

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Indian Summer Fest, Run Above Clouds, Saturday and Sunday

By Charles Duncan
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Suches – Thirty-six years ago, a group of concerned parents and community members came together to figure out a way to supplement the programs at The Woody Gap School, the smallest public school in the state.

They came up with a plan to hold a festival, a mini-Sorghum Festival of sorts.

However, the festival would be unique to Suches, with proceeds going to benefit the school's academic and athletic programs. It would provide scholarships for the school's graduating seniors who plan on gaining a secondary education, be it traditional college or technical college.

"There's a scholarship for every graduating senior pursuing secondary education," said Woody Gap Sports Club President Kelly Taylor.



Tourists and locals alike are geared up for the Indian Summer Festival and the Run Above the Clouds in Suches. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

"We also purchase equipment for the school like computers and there's money for each teacher to spend on supplies for their classrooms." The festival has been a hit, growing in attendance each year. Fourteen years ago, the Woody Gap Sports Club,

are available upon request. There's a cost involved, but it's for a worthy cause.

There will be something for everyone including arts and crafts like folding, homemade goodies from the Local Studies Class, jewelry, and local produce.

There will be good things to eat from barbecue plates to funnel cakes and cotton candy.

Kick your heels up at the Mountain Square Dance on Saturday night from 8 p.m. until midnight, featuring the Highway 76 Band.

Tickets for the dance will be sold on the field for \$5 and \$7 at the door.

There will be clogging by Suches Valley Cloggers, Precision Cloggers, and Southern Class Cloggers.

"The Sports Club will do a barbecue booth, pulled pork sandwiches or plates," See *Suches*, 2A

Pettit preaches agriculture

By Heather Poole
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

John Clarke Pettit is starting out his second year teaching agriculture at Union County High School, but already he is making a big difference.

Along with teaching Agriculture for the High School and Middle School, Pettit is making sure his students are ready for the rest of their lives.

A big believer in learning through doing, Pettit said, "You have got to get them out of the classroom."

"They are going to learn so much more than they would have out of a book, or by looking at a PowerPoint presentation," he said.

He has a PowerPoint that proved what he was saying was true. It was filled with photos of the Future Farmers of American (FFA), and also



John Clarke Pettit

students in the agriculture class who were testing soil, showing riding tractors, and even rigging planters. While it was obvious the students were having fun, Pettit said it is all about our welfare.

"Most of us have to go back two or three generations to find any farmers in our fam-

UCMS Softball team champs again

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Middle School Softball Playoffs at Meeks Park last week at Meeks Park.

With the No. 1 seed from the regular season earning the right to host, the other teams in the league must be frustrated at having to play their postseason in Blairsville year-after-year.

In the opening round of the tournament, the Union County Lady Panthers knocked off White County 5-2.

Logan Seabolt recorded the win from the circle with six strikeouts.

Ally Horinek and Aladriel Arnold were a nightmare for opposing catchers on the base paths with multiple stolen



The 2013 Middle School Softball Champions, the Union County Lady Panthers. Union took the title at Meeks Park in Blairsville.

Seabolt smacked a double and Braden Poteete added a triple.

The Lady Panthers had RBIs from Courtney Moose, Jillian Lawn, Maci Everett, and 2 from Karlee Payne.

See *Lady Panthers*, 3A

Ruud gets Quilt of Valor

By Charles Duncan
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The one difference that separates a battle-tested veteran from the pack is how much they talk about their tour of duty.

A quiet veteran is a veteran who has seen more than their share of duty.

That's the best way to describe U.S. Army (retired) First Sgt. Gerald Ruud's tour of duty.

That tour included stops in Korea, Vietnam, Germany and Eniwetok.

The latter tour was as a member of a nuclear bomb test site crew - a member of the nuclear clean up crew.

With family members close by, Ruud was honored last week at Coosa United Methodist Church with a Quilt of Valor from the Misty Mountain Quilters Guild.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover all combat service members and veterans touched by war with a patriotic quilt.

"It is a tangible way to say 'thank you' for your service, sacrifice and valor, to honor our troops and veterans touched by war, and to offer comfort to those heroes."

A "Quilt of Valor" is not a charity or service quilt. It is a beautifully made, pieced and quilted wartime quilt.

Since 2003, when Blue Star mom, Catherine Roberts, began the Quilts of Valor Foundation with a small group of her quilting friends in her sewing room



Above, Gerald Ruud proudly wears his Quilt of Valor. Below, Ruud with his family at Coosa United Methodist Church.

in Seaford, Del., thousands of volunteers across the nation have taken up the cause and to date more than 90,000 quilts have been presented to U.S. combat troops and veterans, both here in the United States and overseas.

Quilts of Valor are stitched with love, prayers and healing thoughts. This Foundation is not about politics, it's about people.

Ruud entered the U.S.

See *Quilt*, 6A

Animal lovers turn out for 'Puttin' on the Dog'

By Heather Poole
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Animal lovers united in Blairsville at the Union County Farmers Market to take part in "Puttin' on the Dog."

