

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Legal Organ of Union County

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October 29, 2014

## Solid turnout for Early Voting in Union

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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Early voting for the Nov. 4 General Election ends on Friday as Decision 2014 gets down to cases.

More than 2,000 people have voted early in Union County by Monday morning. That's a solid head count considering it's the midterm elections, or better known as a non-presidential election year.

Voters still have a chance to cast early ballots until 4:30 p.m. on Friday at the Union County Courthouse, at 65 Courthouse Street. Registered voters can cast early ballots from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., through Friday at the Courthouse.

The November ballot includes two proposed constitutional amendments and

one proposed statewide referendum issue.

All local races have been decided, with Republicans Tony Hunter, Keith Potts, and Patrick White already the choice of voters for Board of Education.

At stake at the federal level is a U.S. Senate seat vacated by retiring U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, and U.S. Rep. Doug Collins, (R), faces opposition from Democrat David Vogel.

Republican David Perdue faces stiff opposition from Democrat Michelle Nunn and Libertarian Amanda Swafford in the U.S. Senate race.

Also, the Governor's seat, Lieutenant of State, and Attorney General are at stake. Also up for grabs, seats for Commissioners of agriculture, insurance and labor,

state school superintendent and two seats on the Public Service Commission, which regulates and sets rates for public utilities.

Gov. Nathan Deal, (R), faces opposition from State Sen. Jason Carter, (D), and Libertarian Andrew Hunt; Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, (R), faces opposition from Connie Stokes, (D); and Secretary of State Brian Kemp, (R), faces opposition from Democrat Doreen Carter.

Attorney General Sam Olens, (R), faces opposition from Democrat Greg Hecht; Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black, (R), faces opposition from Christopher Irvin; Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens, (R), is up against Democrat Liz Johnson, and Libertarian Ted Metz.

In the race for State School Superintendent, Re-

publican Richard Woods faces Democrat Valarie Wilson – the winner replaces John Barge, who made a failed run for the Governor's mansion.

Labor Commissioner Mark Butler, (R), faces Democrat Robbin Shipp.

There are two Public Service Commissioner races, Republican Incumbent Doug Everett faces Libertarian John Monnets; Republican Incumbent Bubba McDonald faces Democrat Daniel Blackmon, and Libertarian Robin Gilmer.

The ballot also includes two proposed Constitutional Amendments:

First, "Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to prohibit the General Assembly from increasing the maximum state income tax rate?"

See Election, 2A

## Zell, Shirley Miller honored with library dedication



By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Young Harris - Young Harris College held ribbon-cutting ceremonies on Thursday, Oct. 23, to commemorate the official opening of the Rollins Campus Center and Zell and Shirley Miller Library.

"Good morning and welcome to a beautiful day on the Young Harris College campus," said Young Harris College President Cathy Cox. "We want to welcome all of you to this exciting and historic event in the life of

our 128-year-old campus – the dedication of the Rollins Campus Center, an event we have been looking forward to for a number of years."

Thursday, including students, faculty, and friends and family of the Rollins and the Millers. Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, Mayor of Young Harris Andrea Gibby, Mayor of Hiawassee Barbara Mathis and Mayor of Blairsville Jim Conley attended the events.

See Zell, 2A

## Sam Nunn: time to end the dysfunction in Washington

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Hiawassee - U.S. Senate candidate Michelle Nunn and her father, retired U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn, brought a message to North Georgia last week at the Upper Pavilion of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in Hiawassee.

The Nunn's were in Young Harris earlier that day to support family friends Zell and Shirley Miller for the dedication of the Millers' namesake library inside the Rollins Campus Center of Young Harris College.

Sam Nunn, who spent 24 years in the U.S. Senate, spoke on dysfunction in Washington, noting that the main question from young people is what can be done about the dysfunction.

"We have to elect people in both parties who understand that once the election is over, you're supposed to gov-



U.S. Senate Candidate Michelle Nunn accompanied by her father, retired U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn during a Meet and Greet in Hiawassee last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

ern – you're supposed to tackle the long-term challenges of the country," Sam Nunn said.

"You're supposed to make your state, and you're supposed to make the country better. And to do that, there's not a single big problem that we can solve without both

parties participating. You've got to have Republicans and Democrats of good will sitting down to work together."

Sam Nunn told the crowd of more than 300 that the candidate his daughter faces for the vacant Senate seat of retiring U.S. Sen. Saxby

Chambliss, Republican David Perdue, "we don't need a professional out-sourcer in the United States Senate," and criticizing Perdue's stance on bipartisanship.

