

# Run for Recovery! 5K local man's way of giving back



Run for Recovery race winners

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The Run for Recovery! 5K on Saturday, Nov. 14, was such a success that you wouldn't think it was Joshua Hill's first time organizing a race.

Hill is set to graduate from the North Enotah Drug Treatment Court program in four months, and he came up

with the idea for a 5K last year to act as his Give Back Project with the program.

"The drug court program saved my life," said Hill. "Here I am, two years later - I'm recovered, and just trying to spread awareness and trying to raise money for the program, which is a really great program."

Running is something Hill has enjoyed his entire life,

and he decided to utilize one of his passions to express his gratitude toward the drug court program and to help support it financially.

The majority of proceeds from the run will go toward the drug court program as a way of giving back to the community, and some of the proceeds will go to fund a tuition program for Celebrate Recovery, which is a Christ-centered recovery program that can be attended

right here in Blairsville.

"I would like to thank Barbara Honaker, she's my drug court coordinator," said Hill. "She has been my rock through all this, because it's been very stressful. And I'd like to thank all the business sponsors that helped us raise the money to get this thing going, and everybody that came out to run."

Hill plans to make the race an annual event, and

Honaker was thrilled with the way things turned out this year.

"This was Josh's Give Back Project," said Honaker, who is the court coordinator for North Enotah Drug Court. "In order for our participants to graduate in the fifth phase, they have to do a Give Back Project, and he took on a little bit of a challenge with his Give Back Project, because this is the first race that he's ever actually put on, and he wanted to do it for a fundraiser for drug court."

Several other drug court participants were on hand Saturday to help out, and all who attended fully embraced the motto of the drug court program: "Changing Lives, Saving Lives."

"Drug court is for people who have no business in prison, that really do need to be with their families, but they also need help," said Honaker. "So, that's what we're raising money for, to do special things to be able to get help for them. It's a rigorous program, a minimum 24-month program, and they have to graduate it."

Most drug court participants have a chance to get their felonies expunged once they graduate from the program, because, as Honaker and those within the program

put it, drug court is a life-changing event.

"They're no longer living the life of a drug addict and a felon," said Honaker. "Instead, they are working, they will have their GED at least if they don't already have their high school diploma. Some of them have already been to college - drugs know no boundaries, addiction knows no boundaries. Most of the people that are in the program and are successful are proud of their success."

Among the runners in Saturday's event were two probation officers, Sally Parker and Charity Harrison, as well as Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge Stan Gunter and Enotah District Attorney Jeff Langley, all of whom work closely with the drug court program, and Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris turned out to encourage those in the race.

"We had a lot of people from the community that were here just to cheer them on," said Honaker. "We had program participants that were here just to cheer people on. And again, some of the participants did help in putting the project together, and also helped direct people and give out water and things like that."

## Durbin...from Page 1A

where he belongs. He has just completed a theology degree at Mercer University and is on his way to the isolated North Georgia Mountains to serve as a circuit riding preacher."

Book one features a harrowing train ride in which Richardson must protect a woman he just met from hired gunmen determined to kill her, and *The Captain Seeks the Lost* promises just as much intrigue, as Richardson must solve a murder committed in this community while dealing with something from his past that could threaten his new family.

Durbin describes her historical fiction novels as Westerns set in the South, and she conducts careful research of the time period within which she writes to keep things like language and physical details consistent with how life was in the South of the 1800s.

Having spent her career as a librarian, first as a children's librarian in Plant

City, Florida, then as a school librarian at Woody Gap School followed by Union County Middle School then Union County High School, Durbin has had a lifelong relationship with books and writing.

Aided by the expertise of her husband of 44 years, Ed Durbin, who taught history for 38 years before retiring from Union County High School in 2011, Durbin has a solid background for writing, which is a craft she took up full-time following her own retirement in 2011.

In an intimate setting at the Union County Public Library, Durbin gathered with her friends and fans that Tuesday to sign books and speak with those in attendance.

Durbin brought black walnut cupcakes prepared from an old recipe which she got from Patsy Efrid, a friend of hers at First Baptist Church of Blairsville, and readers can



Doris and Ed Durbin

find that recipe in *The Captain Seeks the Lost*.

When asked about

what's next for Capt. Harry Richardson, Durbin said that there are definitely more

books to come in *The Captain Chronicles*.

"In my imagination,

there's just a whole stack of them," said Durbin. "What I want to do right this minute is finish the third one, which will be a trilogy, because this one has a little bit of stuff left in at the end that needs to be solved. Somebody said, what's going to happen to the villain? And I said I have no idea. We're sure Harry's going to take care of it somehow or another."

"The thing about it is, I wanted to design a character, and I think I have in my captain, who has a past. For instance, when I started thinking about the whole thing, I thought, okay, I want to be able to set a preacher in the North Georgia Mountains who is a circuit rider. And that person would come in contact with all kinds of people. But possibilities for murder and mayhem are just endless, and he would be the guy who solves it all."

