

Happy Thanksgiving

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Blairsville Police need help with Shop with a Cop program

By Shawn Jarrard
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No child should go without for Christmas, which is why the Blairsville Police Department is once more preparing for its annual Shop with a Cop outreach program.

For nearly two decades now, organizers of Blairsville Shop with a Cop have worked hard to create positive Christmas experiences for children of Union County.

The Police Department likes to take around 100 kids a year, but that all depends on monetary support from kindhearted and generous people in the community.

"We have accepted some donations from both businesses and personal individuals already," said Blairsville Assistant Police

Chief Michael Baxter. "I have to say, people are good to us in our community and have been very helpful.

"Without those individuals, without the business sector and private individuals both, we couldn't make this happen. It's not us, it's a community thing."

And though some donations have already come in, the Police Department is still hoping that others will give to this worthy cause.

Of course, the magic will happen on an upcoming Saturday in early December, when students make their way from the meeting place of Union County Middle School to Walmart in Blairsville.

There, the kids will shop with law enforcement volunteer chaperones, including members of the Blairsville

Police Department and Union County Sheriff's Office, and other volunteers who come out to help.

The event is a chance for kids to spend some quality time with local law enforcement, and it also goes a long way toward making sure that these children have special Christmases.

When all the shopping is through, the students head back to the middle school, where they are treated to lunch by Chick-fil-A Blairsville before heading home with their presents.

Each child will also go home with a food basket for them and their families, courtesy of Fellowship of the Hills Church.

The Police Department is also thankful for refreshments provided by Ingles, and for Walmart, which enables the

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Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll with Assistant Police Chief Michael Baxter at BPD Headquarters. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Kemp wins governor's race; two contests headed for Dec. 4 runoff

By Shawn Jarrard
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Republican Brian Kemp will be the next governor of Georgia, after Democrat Stacey Abrams ended her bid in the gubernatorial race on Friday, Nov. 16.

The drawn-out governor's race has been a contentious one, involving extremely close vote margins and interventions by a couple of U.S. District Judges to make sure every vote counted.

In the end, Abrams acknowledged that she just didn't have the votes to continue her challenge of Kemp, the majority vote getter.

Kemp's final margin of victory was about 55,000 votes, or 50.22 percent of the statewide vote to Abrams' 48.83 percent.

And while there will not be a runoff election for the office of governor, there will be two races appearing in a Dec. 4 Runoff Election: Secretary of State and Public Service Commission, District 3.



Gov.-elect Brian Kemp

The runoff will feature Republican Brad Raffensperger facing off against Democrat John Barrow for Secretary of State, while Republican Incumbent Chuck Eaton will be aiming for re-election to the Public Service Commission, District 3 seat against Democrat Lindy Miller.

There will be an early voting period prior to the Dec. 4 runoff, though no dates

had been officially set by the Secretary of State's office as of press time due to the delayed determination in the governor's race.

Regardless, many Georgia counties are preparing to hold early voting the week after Thanksgiving.

People interested in voting early in the runoff election will want to call the Union County Registrar's Office at 706-439-6016 to check on official early voting dates.

Tentatively, early voting will run from Monday, Nov. 26, through Friday, Nov. 30, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Registrar's Office.

The Registrar's Office is located within the Union County Courthouse at 65 Courthouse Street in Blairsville, and it will remain open to voters even during lunchtime.

Runoff Election Day will be on Tuesday, Dec. 4, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and instead of voting at the Registrar's Office, voters should report to one of the

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EMC Board recognizes employees, continues planning for future



BRMEMC Employees, L-R: Brad Wilson, Daniel Nemkovich, Randy Curtis, Phil Chapman, Josh Payne and David Ellis.

By Shawn Jarrard
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YOUNG HARRIS – The Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors welcomed seven of the cooperative's employees as guests in the

Nov. 15 regular board meeting at EMC Headquarters.

Directors were particularly keen to hear from these employees, as they had recently returned from a 15-day mutual aid trip to areas of south Georgia devastated by

Hurricane Michael last month.

All told, 22 BRMEMC employees traveled south in the aftermath of the storm to assist Grady EMC, Washington EMC and Three Notch EMC in restoring power to the homes

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Primary School kids track health with smart thermometers



Union County kindergarten students holding up their Kinsa Thermometers at the Primary School.

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Primary School and Kinsa Smart

Thermometers have teamed up to get a jump on the upcoming flu season.

Recently, Kinsa selected the Primary School as one

of 500 schools nationwide to participate in its FLUency program and receive state-of-the-art Kinsa Smart

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Local 4-H's win eight of Top 12 spots in state pumpkin contest

By Jarrett Whitener
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County 4-H students participated in a pumpkin growing contest through the 2018 year, concluding on Oct. 25.

The giant pumpkin growing contest is hosted by the Georgia 4-H every year and sponsored by the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Association.

This is the first year that Union County students have participated in the event, with eight 4-H students going to the state competition.

These students were: Jessie Holbrook, Reagan Covington, Morgan Peney, Aliceyn Covington, Jordan Pandolf, Grayson Collins, Maggie Payne and Emma Collins.

Holbrook won the overall First Place award in the state for her 644-pound pumpkin, and Reagan Covington won the overall Third Place award for her 479-pound pumpkin.

Not only did Union County



Jessie Holbrook came in First Place with this 644-pound giant pumpkin she grew for the statewide 4-H Pumpkin-Growing Contest.

students win first and third place, but they also took home fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and twelfth places, making it a very successful project for the students.

Each student had to put in hard work and dedication to the growing process to make sure

their pumpkins turned out the way they wanted, without the pumpkins being harmed.

"We began the process back in May," said Timothy Jennings, County Extension Coordinator. "Over a period of 100 days, students would

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