

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Wednesday, November 20, 2019

## Cancer survivors show off fashion, strength in yearly fundraiser

By Jarrett Whitener  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Volunteers with the American Cancer Society and Union County Relay for Life hosted their Third Annual Survivors in Fashion fundraiser to aid in the fight against cancer on Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Pat Haralson Memorial Civic Center.

An incredibly important aspect of the show was the fact that each of the models was a cancer survivor, and all walked with confidence showing off both their fashionable clothing and their strength to make it through cancer treatment.

"We have some beautiful ladies with us tonight, and they are wearing some beautiful clothes," event organizer Diane Shillcutt said. "All of us are here because we have been affected by cancer in some way, shape or form, whether that's through someone in your

family, friends, coworkers, or somebody you know that has went through the struggle of cancer.

"We really appreciate all the support and money going to cancer research and cancer purposes. Cancer has taken too much from too many people, and we are here to celebrate our survivors, and they are truly an inspiration to us."

Outfits for the event were provided by Alexander's Store and Sharon's Fashions, which both gave a handful of outfits for the women to show off.

Ten cancer survivors participated in the fashion show this year, including Mary Nicole Graphman, Lisa Mashburn, Lee Holland, Stacy Smith, Kathy Heyer, Kim Tatman, Pam Terranova, Stephanie Schulman, Margery Turbiner-Dallas and Sarah Shaffer.

Each lady received two outfits to do the fashion walk with, highlighting different

styles of clothing provided by the two stores.

The event proved to be a unique experience for the survivors, and they appreciated the support from the audience and community.

"It was a lot of fun to participate in this," Schulman said. "It really makes you feel good to know that there are people here who care and support you."

"There's a lot of people here supporting you, and many of them are people you don't know, but they still make you feel great. When you look back at all you've been through, it makes it worth it, and I'm thankful to have been a part of this."

Around 150 people attended the event this year, making it the largest turnout over the three years of the fashion fundraiser.

The first year of the event saw \$1,926 in funds raised, and

last year, the show raised nearly double that with \$3,553.

Of course, the goal this year was to raise more money than in 2018, and final fundraising totals will be announced at a later date.

"We've had more people this year than we did last year," Shillcutt said. "My goal and prayer is that we raised more money than last year for our cancer survivors and their cancer treatments."

"That's my goal. I take it a little personally if I find out that somebody has cancer, because it means that I haven't raised enough money yet. This is just a deep passion for me and also for all of the volunteers we have."

Alongside the fashion show, the event also featured entertainment from Mike Bryant performing as Elvis, Nadine Michaels and DeeDee Siefken.

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Young cancer survivor Mary Nicole Graphman walking the runway at the Third Annual Survivors in Fashion fundraising event on Nov. 16. Graphman began her battle with cancer when she was just 7 months old. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

## Veterans Day events demonstrate patriotic appreciation for local veterans



Veteran Bill Honaker, left, is the 2019 recipient of the Commander's Award, pictured here with son Chuck Honaker on Veterans Day last week. Photo by Mark Smith

By Mark Smith  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

A Veterans Day recognition ceremony organized by American Legion Post 121 of Blairsville took place on Monday, Nov. 11, at the First United Methodist Church of

Union County.

The event was meant to honor all U.S. service members and their families, though it began their ago as a way to honor the North Georgia Honor Guard, said Post 121 Cmdr. Mike Ayers.

