

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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October 11, 2017

Free concert to salute American Veterans on Oct. 14

By Charles Duncan
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Save the date – Saturday, Oct. 14. A Salute to America's Veterans Concert is scheduled for 6:20 p.m. at the Union County Fine Arts Center on that date.

The concert, sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Blairsville Chapter, features Sid Orr and The Tunnel Rats, who perform Vietnam era classic Bluegrass, Country Music and ballads.

Also performing, the Union County High School Chorus.

"(VVA President) Ray Tiburski and I were listening to a CD of the Tunnel Rats and we sat there and listened to it, and when it was finished, we said, 'we have to bring this to town,'" said Past VVA President Mike Priven. "That's how this concert started.

"We (VVA) were looking for another project to do to honor veterans, we knew we could use the venue (Fine Arts Center) for Vietnam," Priven said. "It just all clicked at once."

Priven said The Tunnel Rats are a unique collaboration of individuals from different decades whose paths crossed at a Bluegrass Jam, changing their journey forever. Their common love for music and desire to help others provided the energy and diverse input resulting in Vietnam: The Journey Continues.

"It is pretty much Bluegrass, Country Music, and ballads that (The Tunnel Rats) will perform," Priven said. "And, of course, the Union County High School Chorus will perform patriotic songs."

As for The Tunnel Rats, Libby Wilson is fulfilling a lifelong dream of writing songs, and performing in a

Bluegrass band. As a talented songwriter, she paints a vivid and compelling picture with her words and music. Wilson is a native of Greenville, Alabama, and she extends many thanks to her family and friends for their love and encouragement.

Robin Daniel, a mechanical engineer from Georgia Tech and entrepreneur, has been playing Bluegrass since 2007. She's honored to be a part of this talented songwriting team. Although her family was not directly involved in the Vietnam War, Daniel corresponded with several warriors "in country" as a part of a Camp Fire Girls' service project from 1968 to 1970.

At 15 years old, she developed a more personal connection to the war when one of the Marines, a helicopter door gunner, returned and came to visit the Camp Fire Girls

See Tunnel Rats, Page 2A



The Tunnel Rats earlier this month in Murphy, North Carolina. Photo/Facebook

48th Annual Blairsville Sorghum Festival begins this weekend

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The 48th Annual Blairsville Sorghum Festival is a celebration of the Northeast Georgia Mountains way of life. It's celebrated the second and third weekends in October at Meeks Park.

The celebration includes the annual parade, which happens Saturday, Oct. 14, at 11 a.m., and will feature the original parade route before Georgia 515 became a reality. The festival is like turning back the pages of local history and enjoying simpler times, when folks came to town to celebrate their harvest and forget about their summer of hard work and labor.

It's a time when folks come to town to enjoy themselves and enjoy the company of their neighbors.

See Sorghum, Page 6A



Hoyt Hamby during the 2017 Memorial Day Parade. Hamby will be joined by other Union County farmers as grand marshals of the 48th Annual Blairsville Sorghum Festival Parade. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

'Dope Man' Tim Ryan speaks to drug court, students

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Drug court graduation ceremonies are always emotionally uplifting occasions.

There's renewed hope in the potential for normal lives post-addiction, and real tears are shed by the graduates, their families and friends, and by current participants in attendance who know that their time will come to graduate if they stay on target.

But graduating from the But Enotah Drug Court accountability program doesn't mean that the war on addiction has been won. On the program, graduates of the program understand better than anyone that graduation is only the first major step toward a lifelong

See Drug Court, Page 3A



Tim "Dope Man" Ryan speaking to drug court graduates and participants on Thursday, Oct. 5, in the Union County Courthouse. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Early voting starts Monday in Blairsville Special Election

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Early voting for candidates in the Blairsville Special Election begins Monday, Oct. 16, at Blairsville City Hall.

Early voting will run weekdays for three weeks, starting Oct. 16 and ending Nov. 3, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day.

There will be no early voting on Saturdays or Sundays.

Candidates in the Nov. 7 Special Election are Mary Ruth Cook and Jonathan Love.

