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North Georgia News

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May 23, 2018

High school seniors ready for what comes next

By Shawn Jarrard North Georgia News **Assistant Editor**

The last month has been a whirlwind of activity for high school seniors – from prom in April and end of course testing in May, to the inevitable bevy of pre-graduation festivities, seniors have barely had time

And while most students will spend the next few weeks reveling in the beautiful beginnings of summer vacation, for graduates, this summer marks the beginnings of new and wonderful chapters in their lives as independent members of society.

But first, they'll have to graduate.

Mountain Education Charter High School will hold its Union site graduation on Thursday, May 24, at 5 p.m. inside the Fannin County Performing Arts Center in Blue Ridge.

Union County High School's Class of 2018 will

Union County High School

Valedictorian

Allison

Horinek

Colwell Memorial Stadium this

School will take part in their

10 a.m. on May 26 in Suches.

Friday, May 25.

Salutatorian



McKenzie Hooper

walk the field at 8 p.m. in Mike Academy will hold its respectively, and the MACA the Class of 2017. graduation on May 26 also, at Temple Baptist Church in Seniors of Woody Gap Morganton at 11 a.m.

Woody Gap has graduation ceremony starting at announced that Lakota Graham and Kirsten Woody will be their Mountain Area Christian valedictorian and salutatorian, Woody Gap High School

Valedictorian

Lakota

Graham

valedictorian is Haley Cook.

May 17, that the UCHS Class

of 2018 learned its valedictorian

would be none other than Ally

Horinek, whose older sister

Maddie was valedictorian for

It wasn't until Thursday,

Salutatorian

MACA Valedictorian



Haley Cook

Woody

Kirsten

The announcement came in the May 17 Senior Awards Ceremony, in which all 195 seniors – the largest graduating class in school history – received recognition

for their achievements in high

Abercrombie

school as their parents watched on inside the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center.

"I'm really honored to represent this class, and also to follow in my sister's footsteps," said Horinek. "I'm really going See Graduation, Page 3A

Relay For Life lifts fundraising to \$78,000

By Mark Smith North Georgia News Staff Writer

Every year, the Union County Relay For Life headed up by Mia Crowe goes into overdrive to make the Blairsville event a success – this year was

"Lasso a Cure" was the 2018 theme, and sure enough, every team had a saddle, a lasso, a horse toy, boots or something else to go with the

The teams all work together each year to reach a fundraising goal, including church teams, business teams and family teams, though anyone who wants to participate can form a team.

Community Development Manager Cameron Lopez with the American Cancer Society said the May 19 Relay alone brought in more than \$10,000, helping Union County to surpass this year's fundraising goal of \$71,000 for a total of about \$78,000.



Photo by Lowell Nicholson

A Survivor Dinner during the 2018 Relay.

been touched in some fashion have been cancer victims. or another by cancer. People have lost family members and their own lives to cancer,

Of course, everyone has employees, and famous people

And people have lost friends, businesses have lost which is why raising money

for research is so important. Allyson McGraw, a Relay For Life coordinator, said that cancer research has led to See Relay, Page 6A

remembered for hometown generosity When Wayne Aberc-

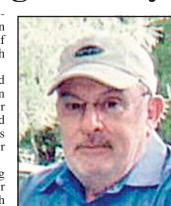
rombie Sr. passed away on Tuesday, May 15, a piece of small-town America went with Abercrombie operated

the Foodland Grocery in Downtown Blairsville for more than four decades, and many people have relied on his family-owned business over

Whether he was giving a student their first job or helping an entire family stretch their groceries until payday, Abercrombie was a generous man of the community.

He was born just around the bend in Morganton and spent his 75 years on earth as a resident of the area. Abercrombie attended Mineral Bluff Baptist Church and was a member of Young Cane Masonic Lodge, the Yaarab Temple and the Appalachian

Man takes his life outside



Wayne Abercrombie

Shrine Club.

A husband, a father, a grandfather and a friend to many, Abercrombie will be missed in his community.

Upon learning of Abercrombie's passing, hundreds of people reached

See Abercrombie, Page 2A

Residents to honor fallen soldiers on Memorial Day

By Shawn Jarrard North Georgia News Assistant Editor

Each year, the brave men and women who have died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces get one day set aside specifically for their remembrance - that day is Memorial Day.

The Memorial Day holiday is observed each year on the last Monday in May, landing Memorial Day 2018 on Monday, May 28.

Which means that on Saturday, May 26, Union County residents will turn out by the hundreds for the annual Memorial Day Parade as it rolls through Downtown Blairsville starting at 10 a.m.

The parade has been ongoing since Bert Schwarz, Roy Hamby and Bud Akins worked to get the first one going in the 1990s, and it has grown every year since.

"Memorial Day is usually



World War II Army Veteran John Hoyt Hamby as 2017 Grand Marshal, pictured here with his son Johnny. Hoyt, 97, passed away on April 13, 2018.

looked at as the end of the forget the fact that Memorial school year or beginning of Day is in memory of more than summer, or a vacation and a one million people who gave hot dog cookout and family get their lives in service to this together," said Hamby. "People

Inside

See Memorial Day, Page 2A

By Shawn Jarrard North Georgia

E. Martin Putney III, 59, fatally shot himself outside of the Union County Courthouse on the morning of Monday, May 21, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Putney was an attorney who worked locally.

The death occurred on the steps between the lower and upper parking lots behind the courthouse.

A courthouse visitor came upon the scene after the fact and called 911.

For a brief time Monday morning, both the courthouse and Union County Schools were on lockdown because of the shooting.



Union County investigators at the scene of the May 21 suicide at the courthouse.

First responders to the incident were investigators with the Union County Sheriff's Office and Blairsville Police Department, along with EMS, firefighters, Deputy Coroner Harry Dahl and the Georgia

State Patrol.

Based on the initial investigation, the shooting has been ruled a suicide. For story updates, check

in with the North Georgia News website at NGANews.com.



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FREE Seniors and Kids **Fishing** Rodeo

MEMORIAL DAY **PARADE ROUTE** MAP

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