For \$30, the three-hour event offered a variety of activities including, wine tasting provided by The Wine Shop, live music, live auctions, silent auctions, raffles and catering by Tine DeVilliers.

All money raised went towards the Mountain Shelter, helping ensure no one flinched at the expense.

The expression "putting on the dog" is one that means to make a display of wealth or importance.

It includes dressing stylishly. It dates back to slang around 1860.

"Dog" was slang for style, or splurge, so to put on



Puttin' On The Dog at Union County Farmers Market was a huge success on Saturday, raising funds for The Mountain Shelter. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the dog meant to make a flashy display.

It proved a fitting term for Saturday's event, as everyone in attendance looked nice, not to mention high class, as

they sauntered around holding their wine glasses and enjoying tasty hors d'oeuvres and sweets. There was a live auction for gift

See *The Dog*, 2A

Morrissey makes a name with accidental craft

By Heather Poole
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Sitting in a humbler shop with slivers of leather and handmade tools, Sandy Morrissey looks right at home. He is seated near a card holder filled with current orders from people all over the Union County community.

Morrissey is many things, but lazy is not one of them, so the numerous orders do not intimidate him at all.

After a stint in the Naval Hospital, Morrissey realized he had a hidden talent for creating.

He had been a pilot in the Navy, but an accident left him with some free time. It was then he discovered he had a knack for leatherwork that would eventually earn him acclaim all over the country.



Sandy Morrissey talks leather-working during a recent interview. Photo/Heather Poole

An accidental skill, Morrissey quickly made a name for himself. Before long, the folks with the Rose Bowl hired him to do the carvings on the saddles for the horses.

Always intricate, Morrissey never does layers of leather, but rather one piece with multiple carved dimensions. Dyes help add

See *Sandy*, 2A

Keep Our Mountains Beautiful event on Oct. 26th benefits Mountain Shelter

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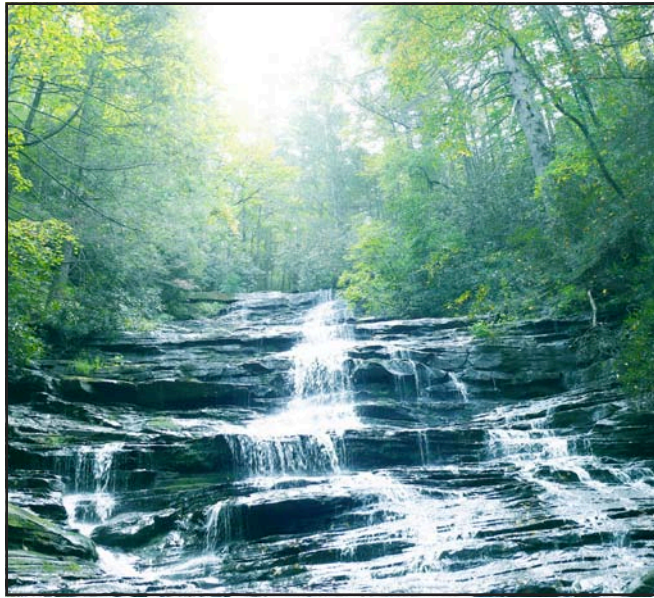
Keep Our Mountains Beautiful will hold its annual Union and Towns Document Destruction and Recycling event on Oct. 26th from 10 a.m. to noon.

The event will be held in the parking lot of the old Blue Ridge EMC building on Highway 76.

"This lot is across the street from Young Harris College as you head toward Blairsville," Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said.

The event also is a chance to make a \$5 donation to the Mountain Shelter, Paris said.

"A volunteer donation of \$5 per car will be requested with all funds going to the Mountain Animal Shelter,"



North Georgia News Publisher Kenneth West says North Georgia is the "Land of Lakes, Mountains, Scenic Beauty, and Friendly People. Keep our mountains beautiful." Photo/Frank Uhle

Paris said. "They will have their volunteers there to collect the donation. Over the

See *Mountains*, 6A

Vol. 104 No. 40
2 Sections, 24 Pages
Weather
Thu: Clouds Hi 78 Lo 52
Fri: Storms Hi 79 Lo 53
Sat: Storms Hi 72 Lo 51

Inside
Arrests 8A
Church 9A
Classified 2B
Opinion 4A
Legals 4B
Obits 11A
Sports 12A, 13A

John Campbell Folk School Fall Festival
October 5 & 6

Blairsville Sorghum Festival
2 Great Weekends
In October!
October 12th & 13th
October 19th & 20th
Festival Hours: 9AM - 5PM

CAR SHOW!
CAR GIVEAWAY!
CASH GIVEAWAY!
See page 7A

VARSITY FOOTBALL:
FRIDAY, Oct 4th 7:30 PM
vs. Oglethorpe County
MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS:
THURS. OCT 3RD @ RABUN CO. 5:30 PM
SOFTBALL:
1ST ROUND REGION TOURNAMENT
@ UNION COUNTY TUES. OCT 1ST 4-6 PM
WED. OCT 2ND 5 PM (if necessary)