

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Four Suches veterans honored with Quilts of Valor

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Assistant Editor

The Misty Mountain Quilts' patriotic mission in the mountains on Saturday, Jan. 27, as guild volunteers presented four veterans from Suches with Quilts of Valor.

Dozens of Suches residents joined the veterans and the ladies of the guild that Saturday afternoon in the upper courtroom of the Historic Union County Courthouse.

Libby Stevens of the Union County Historical Society welcomed visitors to the old courthouse, and Susan Young, liaison for the guild's Quilts of Valor Outreach Group, led the presentations of the quilts.

Don Tripp, honored that

day with a Quilt of Valor, delivered an invocation to mark the occasion, and Young made special mention of Suches resident Dixie Wisson, who helped to coordinate information about the Suches veterans.

"We are pleased to see you here to honor these veterans, who have been touched by war, with a Quilt of Valor," said Young to those gathered. "When I say touched by war, that could mean a whole variety of things.

"It could mean someone who actually was deployed and in a combat zone, but it also means people who supported the war effort both overseas and back here at home. It takes a lot of effort and a lot of people to support our war efforts when we do go to war. "So, we know that the

debt that we owe our military veterans is way beyond repayment, but we have come here today to thank these four gentlemen for their honorable service."

The first Suches veteran to receive a Quilt of Valor that day was Thomas Boulware, who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and Vietnam.

Boulware entered into active duty in January 1951, and after Basic Training, he attended Unit Supply Specialist training for eight weeks.

He achieved the rank of Technical Sergeant while on active duty and remained a Reservist until his eventual retirement as a First Sergeant of his Reserve Unit.

Those who worked with

See Quilts, Page 8A



Suches veterans Thomas Boulware, Roger Belanger, Merlyn Hughes and Don Tripp. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Relay For Life of Union County to 'Lasso A Cure' in 2018

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

All across the nation each year, local groups affiliated with the American Cancer Society put on their community caps and begin the journey to raise money for the ACS's largest annual fundraiser - Relay For Life.

Union County Relay For Life volunteers are dedicated to continuing to fight for a cure, and they hosted the official 2018 Relay For Life kickoff on Thursday, Jan. 25, at Mountain Presbyterian Church.

Keeping this year's theme in mind, "Lasso A Cure," many gathered in the church's fellowship hall to enjoy an evening of good

food - courtesy of Wendy's - games, and to drum up enthusiasm for this year's event.

And the Union County Relay team will be lassoing in a few extra participants this year, as the organization hopes to embrace residents in neighboring communities who wish to join the fight against cancer.

"We are trying this year to include Fannin County and Towns County," said Sue Upchurch, Relay Logistics Lead. "We want to include them in coming to the event, doing things, we want them to participate.

"Neither counties have a Relay anymore, so we want to extend an invitation to come and join us. We would love for

them to be with us."

Before diving into the major fundraising efforts that will lead up to this year's Relay For Life, the group reviewed last year's successes, thanking all who participated and worked tirelessly to make 2017 an accomplished year.

"It is so true that we are all here to see an end to cancer," said Mia Crowe, Relay Event Lead. "We wouldn't be able to do that without all you guys who help out each year.

"Each hour you volunteer and each dollar you raise gets us closer to finding new ways to prevent or treat cancer, and to helping those we love during their battle with cancer."

Last year's fundraising teams were given certificates

See Relay, Page 2A



Relay For Life of Union County held their annual kickoff meeting on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018. Photo/Lily Avery

American Legion and Cochran Funeral Homes team up for veterans

By Shawn Jarrard
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Assistant Editor

Because it represents a living country, the U.S. flag is considered a living thing under federal law.

Due to this singular distinction, replica flag pins are directed to be worn on the left lapel, near the heart of the American wearing one.

When the heart of an American veteran has marched its final beat in the cadence of life, he or she may be presented with a burial flag, provided at no cost by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, that will accompany the veteran to his or her final resting place.