A list of places to buy Durbin's fascinating novels can be found on her website, [www.dorisdurbin.com](http://www.dorisdurbin.com), which also features a blog and information about her other passions.

## Cagle...from Page 1A

difference between the two, and there was a lot of competition going on. But during that day, the leaders of Atlanta took on the largest investment of its day - it was an investment in a thing called Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport."

That investment, which amounted to some \$500 million, had its detractors, but according to Cagle, it was the forward-thinking leaders of the day that pushed the investment through, allowing for one of the

major components of Atlanta's continued growth with an airport that would become the busiest in all the world.

The lieutenant governor used the airport as an example of what he calls vertical thinking, which is a leadership style that concentrates on potential by making calculated investments today.

"I believe that the greatest investment that we can make as a state really is in our kids," said Cagle. "There is

nothing that is more important, there is nothing more pressing, and there is nothing more significant as we grow this state than investing in our kids and in public education and the workforce of tomorrow."

Cagle spoke on his vision for public education in Georgia, which includes room for students who are not necessarily looking to achieve a four-year college degree, as a part of his investment in potential with a forward-looking eye to the future.

"My vision for public education is that we have

a house that is built on the school system, and within that school system there is a floor," said Cagle. "But with that floor there are no cracks - there's no ability for students to drop through. And within that system, there's no ceiling. There's no ability to hold the student back. We want to keep every student rising to the highest level that they can."

"And so, the two initiatives that I've created, one is called the Charter Schools System Act, which allows individual, complete school systems to convert to

a contractual agreement with the state, with a strategic plan that gives them total flexibility in terms of how they use their resources."

Towns County Schools recently entered into just such a contract, and will be enjoying greater flexibility to hold itself accountable to standards more readily met by a school system of this size.

Cagle also spoke on the second great initiative of his career-long goal to bring education to the forefront in Georgia.

"The College and Career

Academy brings relevance to the classroom," said Cagle. "What it does is it's a standalone facility that really takes the high school and the technical college, and it blends them together and allows kids to be on the technical path of learning."

Also in attendance that day were many local and regional leaders, including Georgia Sen. John Wilkinson, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, as well as Towns County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Darren Berrong and others.



## Play...from Page 1A

Thing 1; senior Knox Kiernan as Narrator 2 dressed as Thing 2; senior Trey Engleman as Lord Capitulate; junior Alexis Doutrich as Lady Capitulate; senior Jake Walts as Lord Monotone; senior Raphaela Aleman as Lady Monotone; senior Kelli Poteete as Benvolio; senior Matt Penney as Mercutio; senior Austin Dalton as Tybalt; senior Kyla Meigs as Nurse; senior Johnah Langston as Monk; senior Mathew Van Pelt as Paris; freshman Cariann Busbee as Princess; freshman Emma Hambrick as Servant of Capitulate; junior Tiffany Nickerson as Prologue; junior Cody Walters as Abram; sophomore Madison Terry as Balthasar; sophomore Sarah Nickerson as Sampson; and sophomore Sierra Johnson as Gregory.

Production crew for the cast one show consisted of sophomore Hope Orr as Student

Director; sophomore Rebecca Wood as Stage Manager; freshman Sarah Hamler as Assistant Stage Manager; freshman Bayley Patton as Set Designer; freshman Adalyn Rogers as Costumes; senior Ben Wood as Lighting Design; senior Jesus Palomo as Sound Design and Video; freshman Macey Dyer as Prop Master; freshman Brooke Patton as Stage Crew; and freshman Johnathan Moore as Stage Crew.

Cast two was composed of junior Tyler Kniess as Romeo, junior Bebe Walts as Juliet; senior Stephanie Busse as Narrator 1 dressed as Thing 1; junior Jase Miller as Narrator 2 dressed as Thing 2; sophomore Stone Parks as Lord Capitulate; senior Kat Capstick as Lady Capitulate; freshman Mark Cecci as Lord Monotone; freshman Laureleigh Miller as Lady

Monotone; freshman Alyssa McFarland as Benvolio; junior Marcus Garrison as Mercutio; senior Justin Eigel as Tybalt; freshman Hannah Graham as Nurse; senior Victoria Rodriguez as Monk; senior Tres Pouncey as Paris; senior Keyla Brendle as Princess; junior Katie Yaboni as Servant of Capitulate; freshman Lulu Morris as Prologue; freshman Mady Snyder as Abram; junior Ally Dimartino as Balthasar; senior Kimmy Strausberger as Sampson; and junior Magen Smith as Gregory.

Production crew for the cast two show consisted of senior Madeline Walker as Student Director; senior Maggie Davis as Stage Manager; freshman Delaney Phelps as Assistant Stage Manager; freshman Gracie Nix as Costumes; junior Brenda Lara as Lighting Design; senior Shay O'Donnell as Sound Design; junior Eva Waldrep as Prop Master; and freshman Rilla Ricks as Hair and Makeup.