time in service.

See *Allegheny Lodge*, Page 6A

Union County 4-H members win State Pumpkin Contest

News Special
North Georgia News

The results are in – Union County 4-H'ers win the Top Three pumpkins in the State 4-H Giant Pumpkin Contest.

Peyton Collins took top honors with 548 pounds. Natalie Payne won second with 432 pounds. And Ava Sharp earned Third Place with a 316-pound giant pumpkin.

Back in September, 11 students competed locally at the Farmers Market for the largest Giant Pumpkin in Union County.

The results from the county contest were then submitted to the State Contest, where all three students swept the contest with top honors.

All told, of the 11 students from Union County, nine finished in the Top 10 weights at the state contest.

Congratulations to all the students that competed in this year's state contest. They included: Peyton Collins, Natalie Payne, Ava Sharp, Addison Scott, Maggie Payne, Abeni Hogsed, Benjamin Potts, Sophia King-Rallo, Kaitlyn Beckman, Dominic Sharp and Alexa Beckman.

The success of this year's pumpkins would not have been possible without the help of several people. The Union County Extension Staff would like to thank, Patrick Fix, Tim Grizzle, Milton

See *Pumpkin Winners*, Page 2A



Peyton Collins came in First Place in the State 4-H Giant Pumpkin Contest with his 548-pound pumpkin. Photo/Submitted

Veterans Car Show attracts 267 cars for patriotic event



The Blairsville Cruisers' Salute to Veterans Car Show Saturday was as popular as ever, with people excited about honoring area vets. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

By Jarrett Whitener
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Ever the patriotic organization, the Blairsville Cruisers hosted its Third Annual Salute to Veterans Car

Show on Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Union County Farmers Market.

The event acts as a fundraiser for local veteran organizations and veterans in need, Cruisers Vice President

Charlie Brown said, with the Cruisers enjoying membership in North Georgia and Western North Carolina.

"We just want to help veterans out all we can," Brown See *Veterans Car Show*, Page 3A

Missing juvenile recovered at home of Young Harris man

By Shawn Jarrard
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A 25-year-old Young Harris man has been arrested in connection with a 14-year-old girl who went missing from Hayesville, North Carolina, on Friday, Oct. 30. She was reunited with her family Nov. 2.

Leonardo Daniel Torres-Barrios was arrested without incident at his job in Towns County Nov. 2 and charged with interference with custody.

The juvenile had been missing for about four days when she was safely recovered from Torres-Barrios' Young

Harris residence the evening of Nov. 2, with the Towns County Sheriff's Office assisting in the case.

At press time, Torres-Barrios remained in custody at Towns County Jail, where he was awaiting transport to Clay County, North Carolina, to face felony charges there. He has been charged only and is presumed innocent until found guilty in a court of law.

The girl's family reported her missing around 7 p.m. Oct. 30, at which point the hunt began. The Clay County, North Carolina, Sheriff's Office put out a BOLO for the teen around 10:15 that night, quickly



Leonardo Daniel Torres-Barrios following up by entering her information into the National See *Missing Juvenile*, Page 3A

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