"This is an important

See Nunn, 6A

## Union County man, 76, charged with aggravated sexual battery

By Charles Duncan  
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editor@nganews.com

A 76-year-old Union County man is being held without bail following his Friday arrest for aggravated sexual battery and criminal attempt to commit rape, Union County Sheriff Investigator Staff Sgt. Darren Osborn said.

Billy Joe Turnage was arrested following an interview with investigators on Friday, Sgt. Osborn said.

"The investigation in this case continues," Sgt. Osborn said.

The victim, Sgt. Osborn said, was a 39-year-old female. The alleged crimes happened at the victim's residence, Sgt. Osborn said.

Events leading to Turnage's arrest began on Wednesday with a 911 call asking for law enforcement to respond to an ongoing "assault and rape," said Sgt. Osborn.

"Oct. 22, dispatch received a 911 call at approxi-



Billy Joe Turnage

mately 4 p.m. of what was believed to be an assault and rape," Sgt. Osborn said. "It was being viewed via Skype. Deputies responded and I responded as well.

"Upon our arrival, we started an investigation," Sgt. Osborn said. "The end result was the arrest of Billy Joe Turnage. Mr. Turnage was at the scene when we arrived."

Following two days of intense interviews and investigation, which included

See Sex Crimes, 3A

## Halloween on the Square set for Friday

North Georgia News  
News Special

Downtown Blairsville's annual Hometown Halloween on the Square will be held on Friday, Oct. 31, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Volunteers and participants are needed to make this year's event the best ever.

Businesses and organizations that want to give out candies are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible.

The cost for businesses to participate is \$10, which helps cover costs of the event; publicity, insurance etc. Please call (706) 347-3503 or e-mail manager@hometownblairsville.com to sign up.

As in years past, Halloween posters will once again be displayed at Papa's



Pizza on the Square. Everyone is welcome to drop by to view the 5th graders' designs; we have had some very creative,

colorful submissions this year. As always, there will be lots of activities for the kids on the night of the event.

Look for everything from free candy, scarecrows and other unique Halloween decorations.

Back by popular demand is the Hometown Halloween Costume Contest.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., those interested in competing for the "most original," "spookiest," "most crafty," and "most hilarious," should gather on the Courthouse lawn for the judging and prizes.

Additionally, winners from this year's Scarecrowville Contest will be announced as well.

Halloween music from the clock tower will add to the spooky atmosphere of

See Halloween, 2A

## Volunteers needed at cemetery

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

A peaceful piece of land near the Union County Board of Education headquarters is transforming day-by-day.

Fencing, refurbished headstones and marked graves headline the work that city and county leaders hope to achieve at the

See Cemetery, 3A



Lamar Paris

## Hundreds flock to Motorcycle Show

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

More than 1,000 motorcycle enthusiasts traveled to the Blairsville campus of North Georgia Technical College to take part in the 13th Annual North Georgia Motorcycle Show.

Almost every type of motorcycle you could think of was on display at the annual event, from Harley Davidson to BMW to Honda.

"We had a great turnout here today," said Dennis Bradley, who organized the annual event. "We've got 76 bikes registered for the competition."

Bradley said the motor-



cycle show has been ongoing for 13 years now, and is still going strong.

"The key to this whole

show is the weather," he said. "With a beautiful day like this

See Motorcycle Show, 3A

## Kheepal takes first prize in Speech Contest

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

The first Union County Future Leaders Speech Contest went down to the wire.

Only four points separated contestants two through four.

Somehow, there had to be a winner, and there was.

Union County High School senior Abbyjit Kheepal took the honors of being the first winner of the inaugural contest sponsored by the Union County Republican Party.

Kheepal's speech endorsed the thought that the U.S. Constitution is still relevant today.

"It was a great compe-



Abbyjit Kheepal

tion," Kheepal said. "It was great that everyone had key topics with different views. I think I was able to express my views well about government."

Kheepal said he was excited that the speech competition is here to stay.

"I think it's a novel opportunity for young people to express their opinions," he said. "Sometimes young people don't get the opportunity to express themselves or their opinions."

"I think it's a very good idea and opportunity for young people to express their opinions, and have the opportunity to speak in front of an audience," Kheepal said. "These young people are going to be the future leaders of this country."

UCHS junior Emma Crosby finished second and fellow junior Madison Capstick finished a close third.

See Speech, 2A

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**THE ELECTION WEEK  
PAPER WILL BE  
PUBLISHED AND  
DISTRIBUTED ON  
WEDNESDAY FOLLOWING  
THE ELECTION**

**PANTHERS  
UCHS Football**  
Fri. 10/31 @ Riverside 7:30 PM

**JV Football**  
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**Cross Country**  
Region 8-AA Meet  
Wed. 10/29 @ Riverside