

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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## Second Glenda Gooch Gala a hit

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

**Young Harris** - Union County's favorite daughter Glenda Gooch was remembered in style on Saturday with the Second Annual Glenda Gooch Gala at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris.

Attendees were treated to an elegant evening of fine dining, casino games and a silent auction, all in the name of fundraising for the Glenda Gooch Foundation.

"The Glenda Gooch Foundation is in memory of our daughter, Glenda, who was born and raised in Union County," said Kris Gooch, Glenda's mother. "She had her first open heart surgery when she was about four weeks old, had a heart transplant when she was 8, and her heart rejected when she was 22 - she passed away."

Helping children and families in need within the



community is the aim of the foundation, and most of the money raised at the gala will go toward Christmas.

"We give a Christmas party every year," said Kris

Gooch. "Last year, I think we bought for about 300 school-children and we give them a party."

Children receive a special meal at the Christmas

party, and those who may not have otherwise gotten much for Christmas, open gifts of clothing and toys, and Santa is present to warm everyone's hearts at the delight of the children.

"Through the year we do things like help people with their power bill or their water bill, or grocery or gas money to get back and forth from the doctor," said Gooch.

Children and parents of the community benefit greatly from the foundation, and those behind the scenes, namely Glenda's family and friends, get the chance to further Glenda's presence, even though she departed too soon.

"This carries on, it's keeping her alive in the community," said Kris Gooch. "She loved our community and they loved her, and it's

See *Gala*, 6A

## Sam Nunn, Michelle Nunn coming to Hiawassee

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Retired U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn, who served Georgia for 24 years in the U.S. Senate and U.S. Senate hopeful Michelle Nunn, his daughter, will hold a Meet and Greet Thursday at 2:30 p.m. at the Upper Pavilion of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in Hiawassee.

The Nuns are coming to town to support longtime friends Zell and Shirley Miller, who will be in attendance for the dedication of the Zell and Shirley Miller Library at the new Rollins Campus Center of Young Harris College on Thursday.

A special ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for the library will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23 at 1:15 p.m. to honor the two distinguished alumni that the three-level space is named for.

Michelle Nunn, a Democrat, is in a dead heat with Republican David Perdue for



U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn



Michelle Nunn

See *Nunn*, 2A

## 45th Sorghum Festival comes to a close

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The final weekend of the 45th Annual Blairsville Sorghum Festival played out in typical fall weather and provided a country-sized helping of entertainment.

With sunny skies, cool temperatures, and more importantly, no rain, the second weekend allowed visitors to enjoy the festival at its finest.

"We were still recovering from the mud during the first weekend but the second weekend went great," said Blairsville Sorghum Festival President Kim Bridges. "The atmosphere was great because the weather cooperated and people had a really good time."

Once again, at 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, the syrup making began and the vendors opened for the day. The toe tapping got started at 10:30 a.m. with an all star mu-



Contestants gobble down biscuits full of sorghum syrup at the 45th Annual Sorghum Festival. The festival ended on Sunday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

sic lineup.

The Sundown Band, Raven and Red, Steven Phillips and Midnight Express headlined the second weekend. Meanwhile, Sweet Tarts

Clogging and Atlanta Puppet were also on hand to deliver a rollicking good time.

Peter Hart, an award winning puppeteer of Atlanta Puppet, has received praises

from audiences at Walt Disney World, Epcot Center, the Georgia Governor's Mansion, Six Flags Over Georgia, Cen-

See *Sorghum*, 6A

## Bower indicted on charges related to stabbing of Towns deputy

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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**Hiawassee** - A 28-year-old Hayesville, NC man has been indicted by a Towns County Grand Jury related to the stabbing of Towns County Sheriff's Deputy Aaron Deyton, Towns County Superior Court records show.

Grand Jurors handed up an eight-count indictment on Daniel Lee Bower with charges that include criminal attempt to commit a felony, two counts aggravated assault on a peace officer, obstruction, possession of methamphetamine, DUI Drugs, tag light violation and failure to wear a seat belt, Superior Court records show.

Deputy Deyton, of Blairsville, who was stabbed and airlifted to Northeast Georgia Medical Center for treatment on Oct. 1, continues on the road to recovery.

"From what I understand, the doctors feel like he's going to make a comeback," Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton said.

Deputy Deyton, who lives in Union County, was stabbed in the neck following a brief foot chase and physical confrontation with Bower, Sheriff Clinton said.

