

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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October 10, 2012

Klan Rally flops and fizzles; estimated cost: \$100,000-plus

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
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The Ku Klux Klan and President Barack Obama have something in common – they both flubbed their speaking debuts in 2012.

While the President was the apparent loser in the first Presidential Debate, the Klan and its Imperial Wizard Willis Frazier didn't impress a crowd of almost 400 people at the Union County Courthouse on Saturday.

Frazier shouted to the crowd through a bullhorn, he was hard to understand and when he was understood, his additional statements were drowned

out by the crowd of locals. The Imperial Wizard, a Klansman from Ohio, also made comments about the local representation, taking a slap at Commissioner Lamar Paris for not standing up for locals against the powers that be in Atlanta.

The Klan emphasized that it believed in the advancement of the White race, that it

believed in keeping the White race "pure."

The Klan also spoke of how President Obama was raised a Muslim in Indonesia, but turned to a traditional Christian way of life here in the United States to clear his path to the White House.

The crowd reacted with a chant of "KKK, please go away."

Almost 100 members of the Blairsville First Baptist Church marched to the courthouse wearing blue and carrying signs asking for an end to fascism, emphasizing that Jesus loves the little children, all the little children of the world regardless of race.

The local protests were witnessed by 18 Klansman, who showed up in colorful, flowing robes and headdresses. Some tried to cover their faces with huge sunglasses, others didn't care who saw their faces.

Only one vehicle in the Klan rally was from Georgia. The other vehicles were from Arkansas, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee



The Klan arrives at the Courthouse. Photo/Frank Uhle

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Protesters turned out in force at the Union County Courthouse on Saturday in Blairsville. Photo/Frank Uhle

Jaycees' 43rd Sorghum Festival arrives

By Charles Duncan
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Mike Jones has been involved in the happenings of the storied Sorghum Festival since he was 22 years old.

His fond memories of the event are not of the event itself, but rather the friendships and camaraderie that have evolved over the course of time at the festival.

"It's more like a family reunion than it is anything else," Jones said. "I'll go all year without seeing these folks, but come October, we get together and it's like being at a family reunion."

The 43rd Annual Sorghum Festival is that and much, much more to the Union County community.

It's a time when nonprofits can turn a dime to help fund their many annual projects.

"This is a time for the nonprofits to shine," Jones said. "The Kiwanis, the Lions Club, the Quarterback Club, the Diamond Club, this is the time of year when they make the money that makes their organizations go."



The process of making sorghum syrup will have mouths watering on Saturday morning at Meeks Park.

The event, put on annually by the Blairsville Jaycees, is held at Meeks Park.

The festival consists of assorted events, games, music and of course, sorghum, said Jaycees President Kim Bridges.

"We kick off on Saturday at 9 a.m., the sorghum process (crushing and cooking the cane) gets going," Bridges said. "Then it's time for two weekends of pure fun and excitement."

The annual Sorghum Festival Parade starts at 11

a.m. in Downtown as the visitors to the mountains gather with the locals to enjoy the annual festivities.

"The Sorghum Festival has it all," Bridges said.

"Games, fun for the kids, some of the best Mountain music you'll ever hear and some of the most unique crafts you'll ever see," she said. "We're looking for a real good crowd."

The best eating you'll do all fall, you'll find it at the Sorghum Festival. Barbecue plates, hot dogs, hamburg-

ers, Brunswick Stew, funnel cakes, cotton candy.

"Everything up to this point has been smooth in terms of organization at the event," she said. "The biggest worry we've got is don't let it rain this weekend. Keep your fingers crossed for some pretty fall weather."

The festive music begins at 1:30 p.m., it goes on throughout the rest of the day.

On Saturday at 4 p.m., Blairsville's own Tommy See Sorghum, Page 6A

Tri-County chase ends in Clay County, NC; arrest made

By Charles Duncan
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It'll be years before folks in Northeast Georgia and Western North Carolina forget the name Vannie Marie Nguyen.

Today, Nguyen, 26, of Knoxville, Tenn., is behind bars in Clay County, NC, the end result of a high-speed chase through Union, Towns and Clay counties on Sunday.

She's being held on numerous charges that include attempted murder of a police officer. She also faces numerous traffic charges in Union and Towns counties.

She's also attracted the interest of the U.S. Secret Service because of counterfeit \$100 bills found underneath the driver seat of her rental car.

The chaos that involved Nguyen began on Thursday in



Vannie Marie Nguyen

Union County.