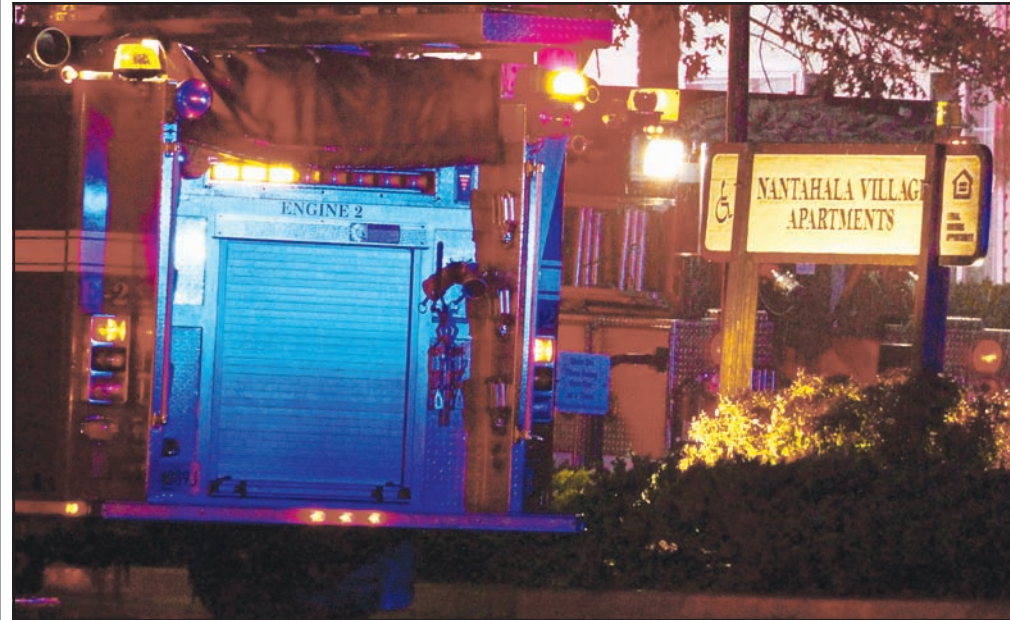
A total of about 130

veterans, their families and event helpers attended the recognition, including four World War II/Korea veterans.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Chapter 7394 Cmdr. Chuck Honaker served as master of ceremonies for the event, which

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## Apartment fire ruled arson by state investigators; reward being offered



Union County Firefighters responded to an apartment fire on Nov. 7 that state investigators are now calling arson. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
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A structure fire that caused heavy damage in one apartment and endangered the lives of more than a dozen residents was intentionally set, according to state fire investigators.

Union County Firefighters responded to the Nantahala Village Apartment Complex the evening of Thursday, Nov. 7, after E-911 received a call about the smell of smoke and sounding of smoke alarms in the D Building of the complex.

Firefighters quickly located the fire and attacked it

from the interior and exterior of the building, making for a swift knockdown of the flames.

The residents of the apartment that contained the fire were not home when firefighters made their entry, and the source of the fire had not been confirmed by press

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## Historical Society honors dedicated volunteers at annual luncheon

By Mark Smith  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The Union County Historical Society hosted its annual volunteer appreciation luncheon at Monet's Italian Grill & Pizzeria on Tuesday, Nov. 12.

The purpose of the luncheon is to recognize volunteers who have stepped up in an outstanding way throughout the year and present them with a token of appreciation.

"Volunteers are partners in our organization," Society President Judy Carpenter said to those gathered. "The key to our success depends upon

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Historical Society "Volunteers of the Year" Jeannie and Presley Rich with Society President Judy Carpenter at the Nov. 12 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Photo by Mark Smith

## Theatre kids wow crowds with gnarly '80s-inspired musical production



The UCHS Theatre Department put on three spectacular performances of "Back to the '80s" musical between Saturday, Nov. 16, and Monday, Nov. 18. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

By Jarrett Whitener  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The Union County High School Theatre Department put on a "Back to the '80s" musical show at the Fine Arts Center from Saturday, Nov. 16, to Monday, Nov. 18.

"One of the reasons why this show is so fun is because everything is a joke," Director Chris Adams said. "Every character is a joke; their names are flashbacks. Everything is done intentionally, and it's just a fun show."

"I think everybody will enjoy the play and the work that these kids have put in, because it's a fun play and these kids are

ridiculously talented. If you put those two things together, then you are in for a treat."

With around 60 kids participating in the production of the show, the entire endeavor made for something special that everyone enjoyed taking part in.

"I love all the teamwork and effort that everybody puts into the show," senior Guage Shumaker said. "Everyone had a good spirit going into it, and all the dances were fun and the songs were fun, because it's the '80s, and we love the '80s."

And it was apparent that audience members loved the '80s, too, as the show kept people laughing in their seats

and interacting well with the characters throughout the two-act performance.

Each of the student performers put in hours of work to prepare for their part in the show, whether that meant practicing lines, dance routines, or getting the right balance of sound and lighting to make for the best audience experience possible.

"Being in theatre is a very good way to express yourself," said senior Haley Phelps, who has been part of theatre since eighth grade. "People don't judge you, and everybody is accepted for who they are, which makes this a

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## Blairsville man arrested, charged in 41-year-old Kentucky rape case

News Special  
North Georgia News

Agents from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation have arrested Michael Dean Tate, 77, of Blairsville, on charges stemming from a sexual assault in the early morning hours of Oct. 1, 1978.

Boone County, Kentucky, Sheriff's Department "Cold Case" Detectives Timothy Adams and Coy Cox obtained an arrest warrant for Tate on Nov.

14, 2019, charging him with first degree rape, first degree sodomy and kidnapping.

The Union County Sheriff's Office assisted the GBI in arresting Tate at his home in Blairsville, and he is currently being held in the Union County Jail on a \$500,000 cash bond.

At approximately 4 a.m. on Oct. 1, 1978, a female in her 20s contacted Park Hills Police to report being raped and kidnapped. The victim told



Michael Dean Tate

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Union County Commission Meeting  
DELAYED 1 HOUR  
from 6PM to 7PM Nov. 21

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