A city of Hiawassee police officer stopped Bower on a traffic stop in the parking lot of Hiawassee's Mull Motel. The officer had assistance from two sheriff's deputies, one of which was Deputy Deyton.

The incident where



Daniel Lee Bower

Deputy Deyton was stabbed in the neck, ended in the Hard-ee's parking lot in Downtown Hiawassee, Sheriff Clinton said.

Bower was taken into custody at the scene. Bower is being held in the Towns County Detention Center without bail, jail records show.

Sheriff Clinton offered nothing but praise for Deputy Deyton in the wake of his life-threatening ordeal.

"Aaron Deyton's a perfect example of everything a deputy should be - I mean, he's a real hero in my book," said Sheriff Clinton. "He goes out every shift willing to risk his life to keep people safe, and that's basically what he was doing that night, and he did everything right - nothing he could have changed, in my

See *Indicted*, 2A

## Public Service rewarded at Civic Center

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Attention all officials of Union County: you are appreciated.

Pastor Helen Berrong and volunteers from the 21st Century Church hosted an appreciation lunch at the Blairsville Civic Center on Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A banner of welcome hung outside the civic center, succinctly summing up the reason for the occasion: "All Officials in Union County, City of Blairsville & City of Suches, Blairville & Our Finest & Greatly Appreciated."

According to the invitation to the event, the lunch was prepared by "21st Centu-



Union County and Blairsville public safety officers get a meal provided by 21st Century Church.

ry Church, other local churches, businesses and citizens of Union County and City of

Blairsville."

"We've had people from all walks of life who have con-

tributed," said Pastor Ber-

See *Appreciation*, 3A

## Hundreds flock to Classic Car Show

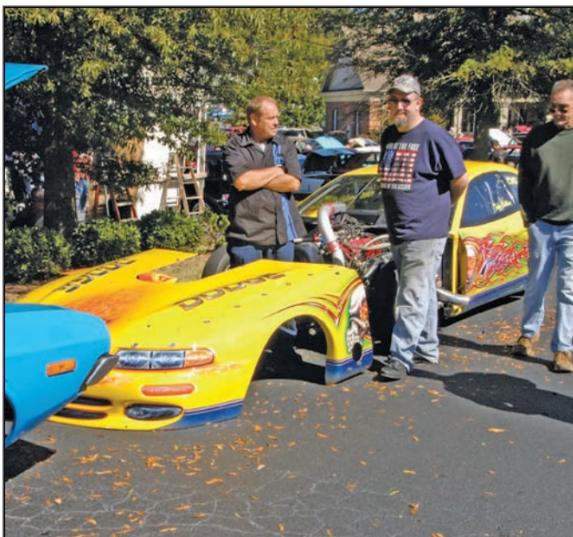
By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Beauty isn't skin deep. For some, beauty can be measured in horsepower, serenaded by the rumble of a V-8 engine under the hood.

Others are attracted to the slick curves, the style, the nostalgia from a certain era, the cool-factor, and the memories that come with them.

Whether your fascination comes on four wheels, or even two wheels, you're very likely to find one of your dream cars among the 230 automobiles at the Good Neighbors Auto Club's annual car show at United Community

See *Car Show*, 2A



## Flowerly Branch man charged in chase

By Charles Duncan  
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A 40-year-old Flowerly Branch man faces multiple charges including possession of a firearm by a convicted felon after he led local law enforcement on a high speed chase Oct. 13, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

Kenneth Charles Smith drove into a license check point and stopped to accommodate officers, Union County Sheriff's Lt. Chad Deyton said.

"Mr. Smith was acting like he was looking through his wallet for his driver's license when he looked up, put the car in gear, and fled



Kenneth Smith

the scene," Lt. Deyton said. "We proceeded to pursue Mr. Smith."

What ensued was a high-speed chase on the Jack

C. Lance Memorial Highway. Union County sheriff's deputies pursued the fleeing Smith who wasn't an easy catch.

The passenger, Misty Snow, allegedly began to toss items from the vehicle, Lt. Deyton said.

One of the items that exited the vehicle was a 9 mm handgun, Lt. Deyton said, adding that the weapon was recovered.

"We did a pit maneuver, and thought we had him, but he maneuvered around and got headed toward Blairsville," Lt. Deyton said.

After initially eluding law enforcement, Smith head-

See *Chase*, 2A

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**PANTHERS UCHS Football**  
OPEN  
**UCHS Softball**  
Wed Oct 22 4 & 6 PM  
Class AA State Tourney (Best of 3)  
Sweet 16 - Union @ Wesleyan  
Game 3 Thurs 4 PM if needed