For a veteran who is buried, the burial flag drapes his or her casket during a

See Legion, Page 2A



L-R: Max Cochran and Brandon Burkhead of Cochran Funeral Homes, with American Legion Ira Weaver Post 121 Cmdr. Mike Ayers, Past Cmdr. Don Sullivan, Jr. Vice Cmdr. Dan Navin and Adj. Jack Waters. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Grand Jury indicts Blairsville man for 'peeping Tom'

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Assistant Editor

A Union County man faced indictment on Jan. 10 for 15 counts of peeping Tom and 15 counts invasion of privacy, per court documents.

Tommy Williams, 26, of Blairsville, was arrested on Oct. 3, 2017, for spying on one of his coworkers as they used the bathroom, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

The coworker reported Williams' activity shortly after it occurred in September 2017, and the coworker's testimony was supported by corroborating witness statements.

Upon further investigation, the sheriff's



Tommy Williams office developed probable cause to arrest Williams, "and on Oct. 3, Tommy Williams was

See Williams, Page 2A

It's not too late for your flu shot

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Assistant Editor

Everyone has heard by now that the influenza virus is widespread and particularly nasty this flu season, but just how bad is it?

"The Centers for Disease Control has said that this is a severe flu season in both the spread of the influenza virus and the severity of the illness," according to Dave Palmer, public information officer and risk communicator for District 2 Public Health. "For the first time in over a decade, all 49 mainland states experienced widespread activity of influenza at the same time."

Continued Palmer: "Influenza activity in Georgia has been widespread and the severity has been rated high by the Georgia Department of Public Health. What we are



seeing in our area is the same across the state of Georgia."

Flu seasons typically run between October and May every year, with peaks usually occurring in January and February, though the virus can strike at any time during the year, according to Palmer.

And the flu is not something to be taken lightly - each year, as many as 36,000

people die from influenza-related illnesses in the U.S., per the CDC.

Of course, the best way to prevent the illness is to get the shot, and no, it's not too late.

"If a person has not had the flu shot, they should get it now," said Palmer. "There is still vaccine available at

See Flu, Page 3A

January Term 2018 Union County Grand Jury Indictments

News Special
North Georgia News

The following individuals were indicted during the January Term 2018 of the Union County Grand Jury.

Allen Foster DeLoach, financial transaction card fraud; possession of a controlled substance; burglary in the first degree; aggravated stalking.

Kelly Holt Kimsey, criminal attempt to commit a felony; illegal use of communication facility.

Lester Williams, two counts theft by taking; burglary in the second degree.

Dakota Lee Sherwood, criminal damage to property in the second degree; simple battery; hit and run; reckless conduct.

Jacob Alexander Lafferty, burglary in the first degree; two counts theft by receiving property stolen in another state; possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute; possession of marijuana less than an ounce; four counts possession of a firearm during commission of a felony.

Thomas Williams, 15 counts invasion of privacy; 15 counts peeping Tom.

Zackary Sean Tamisiea, criminal attempt to commit a felony; illegal use of communication facility; distribution of heroin; criminal use of an article with an altered identification mark; two counts possession of a firearm during commission of a felony.

Trenton Conner

McMichen, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; reckless driving; speeding.

Kari Denise Zuelch, exploitation and intimidation of disabled adult, elder person or resident; forgery in the third degree; forgery in the fourth degree.

Jackson Lane Carpenter, possession of marijuana less than an ounce.

Katlynn Madie Merritt, two counts possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug-related objects.

Brian Mathew Treese, three counts driving under the influence; two counts driving while license suspended.

Angela Kay Palmer, forgery in the third degree;

See Indictments, Page 3A

Vol. 109 No. 05 Inside

4 Sections 28 Pages

Weather

Thurs: Showers Hi 51 Lo 27

Fri: Sunny Hi 38 Lo 20

Sat: Cloudy Hi 44 Lo 28

Arrests 6A

Church Classifieds 5C

Opinion 4A

Legals 4D

Obits 7C

Sports 2B

PANTHERS

Tues. Jan 30 @ Lumpkin Co

6 PM

Fri. Feb 2 vs. Dawson Co

7 PM - Senior Night

Food for Fines

Union County Library

See page 6A

Lions Club Annual

Yard Sale

Feb. 17th

See page 3A

AARP Foundation Tax Aide

Every Friday through April 13th

See page 5B