Cook and Love are running to fill the remaining two years of former Blairsville City Councilmember Martha Cone's term on the council.

Cone passed away in May following a brief illness.

Election Day voting will take place on Nov. 7 at Blairsville City Hall, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Eligible voters must

present one of the following pieces of identification at time of voting: a Georgia Driver's License; a valid Georgia Voter ID Card; a valid U.S. Passport; a valid Government Issued Employee ID Card with photo; or a valid U.S. Military ID Card with photo.

For more information on the Blairsville Special Election, or to inquire about voting on an absentee ballot, contact Blairsville City Hall.

Lodge in running for president of Georgia Baptist Convention

By Charles Duncan
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The Rev. Dr. Fred Lodge, pastor at First Baptist Church Blairsville, is on the ballot for the November election of the presidency of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Dr. Lodge is up against the Rev. Mike Stone of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Blackshear, Georgia, who also is a nominee for president of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

This is the 196th Annual Meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention. It will be held Sunday, Nov. 12, through Tuesday, Nov. 14, at the North Metro First Baptist Church

in Lawrenceville. Election of officers is scheduled for Nov. 14.

Rev. Stone has been at Emmanuel since 1996 and has served as senior pastor of the congregation since 2002.

Dr. Lodge came to First Baptist Church Blairsville on July 17, 2005, coming from a nine-year ministry in Nashville, Tennessee. He also has led Flat Creek Baptist Church in Gainesville, Georgia.

In 1976, Dr. Lodge received his Master of Divinity Degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, majoring in New Testament Greek

See Lodge, Page 2A



Dr. Fred Lodge of First Baptist Church of Blairsville

Fall Festival arrives Friday at Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds

By Charles Duncan
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It's no secret – the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Fall Festival is all about music, local arts and crafts, and history.

On Friday, Oct. 13, the Festival returns complete with crafts, demonstrations of old-timey ways, and a Pioneer Village full of vendors and exhibits, with folks anxious to show off why they're here.

"We have the Neger's Tigers," said Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason. "They are going to have 12 Bengal Tigers, including two White Tigers. All of that's new. There will be three shows a day.

See Fall Festival, Page 6A



Blacksmithin' is one of the many live demonstrations of pioneer crafts available at the annual Fall Festival.

UCSO confiscates 3 pounds of marijuana in drug bust

By Charles Duncan
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Union County sheriff's deputies scored two significant drug busts related to routine

traffic stops, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

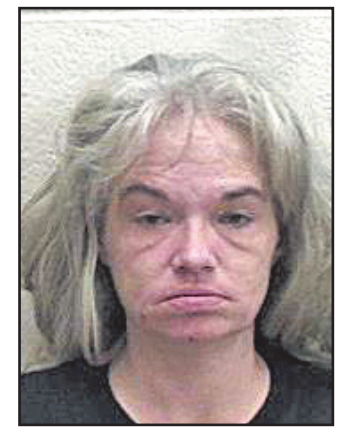
First, Milton Ellsworth Wrenn, 57, of Moultrie, was pulled over Oct. 5 by Union County Sheriff's Deputy Alan

Patton for failure to maintain lane, authorities said.

"As Deputy Patton approached the vehicle, there was a strong pungent odor of marijuana," Wrenn said. "See Drug Bust, Page 2A



Jennifer Bryant



Lorri Kilby



Milton Wrenn

Vol. 108 No. 41

4 Sections 32 Pages

Weather

Thurs: Cloudy Hi 81 Lo 56

Fri: Cloudy Hi 80 Lo 60

Sat: Cloudy Hi 79 Lo 60

Arrests 3D

Churches 5C

Classifieds 4D

Opinion 4A

Legals 6D

Obits 7C

Sports 2C

PANTHERS

Cross Country

Thurs. Oct. 10 @ Riverside 5 PM

FOOTBALL

Fri. Oct. 13 @ North Hall 7:30 PM

John Nix and the Country Cousins

Historic Courthouse

See page 7B

Sponsor a Foster Child for Christmas

See page 6B

Blairsville Sorghum Festival

See our 2017 Sorghum Festival Insert in this week's Paper