

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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## Union County Schools announce 2017-2018 Teachers of the Year

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Congratulations to the Union County Schools 2017-2018 Teachers of the Year.

Those exemplary teachers are: Camie George of Union County High, Anna Roxbury of Union County Middle, Brittany Jordan of Union County Elementary, Stephanie Stubblefield of Union County Primary, and Lisa Sweet of Woody Gap School.

The teachers were notified on Tuesday, Nov. 14, that they had been chosen by their fellow educators as teachers of the year.

"It is always a pleasure to recognize and reward teachers who go above and beyond to serve their students and their school," said Union County Schools Superintendent Dr. Fred Superfield. "All of our teacher of the year recipients

are awesome educators that are highly respected by their students and their peers. Congratulations to all on a job well done."

All teachers of the year will be recognized in the Dec. 19 meeting of the Union County Board of Education, which will begin at 7 p.m.

Furthermore, the board office will be announcing and recognizing the System Teacher of the Year in the December board meeting.

The faculty of each school selects its own teacher of the year through a voting process, after which an independent panel of educators from outside of the local school system interviews and conducts a classroom observation for each of the year.

Then, the panel chooses from among these teachers a System Teacher of the Year.

All teachers of the year said that they were grateful to have been awarded the honor

by their peers.

High School Teacher of the Year Camie George is currently in her 18th year of teaching, though she began at Union County High 10 years ago.

Teaching is a second career for George, who transitioned from a successful 17-year career in private industry to pursue her lifelong dream of teaching.

She said she loves what she's doing and considers herself "the luckiest person you will ever meet," because she feels that she is making a difference in the world by fulfilling her quest to help others.

George is a math teacher, but said that she and her students discuss much more than math in the classroom - they delve into valuable lessons, as well.

In recognition of being chosen by her colleagues, George would like to express to them her heartfelt gratitude for honoring her as "Teacher

See Teachers, Page 3A



Camie George celebrates her Teacher of the Year award with her third block math class. Photo/Facebook

## EMC holds first ever board meeting open to the membership

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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The Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors made history and some policy changes at the cooperative's first board meeting open to the membership of the five-county cooperative.

One of the first moves at the open November meeting was to vote to do away with Town Hall meetings, a policy that required four open door meetings each year among the membership.

With the cooperative's directors voting to open the board meetings to the membership each month, the group did away with the four Town Hall meetings it approved to have each year, said Policy Committee Chair Ray Cook.

Cook said the board



BRMEMC General Manager Jeremy Nelms presents EMC Board Director John George with a certificate of completion for board training. Photo/Byron McCombs

reserved the right to hold a Town Hall meeting in the future, should the need arise.

The board's secretary, Roy Perren, voted against doing away with Town Hall

meetings. Perren said that even with the open door policy, there is still scrutiny over who gets into the meetings. At the Town Hall meetings, no one checked credentials, making

those meetings more relaxed and less stressful.

At the "open" board meetings, there is a policy to follow to gain entry to the monthly meeting, and admittance to the monthly meeting isn't guaranteed, Perren said.

"I think we need to hold the Town Hall meetings," Perren said. "The board members thought otherwise. Town Hall meetings would be more open than our monthly open meetings. I think we'll need that openness moving forward."

Mickey Cummings, the cooperative's president, sided with Perren in discussion, and stressed the importance of connecting with the membership through the Town Hall meetings.

"I think we'll regret See BRMEMC, Page 3A

## Community Icon Ruth Ann Miner dies over the weekend



Ruth Ann Miner accepts a check from Tommy Drake of Allstate Insurance for Run Above the Clouds in Suches.

By Charles Duncan  
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The Union County community is in mourning this week following the loss of Ruth Ann Miner of the Suches community.

The 79-year-old retired chairperson of the Union County Elections Board passed away on Saturday, Nov. 18, following

a brief illness. Funeral services for Ruth Ann Miner were not available at press time.

There was an outpouring of affection on Facebook as community members weighed in to offer their condolences for Ruth Ann.

"She worked so hard for so long on the Election

See Miner, Page 2A

## UCSO Give A Gift to team up with First Baptist Church Blairsville



L-R: UCSO Capt. Doug Loyd, FBC Administrator Howard Wells, FBC Associate Pastor Derrick Hartley, UCSO Mary Fortenberry, Sheriff Mack Mason, Tom Kester, UCSO Chief Deputy John George and UCSO Ginger Carey. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Christmas is right around the corner, which means that the Union County Sheriff's Office is preparing to help disadvantaged families put presents under Christmas trees.

Usually, that means bags full of toys lining the halls and offices of the Sheriff's Office, which can get in the way of official law enforcement duties.

Starting this year, however, the First Baptist Church of Blairsville will be taking on the role of housing the toys for the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Mack Mason See UCSO, Page 2A

## Cancer Society raises money with survivors fashion show



Mary Nicole Graphman sporting the latest in hobby horse fashions. Photo/Lily Avery

By Lily Avery  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Cancer survivors showed up in style for the Union County Relay For Life's Survivors in Fashion show and fundraiser at the Blairsville Civic Center on Saturday, Nov. 18.

Joined by 100 caregivers, friends, family members and those who wish to aid in the fight against cancer, cancer survivors strutted down the runway with style, purpose and poise to prove that cancer does not define them.

While the fashion show is not the first one of its kind to be held in Union County, it is

the first one in quite some time. According to Allyson McGraw, longtime representative of the Union County Relay For Life, it was actually brought to their attention by Diane Shillcutt from Fannin County.

"Fannin County is not doing an active Relay For Life this year, so Diane wanted to help," said McGraw. "She brought the idea to our board and we said, 'yeah, of course.' She made all of the contacts, got together our sponsors and our volunteers helped as well."

"The fashions were great and beautiful, but what I love most about this is being able to See Fashion, Page 6A

## Union County 4-H hosts eight other counties in annual competition

By Lily Avery  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Union County 4-H hosted the annual Northeast District Project Achievement competition for more than 300 fourth, fifth and sixth grade 4-H students at the Union County Middle School on Saturday, Nov. 18.

District Project Achievement, commonly known in the 4-H world as DPA, is a subsector of the 4-H project achievement program, one of the four core programs of the Georgia 4-H

association.

According to the Georgia 4-H website, project achievement is a help for the 4-H program to help implement Georgia Performance Standards through the educational materials produced for in-classroom use. One of the ways that 4-H accomplishes this is through its public speaking program, which is the foundation of 4-H project achievement.

Before these brave Cloverleaf 4-H'ers make their way to the district competition,

See 4H, Page 2A



Giovanna Salazar won First Place for her archaeology project, pictured here with Courtney Rollins and Demi Thorn. Photo/Lily Avery

Vol. 108 No. 47  
4 Sections 32 Pages  
Weather  
Thurs: Sunny Hi 55 Lo 32  
Fri: Sunny Hi 61 Lo 36  
Sat: Cloudy Hi 59 Lo 34

Inside  
Arrests 7A  
Church 5D  
Classifieds 5C  
Opinion 4A  
Legals 6D  
Obits 7C  
Sports 2C

**PANTHERS**  
Basketball  
Nov. 21 @ Towns County  
JV 4 PM Varsity 7 PM  
Nov. 28 @ Rabun County  
JV Boys 4:15 PM Varsity 6 PM

Happy Thanksgiving  
to You & Yours