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election – it could send a signal all over the country,” said Sam Nunn. “It could begin to send a signal to the Republican Party – we want some Republicans who are willing to compromise, we want some Republicans whose top job is not to go to Washington to prosecute the president. It’s a signal that can be sent from this election all over the coun-



try. It can make both political parties stronger.”

His daughter, Michelle Nunn, Perdue’s opponent, was overwhelmed by the Mountains show of support.

“This is extraordinary,” said Michelle Nunn, commenting on the size of the crowd at the Fairgrounds on Thursday. “I am so grateful to be here, and I can think of nowhere that I would rather be right now than right here.

“I know that y’all never get used to this or take it for granted, but we are so lucky to live here in Georgia,” said Michelle Nunn. “And to be here in these extraordinary mountains is a great antidote to anything that might happen on the campaign trail.”

She thanked retired U.S. Sen. and Gov. Zell Miller for his tradition of public service throughout the years, and spoke on her campaign.

“I have traveled this state over the last 15 months, and I have seen the extraordinary beauty and goodness of our people,” said Michelle Nunn. “And I have once again seen what really I have always believed, which is that we have so much to be optimistic about in Georgia.”

She gave a brief overview of her experience organizing volunteers with the Points of Light non-profit, which grew to more than 4 million volunteers last year.

“I’ve seen what happens when people apply their creativity and entrepreneurship, and most of all, a spirit of collaboration to get things done,” said Michelle Nunn. “I have been to many meetings – party meetings and church meetings and business meetings and school meetings, and people do not always agree.

“And yet, they keep going. They don’t shut down the school, they don’t shut down the church – they work together to resolve problems, meet challenges and to seize opportunities, and we need a lot more of that in Washington.”

She highlighted the importance of addressing the national deficit and protecting Social Security and Medicare by working in a bipartisan manner.

“We know that we can do better, we know that we can tackle the important issues to Georgians,” said Michelle Nunn. “I’ve been talking about jobs, fiscal stewardship, I’ve been talking about edu-

cation. There’s common sense things that we can do.

“We can invest in our infrastructure, we can simplify our tax code, we can alleviate the regulatory burden, we can pass bipartisan immigration reform and we can get our economy going,” said Michelle Nunn. “And by the way, we can also pass and lift up minimum wage so that families can be self-sufficient.”

Michelle Nunn contrasted herself with Republican candidate David Perdue, whom she is running against for Georgia’s U.S. Senate seat.

“David Perdue, my opponent, I think he may be, today or yesterday or tomorrow, he’s traveling around Georgia with Ted Cruz,” said Michelle Nunn. “And y’all might remember that he’s the architect of our shutting down the government – just a perfect example of the dysfunction in Washington, and we don’t need any more of that.

“What we need is people to come together, to sit around tables like this, and to get things done that matter in the lives of people. And so that’s why I’m in this race. I’ve carried that same spirit that I’ve learned over the last 26 years into this race, and I hope to bring that to Washington. I carry the family values that I learned from my own father and my mother.”

Michelle Nunn called her father “a great inspiration” and “great advisor.”

“And I tell people that one of the joys of the campaign trail that I just hadn’t expected is that every single day, I meet someone who tells me that my dad made a difference for them,” said Michelle Nunn.

Deal, Cagle, Collins stump in Union County

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Gov. Nathan Deal and Georgia’s First Lady Sandra Deal stopped in at Haralson Memorial Civic Center in Blairsville on Monday, on a leg of their bus tour for Gov. Deal’s reelection campaign.

“This bus tour is an opportunity for us to all get out and to say hello to the folks who have supported us for these last four years,” said Gov. Deal. “We took every constitutional office in the last election, and we all rode a bus very similar to this one as we went all across the state. All of us are seeking reelection this year, and I believe over the last four years, we’ve established a great record for our state.”

A major theme of Gov. Deal’s campaign is his success in bringing new business to the state.

“We were in the midst of the Great Recession when I became governor,” said Gov. Deal. “We had seen revenues drop, we had seen property values just go through the bottom. We had seen people lose their houses, lose their jobs, lose their businesses.

“I made the decision that we’re not going to tax the people of this state in order to get out of this Great Recession – we’re going to grow our way out of it, and we’re going to create jobs in order to be able to do that. And that’s what we have done.”

Gov. Deal’s administration entered into an open conversation with Georgia businesses, asking how to help Georgia return to being a leader in manufacturing.

“They said, if you will remove sales tax on energy that is used for manufacturing, you will see manufacturing grow,” said Gov. Deal. “And we have done that, and we have seen manufacturing grow all across this state.”

Caterpillar recently decided to open a manufacturing facility in Georgia, which has brought with it 1,400 jobs.

And Gov. Deal said that at an earlier stop in Habersham County on Monday, he had just announced that “Kubota is building a new plant on Georgia 365 coming north out of Hall County, and they’re going to be employing 650 new employees.”

“With that announcement, that will be 1,800 new jobs that we’ve announced in the last two weeks, and 500 of those jobs are in Jason Carter’s home county of DeKalb County,” said Gov. Deal of his opponent in the governor’s race. “Now, he shouldn’t be ignorant about those kind of things, but apparently he doesn’t pay much attention to the job opportunities that are being created.”

Another way Gov. Deal has promoted a growing in-



Gov. Nathan Deal talks with supporters on Monday in Blairsville. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

dustry in Georgia is through championing the deepening of the Port of Savannah, which was legally finalized two weeks ago, touting the port as one of only two in the United States that exports more than it imports.

Gov. Deal criticized Carter for not voting for \$35 million to go toward that project, saying that “I guess he didn’t think that was important to the state of Georgia.”

Speaking about his record on taxes, Gov. Deal enumerated the various ways in which he has helped to keep Georgia’s taxes low.

“First of all, we’ve eliminated the marriage tax penalty on working couples filing a joint return,” said Gov. Deal. “We’ve eliminated the estate tax. We’ve eliminated the sales tax on energy for manufacturing, and that applies to big manufacturers and small manufacturers. We’ve removed many of the regulations that make it more diffi-

cult for people to start and to operate businesses.”

Gov. Deal believes that these tax cuts are one of the main draws for businesses bringing in out-of-state job opportunities, such as Caterpillar and Kubota.

“We have a great infrastructure network, and as a result of those kinds of reforms, we have seen almost 300,000 new private sector jobs created in Georgia since I became governor,” said Gov. Deal.

Accompanying Gov. Deal were Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, 9th District Congressman Doug Collins, Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp and Georgia Public Service Commissioners Lauren “Bubba” McDonald and Doug Everett.

House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison was in attendance to support Gov. Deal and his fellow Republicans, and Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley opened and closed for the governor and his entourage.