First, local authorities say she tried to make off with \$1,403.20 in shoplifted merchandise from Walmart off Georgia 515. She also made off with a \$400 cell phone owned by an employee with Walmart's Asset Protection, authorities said.

She fought with members of Asset Protection, es-

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Taco Bell a reality in city

By Charles Duncan
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"Yo quiero Taco Bell." For those who want Taco Bell, the moment has arrived.

A combo KFC/Taco Bell will soon come to fruition, Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley said.

The Blairsville City Council granted Fulenwider Enterprises an occupational tax permit and at the same time granted a sign permit for KFC/Taco Bell in the existing KFC facility.

Mayor Conley told Fulenwider representative Kevin Coffey that the existing pole sign, if used, would not be allowed under the new permit.

According to Coffey, the large pole sign would immediately have the logo removed and within 6 months the pole would be removed to



Mayor Jim Conley

accommodate the permit.

Apparently the City Council yo quiero (I want) Taco Bell. The motion by Councilwoman Rhonda Mahan and seconded by Councilwoman Martha Cone, was unanimously approved by the entire council.

Meanwhile, the council also agreed to keep its millage

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Indian Summer Fest draws a crowd

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Suches – The 35th edition of the two-day phenomenon known as the Indian Summer Festival was another success in Suches.

The field behind Woody Gap School was filled with visitors and vendors as there was no shortage of fun regardless of your tastes.

The festival featured arts, crafts, live music, archery, turkey shoots, children's entertainment, and plenty of food to go around.

When you reflect back on this festival's humble beginnings and the noble cause



The Indian Summer Festival made a huge financial difference at the Woody Gap School. Photo/Todd Forrest

that it serves, one can only marvel at the story behind this annual event.

According to Jim Minor,

35 years ago, on the verge of the start of basketball season, it was discovered that they were missing a couple of items.

What was missing just happened to be two of the

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Sixty runners race above clouds

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Suches – The 13th annual Run Above the Clouds went off on Saturday morning without a hitch.

The annual 10K race takes place at 2,900 feet above sea level and is one of the highest altitude races in Georgia.

At 9 a.m. the runners of the 10K race left the Suches Community Center to jostle their way through state highways and county roads before returning to the Community Center toward the finish line.

At 9:10 a.m. participants in the 1K Fun Run ran over a flat course de-



Runners in the mad dash to win the Run above the Clouds. Sixty runners competed in the 13th annual event. Photo/Todd Forrest

signed for the younger runners. Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris also competed in that event.

Following the Fun Run,

the first participants in the 10K began running. First in was Dave Nordheim with a time

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Early Voting begins Oct. 15th

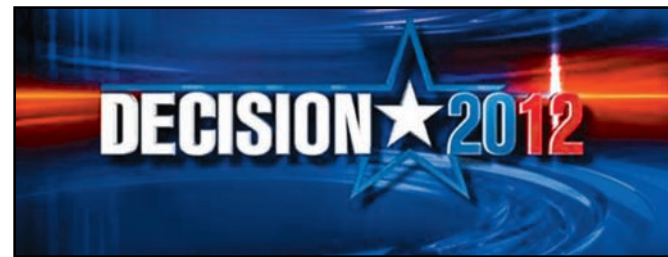
By Charles Duncan
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Monday, Oct. 15 officially kicks off the 2012 election season.

Voters will finally have the chance to cast ballots for their presidential choice, two public service commissioner posts, a new 9th District Congressman and their choice for Georgia House District 8 state representative.

In the local races, almost all local seats are up for grabs. There is absolutely no comfort zone for incumbents in the Nov. 6th election, except for two incumbents,

Clerk of Superior



See Candidate Profiles on pages 10A and 11A

Court, Judy Odom, and Chief Magistrate Johnny Garmon. More than 37 percent of Union County registered voters turned out for the primaries. Expect that number to double during the November election. That's because it's a Presidential Election year. One local race is decided. Probate Judge Dwain Brack-

ett won a decisive victory on July 31st over challenger Barry Weinstein. The non-partisan race wasn't even close, with Judge Brackett hauling in almost 72 percent of the local vote. Weinstein finished a distant second collecting 28.13 percent of the ballots.

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28th Annual
Good Neighbors Auto Club
Classic Car Show

October 20th
9 a.m.

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Sorghum
Festival
Parade

Saturday, October 13
11 a.m.

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UCHS Football Homecoming
Friday, Oct. 12 • 7:30pm
vs. Riverside

Lady Panthers Softball
State Softball Tournament
Wednesday, Oct. 10 • 4pm & 6pm
Bremen @ Union Co.

Cross Country
Wednesday, Oct. 10